

“Surrenders Are No Solution To Problem Of Restoring Peace”

Thakin Soe's Wife Meets Press To Explain Red-Flag Communist Party's Demands

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Party Accepts Full Responsibility For Mass Massacre Of Sinzwe Villagers

From Our Staff Reporter

MEETING THE PRESS YESTERDAY AT THE BROADCASTING STATION, MA NGWE SAN, WIFE OF RED-FLAG COMMUNIST LEADER THAKIN SOE, SAID THAT NO AMOUNT OF SURRENDERS ON THE PART OF UNDERGROUND FORCES WOULD BRING ABOUT A RETURN OF PEACE TO THE COUNTRY.

She had come to Rangoon as leader of the 9-Member delegation of the Communist Party (Burma) to have preliminary talks with the Revolutionary Government over the problem of restoring peace to the country. Accompanying her were Central Committee member Bo Kyaw Win, Ni Ni Soe (daughter of Thakin Soe and a candidate member of the Party), Shwe Htwe (District Committee member), Myo Chit (District Committee member), Nyunt Kyi (Township Committee member), Min Nwe (Medical Officer), Ma Tin Htwe (candidate member) and Ma Tin Kyi (candidate member).

Also present at the Press Conference was Policy Director U Saw U of the Information Department, and Lt.-Col. Hla Maung, DIG CID of Insein.

Ma Ngwe San made it plain that she and her colleagues had not come to Rangoon to surrender under the Amnesty. In fact, the Party did not recognize the Amnesty, because not being guilty of any crime, party-members did not consider themselves to be in need of being pardoned by anyone.

“It is because of our intense desire for peace that we had undertaken the 13-day rough journey from the jungle to Rangoon. We left our place in the jungle on June 14 and arrived in Rangoon only on June 26. We had to push our way through dense forests and over high mountains. I have not been in good health, and yet I had borne the rigours of this journey for the sake of the peace that we all desire.”

Speaking about the great risk they had run in coming to Rangoon, Ma Ngwe San said that although the Revolutionary Government had withdrawn the reward offered for the capture of Thakin Than Tun and other leaders of the Burma Communist Party, it had not done so in respect of the rewards offered for Thakin Soe, Bo Kyaw Win and other leaders of the Red-Flag Communist Party. They were therefore liable to be captured at any time during their trip from the jungle to Akyab, where they first stopped. If so captured, they might be given the death penalty or sentenced to transportation for life by the Government. But these dangers had not daunted them, because they were prepared to risk even their lives for the sake of the country. So far as they were concerned, they would never ask the Government to withdraw the rewards for Red-Flag leaders.

(The Government had already withdrawn the rewards in respect of Thakin Soe and other leaders of the Red-Flag Party on June 26. Ma Ngwe San was apparently unaware of this fact.)

from Sergeants downwards and members of the women's corps, and by various Services' Unions and associations.”

She added that the Revolutionary Government might raise an objection to the Party's demand for (1) suspension of the offensive against insurgents and withdrawal of troops from villages and outstations, and (2) grant of 3 months' immunity to emissaries of underground organizations returning to the jungle in the event of the peace negotiations proving a failure. The Government might, for instance, say that compliance with these demands might expose its troops to occasional snipe attacks from underground forces, and such a development might lead to the death of a platoon commander or a private.

She would admit that such a danger did exist. But what did it matter if a few persons had to die for the sake of the country's peace?

On the other hand, there would be a decided advantage for the Government if its troops were withdrawn. By so doing, it would have demonstrated its genuine desire for peace, and any rebel organization not coming forward for peace talks in such circumstances would for ever be stigmatized by the people as being an enemy of peace. She was sure no underground organization would dare to face such a danger, and the attendant prospect of being ostracized by the entire country.

Surrenders No Solution

Ma Ngwe San emphasised that no amount of surrenders from underground organizations would contribute to the return of peace to the country. Surrender of underground personnel was therefore no solution to the problem of internal peace.

“This point is of supreme importance, which it will be well for all concerned to bear in mind,” she remarked.

To support this assertion, she pointed out the underground forces lost over 6,000 men and women since they took up arms against the Government in 1948. During this period, nearly 30,000 persons had laid down arms, according to the figures given out by the Government. And yet, despite these surrenders and casualties, peace had not returned to the country. This fact, she said, clearly proved that the solution to the problem of peace must be found in measures other than those which involved surrenders.

“We believe real peace can be achieved only in the way as proposed by Thakin Soe, namely by first taking the views of all concerned at a conference to be represented by all political parties and organizations, both lawful and unlawful and including the Pyidaungsu Party, by Army personnel