

Activities of narco insurgent group SURA Led by Ywet Sit using the cover of Shan Political parties to commit sedition

YANGON, 15 March—The Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council held the press conference concerning endeavors made by the Government to eradicate the menace drug , matters relating to producing and trafficking of narcotic drugs by the SURA, activities by SURA led by Ywet Sit using the cover of the Shan State Liberation Movement on 15March 2005. The press conference was attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Labour and for Science and Technology U Thaung, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein, Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Director General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, departmental heads, journalists, members of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club, editors of local magazines and journal publishing houses and invited guests. Followings are experts from press statement made by Brig-Gen. Khin Yi, Director General of the Myanmar Police Force:

- The Government of Myanmar is using all its available resources to eradicate the menace of narcotic drugs.
- In so doing we have implemented the 15-year narcotic drugs elimination plan since 1999-2000. In the first five-year plan-period, suppression of narcotic drugs was raised and beginning of April 2002 the New Destiny Project for eradicating narcotic drug production was launched.
- Myanmar is cooperating with the international community as well as regional organizations to overcome the dangers of narcotic drugs.
- Although the Government is striving to eradicate the menace of drug, SURA insurgent group led by Ywet Sit with its base at the border is producing and trafficking narcotic drugs using the cover of Shan State liberation movement.

- Despite the fact that the Myanmar government is successfully suppressing the menace of narcotic drugs, it is regrettable to see that some NGOs and some groups are stealthily encouraging and supporting narco trafficking insurgents like Ywet Sit.
- With a view to make political cooperation, the Shan State Army(SSA) and the Shan State National Army (SSNA), which returned to the legal fold made contacts with an legal political party, the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) in 1996. In 1996, SNLD chairman U Khun Tun Oo visited SSA headquarters and held discussions on politics, development and cultural matters with U Hsay Htin and officials of SSA and SSNA. Then, the Shan State Joint Action Committee (SSJAC) made up of SSA, SSNA and SNLD was formed in 1996. In fact, it was formed with the aim of making cooperation for development, literature and cultural affairs as well as making political cooperation. SSJAC by SNLD chairman U Khun Tun Oo as chairman, U Hsay Htin as vice-chairman, U Kan Ywet of SSA as secretary and U Lwe Maung of SSA as member.
- The Government did not recognize the formation of the Shan State Peace Council (SSPC) as its formation is not in line with conditions set at peace negotiations and it had alliance with remaining insurgent groups. North-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing informed the person concerned of SSPC that the Government did not recognize the formation of SSPC.
- On 7March 2005, Ywet Sit group issued a statement which denied the seizure of narco traffickers with their heroin by Thai authorities. The statement stated that seizer of heroin and its traffickers were not related to RCSS and SSA.

Shan State Intellectuals Advisory Council:

- On 4 November 2004, at a meeting which marked the 15th anniversary of attaining peace at Hsipaw Township, Shan State, decided to form the Shan State Intellectuals Advisory Council and on 22 December 2004 the Shan State Intellectuals Advisory Council was formed.
- The Declaration of New Generation (Shan State) declared that this was the first step which was taken to enable the Shan State to shape its own destiny. It also calls on all nationalities participate in unison.

- In review of the above-mentioned combination, aims and declaration of SSA, SSNA, SURA, SNLD and Shan State Intellectuals Advisory Council, it was found that the Union will be formed with the emphasis on a genuine Union. According to information which we receive, the interpretation of the genuine Union means the Union which is made up of eight states: namely Kachin state; Kayin state; Kayah state; Chin state; Mon state; Rakhine state; Shan state and Bamar state which will be made up of the existing seven divisions. This clearly showed the fact that their aim was to form a nominal Union and, at a later stage to secede from the Union.
- Therefore, we are of the view that these activities pose a serious threat to peace and stability of the State and national solidarity which in turn will lead to disintegration of the Union. In this regard the Government had to take appropriate action against some individuals in order to deter the disintegration of the Union.
- Since taking over State responsibilities, the Government has upheld our Three Main National Causes namely, Non-disintegration of the Union; Non-disintegration of National Solidarity and Perpetuation of Sovereignty. At the same time, the seven-step Road Map was laid to introduce the multi-party democracy system desired by the entire people. Hence, the Government had effectively deterred and took action against activities which were detrimental to Our Three Main National Causes.