

YET ANOTHER PLAN FAILS TO CRUSH
THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT
IN BURMA.

*Not sent to
any press*

-----Minn Latt -----

I

It was neither extraordinary nor surprising when Thakin Nu, that faithful hireling of Anglo-American Imperialism, launched his so called peace-within-one-year plan on the 19th of July 1949.

PEACE — how sweet, how pleasant ! Oh, what a glorious cause ! Is it not for this that the entire human race has been clamouring and fighting for ?

Even then, nobody was fooled by this 'peace-call' of the arch hypocrite. The people of Burma knew him only too well to be swept off their feet by his euphemism. His words had never to do with anything with his deeds. Did he not write a book on Marxism and claimed himself to be a faithful Marxist ? And did he not pay homage to ~~XXXX~~ No. 10, Downing Street ? Did he not preach nationalisation and land reforms that one and all might hear ? At the same time, did he not crush the people under the heavy burden of the Thakin Nu - Attlee Agreement ? Did he not quote Lenin while passing Bills in his 'toy-shop' parliament ? After this, did he not retire to his office chambers to order his troops to shoot down the starving workers and peasants ?

After all, it was an old, old story. The very phrase, "within-one-year", in itself was a repetition of the slogan used by the ~~XX~~ APPFL in 1947. In those days the slogan was ~~XXXX~~ "Independence-within-one-year". It was a bold promise, a daring challenge and how it was carried out ! What an achievement ! What an independence it was ! What a fiasco !

Therefore, when Thakin Nu, with a sly wink, introduced his "peace-within-one-year plan", there was a knowing smile amongst his band of assassins while the people spat with deep hatred.

The people of Burma knew even from the very start that it was one of his demagogic stunts again and that his "plan", though it was euphemistically named, had nothing in common with the resounding call of the Peace-loving camp of the world led by the great Soviet Union.

II

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The very first step Thakin Nu took was to massacre the political prisoners in the Rangoon Jail.

What a coincidence it was that it must happen, when Thakin Nu's Peace-plan was adopted by the Government, that the jail authorities distributed rotten meat to its inmates, and the latter asked that it ^{should} be changed. The just request of the detenus was lent only a deaf ear so a demonstration was unavoidably staged. Here was the chance that the reactionary government had been waiting for; rotten meat had served well as a bait.

The government, in full conformity with the "peace-within-one-year" plan, gave orders that this "outrageous breach of discipline" be immediately checked. The orders were carried out to the letter and while this ruthless massacre was going on, the jail-orchestra was made to play a noisy tune so that the people outside might not hear the cries of the victims.

Hundreds of detenus — workers, peasant, students, clerks and other patriotic elements were severely wounded while eight of them lost their lives.

This is, but to mention, just a sample of Thakin Nu's "Peace-Programme". Just one of the steps he took to attain, what he called "peace". He concentrated much more on the rural sides where an open armed struggle had dared to challenge him and there, wholesale murders were staged. Peasants, who had the guts to claim that the ~~fruit~~ ^{their} fruit of his labour belonged to ~~him~~ ^{them}, were labelled as "Reds", lined up and mowed down under machine gun-fire. The Fascist soldiers ran amok, burning, plundering, raping and causing endless havoc. Smoke towered sky-high and cries spread in all directions as villages writhed in agony under the iron heels of the so-called Union-armies. In the wake of these fascist soldiers, the landlords, usurers and bureaucrats invaded the villages with open pockets and open handcuffs. The peasants were expected to fill up either one or the other.

Moreover, the reactionary clique understood that if the ~~the~~ popular armed uprising was to be crushed, all progressive thoughts ~~and~~ and progressive persons must be totally eliminated. Hence, it was found that it was of absolute necessity ~~to~~ not only to tie up the hands and legs of the people but also to close their eyes and ears as well. The progressive press was choked to death; all other democratic rights of the people (what little they had) were entirely denied. Instead, a series of repressive acts were put into force denying the people any chance so much as to raise a finger against th

against their fascist regime.

It was apparent that, whatever name he might affix to his plan Thakin Nu's sole aim was to ~~xxxxxxx~~ stop and repel the onrushing tide of the people's revolution which embraced all the oppressed classes in Burma:- the workers, peasants, students, soldiers, teachers, clerks, merchants, engineers and in some places, even policemen! This being a life and death struggle for the Prime Minister of Burma, it was no wonder that he threw in everything he had into this campaign: he even admitted that his bringing over of the sacred Buddhist relics from Ceylon was part of the "peace-within-one-year plan".

