

A CHRONOLOGY
of
BURMA'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
1945-1958.

Compiled
by
William C. Johnstone
and the Staff of
The Rangoon-Hopkins Center
for
Southeast Asian Studies

Rangoon University
Rangoon, Burma

1951

- Jan. 14 *Daily Union Gazette* said that Burma would enter Southeast Asia neutrality bloc with India, Pakistan, and Indonesia in the event of a general war.
- Jan. 29 In a speech before Committee I of the General Assembly, Burmese delegate James Barrington made formal Burma's opposition to U.S.-sponsored resolution condemning the People's Republic of China for aggression in Korea and urging collective measures against them. Burma refused, in advance, participation in any committee set up for such collective measures.
- Jan. 30 In the UN, Burma voted against the U.S.-sponsored resolution condemning Communist China as an aggressor in the Korean War.
- Mar. 1 Cabinet as of March 1 was as follows:
- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Prime Minister, Minister for National Planning | Thakin Nu |
| Minister for Foreign Affairs and Shan States | Sao Hkun Hkio |
| Defense, Home Affairs, Religious Affairs | U Win |
| Judicial Affairs | U Khin Maung Lat |
| Agriculture and Forests | Bo Khin Maung Gale |
| Industry, Commerce and Supply | U Kyaw Myint |
| Information | U Tun Pe |
| Finance and Revenue | U Tin |
| Public Works and Rehabilitation | Bo Min Gaung |
| Public Health and Local Government | U Tin |
| Education, Relief and Resettlement | A. Rivers |
| Transport, Communications, and Labor | Mahn Win Maung |
| Chin Affairs | U Vam Thu Maung |
| Karenni State | Sao Wunna |
| Kachin State | Sima Duwa Sinwa Nawng |
| Karen Affairs | Mahn Ban Saing |
- Mar. 6 U Kyin, in ECAFE, said that Burma was willing to accept foreign capital and invited the U.S.S.R. to make an offer.
- Mar. 8 Thakin Nu announced in Parliament that his Government had asked Great Britain for a loan of £ 5 million to buy one-third of the Burmah Oil Company.
- Thakin Nu described talk of a menace to Burma from Communist China as a myth created by persons wishing to disrupt relations between the two countries. He said China had no territorial ambitions and described the relations between Burma and Communist China as cordial.
- Mar. 19 Parliament approved an order extending Thakin Nu's Government to January, 1952.
- Mar. 31 Five-year treaty of friendship between Burma and Indonesia was signed in Rangoon.
- April 5 U Kyaw Nyein and U Ba Saw became Minister of Co-operatives and Minister of Minorities, respectively. U Than Aung became Minister of Education and Relief and Resettlement.
- April 16 First U.S.S.R. Ambassador, Alexander Saveliev, arrived in Rangoon.
- May 1 India and Burma signed trade agreement of 4-years' duration which called for purchase by India of 240,000 long tons of rice the first year and 350,000 tons each succeeding year, of which 230,000 tons were to be SAMB rice.

1951 (cont'd)

