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Comment:

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VIRTUAL versus REALITY

Observation:

As considered by some observers, the tactics undertaken by prominent pro-democracy groups, notably, the NLD, NCGUB, have failed and it would now appear that a new approach has been adopted, in the form of proposed dialogue with the regime, the SPDC, however, will never give them the time of day.

Firstly, no tactical considerations were ever proposed, most certainly, never initiated. One cannot fail, what one, never attempted. The only failure here was incompetence of the highest degree.

Secondly, the perceived attitude of the NLD, and bolstered by the NCGUB, was to blatantly ignore the regime in the belief that foreign intervention by whatever means, would destabilise it, thus, believing, that input from them was not at all necessary!

Thirdly, the path taken by the NCGUB and NLD, although there are differences of opinions within these groups, to compromise with offers of dialogue with the regime, is but a virtual dream. For those who have been fighting the regime on the ground for decades, together with military expertise in studying such situations, were never in any doubt as to its entrenched position. It must be stressed however, that troop numbers, or equipment does, not gauge strength in military terms, but is judged on enemy force capability, and ones ability to either contain, or destroy it! Without being put to the test however, no one will ever be sure, certainly not those, who have no comprehension of military mentality.

The major obstacle leading to Burma's failure in the unseating of the military regime is due solely to misconception of the situation and its probable outcome, i.e. any passive approach to a military aggressor, within a nation state, who has no qualms about violence against its own people, to achieve its aims, is a pointless effort from day one. Nowhere in history, has peace with freedom, been brought about by submitting to a tyrannical dictatorship!

A reminder that Finnish political scientist, Erkki Berndson calls for, 'finding ways to live together', is sadly another virtual dream, at least in mankind's, foreseeable future.

In a democracy such as Britain, and elsewhere, it is the rule of law that encourages people to live together, for fear of prosecution, just as some cultures use a rule of law, to 'outlaw', other doctrines. Take away that rule of law, in both cases, where prosecution is no longer a threat, and anarchy prevails. Once again, proof of this, is being displayed in many parts of the

world today. The SPDC, use their own devised rule of law to exclude others from opposing them.

To depend on peoples moral standing alone, to accept those they may disagree with, is to become gullible to their whim. Political science plays with theory that often clashes with the real world, much like the fictional writer, and can actually create conflict among the gullible and naive, when in fact it is they who need protecting.

Burma together with the rest of the world continues as it has done, through time; the game of trial and error. Trial and error, has been mankind's only sure way of either succeeding or failing. In these circumstances, it is always a battle of the mind, and will. The inept, and slow to react to opportunity, will lose.

This trial and error will continue to be the way, because no two days are he same, just as events, although created in familiar and similar fashions, of the day before, require solutions to match the time of happening, tomorrow will require yet again, a different approach!

Theory is nothing more than gambling on the out comes of uncertainty, 'trial and error'; it is not a means to an end, but it is sometimes, the only option on many fronts, however, theories should be kept in context i.e. civil & political, left to civilians, military left to the military mind, and not just those civilians who study military history, but lack the military mentality required to understand it!

THE OBVIOUS IS NOT ALWAYS, AS IT SEEMS:

If one needs to repair an electrical fault, a plumber would be inadvisable:

The SPDC is a well-established military institution, with no intention of relinquishing power, therefore; only a military orientated mind can take it on. Military calculation, or action, is after all, a continuation of politics using other means more in line with requirements. An army in a democracy, during peace, will train for war, and come under the direction of government, but in war, government will follow advice from it military leaders, or suffer defeat. The NLD, NCGUB, failed to remove the regime from power, because neither, had a military capability, nor even the threat of creating one.

Putting the ethnics to one side for a moment, the regime considered its position as concrete. In its eyes, no armed faction in opposition, existed, at least none that was well trained and adequately equipped, and capable in the areas required.

NEVERTHELESS; given that the bulk, of the regimes armed forces are conscripts, who were coerced, or otherwise enticed, by the prospects of freedom to rape and pillage; badly led without any real strategic motivation, i.e. defence, from invasion, threatening their very existence, that which the regime propagates to both civilian and its military. After years of suffering under a military dictatorship, the people now feel that no foreign invasion could inflict much more than they already suffer. Therefore, the casual mentality of both the civilian, and the ordinary soldier, could be

considered as the SPDC's weakness, which in normal motivated circumstances would be difficult to breach without superior forces.

