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# WITHDRAWAL SHEET

## **Ronald Reagan Library**

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Withdrawer

(WHORM): SUBJECT FILE

DLB 2/22/2010

File Folder

CO025 (600000-END)

**FOIA** 

S10-306

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Box Number

47

**SYSTEMATIC** 

252

ID Doc Type

**Document Description** 

No of Do

**Doc Date Restrictions** 

85182 MEMO

COLIN POWELL TO THE PRESIDENT, RE:

1 11/28/1988 B1

LETTER TO MR. ROY MILLER

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

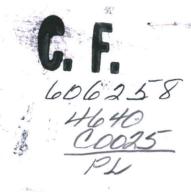
B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]

B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 30, 1988

Dear Roy:

Thank you for your letter of November 14 and its enclosed message from the Chairman of the National Democratic Front (NDF) of Burma.

The struggle of Burmese minority peoples to realize their aspirations poses complex, long-running issues. Some of the groups in the NDF have been fighting the central government in Rangoon for forty years. As you are no doubt aware, and indeed as Mr. Saw Maw Reh concedes, some of the NDF members are very much involved in production of and trafficking in illicit drugs.

There is no doubt that the majority of Burmese want a more open, democratic government. While we have lent moral support, the ability of outside powers, including the United States, to influence the course of events in Burma is limited. The military's seizure of power two months ago was a setback to Burmese democratic aspirations. In response, we halted all assistance except for humanitarian relief.

Still, there is some reason to believe that there will be political change in Burma. The military authorities seem to be preparing for multiparty elections, and we have encouraged them to enter into a dialogue with opposition leaders aimed at a smooth transition to an elected government. No date for elections has been set, but it appears possible that they will be held early next year.

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United States interests will be served best by continued encouragement of a process that, we hope, will lead to a more democratic political system in Burma, one that meets the aspirations of most Burmese and that would open the way for peaceful resolution of minority grievances as well.

We do not believe that our interests or those of democracy in Burma are best served by siding with the minorities against the government in Rangoon, even a government as unpopular as the current military regime. We certainly could not support an organization such as the NDF, based only on minority groups, as an interim government in Burma, particularly when some of its members are deeply involved in the drug trade.

I hope this helps you put the current Burmese political situation into perspective and to understand our approach to the issues involved.

Sincerely,

Rouse Rossen

Mr. Roy D. Miller Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher 333 South Grand Avenue Los Angeles, California 90071-3197

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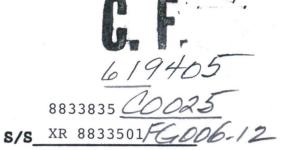
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Sincerely,

Mr. Roy D. Miller Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher 333 South Grand Avenue Los Angeles, California 90071-3197

# DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

# TRANSMITTAL FORM



December 20, 1988 Date

FOR: Mr. Paul Schott Stevens

**Executive Secretary** 

National Security Council

	The	White House
REFE	ERENCE	:
	To: Th	ne President .
	From:	Win Thein
	Date:	October 10, 1988
	Subje	ct: Political Situation in Burma
	WH Re	ferral Dated:  D# (if any): \$\int \( \gamma\) \( \gamma\)
. ,	X	The attached item was sent directly to the Department of State.
ACTI	ON TA	KEN:
		A draft reply is attached.
		A draft reply will be forwarded.
		A translation is attached.
	Х	An information copy of a direct reply is attached.
		We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below.
		The Department of State has no objection to the proposed travel.
e: "		Other (see remarks).
REMA	RKS:	Original correspondence has not been received.

150 8808127

Secretariat Staff

UNCLASSIFIED



### United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

November 28, 1988

U Win Thein People's Democratic Movement No. 47, 8th St. Ward 3, Lanmadaw Township Rangoon, Burma

Dear U Win Thein:

I am replying on behalf of the Secretary to your letter of October 10, 1988.

Throughout the recent turmoil in Burma, the United States has supported the democratic aspirations of the Burmese people. In addition to the visit to Burma of Representative Solarz, resolutions passed by the House of Representatives and Senate condemning the Burmese government's violence against demonstrators are indicative of the bipartisan support in the United States for democratic change in Burma.

The Department of State has also shared your concern about the use of lethal force by Burmese security forces against peaceful, unarmed demonstrators; this concern has been publicly expressed numerous times by the Department spokesman. In September, the United States halted all assistance to Burma in response to the killing of peaceful demonstrators. Our policy and public statements have underscored our desire to see change in Burma occur through peaceful processes rather than through violence.

