

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR (Thursday, 4 Dec 1997)

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- (1) West-bloc nations turn blind eye to Myanmar's achievements in drug abuse control**

YANGON, 3 Dec-The special meeting of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control was held at the Ministry of Home Affairs this afternoon attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt.

Speaking at the meeting, the Secretary-1 said it was a meeting of special significance since it was attended not only by CCDAC members but also by the Ministers of the respective ministries assisting or related to the narcotic drugs control programme. Hence, he said, the programme is to be carried on with added momentum. He spoke of the need to discuss measures for effectively carrying out the programmes.

He noted the West-bloc nations these days are making false allegations against Myanmar in connection with narcotic drugs. A study of Myanmar history will show that there has been foreign involvement in narcotic drugs business starting from cultivation of opium poppy and production to refining heroin and manufacture of Amphetamine tablets through advanced methods. When Myanmar was under colonial rule, he said, the colonialists who had been making handsome profits by engaging in cultivation of opium poppy and drug trafficking brought in opium poppy seeds and cultivated opium poppy in the border areas of Myanmar and the People's Republic of China.

Even after regaining independence, he said, Myanmar is still subject to the evil legacies of narcotic drugs production and divide and-rule tactics of the colonialists.

Prior to 1988, he said, the Tatmadaw launched different phases of Operation Moe Hein to combat narcotic drugs while police personnel destroyed opium poppy plantations. Members of the Tatmadaw suffered loss of life and

injuries during the Moe Hein Operations and it was recorded in history,~ he said. At that time, the US DEA cooperated in anti-drug measures in Myanmar, he said, adding no allegations were made against Myanmar concerning narcotic drugs.

In the aftermath of 1988, he said, some Western nations interfered in Myanmar's internal affairs and applied pressure on the country with false allegations concerning democracy, human rights and narcotic drugs.

In the world today, he said, the small nations joined hands when they had been under increasing pressure on the pretext of human rights and democracy. Under the circumstances, he said, the problem of narcotic drugs was pushed forward in place of democracy and human rights.

He pointed out that Myanmar has been cooperating with other nations with added momentum and as such there has been a decrease in the number of allegations as far as democracy and human rights are concerned. But, he said, there has been a growing criticism against Myanmar concerning narcotic drugs.

Since 1989 when the armed groups began returning to the legal fold, he said, consultations have been conducted with national race leaders to achieve understanding on eradicating narcotic drugs and implement regional development projects, to carry out the two programmes in combination.

Over 10,000 men of MTA led by U Khun Sa surrendered, abandoning narcotic drugs production and trafficking. It was one of the accomplishments of the government, he said.

The Secretary-1 recalled that diplomats were invited to attend the ceremony at Mongla in eastern Shan State to declare that Mongla area was totally free from narcotic drugs. The area was thus boldly declared to be totally free from narcotic drugs, he said.

National race leaders too had realized the government's endeavours to eradicate narcotic drugs and they made their utmost efforts to wipe out narcotic drugs in competition. As a result, he said, opium poppy cultivation and production decreased markedly. He called for sustained efforts for the total eradication of the drugs.

He cited collaborative efforts in narcotic drugs abuse control and regional development projects with international organizations. He called the respective ministries to extend their cooperation to achieve success in these projects.

In spite of those successful measures against narcotic drugs and opium poppy cultivation and production of the government, the West-bloc nations have turned a blind eye to such achievements and instead they are making more allegations against Myanmar, he said.

Hence, he said, extensive measures are to be carried out to make the world, including neighbouring countries and ASEAN nations, know Myanmar's endeavours to totally eradicate narcotic drugs through mass media.

The Secretary- 1 also called on the responsible personnel to explain to the Ministers concerned to realize the endeavours on narcotic drugs abuse control so that they will extend necessary assistance.

Next, Secretary of CCDAC Police Maj-Gen Soe Win and Joint Secretary Police Col Ngwe Soe Tun reported on the strategy and tactics of the CCDAC, the plan to form various committees to step up efforts of the ministries, cooperation with international organizations and collective endeavours for narcotic drug abuse control.

This was followed by a general round' of discussions.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt then replied to points raised in the discussions. Work Committees and Subcommittees were then formed. The meeting then discussed cooperation of the respective ministries for cultivation of opium substitute crops and cooperation with international organizations and formulation of the programme to mobilize participation of non-governmental organizations in the project to totally eradicate narcotic drugs in Myanmar.