- May 16 The Government stated that U.S. Government had been requested to make representations to Chinese Nationalist Government on Formosa demanding immediate withdrawal of remnants of Nationalist forces from Burma.]
- May 19 Chinese Communist Embassy in Rangoon denied it was exerting pressure to re-open Burma Road; it said there was no contact between People's Republic of China and Burmese rebels.]
- May 24 Thailand was requested to check arms smuggling across the border by the rebels. ✓
- June 21 Voting for election of new Parliament began.
- July 1 Sao Hkun Hkio stated that nothing would make his Government change its policy of strict neutrality, in spite of attempts from "interested quarters" to make the Government abandon that policy.
- July 3 U Ka Si became Ambassador in London to succeed U Ohn, who was appointed Ambassador to Moscow.
U Kyin succeeded Maung Gyee in New Delhi.
- July 7 Five-year treaty of peace and friendship between Burma and India was signed in Rangoon.
- July 16 In reply to UN request for embargo against Communist China, Burma noted its abstention on resolution in question and stated it did not export war materials.
- July 23 Burmese Government informed U.S. it refused to approve draft Japanese peace treaty on grounds that it would allow Japan to evade payment of reparations.
- July 30 Burma and Denmark signed bilateral air transport agreement.
Thakin Nu declared that a peaceful settlement in Korea would not increase the Communist threat in Southeast Asia if adequate preparations were made to bolster the area economically and socially, as well as militarily; he stressed the importance of economic, educational, and moral preparations against aggression.
- Aug. 4 Burma and Occupied Japan signed trade plan in Rangoon.
Government troops sought to check Chinese Nationalist guerrilla infiltration.
- Aug. 21-23 Diplomatic source in Rangoon stated that Chinese Nationalist troops had stabilized themselves in a buffer zone in southwestern areas of Chinese province of Yunnan and along Burma's eastern frontier. They were being supplied daily by aircraft based in Thailand, and their numbers were being swelled by volunteers from Malaya, Thailand, and Burma, where recruiting campaigns were being carried out. ✓
- Aug. 23 Burma informed U.S. that any Japanese treaty that did not provide adequate reparations would be unacceptable and announced it would not attend the San Francisco conference because of Japanese reparations evasion.
- Sept. 17 British Government announced offer of a loan of £ 2.5 million to the Burmese Government to help it finance its share in a proposed joint venture with Burmah Oil Company for producing and refining oil in Burma.
- Sept. 27 *New York Times* reported that Thakin Nu and Nehru would confer soon on the Japanese treaty and on Asian problems in general.

1951 (cont'd)

- Sept. 29 Commercial agreement covering a five-year period was signed with India. Burma would supply India with 350,000 tons of rice per year in return for finished products (gunny bags, cotton yarn, iron and steel products, etc.).
- Oct. 12 The U.S.S.R. offered to supply Far Eastern countries with capital equipment, manufactured goods, raw materials, and agricultural products in return for these countries' natural products. The offer was made at the ECAFE Conference in Singapore.
- Oct. 20 Following a request by the Government that the Viet Minh representative and his staff leave Burma, six of the staff of twelve left Rangoon.
- Oct. 23 At press conference in New Delhi, Thakin Nu stated that the Peking Government had given firm assurance that its troops would not enter Burma in pursuit of KMT forces. He also stated that he knew nothing about any foreign aid being given to these troops.
- Oct. 30 Thakin Nu stated in Calcutta that it was the Burmese Government's policy to nationalize all foreign enterprises, but that adequate compensation would be paid. Fair compensation would be paid to Indians, who owned roughly two-thirds of the land in Burma.
- Nov. 13 In the UN, U Myint Thein supported admission of the People's Republic of China.
- Nov. 16 Burmese delegate James Barrington, speaking in general debate in UN General Assembly, voiced alarm at the distrust, suspicion, and intolerance which pervaded relations between the Great Powers; he pointed out that a third World War would inevitably hit small nations first because of their geographic location and earnestly appealed to the Big Powers to effect a change of heart in order to pave the way for compromise.
- Dec. 1 The Government announced complete agreement with three British oil companies operating in Burma, under which the Government would acquire a one-third share in the production and refining of Burma's oil resources.
- Dec. 19-20 Pakistan warned Burma regarding the influx of Arakan Muslims into East Bengal and asked for repatriation of the refugees.

