

**PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY PARTY (*Burma*)**  
**GHQ (*Liberated Area*)**

**Date: 12th November 2004**

**BO HMU AUNG A GREAT PATRIOT PASSES AWAY**

**WE MOURN ONE OF THE PROMINENT LEADERS OF DEMOCRACY IN BURMA**

The PDP party would like to pay tribute to one of its ex-leaders BO HMU AUNG, who had passed away in Rangoon, Burma, on Monday 9th November 2004.

BO HMU AUNG was involved in the Burmese politics together with other Burmese political leaders who were struggling for "Independence" during the pre-war days and became one of the "Thirty Comrades" who went to Japan and took military training for the cause of fighting for freedom.

When Burma got independence, he continued to work with the Burmese other political leaders, especially with U Nu, U Ba Shwe, U Kyaw Nyein, Thakhin Tin, and finally became the Speaker of the House of Parliament whose voice people had to hear in the radios whenever the BBS (Burma Broadcasting Service) released the news of debates in the Parliament.

When Gen.Ne Win grabbed power from the U Nu's government and put the political leaders behind bars, he was included among those who were apprehended and immured. When ex-premier U Nu left Burma in 1969 and set up the revolutionary party PDP (Parliamentary Democracy Party) at the end of that year along the Thai-Burma border, with the intention of overthrowing Gen.Ne Win's illegal military regime, BO HMU AUNG worked from inside and cooperated with the PDP's movement. Around the end of 1971 he and his group including YANGON BA SHWE, and MYAUNG MYA BA SHWE, managed to come out of the country and joined the PDP with full spirit and intention of overthrowing the Ne Win's regime from power and restoring democracy in Burma.

Ex-Prime Minister U Nu was acting as the Chairman of the PDP party when his group arrived at the liberated area and welcomed his arrival wholeheartedly. Unfortunately, the time BO HMU AUNG arrived at the PDP GHQ was coincident with the beginning of a political problem in the PDP party, where U Nu had to make an urgent decision on the issue of "Right of Secession" raised by the ethnic (KNUP) Karen National Union Party. A PDP meeting was held at a secret location and a decision was made on that issue through voting among the PDP leaders just over thirty. At that moment, most PDP leaders were anxious to send the PDP troops inside Burma to attack and seize the enemy's positions. The prevailing military situation was favourable and they just needed to negotiate with the ethnic leaders to get the free passage to pass through the ethnic claimed territories as liberated areas. If they miss that opportunity, they

would not be able to launch effectively the PDP's political and military campaigns. Because of that most PDP leaders wanted to give into the ethnics demand and fight to defeat the enemy first, then negotiate with the ethnics how to rebuild the country by peaceful political means. But for ex-Prime Minister U Nu, he had the principle that the issue of "Right of Secession" was not the appropriate one to be decided in the jungle while fighting against the serious enemy. He formed the PDP party as a legitimated Government Party since the beginning of the formation together with many other government bodies such as ministers, MPs, army and airforce generals, and historically prominent figures. He wanted to present that case to the people after the revolution and hold a referendum so that things can be done legitimately. If he decided the issue of the "Right of Secession" there, he felt that both parties, either the PDP or the ethnics would be blamed in the future that ethnics took advantage of the dilemma of the PDP position, and the PDP leaders, especially he (U Nu) was misguided, who gave in on an important political issue recklessly. But, that issue actually emerged as a major issue and there was a split among the PDP leaders. Most leaders called for a vote and U Nu had to allow them to do so. Although Bo Hmu Aung was a very close personal friend of U Nu, he and his group, especially YANGON BA SHWE, who was military man, were keen on urgent access of the ethnic lands to march the PDP soldiers to be able to attack the enemy troops. Those different interests and keenness separated the principle of friendship, although all of them had the good will for the country and for the Burmese people, and BO HMU AUNG became one of those majority who voted against U Nu. U Nu lost and there was no other alternative but U Nu as a committed democrat and man of principle had to leave the PDP party. Although most of the leaders told him that the issue was not a resigning matter and they wanted him to remain as leader. U Nu declined this argument saying that he could not remain leader when he profoundly disagreed with the policy being advocated as it was not in the interests of the country. For BO HMU AUNG, who came to join the PDP with full aspiration, despaired his hopes. He knew very well that, once U Nu left the PDP, the PDP's position would be strongly effected. The rest of the PDP leaders, who had to continue the responsibility of leading the PDP party would be very hard to push it forward. The event of U Nu, leaving the party, jeopardised BO HMU AUNG's original plan, and he had to readjust his perspective and position to be able to suit with the new circumstances, while working with the rest of the PDP leaders dedicatedly.

