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Member Comment:

30 September 2007

MULTIPLE PROBLEMS WILL REQUIRE A MULTIPLE INPUT!

I recently returned from 3 months inside Burma . I travelled as far and wide as I could, considering; it was done on foot and through close country. The signs for what is now becoming a passing demonstration were evident during my journey, although in all honesty, I have heard it all before, during previous trips, when nothing happened, so I did not take serious heed to it, but simply recorded the signs in my trip diary, as I do.

My summary being; that no one political party, or pro-democracy group, can ever pick up the pieces of a broken Burma, and put it back together. It will require terrific input, with great dedication, effort, and compromise, on all fronts just to draw up the plans, then, what can only be termed today as; unimaginable tasks ahead, will be necessary to bring the country back on track to the democracy it has long ago experienced, only to be taken from them, when General Ne Win ousted the then, elected prime Minister U Nu. The struggle has gone on for so long because there was no unity under one cause, but individual adventures seeking personal goals.

It has been said before; Burma 's pro-democracy elements are in fact, their own worst enemy, therefore; is it not time for all, to fight the same fight?

To travel through the country, and sensing the hopelessness of such a fine people is for me, uncomfortable to come away with, knowing I can return to a life which far exceeds their imagination. It also feels me with anger, toward both the Burmese pro-democracy groups themselves, where one is against the other, and toward the international community who encourage it.

Enough said.

Bob Williams

Member; UKorg. ,

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All are equal under the banner of democracy:

Is UN envoy, Ibrahim Gambari's visit to Burma , nothing more than a ploy on behalf of the UN body?

It must be embarrassing for Mr. Gambari, knowing that his influence will fall on deaf ears, but he also knows, that it must be seen as though the UN cares.

It is said that he met with ASSK, I hope she is good health, I also hope that her mentality toward past policies and tactics have moved to a more realistic plan of action, and not that of western influence, and, one that incorporates 'all' pro-democracy groups, and not simply confined to what is now, a defunct and dilapidated organisation, which requires a complete overall if it wishes to stay in game.

For the UN to complete their mission, they must now meet with representatives of other political parties and pro-democracy organisations in a round table debate. If the UN fails to undertake completion of their mission, it will clearly show that this particular trip is nothing more than yet again, a shallow interest, as past excursions have proven to be.

Words are easy, action however, is not. When the voice commits to hands on approach, which then, becomes a very different issue, it opens up a whole new ball game, something a body like the UN, would not contemplate taking on in SEA, neither would any member under its national flag!

Henceforth; whether the UN is simply acting out the part of intermediary, or whether it is serious in the role of; it cannot be seen to favour one group above another in the same cause, more so when all groups are equal in status. When the UN recognise that status Quo among these groups, and addresses them on equal terms, then it will seen to support democracy, and not that, of a one party dictatorship, where out of favour, means no voice, which in turn; no future for Burma!

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Collective Comment:**

13 September 2007

This comment was comprised from comments and statements made during an annual military reunion held on the 8th. September 2007.

The Wind of Change

We thank those who ask why we have been silent for a while, and request that we continue to encourage and speak out at those whose only interest is for self gain. Because the Burmese way prevents many truths from being revealed in public, slows progress toward democracy.

We have kept silent for a few reasons, the first being, that many of our colleges have spent longer periods inside Burma , assessing the situation first hand. Since the PDP's armed wing has grown, it offered better security, enabling them to move into areas otherwise to dangerous, even for experienced covert operators. These operatives paid tribute to the training and professionalism displayed by the PDP's armed wing. We salute them all, and admirably respect that life is hard, more so for those who have families. These men have vowed to stay in the jungle for as long as it takes to defeat the regime. We can only say, it's a shame that many more men aren't committed enough to freeing their country, but instead prefer the comforts of safety. They could at least contribute something to sustain an element of comfort for those loyal and dedicated men/women, living under great hardship for the well being of their people.

