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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 12

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS,
IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND
OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Situation in Burma */

Note by the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to
Commission on Human Rights decision 1989/112

1. At its forty-fifth session, the Commission on Human Rights adopted, on 8 March 1989, decision 1989/112 entitled "Situation in Burma", in which the Commission, concerned at the reports and allegations of violations of human rights in Burma in 1988 and also at the obstacles to be overcome in the way of the implementation of the democratic aspirations of the Burmese people, decided, *inter alia*, to invite the Burmese delegation to continue to provide the Commission on Human Rights with the necessary information on this question.
2. By a note verbale dated 19 December 1989, the Secretary-General requested the Permanent Representative of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations Office at Geneva to submit by 1 February 1990 any information the Government might wish to provide in accordance with Commission decision 1989/112.
3. On 29 January 1990, the Permanent Representative of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed a note verbale to the Secretary-General stating the following:

*/ On 18 June 1989, the name of Burma was changed to Myanmar.

"The Permanent Representative of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the latter's Note No. G/SO 14(62) dated 19 December 1989 in which the attention of the Government of the Union of Myanmar has been drawn to the provision contained in paragraph (e) of decision 1989/112 adopted on 8 March 1989 by the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-fifth session.

In this connection, the Permanent Representative would like to state the following:

(a) It is certainly the intention of the Government of the Union of Myanmar to continue to co-operate with the Commission on Human Rights by providing it with the information requested in paragraph (e) of the Commission's aforementioned decision.

(b) The independent five-member Multi-party Democracy General Elections Commission has, as of the date of this note, completed about 70% of the works preparatory to the holding of the general elections which are scheduled to be held on 27 May 1990.

(c) According to the 14-month timetable drawn up by the Multi-party Democracy General Elections Commission, January and February 1990 will be the most fateful months when political parties contesting elections are required to nominate candidates and subsequently start off a fully-fledged public political campaign for canvassing of votes with full democratic rights subject only to the maintenance of public order and morality.

(d) The Elections Commission has also announced dates for the nomination, scrutinization and withdrawal of nominations of candidates. The period for the nomination of Pyithu Hluttaw (Parliament) candidates for various constituencies was from 28 December 1989 to 3 January 1990. The period for the scrutinization of the nominations of candidates was from 5 to 9 January 1990. The last date for withdrawal of the nominations of candidates was 22 January 1990.

(e) It is encouraging to note that the initial announcements made by the political parties indicate the following position:

- 117 political parties will be contesting the elections
- 6 of them (namely National League for Democracy (NLD), National Unity Party (NUP), Democracy Party, Union Nationals Democracy Party (UNDP), Coalition League for Democratic Multi-party Unity and League for Democracy and Peace (LDP), will contest in more than 300 constituencies (there are altogether 492 constituencies))
- 4 will contest between 101 and 200 constituencies
- 4 will contest between 51 and 100 constituencies

- 31 will contest between 11 and 50 constituencies
- 72 will contest between 3 and 10 constituencies.

(f) As of 9 January 1990, a total of 2,392 Pyithu Hluttaw candidates (83 independents and 2,309 from 100 political parties) have put up nomination papers, indicating broad participation in the forthcoming general elections by the whole spectrum of political parties and organizations. It is worth noting that none of the candidates had withdrawn his or her candidatures on or before the closing date for such withdrawal - 22 January 1990.

(g) The Government of the Union of Myanmar will arrange to have a delegation to participate in the work of the Commission in the capacity of an observer as in previous years and report to the Commission at an appropriate time and in an appropriate manner during its forth-sixth session in keeping with the provisions of decision 1989/112.

(h) In the meanwhile, as part of the process to keep the Commission informed of the matter, the Permanent Mission of the Union of Myanmar in Geneva will be keeping in close touch with all State members of the Commission on Human Rights.

The Permanent Representative of the Union of Myanmar would like to express the appreciation and thanks to the Secretary-General for his thoughtfulness in bringing to the attention of the Government of the Union of Myanmar the provision in paragraph (e) of decision 1989/112 and would feel obliged if he could take the present note as a part of the process to provide the Commission with the required information before the situation in the Union of Myanmar become clearer in January and February 1990."