Soon after that event, he became Leader of the Northern command and stationed his forces along the Thai-Burma border at the end of 1973 in the Karranni territory opposite to Thai towns MAE-HONG-SONG and MAE-SERIAN.

There he launched his military campaigns against Gen. Ne Win's illegal military regime with the intention of occupying the Upper Burma region around Taung-goo and Mandalay. But the PDP had no more enough funds to continue to operate its political and military campaigns, and that restricted resources deterred him to fulfil his ambition. Despite this, he tried his best to run his activities with many difficulties. His followers were so loyal to him that although he could not organise effective offensives against the adversary and support his followers efficiently as before, they supported him back with the incomes they had earned from toiled jobs, working as hard labourers at nearby agricultural farms existing around that region.

Around 1978, he realised that the welfare of his followers stationed around the Thai-Burma

borders inside Thai territory needed some improvement. Many of his followers were arrested for not having any legitimate papers for staying legally in Thailand and he had to solve that problem too. Because of that, and for the welfare of his followers, he and U Ye Gaung (Myawaddy U Ye Gaung) wrote a petition to the authorities of Thailand to grant a temporary residency to the PDP members. The petition was granted, and "Pink Cards"™ were provided. Since then, the PDP members could stay along the Thai borders legally. Until now, his followers, who have protective certificates, are still staying around MAEHONG-SONG and MAESERIAN areas without swaying from their original commitment "expelling the military regime and restoring democracy in the country either by political or military means"™. Gradually, other PDP members, living along the south side of the Thai-Burma borders, including MAE-SOD, THREE-PAGODA-PASS, and RANONG, also became Pink Card holders and are staying at their respective areas safely until now.

Since then, the PDP could help many other Burmese, who came from inside Burma for political reasons, to be able to hold "Pink Cards"™ and live along the border areas safely too. Now there are many more Burmese dissidents holding these cards and enjoy that privilege, subconsciously without realising who had initiated it for their benefit. This story would enlighten them that that they should give thanks to BO HMU AUNG in this effort alone he was one of the deliverers who had saved and served as a humanitarian worker for the welfare of many thousands of Burmese dissidents living along the Thai-Burma borders until now.

At the end of 1988, just after the 8-8-88 uprising, when tens of thousands of Burmese dissidents came to Thai side and took shelter along the borders, some arrived at the Karen's™ areas, some came to the Karranni's™ lands, some entered the Mon's™ territories, and some ended up at a Thai town Ranong, which is a Thai border-fishing town. When those dissidents arrived at those new locations situated along the borders, they needed someone to help them for their survival. It was the PDP members who were living there for nearly tow decades with the dedication of waiting for an another time to fight back to the military regime, helped them wholeheartedly. Those PDP members helped those dissidents in many ways by feeding them, providing shelters to them, and protecting them. If someone wants to give thanks in this event, BO HMU AUNG deserved the most. Without his ingenious act for the issue of Pink Cards, no PDP members had proper and decent status or position to give assistance to those dissidents during that most necessary moment.

In 1980, BO HMU AUNG and some other prominent PDP leaders including U Nu and Gen.Yan Naing went back. They explained in detail to their followers, who still determined to fight, about their decisions why they needed to go back to Rangoon. U Twin, ex-Trade Minister did not go back. At that time, the PDP had the problem of feeding its members. Many thousands did not go back to Burma, and instead, they went to Cambodia border and joined the rest of the PDP members, who were arriving there ahead of them. Thousand of them were working at ruby mines at Chanthabury where they could survive. Thousands of other became professional soldiers fighting against the Cambodia communist led by Pol Pot, by guarding along the Thai border not to allow the Pol Pot followers to enter Thailand.

Although BO HMU AUNG and some other leaders went back to Rangoon, as certain circumstances forced them to do so, the relation between them and the ones who did not go back, were still strong. For one instant, the PDP always supported the role of BO HMU AUNG,

who, as a leader of the mediator group in Burma, had tried to mediate between the two groups, the illegal military regime and the winning party, to have a dialogue for a peaceful solution.

It is a great loss for Burma as it loses one of the prominent democratic leaders. It is also the same degree of loss for the PDP party, as we all members were hoping that we would reunite again in Rangoon with our old comrades and leaders, once we could achieve victory in our struggle for democracy in near future.

With this letter, we the PDP members would like to share our sorrow with the rest of his family during this sad occasion, and would like to pay our last respect to BO HMU AUNG who championed himself in the struggle for democracy in Burma until his death at the age of century minus five.

Long Live the Memory of BO HMU AUNG and May his example inspire more people to join the PDP to follows his indomitable spirit until the illegal military regime is removed from power by political or military means his principle objective.

May God blesses and takes care of his soul,

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