There are only two ways to defeat the leadership of the regime. Armed intervention from foreign governments, or armed opposition from internal sources. The first will not happen. The second therefore is Burma's only hope. However, some are inclined to believe that nothing the Pro-democracy groups may or may not have to hand is capable of taking on the regime forces, and winning. Motivation is an important start. Since 1990, the NLD and NCGUB, whether purposely or otherwise, have successfully squashed motivation, making it easy for the regime to manipulate the people. Thankfully, a group of dedicated democracy fighters, stemming from the first democratically elected government, and the only one to take office, halted this landslide decline.

Today, the '**Parliamentary Democracy Party**' (**PDP Burma**) is fast becoming Burma's, only way forward, even though there are those with ambitions of their own, who prefer to ignore it, but themselves, have nothing to offer the people of Burma, and ultimately closes the curtain, on their ambitions. As indications now show, nothing can stop the growth of the **PDP**.

The NLD, recognising their own demise, are frantically trying to build support for the party, but, just as it would be difficult for a ship's captain who deserted a sinking ship, to gain credibility from a new crew, so too will it be a hard task for the NLD!

IF THE CAP FITS, WEAR IT, IF IT DOES'NT?

The British 'Chief of General Staff', (recently retired) General Sir Michael Jackson, pointed out, "***the purpose of progress is to achieve an outcome. The purpose of progress is not to maintain progress!***"

A profound statement, and reveals the difference between the political mentality, depicting a virtual world, and one that only fulfils political ambition, and that of a military mind, living in the real world. There comes a time when one must allow the other to confront reality or forever live a dream, at the expense of lives and suffering.

THE WIDER STRATEGY:

The biggest obstacle facing any proposed military opposition, against the regime, is not only, the regime itself, but also, those foreign countries that have interests in Burma, who could, if they chose to, harass democracy activists on their soil. Indeed, this does occur in a mild but effective way, inasmuch, that, minimal media coverage, or debate, only reveals, shallow interpretations of Burma's dilemma. The real story never gets out, only that which permits momentum, never to reach a conclusion.

PROGRESS; from the NLD and NCGUB, which again, some observers claim is on going, is a fool's virtual dream. Both groups are clutching at straws, not in opposition to the regime, as one would think, that is a lost cause, but is now competing for favour from the people in opposition to the growing PDP!

It must be acknowledged, in Burma's case, the struggles biggest ploy, was; that for certain individuals, to hover in no mans land, is precisely what they want, because all they live for is a comfortable lifestyle on the proceeds of donations, funds which will disappear if democracy returned to Burma.

Part of this comment is not an indication to lobby for action against those countries, with interests in Burma, because those governments are impervious to assault in this way. Instead of criticising interests held by foreign investors, dialogue should be sought with them, where better conditions could be put on offer if assistance was directed in favour of elections. More so, if countries like India, China and Russia, the West's economic adversaries, who have the advantage of receiving benefits from the regime, in return for arms and technology to assist in holding down the people. Perhaps, sanctions should not, be aimed at Burma, but those countries that support it. India, China, and indeed Russia, need the West for both its market, and its technology. It is of course a pipe dream to think these countries can be influenced in this way, plus of course the West would not be inclined to even consider such proposals, but who knows for sure? Trial and error can achieve successful results if the people behind it are capable and determined.

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Note: We thank those who find our way of writing easy to read. Our comments are not directed at those who prefer to use words only a few will understand. We try to write in the most simplest of English, allowing for those whose English is in its learning stages. We know many people from Burma, who help us, by reading to us, which gives us a good guideline to work from. It means playing with grammar, but who cares so long as our readers get the message.

BURMA'S TICKET TO DEMOCRACY HAS BEEN BOUGHT AND PAID FOR:

Therefore, beware of false prophets.

The flag was a rally point in battles gone by, and, a symbol of national unity, trust and loyalty up to the present day, so to, the constitution of a nation, provides safety barriers to deter disruption.

In the absence of National, social & economic bonding, cemented by democracy, in which any individual can freely contest, chaos will prevail. Unfortunately, however, all through history, right up to the present day no doubt, the flag, and other symbols of nationality i.e. uniforms, have been used as weapons, in subversive actions, where an adversary will move under its opponent's flag, with the intention to deceive, thus; getting among their enemy, to disrupt, disorientate and conquer.

The NCGUB, NLD, will interpret Burma's history, to their advantage. If this means deceiving their own people, then so be it.

The NCGUB and NLD who never mention Burma's first democratically elected government, through fear of competition and loss of status, do though, find it convenient, to manipulate its constitution, to demand, that power be "transferred to the NLD, in accordance with a revised version of the 1947 Constitution". At least this is how they, choose to interpret it.

The constitution was drafted and ratified, when Parliamentary democracy, was introduced to Burma, in 1948.

