

**Tatmadaw will systematically hand over State power to the public, the original owner
Some big nations, putting pressure and imposing variety of sanctions against the nation
Tatmadaw is not frightened whenever intimidated, will continue to shoulder its duties
steadfastly**



YANGON, 30 June—The following is a translation of guidance given by Patron of the Myanmar War Veterans Organization (Central) Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe at the fourth-day session of the MWVO Conference (2005) held at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township here this morning:

In October 1998, the MWVO Central Organizing Committee was reconstituted with the members including representatives who were still in service in the Tatmadaw, and then so were WVOs at state/division and district level supervisory committees and township level organizing committees. The MWVO Conference was held for the first time in June 2001.

I am pleased to see that members from various parts of the nation were active and enthusiastic at the second MWVO Conference (2005).

The MWVO is to enhance its prestige and dignity to be able to catch up with war veterans organizations around the world. To be able to ensure a strong organization, it needs to possess firm conviction, esprit de corps, unity inside and outside the organization, and correct leadership.

All the members have possessed correct conviction and conceptions as the Four Oaths is firmly rooted in their minds — loyalty to the State and the people, loyalty to the Fallen Comrades, conscientiously obeying the orders and responsibilities given by their superiors, and sacrificing their lives for their country, people and Tatmadaw.

Looking back on the nation's history, it has faced several times the situations in which the nation was on the verge of collapse due to lack of national solidarity. If the Union breaks up, then the nation will lose its sovereignty, and the State, the heritage of ancestors, will meet its end. So, flourishing of Union Spirit plays indispensable role in the national political sector. The members are to adhere to Our Three Main National Causes with patriotic fervour under the correct leadership of the Tatmadaw whatever period it is.

The members of various national races had unitedly shouldered duties with esprit de corps when they were in service in the Tatmadaw. Due to the esprit de corps with which all want to live through thick and thin, Tatmadaw members even have never thought of the word "racialism" at any time. Now, members are living in various regions across the nation together with local national races in unity and harmony, so all members are responsible for flourishing of correct conviction, conceptions and Union Spirit.

MWVO members are urged to place emphasis on acceleration of organizational tasks for further unity based on esprit de corps inside and outside the Organization.

Now, the Tatmadaw is looking after retired servicemen with great care, loving-kindness and attachment. The MWVO members have retired from the Tatmadaw due to various reasons, but are longing for previous livelihood of Tatmadaw men with pride. Hence, retired Tatmadaw members are to be one with the Tatmadaw, and to stand firmly as a reserve national defence force of the Tatmadaw, while taking refuge in the Tatmadaw.

That was why the MWVO Central Organizing Committee was reconstituted with those still in service in the Tatmadaw.

Now, the Central Organizing Committee is contacting and looking after not only MWVO members but also disabled members.

It is also conducting vocational training courses and local and oversea job opportunities for the children of both the members and disabled members for enabling them to repay gratitude to their parents. It reflects that the Tatmadaw has been constantly looking after the members. So, all the retired members are to uphold the leadership of the Tatmadaw with loyalty for ever.

As is known to the members that the Tatmadaw has to unavoidably take State's duties in addition to national defence duties. The task for building a discipline-flourishing democratic nation is very huge and it is to be implemented step by step.

The government has to make efforts to strengthen political, economic and defence sectors of the State, while striving for ensuring community peace and tranquillity, and national reconsolidation. It also has to produce human resources and raising the education standard of the entire nation for the emergence of a modern and developed nation. Simultaneously, it is taking measures for raising per capita income, living standard, and health and fitness standard of the entire national people.

In the process, it is making efforts to ensure equitable development of all parts of the nation. MWVO members are taking part in the five rural development tasks in respective regions. The

Tatmadaw will systematically hand over State power to the public, the original owner. So, it has been implementing the State's seven-point Road Map.

However, some big nations, that are anxious to get the nation under their thumb, are putting pressure and imposing a variety of sanctions against the nation under various pretexts. The Tatmadaw is not frightened whenever intimidated, and will continue to shoulder its duties steadfastly for shaping a brighter future of the nation in line with the objectives. So, the members who are well-versed in military affairs and equipped with Union Spirit are to take charge of duties whatever role they may be in under the leadership of the Tatmadaw.

Furthermore, MWVO members' wives and children are to be auxiliary WVO members as they possess military vigour and are family members of Tatmadawmen. Now, children of WVO members are admitted to be reserve members although their parents are no more. The MWVO is looking after the members' family members, and in return, they become reserve members of the Organization.

Now, the MWVO consists of over 3,800 officers and over 80,000 other ranks and over 50,000 reserve members. It is found that the five sectors have been making progress in a bid to enable the MWVO to stand with abilities and capabilities and prestige.

Up to now, in national political sector, the Central Organizing Committee has conducted six kinds of courses on national political and organizational tasks for more than 300 times in the respective regions. It has taken organizational measures and undergone training for national defence and security. In relation to the economy, the Organization owns 26 businesses worth over K 9.6 billion. It is providing state/division WVO Supervisory Committees with loans. With regard to the social and welfare sector, it has spent over K 500 million on aged members, disabled members, assistance for outstanding children students and assistance for children students.

As regards the public welfare sector, it has shown its exemplary performances in implementing the five rural development tasks. All in all, the progress of the Organization is encouraging. The Organization has possessed organizational capability, correct conviction and conceptions, and solidarity. In conclusion, MWVO members are urged to maintain already achieved development momentum and to ensure quantitative and qualitative progress; to stand firmly with correct attitude in the interests of the nation and the people; to shoulder tasks with a sense of duty in diverse sectors; and to stand ready for national defence duties, the bounden duty of all citizens.
