

**MYANMAR INFORMATION COMMITTEE, YANGON**  
**Information Sheet, NO. D- 3049(I/L), 30th May, 2004**

**The Government of Myanmar urges Britain to be a Sincere and Responsible Partner in the  
Promotion of Democracy in Myanmar**

Myanmar would like to remind Britain that a former colonial ruler of Myanmar is greatly responsible for the damages it had inflicted upon the people of Myanmar as a result of their occupation of our nation. We also would like to urge Britain to refrain from further destabilizing the evolution currently taking place in Myanmar towards democracy.

The divide-and-rule policy with which the British had ruled Myanmar for over 100 years paved the way to the outbreak of ethnic insurrections as soon as she regained independence in 1948 lasting for over four decades. Peace, stability and economic development were denied to the people of Myanmar by this armed insurrection devastating all areas throughout the country.

Britain also forcefully and intentionally introduced the production of opium in the northern Myanmar states in the 19th Century with the aim of increasing the opium trade with China. This problem Myanmar inherited since then has remained an entrenched and current issue inside the country and in Asia and the world as well.

The drafting of the independence constitution of Myanmar was tailored to the desire of the British Colonial Administration with serious flaws embedded, thereby eventually leading the nation to disunity, civil war and instability after regaining independence.

Myanmar's leaders intended to amend the constitution in conformity with Myanmar's essential requirements after regaining independence from Britain to prevent the country from heading towards disaster. Unfortunately, it never took place and according to the release of sensitive documents to the British media a few years ago, the pre-independence assassination of Myanmar's national hero Gen. Aung San and his cabinet ministers and the Kayin insurgency that began around 1947-1948 were stage-managed by the Britain-based "Friends of Hill People" with definite links to the British Colonial Conservative Government. Myanmar suffered the appalling consequences as it was the most damaging act in the history of Myanmar. It also left the nation almost leaderless and featureless on regaining her independence from Britain in 1948.

Britain had created similar problematic issues in many of her former colonies in Asia, Middle East and Africa. It is indeed regretful to realize that the nation which is most responsible for the irreparable damages inflicted upon its colonies is still continuing to act in the very same manner towards Myanmar. Even after the British troops left Myanmar more than 50 years ago after granting Myanmar independence, Britain's continued animosity towards the people of Myanmar by imposition of economic sanctions to promote poverty, instability and social chaos is regrettable.

Myanmar's National Convention is now two weeks old and the success of the convention is crucial for the future of Myanmar. The opportunity and task to maintain peace, stability and to undo the harm inflicted upon the people of Myanmar by forces from outside will be brought about by the people of Myanmar. Moreover, the solutions to Myanmar's future should not be imposed from outside but must be home-grown.

Furthermore, the National Convention is being represented by the people of Myanmar, and will lay the foundation for a stable, democratic and representative nation. It will be a Government of the Myanmar people, by the Myanmar people, and for the Myanmar people. This is the first national convention held after the Government has united the country by ending British legacy of more than four-decades of multiple armed ethnic insurrections. Instead of trying to derail it, Britain should perhaps draw lessons from Myanmar, its former colony, on how to resolve London's own domestic armed conflict with I.R.A.

The Government of Myanmar urges Britain to adopt a policy of sincerity and goodwill towards others. It also encourages Britain to take responsibility for the human rights abuses it had committed against the people of Myanmar through colonization in the past and economic sanctions in the present. The Government of Myanmar together with its people encourages Britain to be a positive partner in democracy, and prosperity and to respect the independence and the sovereignty of a nation and a nation's rights to shape its own destiny. This is better than promoting poverty, isolation, instability, drugs and armed conflicts.