ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY MYANMAR CAUCUS

c/- ZICO, Level 19 Menara Millenium
Jalan Damanlela, Pusat Bandar Damansara
50490 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia
Tel: +60-3-2087 9999 Fax: +60-3-2094 4888
http://www.aseanmp.org info@aseanmp.org

THE MYANMAR REGIME'S EMPTY PROMISES to ASEAN & MEMBER STATES

The SPDC has made many empty promises about reform to ASEAN and its members, including Thailand.

ASEAN governments, such as Thailand, who have believed these promises and defended the SPDC, have lost much credibility. The SPDC has responded to regional goodwill and sincerity with contempt and a lack of honesty.

- **19 May 2003**, "…I have been informed that within only the next few weeks, there will be another political dialogue between the leadership of the SPDC and Aung San Suu Kyi." Thai Foreign Minister Surakiart[1]

30 May 2003: Depayin Massacre: Aung San Suu Kyi arrested and held in prison

- On **17 June 2003**, Thai Foreign Minister Surakiart Sathirathai said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's arrest was "a temporary measure" aimed at providing safety for her.[2]

- On **30 June 2003**, Thai Foreign Minister Surakiart Sathirathai said "there is reconciliation now inside Myanmar" and raised the possibility of reducing the number of refugees in Thailand.[3]

- On **30 July 2003**, Indonesian Foreign Minister Hasan Wirayuda stated: "We have an assurance from Myanmar that the Suu Kyi case will be finished before the [October 2003] ASEAN Summit."[4]

- On **8 August 2003**, Thailand's 3rd Army Commander Lt-Gen Picharnmet Muangmanee told the Bangkok Post he had a "good signal" from the regime that Aung San Suu Kyi would be released by August 22-24.[5]

---

[1] Bangkok Post, Junta plans to resume talks with Suu Kyi, 21 May 2003

[2] Nation (Thailand), Philippines demurs as Asean backs Burma, 17 June 2003

[3] AFP, Thai Government to Hold Talks with UNHCR over Refugee Dispute, 30 June 2003

[4] AP, Burma's Aung San Suu Kyi to be released by October, Indonesian Minister, 30 July 2003

[5] Bangkok Post, Suu Kyi's Release Tipped, 8 August 2003

- On **27 August 2003**, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said "The reshuffle shows Burmese rulers have become more international…"[6]

- On **27 August 2003**, Thai Deputy Prime Minister, Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, predicted Aung San Suu Kyi would be released within 4-5 months and "offered an important role in a new government."[7]

September 2003: Aung San Suu Kyi moved to house arrest

- In **September 2003**, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said "the [Myanmar] regime [has] clearly shown its sincerity…[and] should be given time and support…if Suu Kyi was still stubborn, it would be helpless for her."[8]

- In **September 2003**, after his visit to Yangon in Thai Foreign Minister Surakiart Sathirathai voiced confidence that the junta would ease restrictions on the Aung San Suu Kyi.[9]

- On **10 February 2004**, Thai Foreign Minister Surakiart Sathirathai said the time for Aung San Suu Kyi's release "won't be long."[10]

- In **February 2004**, after 'communications' with the generals in Thai Foreign Minister Surakiat Sathirathai said ""I believe that Aung San Suu Kyi should be released soon…When the time comes, she (Aung San Suu Kyi) should be released, and it won't be long. We have told them that when they are ready they should quickly free her."[11]

- In **February 2004** Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said, "I expect Suu Kyi to be released before October. With close relations with Burma, I would guess that they are doing that."[12]

- In **February 2004**, UN Special Envoy to Myanmar, Tan Sri Razali Ismail announced that Daw Aung Suu Kyi and other prisoners may be released by 16 April.[13]

---

[6] Sydney Morning Herald, No freedom for Suu Kyi in Burma junta's reform plan, 31 August 2003 & Bangkok Post, Chavalit Sees Change for Better, 28 August 2003

[7] Sydney Morning Herald, No freedom for Suu Kyi in Burma junta's reform plan, 31 August 2003 & Bangkok Post, Chavalit Sees Change for Better, 28 August 2003

[8] Asia Times Online, Reforming Burma: PM backs junta's road map, quoting Thai-language newspaper Matichon, 5 September 2003

[9] Xinhua, Work for Burma's reconciliation: Thai FM, 29 September 2003

[10] AFX News Limited, Burma's Suu Kyi to be released from house arrest soon – Thai FM, 10 February 2004

[11] Nation (Thailand), PM says Suu Kyi to be freed by October, 22 February 2004

[12] Nation (Thailand), PM says Suu Kyi to be freed by October, 22 February 2004

[13] More or Less, Hero File: Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, 2004

- On **4 April 2004**, in an interview with Japan's NHL television and Thailand's iTV, Myanmar's Foreign Minister Win Aung responded to a question on whether Aung San Suu Kyi would be released before the start of the National Convention with "Yes, May 17." When pressed for an exact date, he said: "it is too early to say."[14]

17 May 2004: National Convention reconvenes. The NLD was not invited; Aung San Suu Kyi and U Tin Oo remain under house arrest.

