



June 27—July 3, 1959

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## BURMA

**A. Chinese Troop Movements On Border:** Unusual movement of Chinese troops on the Burmese border was reported on May 31.

In one instance, Chinese soldiers penetrated half-a-mile into Burmese territory and interrogated a Burmese villager about the situation along the border.

Over 1,000 Red Chinese troops, previously concentrated at Monglanpa, moved to Loimangtu, not far from the Burma-China border. This followed recent mopping-up operations by the Burma Army against the KMT (Kuomintang) men along the border.

Reinforcement of the Chinese units and outposts along the border was said to be proceeding, and recently as many as three outposts were reinforced in one day.

It was learnt that about 150 troops were stationed at Wanpankaw and Wanhka situated near Boundary Pillar No. 23, and a round-the-clock watch of the border was being carried out by them.

On June 1, it was stated in Rangoon that a number of Kuomintang Chinese remnant troops had joined forces with a Burmese rebel group in Thailand against the Burmese Government.

It added that Burmese troops stationed near the Thai border had increased their activities against the Chinese guerrillas who had been reinforced by Burmese Shan rebel forces.

Several Burmese troops and more than 40 Chinese and Shan insurgents had been killed in recent clashes. Burmese army patrols in May captured a Kuomintang Chinese outpost, a supply airfield and three opium processing plants at Mong Phone, near the Thai border.

Official sources said that the leader of the Shan rebels was Sao Hkun Seikh, a former Chief Minister of Shan State, who now lived in Thailand.

(The Nation, Rangoon)

[Prev. ref. 2635: BUR: C]

**B. New Soviet Envoy:** It was reported in Moscow on June 8 that Mr. Alexei Schihborin, Soviet Ambassador to Burma, had been relieved of his post to "take up other work", and Mr. Andrei Ledovsky had been appointed in his place.

Mr. Schihborin's replacement followed wide protests in Burma after Soviet Embassy personnel who prevented newsmen from interviewing Col. Mikhail Stryguine, Soviet Military Attache in Burma, as he was being taken out of the country recently.

[Mr. Stryguine was flown out of Burma in a Chinese airliner bound for Kunming on May 3 after he was reported to have twice tried to commit suicide. Newsmen and photographers at Mingaladon airport were roughly treated by Soviet Embassy officials. Later, 40 newsmen demonstrated, throwing tomatoes at the Soviet Embassy.]

(Tass and The Hindu, Madras)

[Prev. ref. 2671: BUR: B]

## CEYLON

**A. Cabinet Re-shuffle:** An enlarged and re-shuffled one-party Cabinet under the Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, was sworn-in by the Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, in Colombo on June 9.

The re-shuffle was the sequel to the break-up of Mr. Bandaranaike's coalition Cabinet following the defection of its junior partner—the Viplavakari Lanka Sama Samaj Party.

The following were the main changes in the new Cabinet which was composed entirely of members of Mr. Bandaranaike's Sri Lanka Freedom Party:

(1) The number of Ministers was increased from 15 to 16.

(2) Four Parliamentary Secretaries were promoted to ministerial rank.

(3) The portfolios of some of the old Ministers were re-allocated.

The four Parliamentary Secretaries to be promoted to ministerial rank were:

Mr. J. C. W. Munasinha—Industries and Fisheries;

Mr. Henry Abeywickreme—Works;

Mr. M. P. De Zoysa—Labour; and

Mr. I. R. P. G. Kalugalla—Cultural Affairs and Social Services.

The portfolio of Health was transferred from Mrs. Wimala Wijewardene to Senator A. P. Jayasuriya.

Home Affairs, held by Mr. Jayasuriya, was assigned to Mr. T. B. Illangaratne, who gave away Labour to Mr. M. P. De Zoysa.

Mrs. Wijewardene was asked to take charge of Local Government and Housing, and Mr. C. P. De Silva Agriculture, besides the Lands portfolio he had been responsible for in the previous Cabinet.

A significant point in the re-shuffle was the acceptance of less important portfolios by some of the older Ministers. For instance, Mr. Jayasuriya relinquished Home Affairs and accepted Health. It was thought that these "sacrifices" were made in the interests of Party solidarity, which had become necessary in view of the polarization of political forces taking place in the country with the exit of the Leftist elements from the former Mahajana Eksath Peramuna coalition.

### Communist Support Withdrawn:

It was announced in Colombo on June 1 that the Ceylon Communist Party had withdrawn the policy of "critical support" that it had till then pursued in relation to the three-year-old Bandaranaike Government.

The withdrawal was announced in a lengthy resolution adopted by the Central Committee of the Party which considered on May 30 and 31 the recent crisis in the Cabinet culminating in the resignation of two Marxist Ministers.

It said that the Government had now taken "a turn to the right" under pressure from "foreign imperialism and domestic reaction." By doing so, it had rendered itself unstable and incapable of fulfilling the Election promises made in 1956.

It called for a "united democratic front of all progressive forces" to replace the Government.

This task, it said, had become urgent and imperative in view of "the instability of the Government and the possibility of early General Elections."

### Mr. J. Kuruppu Resigns:

Mr. Jayaweera Kuruppu, Ceylon's Minister of Local Government and Cultural Affairs, resigned from the Cabinet on June 8 on grounds of ill-health.

Mr. Kuruppu, who recently underwent an eye operation, would, however, continue to be a member of the Government party.

### Mr. M. W. H. de Silva Resigns:

The Minister of Justice, Mr. M. W. H. de Silva, resigned from the Cabinet on June 11 owing to political differences with the Premier, Mr. Bandaranaike.

He also resigned his seat in the Senate (Upper House) of which he had been Leader for the last three years.

In his vacancy, Mr. Valentine S. Jayawickreme, former Commissioner of Assizes, was appointed Ceylon's Minister of Justice on June 13.

Mr. Jayawickreme, was also nominated to the Senate.

(The Times of Ceylon, Colombo and The Hindu, Madras)

[Prev. ref. 2385: CEY: A]

**B. Ten-Year Development Plan:** The National Planning Council published on June 5 its Ten-Year Plan of Development advocating the adoption of mixed economy to take the country along the road to a socialist pattern of society.

The Plan, which will be considered by the Government and Parliament in due course, was released soon after it was unanimously approved at a special meeting of the Council presided over by the Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike.

It envisages a total investment of Rs. 13,601 million in the 10-year period from 1959 to 1968 and has, as its basic aims, the diversification of the country's economy so that it would be less vulnerable to external factors and equitable distribution of national income.

It aims at increasing the national income from Rs. 491 per head in 1959 to Rs. 667 in 1968, allowing for an increase in the country's population by 38.2 per cent to 13.35 million in the 10-year period.

Of the total investment envisaged, industry and power claims 26.1 per cent, agriculture 22.9 per cent and social investments such as housing, health and education 26.3 per cent.

Investment in industry will increase by 550 per cent between 1959 and 1968.

It provides, in addition to large and medium-scale industries, for a vigorous programme of small-scale and cottage industries.

Allied to the industrial programme is a plan for the rapid expansion of power supplies. Power output will increase from 82 mw in 1959 to 382 mw in 1968.

It calls for a major reduction in the Island's present dependence on imported food-