It was, and it is still, very amusing to ~~xxxx~~ observe this betrayer of the Burmese people take great ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{pains} to win over the pious hearts. He grumbled now and again that he hated this worldly life and would, someday, enter the holy priesthood. It had been something when uttered once, but the song, being repeated very often ~~xxxx~~ became a stale joke, so that, whenever he chanted this tune, even the most devout Buddhist would burst out laughing — (but of course, ~~xxxx~~ after observing that no secret police was around). Thakin Nu's declaration, that he would take to priesthood ~~xxxx~~ after the completion of his "peace-plan", missed not only the bulls-eye but the entire target as well.

As was his plan, Thakin Nu, guided by the British Military Experts and fully co-operated by the Karen National Defence Organisation (KNDO), sent his troops rushing headlong to open up the Rangoon-Mandalay and the Rangoon-prime lines.

If he had captioned his programme as an offensive against the popular armed struggle of the people, he might have been given some amount of credit for his frankness, but the course of events proved that it was definitely not peace that his assault meant to achieve. The people of Burma could not help remembering an instance in which a spokesman of Thakin Nu's Armed Forces Radio announce, rather unwisely:-

"People of Burma ! We are your sons ! Just tell us that you want peace, even if it means eating rice with nothing but salt ! Say that and we shall vanquish the insurgents!"

Yes, that was the kind of ~~x~~ "peace" that Thakin Nu and his band could offer, a "peace" that was all theirs. ~~Txxxx~~ Total submission to their rule. Open surrender to the Anglo-American exploitation. To give sweat and blood that Feudalism must thrive. Star-

must thrive. Starvation and want. Tears and death ...

No, the people of Burma was not carried away by the euphemism of this sinister scheme. ~~It~~ A different slogan rang out all over Burma from Myitkyina to Tavoy, from Mye haung to Pyinmana. "Let the guns roar ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ untill the safety of our future is assured. The fight for our liberation is the fight for World Peace!"

And the people defended. They defended, to the best of their ability, against the British-Imperialist-equipped hordes of Thakin Nu. The defenders might be behind rifles or ~~xxxx~~ inside tanks; or they might even be barefisted, but their faith, that in the end, the people must win, was ~~everywhere~~ the same and unshaken.

The well-equipped enemy took town after town on ~~it~~ its mad rush and the reactionary press carried news in bold headlines. They boasted how one town after another was taken from the "Reds". The Rangoon Radio was ringing out news with practiced enthusiasm. ~~xxxx~~ Though they could not hold vital positions in the rural sides they even succeeded in seizing some villages and saw to it that the scorched-earth policy was put into practice before they retreated after a few days.

Thakin Nu expected that "victories" and "glorious news from the front" would make the people rejoice, but he found that his great ~~calculations~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ had ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ proved short-sighted. Even his own rank and file failed to feel jubilant and proud because one and all knew fully well that Chiang Kai-shek's taking of Yenan was simply being given a repeat performance on the Burma-stage. After all, it was an out-of-date dance to a primitive tune. Nothing was new. The people today, stand confident and knew that as Chiang has fallen Thakin Nu will surely meet his fate.

Together with the military offensive, Thakin Nu planned political manoeuvres. With full co-operation and help of his bosses, the British Imperialists, he brought back under his banner, most of the so-called Kawthulay forces (KNDO). These forces, which had played a leading role in trying to create a communal war between the Burmese and the Karens (so as to halt the revolutionary upsurge) surrendered to the Government, only to be equipped once again with better arms and larger amount of ammunitions, "that they may be able to defend themselves against the Reds." Meanwhile many revolutionary ^{Karen} youths, finding that ~~that~~ they had been tricked with this KNDO ruse came over to the People's Democratic Front and pledged that they would fight the Burmese and the Karen quislings so that Imperialism and ~~Feudalism~~ ^{and monopoly capitalist class} could be entirely wiped out from Burma.

The KNDO/s, while they had been on the prowl, had caused no ~~little~~ little damage, and although the People's Democratic Front of Burma was able to steer the people out of a communal war, the public had learnt to hate the Kawthulay forces from the very depths of their hearts. Therefore, when Thakin Nu, declaring that the KNDO "rebellion" was suppressed, took back a large number of these Kawthulay forces under the "motherly wings of the Union" and went ~~so~~ far as to arm them to the teeth again, even an undecisive ~~element~~ ^{element} discovered the true colour of the puppet reactionary AFPEL government.

