

WASHINGTON D.C.

DECLARATION

WASHINGTON D.C. DECLARATION¹

Third Congress of the Members of Parliament Union (MPU) - Burma
21 - 24 March 2004
Washington, DC, USA

We, the representatives of the people of Burma, elected in the 27 May 1990 general elections (presently serving as members of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma and/or the Members of Parliament Union), meeting at the Third Congress of the Members of Parliament Union held in Washington, DC, hereby reaffirm that -

Our Mandate, Position, and Strategic Objectives

- We will never ignore the will of the Burmese people expressed through the May 1990 general elections;
- The military's refusal to honor the election results does not in any way diminish the validity of these results;
- Our mandates are derived from the election victory of the National League for Democracy (NLD) and the other political parties in the 1990 general elections;
- Our roles are to support and facilitate the NLD led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the other election-winning parties to implement the 1990 election results;

Our objectives are:

1. to terminate military rule
 2. to establish democracy, and
 3. to establish a federal Union of Burma
- Based on the 1990 election results, the National League for Democracy (NLD) led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has the right to enter into a dialogue with the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), ethnic nationalities, and others, and has the mandate to play the key role in formulating a roadmap to democracy and drafting the constitution of the Union of Burma
 - In the light of current political developments that our immediate objectives are to promote and ensure, to the extent possible, that
 - A. The NLD regains its rightful leading role in the process to determine the democratic future of the country,
 - B. Any process to achieve democratic transition, home-grown or otherwise, is inclusive, equitable, and takes the interests of the NLD and the ethnic nationalities into account
 - In carrying out the activities in support of the above objectives, we undertake to ensure that our activities
 1. Do not undermine the position of the NLD/Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and the ethnic nationality political parties,
 2. Facilitate national reconciliation, and
 3. Promote the building of democracy.

¹ National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, Agreements, available at <http://www.ncgub.net> (last visited on January 5, 2007).

The Third Congress of the Members of Parliament Union entrusts the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma with the responsibility of implementing the abovementioned policy initiatives and objectives

Acknowledgement, Appreciation, and Appeal

We, the representatives of the people of the Union of Burma:

Burma

- Welcome initiatives by the NLD which, since its 1990 election victory, has been calling on the ruling junta for talks to resolve national problems and establish democracy in the country,
- Express firm solidarity with the NLD and the people of Burma who, despite the hardships and oppression, continue to strive for democracy,
- Express deep sympathy to members and supporters of the NLD who were victims of the premeditated attack at Tabayin (Depayin) on 30 May, and pledge to expose the truth behind the ruthless incident through independent investigations,
- Firmly believe that grievances of the Tabayin (Depayin) victims need to be addressed in a just way without impeding the process of national reconciliation,
- Urge the SPDC to immediately seek a negotiated political settlement and begin an inclusive nation-building process to alleviate the suffering of the people and the country.

The United States

- Thank President Bush and the United States Congress for passing the “Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003” and appeal to the US President to continue renewing the law until an irreversible process toward democracy and national reconciliation is achieved in Burma.
- Request the United States to continue pursuing active diplomacy in persuading other international key players to take a common approach in helping the Burmese people realize their aspiration for democracy.
- Deeply appreciate the Government and the people of the United States for making the Third Congress of the Members of Parliament Union (Burma) possible and for their warm and cordial hospitality, friendship, and support.

European Union

- Welcome the European Parliament resolution on Burma adopted on 11 March 2004 insisting that "the EU's Common Position on Burma should be strengthened, to enter into force subsequently if the regime has not taken tangible steps towards the restoration of democracy in Burma and which should include the following measures: preventing EU companies and citizens from investing in Burma; banning the import of goods and services from enterprises owned by the military, military personnel and their associates; banning the import of strategically important goods from sectors of the economy which are subject to a monopoly, such as gems and timber".
- Call on the EU Council of Foreign Ministers to include the abovementioned measures within the Common Position when it is reviewed in April 2004, to review the situation in June 2004, and implement these measures "if tripartite dialogue between the NLD, ethnic nationality leaders, and the Burmese authorities, or other concrete steps towards political change, have not taken place in Burma"

- Urge the European Union not to allow Burma's participation in the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) until the SPDC takes positive and irreversible steps towards democracy
- The United Nations
- Welcome the report of the Secretary General (E/C No 4/2004/30) and that of the UN Human Rights Special Rapporteur (E/C No 41/2004/33) on the "Situation of Human Rights" in Burma submitted to the 66th Session of the UN Commission on Human Rights.
- Call on the UN Secretary-General to explore effective ways and means to implement the terms of the successive UN General Assembly and UN Commission on Human Rights resolutions
- Call on the United Nations to launch an independent inquiry into the Tabayin (Depayin) Massacre
- Call on member nations of the UN Security Council to address the situation in Burma as a matter of urgency

ASEAN and Neighboring Countries

- Call on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Japan, India, and China to fully support and cooperate with the United Nations seeking a concerted international effort for the success of national reconciliation and democratization in Burma.
- Acknowledge the initiative by Thailand which had convened the Forum on International Support for National Reconciliation in Burma as a significant preliminary step and hope that in the future the Forum will be open to broader participation so as to ensure results achieved are more concrete.

International Institutions and Burma Support Groups

- Appreciate the continuing support of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Members of Parliaments, and political parties worldwide,
- Call on the member trade unions, employers, and governments of the International Labor Organization (ILO) to implement the recommendations of the ILO's governing body in November 2000 until forced labor practices end in Burma, and urge it to launch an inquiry into the lack of freedom of association of trade unions in Burma, and
- Appreciate and encourage Burma support groups worldwide for their divestment, consumer boycott, and shareholder campaigns in support of the Burmese people and the democracy movement

International Community

- Deeply appreciate the continuing political and financial support of the Burmese democracy movement by governments, funding agencies, Nongovernmental organizations and people of Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden.

Name

Party:

Teddy Buri, Khun	NLD President
Peter Limbin, U	Ind. Vice President
San San, Daw	NLD Secretary
Maung Maung Aye, U	NLD Standing Committee
Maung Maung Latt, U	NLD Standing Committee
Bo Hla Tint, U	NLD Member
Bo Thaug, U	NLD Member

Daniel Aung, U	LNDP Member
Hla Oo, U NLD	Member
Khin Kyaw Han, U	NLD Member
Manko Ban, Khon	DOKNU Member
Lian Uk, U Ind.	Member
Sai Win Pay, U	SNLD Member
Sann Aung, Dr.	Ind. Member
Sein Win, Dr.	PND Member
Tha Noe, U	ALD Member
Thang Lian Pau, U	ZNC Member
Than Sein, U	NLD Member
Thein Oo, U	NLD Member
Tint Swe, Dr.	NLD Member
Tin Tut, U	NLD Member
Za Hlei Thang, Dr.	CNLD Member
Zau Awng, Duwa	NLD Member

ALD = Arakan League for Democracy

DOKNU = Democratic Organization for Kayan National Unity

Ind. = Independent

LNDP = Lahu National Development Party

NLD = National League for Democracy

PND = Party for National Democracy

SNLD = Shan Nationalities League for Democracy

ZNC = Zomi National Congress