1952

- Jan. 1 Cabinet as of January 1 was as follows :
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|--|-----------------------|
| Prime Minister and National Planning | Thakin Nu |
| Foreign Affairs and Shan States | Sao Hkun Hkio |
| Judicial Affairs | U Khin Maung Lat |
| Finance and Revenue | U Tin |
| Karen Affairs | Mahn Ba Saing |
| Kachin State | Sima Duwa Sinwa Nawng |
| Chin State | U Van Thu Maung |
| Karenni Affairs | Sao Wunna |
| Transport, Communications, Labor | Mahn Win Maung |
| Information | U Tun Pe |
| Relief, Resettlement and Education | U Than Aung |
| Minorities | U Ba Saw |
| Agriculture and Forests | Bo Khin Maung Gale |
| Industry, Mines, Commerce, Supply | U Kyaw Myint |
| Public Health and Local Government | U Tin (Myanaung) |
| Defense, Home Affairs, Religious Affairs | U Win |
- Jan. 3 Burma became 51st member of International Bank and International Monetary Fund. Both her subscription to the Bank's capital stock and her quota in the Fund amounted to \$ 15 million.
- Jan. 8 In the UN, Burma supported a resolution calling on member nations to provide armed forces when recommended by the Assembly if the Security Council was blocked by a veto. This vote was not considered by Burma to constitute alignment with any bloc.
- Jan. 20 Elections resulted in overwhelming victory for AFPFL. Out of 233 constituencies:
- | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| AFPFL | ... | ... | ... | 180 |
| Burma Workers' and Peasants' Party | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| People's Peace Front and People's Democratic Front | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| Arakanese Groups | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Arakanese Independents (Moslems) | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Karen Congress | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Chins | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Kachins | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Other Independents | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
- Thakin Nu was returned in a Rangoon constituency with 4,873 votes, against 2,783 for Aung Than, leader of People's Peace Front.
- Of the 180 AFPFL candidates returned, about 80 were members of Socialist Party.
- Jan. 23 Mr. Harriman, Director of MSA, announced that, due to continued delay by Burma in signing bilateral agreement under Mutual Security Act, all economic and technical aid would be withdrawn.
- Jan. 28 Burmese Government communique stated that Burmese troops were fighting about 6,000 Chinese Nationalist troops on Burmese soil.
- Burmese delegate U Myint Thein charged, in the UN, that General Li Mi's forces were getting outside aid.

1952 (cont'd)

Thai delegate to UN denied that Chinese Nationalist troops were getting supplies through Thailand.

U.S. Envoy H. B. Day said that the Nationalists had failed to act on pledge given U.S. to withdraw their forces. He denied any U.S. aid to Nationalists in Burma.

Jan. 31 U Zaw Win asked, in the UN, that a definition of aggression be arrived at; as a means of solving the problem, he proposed that recognition of, and aid and assistance to, an aggressor be suspended.

8,000 Chinese Nationalist troops were reported in Kengtung area of North Burma. General Li Mi was reported to be in Burma.

Feb. 1 *New York Times* reported Burmese delegation to UN as saying that if outside help was needed against KMT troops, Burma would go to UN rather than to any one country.

Feb. 2 Burma backed a UN resolution postponing discussion of permanent settlement in Korea until after an armistice had been concluded or until special developments required discussion.

At ECAFE meeting, Burma and the U.S. urged that U.S.S.R. not make ECAFE a propaganda forum.

Feb. 9 Negotiations between Burma and U.S. for continuance of U.S. economic aid were concluded, with Burma giving necessary assurances to Mutual Security Agency. Burma agreed to accept such aid on the basis that its acceptance would not affect her declared foreign policy.

Mar. 11 Burmese Foreign Minister announced that Burma had decided to participate in the Colombo Plan.

Mar. 12 Dr. Ba U was elected President of Union of Burma to succeed Sao Shwe Thaik, who had held the office since 1948.

Cabinet as of this date was:

Prime Minister and National Planning	Thakin Nu
Foreign Affairs and Shan States	Sao Hkun Hkio
Defense, Home Affairs, Religious Affairs	U Win
Judicial Affairs	U Khin Maung Lat
Agriculture and Forests	Bo Khin Maung Gale
Information	U Tun Pe
Industry, Commerce and Supply	U Kyaw Myint
Finance and Revenue	U Tin
Public Works and Rehabilitation	Bo Min Gaung
Education, Relief and Resettlement	A. Rivers
Transport and Communications	Mahn Win Maung
Housing and Labor	M. A. Raschid
Chin Affairs	U Van Thu Maung
Kachin State	Sima Duwa Sinwa Nawng
Karenni State	Sao Wunna
Karen Affairs	Mrs. Ba Maung Chain
Minorities	U Ba Saw
Co-operatives	U Kyaw Nyein

First elected Parliament met; AFPFL held 80% of the seats.