In closing, I would note that while the shape of future political change in Burma remains uncertain, we certainly hope it will be in the direction of openness, freedom, and democracy. We will continue to monitor closely the situation in Burma, with hope that out of the current ferment a democratic system will evolve which reflects the aspirations of the Burmese people.

Sincerely

Victor L. Tomseth

Director,

Office of Thailand and

Burma Affairs

Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs

#### - Strictly Confidential -

ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING E.O. 12858, co gnorded, Sect. 3.3(c) BY NASVA DATE 2 14 10 PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT

No.(47), 8th Street, Ward (3), Lanmadaw Township, Rangoon, BURMA. Tel: 21963

Dated: 10th October 1988

H.E. Mr. Ronald Reagan President of the United States of America.

Mr. President,

We, the people of the Union of Burma, firstly would like to express our heartfelt thanks for your kind concern on the democratic movements in our country and for passing the resolution in our favour at the US congress. We, who represent major resistance groups, have the honour to present to your Excellency the following facts with regard to our country.

We hope no introduction is needed to explain the present political unrest in Burma. You may also agree that the military take-over is not genuine. The unanimous decision made by the majority of different ethnic groups lead by the various Students' Unions is to topple the present State Law and Order Restoration Council which took power illegally. The Armed Forces did not honour and will not allow the peaceful means of demonstrations. We do not believe in violence but non-violence is not practical to overthrow the dictatorship in our country. There is also a great danger for the next elected government if the present military group still exists.

The only way to construct an environment conducive to freedom with genuine democracy required total annihilation of the present armed forces, who obtained the passport to kill the people without trial, and to reorganize the new armed forces. In order to carry out the above course of action we need your high-tech super power military assistance because it will not be fair to fight against the military professionals by the unarmed and untrained students and the masses.

We are of the opinion that this activity could not be considered as high treason because the State Law and Order Restoration Council is not recognized by our people as the legal government. Enclosed is an "Overview of the Political Situation in Burma" prepared by a group of professionals/intellectuals who adhered to Democratic principles.

We will establish the following policies in Burma in order to satisfy the national sense of justice and decency:

- (a) Foreign Policy : (1) In alignment with the western democracies. (i.e. United States of America, United Kingdom, EEC countries)
  - (2) Correct and cordial relations with the rest of the world.
- (b) Domestic Policy : Genuine Democracy
- (c) Economic Policy : Open Trade

The member of the US House of Representatives Mr. Stephen J. Solarz and the US Ambassador to Burma Mr. Burton Levin will fully aware the situation of our country. Based on the grounds of humanity, human rights and fundamental freedoms and being the great supporter of the people who

...3

- Strictly Confidential

fight for freedom, we sincerely believe that you may take prompt justification to render the military assistance as requested. We trust that providing military assistance will not effect the sovereignty of our country.

Your Excellency, on our part we can assure you that we will fight for the cause of democracy with courage and conviction. We will strive for freedom for the love of freedom. It is our sincere hope that your government will give favourable consideration to our request.

With high regards, we remain,

WIN THEIN, WHO'S WHO IN

(Patron)

People's Democratic Movement

cc: H.E. Mr. Burton Levin, Ambassador of the United States of America to Burma

Enclosures: (1) Overview of the Political Situation in Burma.

(2) Supporting documents from major Students' Unions of Burma.



#### - Strictly Confidential -

#### "OVERVIEW OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN BURMA"

(Prepared by a group of professionals/intellectuals embracing the principles of genuine democracy for the Future Burma)

The driving force behind the recent unrest movement in Burma is quite undeniably, the students, their mentors and religious groups especially the Buddhist monks. The present regime in power is a closely knit, most cunning group of highly trained professional murderers who adhere to the inner core surrounding U Ne Win, U Sein Lwin, General Saw Maung, Major Sandar Win, (U Ne Win's daughter) Brig-Gen Khin Nyunt. Quite naturally they are handpicked and well doctrinated regarding the loyalty to the inner groups.

The political situation in Burma, is unique in the world in the sense that, the democratic forces are popularly rising up and are in the advanced stages of overthrowing a national socialistic despotic dictatorial regime. It would indeed go down in the World History the mankind as the first of such a phenomenon. It is most essential to support this movement not only for the political future of Burma but also for the rest of the world. This situation is totally different from the Vietnamese or the Nicaraguan situation. In fact if we will be allowed to be critical, the politico-economic military support to the various groups in the afore-mentioned countries seem to us to be misplaced. They were initially not the major popular movements and there were designs to change the ethnic and cultural patterns of the people.