- On **2 July 2004**, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra announced "I am convinced that Myanmar is ready to comply but if we rush them and put pressure on them they will lose face and dignity and they will not listen."[15]

- In early **July 2004**, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra told the UN Secretary General that Thailand had "a special arrangement for open dialogue with the Burmese leaders," while promising talks aimed at democratic progress.[16]

- In **July 2004**, Myanmar Foreign Minister Win Aung promised UN Envoy Razali Ismail that Aung San Suu Kyi would be released. "He said Suu Kyi would be released, but he didn't say when," said Razali.[17]

9 July 2004: National Convention adjourned because of 'wet weather'

- Myanmar Foreign Minister Win Aung also promised ASEAN that Aung San Suu Kyi would be free to contest elections once the national convention was over.[18] Any hope this may have garnered was crushed when the SPDC announced on 30 July 2004, that they would only release Daw Suu when they were ready.[19]

18 September 2004: Foreign Minister Win Aung was dismissed from his position prior to the ASEM meeting in Hanoi. It is speculated that Win Aung was not successful enough at curbing international pressure on the regime. Win Aung was replaced by Maj-Gen Nyan Win, a career military official and loyalist.

18 October 2004: Prime Minister Gen Khin Nyunt was 'permitted to retire,' dismissed for corruption and then finally declared a threat as his actions, 'could have led to the disintegration of the Tatmadaw (armed forces).' The purge of Khin

---

[14] Nation (Thailand), Burma Politics: Junta to release Suu Kyi, 6 April 2004

[15] AFP, Thai PM urges Burma critics to temper attacks, 2 July 2004

[16] Nation (Thailand), Reforms in Burma: PM vows to pressure junta over Suu Kyi, 14 July 2004

[17] AP, ASEAN should "cajole" Burma on democratic reforms, U.N. envoy says, 6 July 2004

[18] Reuters, EU skeptical over Burma poll promise on Suu Kyi, 1 July 2004

[19] AFP, Burma stonewalls over release of democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi, 30 July 2004

Nyunt and the entire military intelligence apparatus (headed by Khin Nyunt and affecting thousands of people) signals internal power struggle within the regime.

Sr-Gen Than Shwe and Maung Aye are now the only two remaining in power from the military take over in 1988.

29 November 2004: Aung San Suu Kyi's detention extended for another year at the time of the ASEAN Summit in Laos. This was provocative as ASEAN leaders had previously agreed not to criticize Myanmar at the summit.

- In **November 2004**, after the extension of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's house arrest Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra called on Myanmar improve its democratic record "within the *next year*."[20]

- On **10 December 2004**, Thai spokesperson Jakrapob Penkair extended the deadline, saying "We believe that within *two years* there will be major political developments in Myanmar, so the hosting of ASEAN in two years time should be no problem."[21]

February 2005:

- **Shan MP Hkun Htun Oo and 9 other Shan leaders arrested. This is seen as part of an effort by the regime to break the united stand of the ethnic parties for genuine reforms led by Hkun Htun Oo and others. They have reportedly been charged with serious charges including sedition and defamation against the State, an offence carrying the death penalty.**

- **NLD Vice-Chairman U Tin Oo's house arrest was extended under a 1975 law known as the "Law to Safeguard the State from Subversionists."**

- **National Convention reconvenes without the arrested Shan delegates amplifying concern that their arrest was to prevent their continued participation.**

31 March 2005: National Convention adjourned because of 'hot weather'

- In **April 2005** in response to a question in on ASEAN's growing concerns about Myanmar's negative regional influence, Myanmar Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win reassuringly promised ASEAN that "it will all be ok."[22]

---

[20] AFP, Burma seen wanting to press ahead with democracy "roadmap" without Suu Kyi, 30 November 2004

[21] Deutsche Presse-Agentur, Burma won't confirm Aung San Suu Kyi's jail extension, 30 November 2004

[22] Reuters, Burma ends silence on ASEAN leadership concern, 7 April 2005