1952 (cont'd)

- Mar. 13 U Nu dropped title of Thakin.
- Mar. 16 New Cabinet was formed with the following members:
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|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Prime Minister | U Nu |
| Foreign Affairs and Shan States | Sao Hkun Hkio |
| Defense | U Ba Swe |
| Finance and Revenue | U Tin |
| Religion and National Planning | U Win |
| Home Affairs | Bo Khin Maung Gale |
| Industry and Mines | U Kwaw Myint |
| Land Nationalization | Thakin Tin |
| Commerce and Supplies | Thakin Tha Khin |
| Agriculture and Forests | Thakin Kyaw Dun |
| Justice | U Khin Maung Lat |
| Education | U Than Aung |
| Information | U Tun Win |
| Minorities | U Ba Saw |
| Housing and Labor | M. A. Raschid |
| Karen State | Mrs. Ba Maung Chain |
| Kachin State | Sima Duwa Sinwa Nawng |
| Karenni State | Sao Wunna |
- Mar. 18 U Kyaw Nyein, in a Government debate on foreign economic aid, declared that there definitely was no clause in the Burma-United States aid agreement that would in any way endanger the independence of Burma.
- Government representatives denied that acceptance of U.S. economic aid made the country a U.S. satellite; they denied that any secret agreement was involved in the negotiations for aid; and they declared Burma's readiness to accept Russian aid if such aid involved "no physical encroachment" on Burma's "freedom of action."
- Mar. 22 *New York Times* reported that the Burmese press reports from Kengtung State had alluded to the increased activity among the Nationalists. Burmese officials believed, on the basis of close and detailed investigations, that Americans had participated in assisting the Kengtung Nationalists.
- Mar. 24 In Burma's first full participation in Colombo Plan, U Kyaw Myint represented Burma at the Consultative Committee for Cooperative Economic Development in South and Southeast Asia, which met in Karachi.
- Mar. 26 U Nu, in reply to a question on proposal that UN commission should investigate the border situation, said that the arrival of a commission in which Communist China had no confidence might affect existing cordial relations with Peking.
- U Nu pledged continued war against Communists and rejected peace feelers. He maintained that Burma would remain neutral with regard to East and West.
- Mar. 27 Home Minister Bo Khin Maung Gale announced that Burmese forces had launched an attack against the Chinese Nationalist forces in the Kengtung area.
- Mar. 29 A total of \$5,628,000 of United States' aid goods had been shipped to Burma. The shipment included scientific equipment, tractors, plows, and health supplies.

1952 (cont'd)

- April 9 Great Britain refused a request of Burmese Government for postponement of the debt payment amounting to about £ 1,350,000, due on April 1.
- April 10 A Soviet Chamber of Commerce spokesman, Mr. Vassili Kuszezov, said the U.S.S.R. was preparing to supply Burma with machinery and fertilizer for rubber and rice.
- April 16 The U.S. State Department announced the appointment of Mr. William Sabald as Ambassador to Burma to succeed Mr. David Key, who was retiring.
- April 30 State of war between Burma and Japan was officially terminated.
An exchange of letters between Japan and Burma extended March, 1950, trade agreement for one year.
- May 4 Government's reconstruction program and MSA technical and financial aid were discussed. U.S. aid totaled about \$ 12 million per year.
- June 15 A mission, headed by U Kyaw Nyein, former Foreign Minister and Secretary-General of AFPFL, left for a tour of Europe covering U.K., France, Yugoslavia, Switzerland, Norway, and Sweden to study administrative and political problems relating to rehabilitation.
- June 25 Treaty of peace and friendship between Burma and Pakistan was signed in Rangoon.
- June 28 *Nation* reported that the Union Government was seriously contemplating the signing of a trade agreement with Communist China.
- July 1 Union Bank of Burma Act was effected and replaced the "rupee" with the "kyat," subdivided into 100 smaller units known as "pyas." The Act dissolved the Burma Currency Board and transferred its powers to Union Bank of Burma.
The Government again asked delay on paying first installment of debt owed to Britain.
- July 19 In Martyrs' Day speech, U Nu said that the Government would ask U.S.S.R. and Communist China for economic aid to see if it was offered without strings. He also stated that participation of Burmese Communists in coalition Cabinet was "impossible either now or in the future."
- Aug. 4 In a speech before Pyidawtha Conference, U Nu stated that Burma's foreign policy remained one of strict neutrality and refusal to join any bloc. The following principles were outlined as guides to Burma's foreign policy: (1) consideration of each international issue on its own merits; (2) establishment of the friendliest possible relations with all countries; (3) acceptance of foreign assistance from any country in the creation of the welfare state, if it is freely given and does not violate Burma's sovereignty; (4) assistance to any country which needs it.
- Aug. 20 U.S. Mutual Security Administration stated that \$ 17,443,000 in aid had been allocated to Burma for two years between June 5, 1950, and May 31, 1952.
- Aug. 30 Minister Thakin Tin and three others announced plans to tour Communist China.
- Aug. 31 James Barrington, Ambassador to U.S., urged Chinese Communist representation in United Nations.
- Sept. 3 U Ohn, Burmese Ambassador to the U.S.S.R., presented his credentials.
- Sept. 4 U Ba Thaug left Rangoon to take up his duties as Consul at the new Burmese Consulate opened in Singapore.