The special meeting was also attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Than, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ohn Gyaw, Minister for Education U Pan Aung, Minister for Health Maj-Gen Ket Sein, Minister for Information Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Chairman of CCDAC Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Minister at the Office of the Prime Minister Brig-Gen Lun Maung, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint. Maung, Deputy Chief of the Office of the Strategic Studies Deputy Director of Defence Services Intelligence Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, Director-General of the Office of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Pe Nyein, departmental heads, CCDAC members and officials.

The meeting ended in the evening.

(2) Office automation equipment donated for ASEAN Affairs Department

YANGON, 3 Dec- A ceremony to hand over the office automation equipment donated through the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok for the ASEAN Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this morning.

It was attended by the Chairman of the ASEAN Steering Committee and Secretary- 1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ohn Gyaw, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Brig-Gen Abel, Minister for Commerce Maj-Gen Kyaw Than, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyunt Swe, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Brig-Gen Than Tun, directors-general from the Office of the State Peace and Development Council, Office of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials.

Director-General of the ASEAN Affairs Department U Aye Lwin explained the donation of office equipment through the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok. Afterwards the Chairman of the ASEAN Steering Committee and Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt accepted documents for the equipment from Ambassador of the Union of Myanmar to Thailand U Hla Maung.

Secretary-1 then presented certificate of appreciation to Ambassador U Hla Maung.

The total value of the office automation equipment presented through the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok for the ASEAN Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was K 4,857,480.

(3) National Convention Convening Commission meets

YANGON, 3 Dec-National Convention Convening Commission held its meeting at the commission office this afternoon.

It was attended by Chairman of NCCC Lt-Gen Myo Nyunt, Vice-Chairmen Lt-Gen Maung Thint and Brig-Gen Myo Thant and commission members.

Lt-Gen Myo Nyunt spoke on the occasion.

Officials of committees concerned submitted reports on the National Convention

NCCC members took part in discussions on the reports.

(4) Labour Minister visits Workers Hospital

YANGON, 3 Dec- Minister for Labour Vice-Admiral Tin Aye supervised functions at Workers Hospital in Tamway Township. this morning.

Accompanied by Deputy Minister U Kyaw Aye, Chairman of Social Security Board U Aung Ba Kyi, General Manager Col Kyi Tun, Medical Superintendent Dr Kyaw Hein and officials, he inspected various wards of the hospital.

He urged hospital staff to work with new outlook and fresh ideas, saying

officials at different levels should take responsibility sectorwise in discharging duties.

They should work dutifully and collectively with firm conviction, stressing the need to strictly follow the guidelines given by the Head of State.

The deputy minister also took part in the discussions.

The minister and party also went and inspected SSB head office.

(5) Minister inspects Toungoo-Yangon section of Yangon-Mandalay Railroad

YANGON, 3 Dec-Minister for Rail Transportation U Win Sein inspected the Division (6/7) section of the Yangon-Mandalay Railroad between Toungoo and Yangon today.

The Minister, accompanied by officials of Myanmar Railways, this morning arrived at the Mile Posts 1449/10 between Kywebwe and Nyaungchedauk. He met MR personnel repairing the railroad and fulfilled their requirements

He proceeded to Nyaungbintha Station by rail car. At the station, he met the Division officials and discussed cleanliness and greening of the area and staff welfare.

The Minister and party then arrived at the Mile Post 105-9/10 between Thahtaygon and Peinzalok where sleepers were being replaced. He oversaw the repair work and urged the personnel to carry on maintenance of the railroad. He also inspected the remaining section of the railroad road up to Yangon.

(6) Minister for Energy receives MD of New Japan Engineering Consultant (NEWJEC) Inc

YANGON, 3 Dec-Minister for Energy U Khin Maung Thein received Managing Director of New Japan Engineering Consultant (NEWJEC) Inc Mr Toshikazu Nomura at his office this morning.

Present also were Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Thein Aung and Deputy Director-General U Thein Lwin of the Energy Planning Department.

(7) USDA urged to keep emergence of peaceful, developed, modern nation in the fore

YANGON, 3 Dec Modern surgical beds were presented for the operation theatres of Sagaing, Shwebo and Katha District People's Hospitals and Wachat Jivitadana Sangha Hospital of Sagaing Division yesterday morning with an address by Minister for Rail Transportation U Win Sein.

Members of MINA presented 33 units of modern surgical beds and other medical equipment during their Myanmar visit, he said.

They will present more equipment including an ambulance soon, he said.

