

Government to provide continued assistance in interest of regional, local people and State with no policy change

Secretary-1 meets national race organizations in Shan State (North)



YANGON, 5 Dec — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, left here and arrived at Magway Airport on 4 December.

The Secretary-1 and party were welcomed by Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe, senior military officers and departmental officials.

In meeting with officials concerned, the Secretary-1 discussed regional development.

The Secretary-1 and party left Magway for Mandalay. They arrived at Mandalay International Airport at 11 am. They were welcomed there by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and departmental officials.

The Secretary-1 gave instructions on regional development at the airport lounge.

In the afternoon, the Secretary-1 and party left for Lashio in northern Shan State by helicopter. They were welcomed by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council (North) Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint, senior military officers, departmental officials, national race leaders from special regions in Shan State (North) and members of social organizations.

They proceeded to Shweli Yeiktha in Lashio. In the afternoon, the Secretary-1 met Kokang, Wa, Shan, Kachin and Palaung national races leaders from special regions in northern Shan State and Manpang people's militia and Monhin and Monha people's militia separately.

In meeting with Chairman of Kokang peace group in special region-1 U Phon Kya Shin, Vice-Chairman U Phon Kya Phyu and CEC members U Kyan Te Wan and U Sit Hsan, the Secretary-1 said there is no change of policy towards national race organizations that returned to the legal fold. Firstly, he said the government would provide assistance for regional development and higher living standard of local people under the framework of law.



He said the State Peace and Development Council has laid down the seven-point Road Map and is implementing them for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation that the people desire while making endeavours for all-round development. The government would continue to implement the tasks without fail for the realization of the objectives, he said.

The National Convention, which is the first step of the seven-point future programmes, is the most important. Only when the National Convention is successful, will other steps such as the drafting of the State Constitution, approval of the people and the holding of elections in accord with the constitution run smooth, he said.

He said the government acknowledges cooperation of Kokang national race leaders with positive attitude for the success of the National Convention.

Efforts for eradication of narcotic drugs in Kokang region are to be put on record in history and the region will continue to exist and thrive as a drug-free zone.

He assured that the government would provide continued assistance in the benefits of the region, local people and the State with no policy changes .

Next, U Phon Kya Shin said efforts would be made for total eradication of narcotic drugs in the region under the leadership of the government. He expressed his pleasure for the clarification by high-ranking officials and fulfilling the requirements for regional development.

He pledged that they would make efforts hand in hand with the government to reach the goal set

by the State.

The Secretary-1 fulfilled the requirements and presented gifts to U Phon Kya Shin.

In meeting with central committee members of Wa Peace Group of Shan State (North) Special Region-2 U Pa saw Laik Kham and U Aung Myint, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said Wa national race organization had already made it clear that they will continue cooperating with the government and take part in the successful realization of the seven-step Road Map.

The government, on its part, will not change its policy toward the national race groups and they understand one another. Thus, continued efforts are to be made for ensuring successful realization of the objectives.

Next, central committee member of Wa Peace Group of Shan State (North) Special Region-2 U Paw Laik Kham expressed thanks for State-level officials themselves came and explained, and pledged that they will continue to cooperate with the government in successful holding of the National Convention. He also reiterated that they will strive for national and regional development under the leadership of the government.

Afterwards, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented gifts to U Paw Laik Kham.

In meeting with Chairman of Shan Peace Group of Shan State (North) Special Region-3 U Lwei Maung and Vice-Chairman U Kai Hpa and U Sai Swunt and U Ron Khe, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein explained the State policy towards the national race groups and cooperation to be extended until the successful realization of the seven-point Road Map starting from the National Convention.

Afterwards, Chairman of Shan Peace Group of Shan State (North) Special Region-3 U Lwei Maung expressed his belief in the government leadership and spoke words of thanks.

Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented gifts to Chairman of Shan Peace Group of Shan State (North) Special Region-3 U Lwei Maung and party.

In meeting with Chairman of Kachin Peace Group of Shan State (North) Special Region-5 U Mahtu Naw, Vice-Chairman U Zaw Yon and General Secretary U Zaw Hsai, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said the State, without changing its attitude towards the national armed groups which have returned to the legal fold, will remain committed to successful implementation of the seven-point Road Map, and continue to cooperate and work together with them. Next, U Mahtu Naw pledged to cooperate with the government in the political drive initiated by the State. The Secretary-1, after giving necessary assistance, presented gifts to U Mahtu Naw.

Similarly, the Secretary-1 in meeting with Chairman of Palaung Peace Group of Shan State (North) Special Region-7 U Aik Mone and Vice-Chairman U Nyi Lone, said national race armed groups have returned to the legal fold as they trusted the government. That's why the government on its part will continue to render assistance to them in accord with the State's policies. U Aik Mone replied that they will work together with the government with Union Spirit until the National Convention, which is the most crucial for the State, concludes successfully. The Secretary-1 fulfilled the requirements and presented gifts to U Aik Mone.

In meeting with U Sai Mon of Manpang Militia and U Law Ma of Monhin-Monha militia, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said efforts should be made to ensure peace and stability, rule of law, development, and drug free zone in a region. Particularly, it is needed to strive for improvement of health and education of the people. And the State will continue to render assistance to its national people. Next, U Sai Mon and U Law Ma said they will participate in the development drive together with the government in accord with the directives of the State.

Later, the Secretary-1 presented gifts to U Sai Mon and U Law Ma.