There was another stunt that Thakin Nu played. In order to disrupt the unity of the revolutionary forces, he tried to win over the vacillating leadership of the People's Volunteers Organisation, a member of the People's Democratic Front. He succeeded — that was, as far as winning over a number of persons was concerned. However, his main intention to disrupt the unity of the revolutionary forces proved a failure. Instead he found that he had done the PDF a good turn by extracting from it the germs that had hindered the healthy growth of the United Front and the victory of the people. By this blunder, he had divided the People's Volunteer Organisation into two camps, the reactionary group switching over to his side and the progressive section remaining within the ranks of the PDF.

Cleared, thanks to Thakin Nu, of the undesirable reactionary leaders of the People's Volunteer Organisation, the PDF was able to convene a successful conference in March, this year. One of the important resolutions passed at this conference was the setting up of a single united army under a single command. This resolution organised the various armed forces, which, although they were members of the PDF had been fighting under different Headquarters, into a single army of the people. The establishment of a ~~single~~ ^{single} united army fighting under the direct command of the PDF Headquarters had been a long cherished desire of the people, so that, ~~upon~~ upon hearing the ^{more} news of this, all rejoiced and took it for guaranteed that half the counter-offensive against the mad onrush of Thakin Nu's bandit troops was won.

Therefore, under such an atmosphere, towards the close of ^{this} ~~his~~ one-year-plan, when Thakin Nu and company clapped their hands, threw up their caps and danced in glee, ~~they~~ ^{they} boasting about the capture of preme, they found that they were all alone. So they had to calm down in an artificial dignified manner, while Thakin Nu reported on the 19th July, this year, that 95% of his

that 95% of his "peace"-within-one-year plan has been achieved. He added very cautiously that the remaining 5% would take much more time to accomplish than that was taken for the 95. It was a very weak report even if he tried to screen the failure of his quest, but after all, to err ~~is~~^{was} Thakin Nu. He had committed a fiasco once again learning a bitter lesson that ~~the~~ a people's revolution could not be crushed within so short a time and with so low-down a trick. And— he has still to learn that the Burmese people's struggle for national liberation, people's democracy and a lasting peace could never be defeated but would emerge victorious in the end.

III

What has Thakin Nu gained by his ~~first~~ PWOY offensive? A balance sheet, if he dares to draw one, would prove that he had lost.

There is no doubt about the fact that he has re-captured a number of towns and was able to open up the Rangoon-Mandalay and the Rangoon-Prome lines. What he actually needed was a thorough ~~traffic~~ traffic running on these lines, but at present, even after fifteen months from the date his plan was launched, he could barely have a minimum quantity of communication service. He has taken the broken-up roads and railways, losing a great number of men, arms and ammunitions. Whatever efforts he makes to open up any means of communications are always foiled by the people's guerillas, who had just sidestepped one or two miles east or west of the roads while the bandit forces had been charging.

Politically, he had gained absolutely nothing. Instead, he found that the revolutionary forces became much more stronger.

Even while Thakin Nu's forces were wildly penetrating into the liberated areas of Burma, the peasants ~~were~~ calmly strengthened their organisation and bettered their fighting abilities. The All Liberated Areas Conference of the ABTUC (All Burma Trades Union Congress) was convened. Even workers from Rangoon crossed over to the liberated areas and attended ^d the conference as guests on behalf of their fellow-workers in the city.

Furthermore, in March 1950, the PDF held a conference which was able to consolidate the unity of the Front. A Unified Land Reform Scheme was ~~accepted~~ accepted by its member organisations, while other important organisational and administrative resolutions were also adopted ~~and~~ smoothing out many technical differences that had so far existed within the ranks. This conference strengthened the ties of the revolutionary forces and gave a resounding answer to Thakin Nu ^{with amongst}

to Thakin Nu that ~~his~~ his black magic to disrupt the unity of the revolutionary forces was utterly futile.

Leaving aside the liberated areas of Burma where the names of the reactionary clique were curses in themselves, one could examine the attitude of the people in the non-liberated areas, even at the close of the one-year-plan, to find out ~~the~~ ^{the popularity of} the present rulers of Burma. It would be well worth while to study the two bye-elections held recently in Akyab and in a constituency of Rangoon. These elections were not mere competitions between candidates but proved to be a battle between Thakin Nu's AFPFL and the people. While studying these elections it should also be borne in mind that these constituencies in discussion had never even been visited by the people's armed forces.

