

T h o o M w e h k l o

A g r e e m e n t

THOO MWEH KLO AGREEMENT¹

December 14, 1998

Burma is a country inhabited by many indigenous ethnic nationalities. In the modern Burmese history, even though the consensus agreement between General Aung San and the leaders of indigenous ethnic nationalities had achieved national solidarity and obtained independence, this solidarity deteriorated along with the death of general Aung San.

As a consequence of long years of oppression under the military dictatorship, the national solidarity is in a vulnerable state of total disintegration. The immediate need of the people of all the nationalities, being the abolition of the military dictatorship and the building of a modern society with lasting peace and prosperity, could be achieved only through a consolidated national strength. Thus, the building of national solidarity is the main task of the people of all the nationalities, today. Just as the National League for Democracy (NLD), led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and the political parties representing the nationalities, jointly and actively have been undertaking the said task, we, the 23 organizations, whose signatures appeared below, successfully held the "Seminar on National Solidarity," from the 12th to 14th of December, 1998, at Thoo Mweh Klo, Kawthoolei State, and unanimously reached the agreement given below.

1. The Seminar recognized that the 1947 Panglong Agreement and pledges contained in the Agreement, the 1990 Bo Aung Kyaw Street Declaration, the 1992 Mannerplaw Agreement and the 1997 Mae Tha Raw Hta Agreement are the historic agreements representing the fundamental interest of the ethnic nationalities and the people.
2. The Seminar unanimously determined that the conflict prevailing in Burma is a conflict between the oppressive military dictatorship, on the one side, and the oppressed people of all the nationalities on the other, and as it has been intensifying, day by day, it is now approaching a decisive stage.
3. As a result of domination of the SLORC/SPDC military dictatorship, there was lack of democratic rights and loss of the rights of the nationalities, in present day Burma. Therefore, it was unanimously decided that the abolishment of the military dictatorship was the principal and common task of the country.
4. It was decided that all political parties, organizations and individuals, irrespective of race, religion and political ideology, were to join hands and work together, starting from the lowest possible stage, in the struggling for the abolition of the SLORC/SPDC military dictatorship.
5. The SLORC/SPDC has no right to lead in organizing and convening the National Convention. Therefore, the Seminar unanimously decided that the National Convention of the SPDC could absolutely not be accepted.
6. The Seminar unanimously decided to promote and practice the multi-party democratic system, in accordance with aspiration of the entire people of all the Nationalities.
7. The Seminar unanimously decided to establish a genuine federal union, composed of national states, having national equality and full right of self-determination.
8. The Seminar decided to support the demand for the convening of parliament, formation of the Committee Representing People's Parliament and the Parliamentary Affairs Committees by the

¹ Ethnic Nationalities Council, Historic Agreements, available at <http://www.encburma.org/agreements.htm> (Last visited on January 5, 2007).

victorious parties in the 1990 election, the National League for Democracy (NLD) and the 4 political parties representing the ethnic nationalities.

9. This Seminar decided to cooperate in the struggle for the emergence of tripartite dialogue, as an immediate task.
10. The Seminar welcomed and supported the active involvement of the United Nations and the international organizations for the establishment of peace and democracy in Burma. Since the 1998 UNGA Resolutions on Burma were correct, the Seminar unanimously demanded that they be implemented, in practice, by the responsible authorities.
11. The Seminar strongly condemned the involvement of the SPDC military dictatorship, as a principal partner, in the cultivation, by the responsible authorities.
12. The Seminar called upon foreign investors not to invest in Burma, so long as the SPDC military dictatorship was in power.
13. The Seminar decided that all the organizations attending the Seminar were to take the responsibility for the maintenance and implementation of the decisions and to form a Coordinating and Organizing Committee in order to continue for the implementation the decisions.

Signatories:

- U Tin Maung Thet**, President, All Burma Muslim Union (ABMU)
U Myo Win, Secretary (2), All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF)
U Myat Thu, President, All Burma Students' League (ABSL)
Ashin Kaymar Sara, Chairmonk, All Burma Young Monk's Union (ABYMU)
U Tha Noe, Secretary, Arakan League for Democracy (ALD)
Khaing Myo Min, General Secretary, Arakan Liberation Party (ALP)
Salai Shwe Khar, Secretary, Foreign Affair Department, Chin National Front (CNF)
Salai Tha Nei Luai, Representative, Chin National League for Democracy (CNLD)
Saw Jacob, Central Organizing Committee, Communist Party of Burma (CPB)
U Zaw Naing Oo, General Secretary, Democratic Party for a New Society (DPNS)
Saw Shwe Hser, Vice-President, Karen National Union (KNU)
B. Kyah Oo, General Secretary, Lahu Democratic Front (LDF)
U Soe Lwin, Vice-Chairperson, Myeik-Dewai United Front (MDUF)
U Kyaw Hla, President, Muslim Liberation Organization (MLO)
U Deniel Aung, Member, Members of Parliament Union
U Than Htut, Secretary, National League for Democracy-Liberated Area (NLD-LA)
U Kyaw Htet, President, People Defense Force (PDF)
U Aye Saung, Secretary General, People's Liberation Front (PLF)
Khun Okker, President, Pa-O People's Liberation Organization (PPLO)
U Aung Myint, General Secretary, People's Patriotic Party (PPP)
Mai Aik Phong, Joint-Secretary, Palaung State Liberation Front (PSLF)
Khun Kyar Nu, Representative, Shan Democratic Union (SDU)
Maha San, President, Wa National Organization (WNO)
U Maung Maung Latt, Member, Members of Parliament Union