Another reason is quite simple, We wanted to sit back and take a better look at the situation as we see it with the information we possess, not necessarily of course how others may view the same situation, for they may have more, or less, information than us. Either way, everything has to be put into perspective. It takes time and effort to collate information on all the different players and the fronts they may represent, or boast that they represent; we then decide what parts to use. Much of it we lock away, hoping it will never have to be used to bring someone to justice once democracy is restored

Thirdly, we thought it would be a good idea if foreigners kept out of the game, allowing the people of Burma to find their own foothold on the situation, without being pushed around by interfering foreigners who have absolutely no firsthand knowledge of what it is like to live under a tyrannical dictatorship, but continually preach and they too dictated, by stating what they considered or, was told to voice, the rights and wrongs of it all. There was no stable debating platform for any Burmese, exiled or otherwise, because, before the PDP came back on the scene, this was unfortunately, at the time, the only way to bring Burma into the public eye, even though it went nowhere. Then the election of 1990, came and went, the NCGUB was formed, although it had a shadow of NLD elected members, it was formed without being sanctioned by the NLD, and everyone was aware of the sour relationship between ASSK and her cousin Sein Win, so with sour grapes in the wind, those in the

know, guessed right when they presented a cloudy forecast for the future. History tells the rest!

Sein Win wanted to control all aspects of Burma 's political front with absolutely no interference from anyone. If one was to speak out against Sein Win, he/she fell from grace, on the other hand, those who kneel before him, receive reward and favour, and we know them all!

That was, until the PDP rose up, under the leadership of a vastly experienced, versatile and gifted, individual; Bo Aung Din. For years this man operated loyally, with others. He did not seek status or reward for his dedicated efforts, his only wish, was success in restoring democracy. But he had the wisdom of hindsight, stemming from decades of working in both the military and political side of Burma 's struggle from its earliest days. He stayed silent for a long time because he thought it wrong to criticise or condemn those leading the political struggle as incompetent. Fortunately for Burma , the love of his country and its people, decided his fate. Until the time of the PDP's re-emergence, there was never any serious conflicting debate on Burma among people from Burma . The PDP encouraged people to speak out, and once they got the message, it has not stopped. Although it may have brought out a few worms that would normally be hiding underground, it has brought about a conflicting dialogue if not debate, on Burma affairs with more and more Burmese people taking part. The NCGUB and Sein Win however never invite debate, all this reveals, is the arrogant and non- democratic tendencies of his policies. It also reveals the true motives of Sein Win, as an individual! He knows that any open debate would crush him and the little empire he has built up thanks to the gullible and financial incentive groups in the US and elsewhere. However; the day is drawing near when a government will invite the NLD and PDP together for talks. Because the NCGUB is not a valid representative body it will be disregarded, as will its members who by helping to form under Sein Win, cast a shadow over their own loyalties and ambitions. But who knows, the PDP may well decline the offer, after all it will be the people of Burma who choose a government, not some foreign desk worker?

Fortunately for Burma , the wind of change is turning in favour of the PDP. If observer's notice, as it has been for some time now, views on Burma no longer refers only to the NLD, the western media rarely display ASSK as the only hope for Burma ; talks are directed at multi party instead of tri-party. Foreign governments do not and never have actually, recognised the NCGUB as a legal representative of any thing. The fact being, the PDP is now a talking point at embassy functions, business dinners, military reunions, and political corridors. Bo Aung Din has attended some, as the guest speaker. He was also invited to Oxford University as an honoured speaker, and these invitations are not given out lightly!

The PDP, because of its heritage, and the bold efforts of its chairman, is seen as the major contender in Burma 's future, so of course foreign governments, industrialist, bankers etc. etc. are going to take notice. These people see all other contenders as sheep trying to take on the lion. If the PDP can achieve so much in a few years against a mountain of obstacles, it does not take much to imagine, what they could do if they were in government. All well and good, we are sure, but it is now, today, that the people should stand up to be counted. Now, you have a leader who will fight for you, both on the battlefield as he has done before, and on the world stage as well as the home front.

For the PDP to stand up in front of the people and take bullets meant for them,, then the people must stand up behind the PDP! They are willing to die for you, the people, what in turn, are you willing to offer as thanks?

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Collective Comment**