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- Sept. 9 Speaking before Parliament, Foreign Minister Sao Hkun Hkio officially rejected Communist allegations of U.S. germ warfare in Korea; at the same time he rejected left-wing charges that Burmese foreign policy leaned toward the United States.
- Sept. 10 *Burma Weekly Bulletin* stated that the Japanese Government had announced that Mr. Yutaka Konogaya had been appointed as Japanese Consul-General to Burma.
- Sept. 19 Burmese mission headed by U Raschid left for visit to U.S. for discussions with Technical Cooperation Administration officials to make arrangements for implementation of specified agricultural, health, and educational projects.
- Sept. 21 Burmese Government aide, U Hla Maung, arrived in U.S. to discuss administrative problems in shift from Mutual Security Administration to Technical Cooperation Administration.
- A mass meeting held by the AFPFL unanimously passed a resolution supporting the national movement of the Tunisian people for independence and also the passive resistance campaign launched by non-Europeans in South Africa.
- Sept. 23 British Ambassador to Burma, Mr. R. L. Speaight, presented his letters of credence to the Burmese President, Dr. Ba U.
- Sept. 29 Mr. K. K. Chettur, India's new Ambassador to Burma, presented his letters of credence to the Burmese President, Dr. Ba U.
- Oct. 2 U Nu stated that arrangements had been made to expel KMT troops "within the next few months."
- Oct. 7 U.S. Ambassador Seabald urged the Burmese Government to strengthen itself and pledged U.S. non-interference.
- Burmese mission, headed by Thakin Tin, arrived in Moscow.
- A UNESCO seminar on Youth opened in Rangoon.
- Oct. 10 U Kyaw Nyein and Burmese Fact-Finding Mission to Europe arrived home after a four-month absence from Burma.
- Oct. 13 The UNICEF Asia Regional Office announced approval of a new contribution of \$ 112,000 to Burma for improving services in maternal and child health programs. This brought the total assistance to Burma to \$ 716,000.
- Oct. 14 Seventh session of the UN General Assembly opened, and Burma was one of 13 Arab and Asian nations voting to place the Tunisian and Moroccan questions on the agenda.
- Oct. 16 General Ne Win, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of Burma, left by air for the United Kingdom en route to the United States and a tour of military establishments there.
- Oct. 21 M. Christine Belle, the new French Minister to Burma, presented his credentials to the Burmese President, Dr. Ba U.
- Oct. 24 U.S.-Burmese economic agreement was signed. Agreement placed major emphasis on restoring Burma to its position of "rice bowl" of the Far East.
- Oct. 25 Burma and the United Kingdom signed an air agreement.