The present movement in Burma cannot flourish without the help of Democratic super powers. The options that are open to super-power politics could be outlined as follows:

 Military/Political pressure using unrecognizable forces, (eg.PLA's renegade armies of the People's Republic Of China) and/or ASEAN forces.

...ii

- 2. Speed up the attrition rate of the Burmese Army in regard to recruiting, desertion and battle casualities.
- 3. Exploit the economic sanctions by donor countries by scientifically well planned and well supported by Intelligence Agencies regarding the clandestine activities of local group in strategic areas.
- 4. Assistance in the training and planning regarding a New Order and re-organisation of a new Burmese Army.
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The above strategies should be operative within the time frame (Approx: three months from now) of the so called democratic election which will undeniably be a rigged up one or shortly be followed up with another coup.

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BRANKE & CHEST COTO COM (TRANSLATION)

on view of the present political situation and the ruthless actions taken by the military government, it is one belief that the request made by the Rople's Democratic Movement "to the US sovernment with regard to military escritances sovernment with regard to military escritances.

is very important activity and hence fully supported.

Sd- (Vice Chairman)

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Burna for Chairman Students' Union

This Union is the biggest and the most powerful organisation in Busina. Over 24,000 student numbers from all States and Divisions posticipated)

(1025) भी हुई मार्था हु मीहरे भी हुई (10 D.W) है कलरी मई करें पे गेर भी 

regarding the request to the US bovernment to render military People's support the activity TRANSLATION) bemocratic Movement

Aye Aye hyint Vice Chairman

All Burnus Students' Teachers (Assz)

58.58.65

4. 233

والم هم الله و وسلم و عمل الم عمرة (A. B. R.7)

ပြည်သူ့ ဒီမို့ ကရေခ်ကျုပ်ရှားမျှ ကျနဲ့ ( PEOPLE's DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT ) မှ တောင် ဂွက် သော ကတက်ပါကျပ်ရပ်များကို တို့မဟာကျငယ်များ မာမို့ မှ မာပြည် ကာ တောက်ခံ ပနဲ့ကျခုဒ်ပါသည်။



we fully support and believe the above activity performed by the People's Democratic Movement.

Sdy- Aung Zaw Moe (In Charge) Bournese Youth Organization,



9.30.00

DESONE ENDING AND SOME HIS SPEOPLE, ? DEMOCRATIC WONEMENT > B.



TRANSLATION

he fully support the People's Democratic Movement's request to the US Government regarding military assistance.

Sdf. Tun Tun bo. In Charge National Independence Democratic Front. ways < 181830 >

National Independence Demo cratic front. L N. I. D. F> နာ က်သော စ တောက္ ခွဲ အ က ကျ ဘသႏို ရာ စေရီ ကန် က်သ တောင္ စီ မာ စီး ပို သော ကာ က်ေး စာ တို့ (၃, စက က တောကောက္မော) က က်သည်၊ ဒွဲ ရို က ဧပါ ခွဲ ဂါ ကော ကေါ့ ဆာ တို့ (၃, စက က ကောကောက်) က

TRANSLATION

live; the Special Commands Movement fully support the activity of the People's Democratic Movement regarding the request of military assistance to the US Government.

Sel- Kyi Kyi Tun
In Charge
Special Commando Movement

8.C. M

Description of Chatian Movement for Democracy ) y Many on evolutions of the second

TRANSLATION

F.D. Our National Movement for Democracy cordially supported the People's Democratic Movement's request for military assistance from the US Foverment.

Sdf (Tin or)
Patron
National Movement for Democracy.

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THE COMPANIES

STRICTLY CONFIDENCIAL

H.S. RR. HONALD REAGAN
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
THE WHITE BOUSE
1600 PENNSTRVANIA AVE TV.
VASHINGTON, DG 20500

, e



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

November 14, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Mr. Paul Schott Stevens

National Security Council Staff

SUBJECT:

Alerting NSCS on Presidential

Correspondence

Enclosed is the original of a letter to President Reagan from Mr. Win Thein, (Patron) People's Democratic Movement of Burma which is transmitted for your information.

This correspondence was received in the Information Management Section of the Executive Secretariat on November 14, 1988. A copy has been assigned to the appropriate bureau for action.

