

Burmese Government Said in Steady Move Toward Eastern Bloc of Nations

Editor's note: UPI's general news manager for Asia is the first Western newsman to enter Burma since the government stopped giving visas to foreign journalists three months ago. In the following dispatch he reports on the current status of the military government's so-called "Burmese Way to Socialism."

By DONALD J. BRYDON
Rangoon - (UPI) - The sleek airliner touched down at Mingaladon airport 10 miles outside Rangoon and eight passengers stepped off.

A British businessman was chatting with a man making his first visit to Burma. "Not many people are going to Burma these days," he said. "It's a pity. Rangoon is one of the nicest cities in the Orient, but there isn't much to attract the westerner any more."

There is little doubt that this is just the way the government wants it. Trade with the West is openly discouraged.

The revolutionary council, under the direction of Gen. Ne Win, took control of the government in an almost bloodless coup in March, 1962. The teen-aged son of Sao Shwe Thaik, the first president of independent Burma, was killed while resisting arrest when army troops surrounded his father's home. He was the only casualty.

Moves Toward East
Since then the government has moved steadily away from the West and toward the eastern bloc of nations. It is not a Communist government by any means, but some observers feel the day is coming when Burma will move all the way to the left.

Today, however, the military men who rule the revolutionary council of the Union of Burma call themselves non-aligned socialists. They say they took over the government last year and placed Premier U Nu, along with President U Win "under protective custody" because the country was on the verge of disintegrating.

U Nu and the other deposed officials are still being held 14 miles north of Rangoon at a military base. They are under heavy guard and U Nu's wife has seen her husband only once since he was arrested.

Unity Urgent Problem
Western diplomats agree that the most urgent problem facing the Burmese government is that of unity. Various insurgent groups are in open revolt against the government.

The rebels are located in small widely-separated areas. They present no serious threat

to the government but stage hit-and-run raids on small outposts and villages.

The largest insurgent groups are made up of Communists and Karens. Two other movements are under way in the Shan states in northeastern Burma. One calls for secession from Burma. The other group desires a change in the constitution which would create a federation of Burma, somewhat along the lines of the government of the United States, with more autonomy for the individual states.

Early in 1962 at meetings in Rangoon and Taunggyi,

Shan leaders openly declared they would use force to achieve their ends. This was when the army decided the nation was on the verge of widespread rebellion and possible disintegration. The military moved in on March 2 and has ruled with an iron hand ever since.

Actually the armed forces have taken over the government twice in the past five years. Both times U Nu was premier. On Sept. 26, 1958, U Nu called on the military to form a "caretaker government" which ruled for six months.

Ne Win and his armed

forces did not wait for an invitation the second time. And now, after more than one year of the "Burmese Way to Socialism" under Ne Win's leadership, where does Burma stand and where is it headed?

Banks Nationalized
All foreign, as well as Burmese, banks have been nationalized. This included Communist China's Bank of China.

Newspapers, magazines and book publishers are licensed and kept under a tight rein. Newsprint allocations are controlled by the government. Industrialization in Burma

is lagging behind other Asian nations but Ne Win says the country must first concentrate on building up its agricultural economy. He plans to set up new industries with money derived from the sale of rice and other agricultural products.

Official government relations with the West have become strained while Burma's ties with the socialist nations have become closer.

Trade with the West was never great but it is less today. Great Britain still has economic and cultural ties with Burma based on England's long period of colonial

rule. There is virtually no trade with the United States. Almost all of the 800 Americans in Burma are missionaries or employees of the U.S. State department. There are only two American businessmen in Burma. One is an airline representative in Rangoon and the other is a farmer in upper Burma.

Bullwin, Mo. - (UPI) - Rudolph Jaegers and Paul Lincoln work different shifts for the same firm, and seldom noticed each other. The two men met atop Pike's peak. Each didn't know the other was on the trip.

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The Medical Roundup

by *Walter Alvarez*
Emeritus Consultant in Medicine
Mayo Clinic
Emeritus Professor of Medicine
Mayo Clinic
(Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1963)

The Celiac Syndrome

In the old days, when physicians recognized the celiac syndrome (group of symptoms) in children, they did not know how to save the youngsters, and hence many of them eventually died. Now an excellent article has been written on this syndrome by Drs. Paul A. Di Sant' Agnese and W. O. Jones, of Bethesda, Md. As they say, under the term celiac syndrome are often included several diseases which now can be distinguished and identified with special tests and diets.

In most of these diseases, the child suffers from diarrhea; often he loses weight, and he may develop a big abdomen. Today, we can have hope, because there is one group of sick children who can be quickly helped by taking out of their diet all of the gluten (a part of the wheat) which is to be found in bread-stuffs. When kept away from gluten, these children often recover beautifully.

Others of the children have the so-called "cystic fibrosis" of the pancreas (the big digestive gland back of the stomach). They can be helped with a diet, and large amounts of a pancreatic extract, which helps them to digest their food—it supplies the digestive ferments which their pancreas is failing to make.

In another condition, called exudative enteropathy, something has gone wrong which has allowed an important element of the blood to ooze out into the bowel. Other children with a sprue-like disease may suffer because of a lack of certain important digestive ferments in their small bowel.

In 1950, a new inherited disease was discovered which is called acanthocytosis. Fortunately, it is rare. The affected children have peculiar-looking red blood cells. They

not only have diarrhea with trouble with absorption in the bowel, but they have signs of trouble in their nervous systems characterized by a disease of the back of their eyes, and a staggering walk.

Several Diseases
It is a comfort now to note that in the big research institutes and hospitals in Bethesda, (near Washington, D. C.) the doctors are taking care of many children and adults with what may look at first like one rare disease. After a while the experts are able to say, "We have here several diseases with somewhat similar symptoms." So on they are able to differentiate the diseases and to start finding appropriate treatments for them.

When I was a boy, doctors could not always tell the difference between typhoid fever, malaria, and pneumonia, and hence they commonly diagnosed "typhoid malaria" and "typhoid pneumonia." As a wise old Chinese said long ago, "The beginning of wisdom comes when one calls things by their right names."

Early symptoms of shaking palsy can be recognized and, depending upon the development of the disease, certain treatments can be tried. Dr. Alvarez suggests some in his PARKINSON'S DISEASE booklet. You may send for a copy by enclosing 25 cents and a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request. Write Dr. Walter C. Alvarez, Dept. MMT, Box 957, Des Moines 4, Iowa.

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