Deputy General Manager (Medicine) of Myanma Railways Dr Kyaw Win presented papers for the gifts to the respective medical superintendents.

The ceremony at Sagaing Township People's Hospital was also attended by military and civilian officers, local authorities, doctors, executives and members of Division, District and Township Union Solidarity and Development Association and guests.

The minister, who is also a USDA Secretariat member, met executives of Division, District and Township USDA's at Sagaing Division USDA Office.

USDA members should always keep in the fore emergence of a peaceful, developed and modern nation, he said, speaking of the need to give priority to loyalty and endurance in choosing members.

Various courses should be conducted regionwise to turn quantity to quality, he said, urging them to make field tours down to grassroots-levels to explain the Government's nation-building endeavours and to ward off rumours floated by destructionists.

They should make more sincere efforts with added momentum for national interest, he pointed out.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Soe Win and USDA members were present.

Accompanied by officials, he supervised functions at a concrete sleeper factory construction project which is being jointly implemented by Myanma Railways and Complant Taikho of the People's Republic of China in Myitnge.

The two enterprises will install machines at the factory. Seventy per cent of buildings have already been completed at present. Test run will begin in March 1998.

(8) Increase in value-added wood-based products will boost forest sector's earnings

YANGON, 3 Dec - Development of value-added wood-based products with the force derived from the State and private investments will increase earnings of the forest sector, noted Minister for Forestry U Aung Phone today.

He was making assessments on the suggestions presented at a meeting to seek means to supply adequate raw materials to private forest-based industries.

Entrepreneurs should strive to boost international standard forest-based

products and to curtail wastage for the nation to earn more foreign exchange and to help reduce raw material requirement, he added.

The minister, Deputy Minister Col Thaik Tun, officials of Forest Department, Myanmar Timber Enterprise, Forest Products Joint-Venture Corporation and Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs Association and industrialists sought means to implement the task at FD.

An objective has already been laid down to cease log exports phase by phase and to raise production of value-added finished-goods with the participation of the State sector, cooperatives, entrepreneurs and joint-ventures, he pointed out.

Myanmar Timber Enterprise is playing a key role in implementing this objective, he said, adding MTE still has weakness in providing raw materials and the private sector in full and effective utilization of raw materials.

Previous coordinations on adequate raw material provision could not be implemented due to certain reasons, he said.

Means which practically meet the requirements presented at this meeting will be applied to ensure adequate raw material supplies to private factories, he said.

Participants presented suggestions, functions sectorwise, requirements and difficulties in manufacturing value-added goods and in boosting exports.

MTE will sell raw materials to FPJVC, which will act as the main distributor, he noted, expressing belief that the joint-venture, which includes entrepreneurs, will do this job effectively and efficiently.

The minister elaborated on means to be applied for effectiveness of the tasks, saying apart from teak, all kinds of timber will be sold in kyats.

Teak will be sold in US dollars or in FECs in line with the list price of FPJVC, he added.

(9) Shwe Myanmar Department Store inspected

YANGON, 3 Dec-Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe inspected Shwe Myanmar Department Store of Myanmar Heavy Industries at Theingyizay C Complex this morning.

The minister inspected products of MHI and items at Daewoo shops. He discussed sale of products, proper display of goods and providing bonuses according to the sale.

(10) Labutta Bridre scheduled to be commissioned on January

YANGON, 3 Dec-Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by Chief Engineer (Road/ Bridge) U Thant Zin and officials of Public Works, left here for Ayeyawady Division yesterday morning.

On reaching Bayintnaung Bridge they were greeted by Superintending Engineer of Yangon Division Public Works U Than Ngwe and officials. The Minister was briefed on collection of tolls from cars passing the bridge. He gave instructions on collection of the tolls fully, safety of the traffic and expansion of the road.

The Minister and party arrived in Nyaungdon at 12.15 pm. Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Thura Shwe Man and officials welcomed them. The Minister and party proceeded to Myaungmya where they spent the night.

This morning, the Minister and Commander Thura Shwe Man went to the Labutta Bridge (across Pinlailay River) Construction site. They were welcomed there by Senior Engineer of the Project U Ba Wan and officials.

The Minister and party then heard reports on the progress of work.

He told the project personnel that the bridge is scheduled to be opened on 3 January 1998 and urged them to provide supervision, at all levels to complete the project in time. He then fulfilled the requirements such as machinery, vehicles and equipment.

The Minister and the Commander then inspected construction of the bridge and the site for the opening ceremony.