This is nothing more than a blatant act of contempt, for what is Burma's only, drafted and recorded, symbol of unification, by using it as a tool, for self-promotion and gain, without so much as a mention, of those who fought and made great sacrifices, to bring about its creation. The lack of respect is abominable, and reflects the true selfish arrogance of those who hide its origin, but use its very foundation to make demands.

Written law has and is still, interpreted, to suit those who hold the seat of power. The American constitution is constantly under interpretation, every time a lawyer looks for new ways of defending or prosecuting. History will also have its interpretations, open to disruption, disorientation. Today's sad troublesome events world wide, are a constant reminder.

Fact; the 'Parliamentary democracy Party' (**PDP**) is the only political party in Burma, that operate within the boundaries, of a written, democratic constitution, by direct inheritance from those who created it, and first served it. Whether it is accepted in its entirety by sections of society, is realistically and politically, irrelevant, because amendments can be added. The fact, that a constitution is in place, forming a covenant with the people; from a party founded by a democratically elected Prime Minister, U Nu, who took an oath to honour it, it is the remedy for a fresh start.

Fact; because of this link, the 'Parliamentary democracy Party' (**PDP**) is the only political party who is duty bound under this written, democratic constitution, as Prime Minister U Nu's oath of allegiance, is still mandatory, even after his death, and his governments mandate to govern, ended.

The **PDP's** motives are sincere, its objectives and the means, are dictated by a written constitution, (subject to amendments). The **PDP**, work from an open book, without fear of hidden agenda's. Unlike, the **NLD**, **NCGUB** and of course the **SPDC**, who, do not have a covenant with the people. An election victory is not, a covenant, but a ticket issued by the people, to leadership, under the strict 'guidelines' of a covenant, (**constitution**), to which incoming leadership swear an oath to it. Unlike the elected Prime Minister U Nu, the **NLD**, made no such oath, so the election ticket they won, is for a cancelled game. Null & void! Of course, it would have been to Burma's advantage had events turned out different, but they did not and it has to be accepted, in order to move on.

Today's policy, of the **NLD** and **NCGUB**, that of; simply, 'ranting & raving', making truly unrealistic demands, without a covenant, is to enter the playing field without any laid down rules, which mean, goals cannot be ratified, because in the absence of a sworn oath to constitutional procedure, a goal could be meaningless, and could therefore be ignored by all sides. Non-committal is non-answerable, which is not democracy! The **NCGUB** and the **NLD**, have contravened just about every act within the 1947/8 constitution, yet still, have the audacity and possibly naivety, to expect those rulers, most likely to reject it, to abide by it. What can one say, without showing complete contempt for their, mentality?

The idea of having a constitution is; that whilst government, is governing, watchful committees will be studying the method of application, making sure they keep within the boundaries of the constitution. Without a constitution in place, and without the oath of allegiance, those in power will have the freedom to rule, without hindrance, as do the **SPDC** today. The military will have no bounds to its actions and politicians become answerable only to themselves.

To become a member of the world community, and to be part of its judicial system, one must first have rules to break, allowing the world, to confront them on the world stage.

When the **NLD** entered the election of 1990 it was in no way prepared or capable, of establishing any form of stable leadership, it had no need. The election was a testing ground, set by the regime. Even the **NLD** did not expect to win; a view shared also, by those onlookers in other countries.

Theory or good intelligence?

The whole election event was theatre and was only a preliminary, because once the regime won by election, albeit, by devious means, it would have to accept others, though a minority, into the powerhouse, which meant those in opposition would have time to learn, and build for the next election. Most importantly, this would have given time for debate and compromise. Perhaps this was the regimes way of moving forward without losing face, or otherwise, placing themselves in jeopardy, if ousted by force.

It would appear, (election result) that fate played a dastardly trick, on both the NLD, and Burma, and those who helped instigate and finance the NLD. It obviously surprised the SPDC, who perhaps, saw the election as a means in preventing their demise, and allows democracy to come from it?

Time wasted is time lost. One could grow old, and indeed many have, trying to rectify past mistakes, and by wasting time leafing backwards, prevents scrutinising present day solutions. It is not past actions that failed, but attitudes. If the young inherit or, adopt persistent attitudes, history will continue to repeat itself.

As previous UKorg comments have suggested, the future lies with the present, not the past, because we have the power to change the present!

The PDP, have already moved forward in this direction, in leaps and bounds. Over the years, it has put together various tactics in which to make its approach. Its objective; is to restore democracy, not to create it!

At the end of the day, it is what is best for the people, not what is best, for a particular party.

There are two ways to move forward. First, we can try to fathom out past mistakes made through history and attempt to rectify them to suit today, or we can forget history, and concentrate on what we have and where we are, today. Use the present, to build new future concepts from ideas of today, and not from ideas based on yesteryear.

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