Director, S/S-I
Information Management Section
Executive Secretariat
647-3836

### NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ID 8808127

REFERRAL

DATE: 29 NOV 88

MEMORANDUM FOR: EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: PRESIDENT

SOURCE: THEIN, WIN

DATE: 14 NOV 88

SUBJ: LTR RE PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT OF BURMA

REQUIRED ACTION: DIRECT REPLY/ APPROPRIATE ACTION

DUEDATE: 12 DEC 88

COMMENT:

FOR GEORGE VAN ERON

DIRECTOR NSC SECRETARIAT

Rolph Beller &

### - Strictly Confidential -

ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING E.O. 12058, co emonded, Sect. 33(c) EVITORA DATE 21(4)

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT

No.(47), 8th Street, Ward (5), damadaw Township, Ranghon, RURMA. Tel:8210634 41:27 AM

Dated: 10th October 1988

H.E. Mr. Ronald Reagan President of the United States of America.

Mr. President,

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(Patron)

People's Democratic Movement

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DETERMINED TO BE
ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING
E.O. 12958, as siment 1, Sect. 3.3(c)
BY NARA
PLE 7. (12) 10

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mm gasanjeis fein : hoomep ge osagan answar Butterneent "Ensyllenne Bylon: 4hg. People's Democratic Movement " nig. of EGOT- F& Quar of osen: harpesen Eigense mysel : Jan Mosofone Go was of English of Des con was Noote. (TRANSLATION) In view of the present political situation and the ruthless actions taken by the military government, it is our belief that the request made by the "People's Democratic Movement" to the U.S government with regard to military assistance is very important activity and hence fully Supported. PMS CAPUSONI) Sd- (ko ko byi (vice chairman) expection of the For Chairman حالة كمه و ملك ملك وحد Students' Union Burna Rangoon. (This Union is the biggest and the most powerful organisation in Burma. Over 24,000 student members from all States and Divisions participated) 1. [025 27. 3 6 m en 6 14 6 20: 10 8 6. (P. D. M) & 860 7 mg 8 6: 100 29. 50 ed: 2 cal 8 63 eau 6: 3 al ch @ 3 au 3 6 c emple: 20 ap: 2 20 6: 1, 1, 2, 7) y 600 m i ng m 20 25 .. (TRANSLATION) we support the activity People's Democratic Movement regarding the request to the US Government to render military 68,68:66 assistance. 3. 2mg Sdf- Aye Aye hyint @ & an ze c cente: solo of: 200; Vice Chairman All Burnes Students' Teachers (ASS?) (A.B. 2.7)

ကောက်ပါလုပ်ရပ်များကို တို့မမာလူငယ်များ မာမွဲ့ မှ မာပည်မှာ တောက်ခံ တို့ကြန္ဒာပါသည်,



be fully support and believe the above achivity performed by the People's Democratic Movement.

Sd- Aung Zaw Moe (In Charge) Burmese Youth Organization,



9.00.00

ORDAZ immons of sonia sig. < PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT ) &.

nashnfrano sooginmen come i y no < N. I. D. F > mil no och

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TRANSLATION

he fully support the People's Democratic Movement's request to the US Government regarding military assistance.

Sdf- Tun Tun bo. In Charge National Independence Democratic Front. Secure of man of a second of the second of t

ansig. < 1818300>

National Brodependence Demo. cratic front. L No. 2. D. F >

TRANSLATION

he, the special Commando Movement fully support the activity of the People's Democratic Movement regarding the request of military assistance to the US Government.

Self- Kyi Kyi Tun

In Charge Special Commando Movement

Description of the property of

TRANSLATION

F.D. Our National Movement for Democracy cordially supported the People's Democratic Movement's request for military assistance from the US Fovernment.

Sdf- (Tin oo)
Patron

National Movement for Democracy.

- 4i-00,

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UNCLASSIFIED ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT RECORD ID: 8808127

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 CHILDRESS

001 STATE

Z 88111611 APPROPRIATE ACTION

88112812 DIRECT REPLY W/ APPROPIATE

002

X 88122309 ANSWERED BY STATE LTR

UNCLASSIFIED

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RECORD ID: 8808127 RECEIVED: 16 NOV 88 11

TO: STEVENS

FROM: LEVITSKY, M

DOC DATE: 14 NOV 88

SOURCE REF: 8833835

KEYWORDS: BURMA

MP

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR RE PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT OF BURMA

ACTION: ANSWERED BY STATE LTR

DUE DATE: 19 NOV 88 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: CHILDRESS

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FOR INFO CHILDRESS KELLY, B

KELLY, J

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