In Rangoon, Thakin Nu's ~~candidate~~ AFPFL candidate was returned, but what a score it was! Ministers and ex-ministers, officers and ~~and~~ usurers, landlords and councillors — all members of the AFPFL — laboured all out to hold the prestige of their organisation, and of course, for the security of their seats. However, from the results it could easily be found out that the people, let alone voting for ~~the~~ them, did not care in the least for the entire election itself. They did not have ~~the~~ any faith or ~~any~~ ^{interest} in the system; they have lost all confidence in the structure of the "Union of Burma". Out of a number of 49526 electors only 5725 casted. Torn-up voting slips were also found in the ballot boxes. The AFPFL candidate claimed 4326 votes. It was a fight between ~~the~~ Thakin Nu's AFPFL and the people, in which, the latter won!

In Akyab the election was interesting because the people there took a different stand and wanted to go through with it. They wanted to show, by means of this bye-election how much they despised the AFPFL.

The AFPFL candidate in Akyab was challenged by one U Kyaw Min, ex-Indian Civil Service. The latter was by no means a favourite of the people as he had merely been a bureaucrat, who had served the British Imperialists much more than he did for his own country. He was a stooge of Imperialism and a member of the landlord-capitalist class. ~~Most~~ Most of the people had not even seen him and a whisper had been going around that he might be an agent of the British warmongers trying to create another communal war, this time, between the Burmese and the Arakanese.

However, the people were determined. What does it matter ^{anyway}

it matter anyway whether a stooge or a hireling is elected. After all, when the PDF liberates Akyab, the entire system, on which this "Toy-shop Parliament" stands will crumble to dust. Just to show what they thought of Thakin Nu and his AFPFL, the people threatened to elect U Kyaw Min.

The AFPFL was frightened beyond all words. Excitedly, they rushed to save the day; the entire machinery of the organisation was let loose on behalf of their candidate. They sent the Regional Autonomy Commission making a great fuss about the "integrity of the state". The Superintendent of the Cottage Industry was also shoved into the bargain, hoping they might be able to bribe the people of Akyab. ~~xxxxxx~~ They also used threat, demanding what a single non-party member could do in parliament. Ministers visited Akyab and spoke "affectionately" ~~to~~ with a lot of people. On the menu the speciality was a Muslim minister sent there to win the Muslim votes. And, last but not least, the prince of the show came — the Prime Minister, Thakin Nu himself, in person. On the morrow of his arrival, this demagog fed 108 phengyis (Buddhist priests) at Pyelonchantha phayagyi. His lecture was attended by many and for a moment the AFPFL people thought that the fish was in the net. ~~xxxxxx~~ Actually, the Akyabites were simply displaying their sportsman-spirit. They clapped as Thakin Nu raved, they read whatever pamphlet was given to them. They were even nice enough to tolerate with the amplifiers which disturbed their work in the day and wrecked their sleep in the night.

Then the people went to the polls. Approximately 75 % casted ~~to~~ their votes and U Kyaw Min claimed 2806 votes while the AFPFL candidate received as low as 166. The humour of the Akyabite was remarkable because on the polling day the AFPFL motor-cars and trucks were carrying more than 1600 voters!

Both these election results, though the different attitudes taken by the respective electorates may be correct ~~if~~ or not, proved however, that the people had lost all faith in Thakin Nu and ~~the AFPFL~~ the AFPFL. Incidentally these elections took place when Thakin Nu's military and political offensive against the popular armed struggle was "completed" — at a time when the reactionary clique was boasting that victory was theirs. But, even the people in the non-liberated areas taught them that victory was, as it ever shall be, with the people and for the people.

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IV

Way back on the 28th March 1948, as soon as Thakin Nu attacked the Communist Party of Burma and other democratic organisations, the people had taken up the challenge with arms. In the past 31 months the heroic people of Burma had fought valiantly and had also accomplished great achievements in their efforts to crush Imperialism, monopoly capitalism and Feudalism. From the very beginning they understood that their fight for national liberation was the fight for world peace; that the road they must take was the one taken by the peace-loving camp of the world led by the great Soviet Union.

So, when the ^{World} First Peace Congress was held, the dove flew straight from Paris and Prague right into Burma. Pamphlets, printed or mimeographed, penned or pencilled could be found in many villages of the liberated areas of Burma, publicising about the World Peace Movement. Meetings and discussions never failed to mention Paris and Prague. The great Peace Movement, as distinct from the dirty "peace"-within-one-year ^{plan} ~~plan~~ of the watchdog, found a home in the hearts of the people of Burma. A few weeks later, ^{even} right under Thakin Nu's ^{in Rangoon} nose, the signature campaign for the Stockholm Appeal — the ^{real} ~~true~~ peace movement, ~~has~~ flared up glorious and bright.

Yet another plan to crush the people's liberation movement has failed. Determined and confident, the people of Burma keep marching on !