1952 (cont'd)

- Nov. 3 Burmese Government asked Britain for more time to pay off a £ 27 million debt.
- Nov. 4 Admiral A. W. Radford, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Area, arrived in Rangoon for a two-day visit.
- Nov. 8 Negotiations with the British on financial relations terminated in friendly atmosphere.
- Nov. 9 General Ne Win arrived home after his overseas tour to inspect military installations and training centers.
- Nov. 11 Burma voted for a 15-nation resolution, which she had co-sponsored in the UN, establishing a Good Offices Commission to report to the next session of the General Assembly on South Africa's non-compliance with previous UN resolutions.
- Nov. 20 Burma joined a majority to reject a South African resolution declaring the UN Ad Hoc Political Committee incompetent to consider race conflict in the Union of South Africa.
- Nov. 28 Speaking to the press in Delhi, U Nu expressed satisfaction at the rapid extinction of Communist revolt in Burma. He stated that rebel activity was now restricted to ambushing of trains and emphasized that only a small proportion of Karens were fighting the Government.
- Ambassador Barrington, in the UN Assembly, backed the West in opposing compulsory repatriation of Korean prisoners of war. Although he supported the Indian resolution on this subject, he criticized behavior of some anti-Communist prisoners.
- Dec. 12 In a speech during the debate on Tunisia in the UN General Assembly, James Barrington, Burmese Permanent UN Representative, stated that Burma voted for the 13-power resolution which it co-sponsored because it was "felt that the (Tunisian) situation had been allowed to get to such a pass that the assistance of an outside party—in this case in the form of a UN Good Offices Commission—was required."

1953

- Jan. 1 U Kyaw Nyein, Secretary-General of the AFPFL, was sworn in as Minister for Industries and Mines. He succeeded U Kyaw Myint, who took over a newly created Ministry for the Democratization of Local Government.
- Jan. 3 Mr. Debrivojet Vidic, new Yugoslavian Ambassador to Burma, presented his letters of credence to the President of Burma, Dr. Ba U.
- Jan. 5 The Government gave Britain a year's notice to terminate Anglo-Burmese Defense Agreement of October 17, 1947.
- Jan. 6 First Asian Socialist Conference opened in Rangoon; Defence Minister U Ba Swe keynoted conference by urging stronger Asian unity and greater Asian self-reliance. Former British Prime Minister Clement Attlee arrived in Rangoon to attend meetings of the Asian Socialist Conference.
- Jan. 8 A Yugoslav military mission left Burma after a visit of one month.
- Jan. 9 British Foreign Office announced that negotiations were being initiated for new defense agreement with Burma. British Embassy denied that Burma wanted British military mission withdrawn, despite request to re-negotiate the 1947 defense pact.
- Jan. 15 Sr. Raffael Forretti, the new Italian Minister to Burma, presented his credentials to the President.
- Jan. 16 U Ba Swe was elected chairman of Asian Socialist Organization at meeting in Rangoon which also passed a resolution pledging a socialist fight against world tension and promising to work against polarization into two blocs. It further opposed Asians' joining "so-called world peace movements which have become tools of the 'cold war.'"
- Jan. 21 Five project agreements for 1953 were signed by U Tin Pe, Chairman of the Burma Economic Aid Committee, and Dr. Frank Trager, Director of T.C.A. in Burma. The agreements provided for \$ 1,200,000 (K 5,700,000) for projects in public health and sanitation, rice milling and processing, and basic mineral development.
- Feb. 10 At ECAFE meeting, Minister U Kyaw Myint declared that receipt of American aid involved no "slavery" and that no political, economic, or military concessions were asked for or given in this connection.
- Feb. 13 A nine-man mission left Burma to study cooperatives in Ceylon and India.
- Feb. 16 Mr. James Barrington, Burma's Ambassador to the U.S., presented his credentials to UN Secretary-General Trygve Lie as Burma's Permanent Representative to the UN. Mr. Barrington was the first such representative appointed by Burma.
- Feb. 21 An Indonesian economic mission to Burma arrived in Rangoon for seven-day visit. In a press conference, the delegation leader said the purpose of the mission was to increase economic cooperation between Indonesia and Burma.
- Feb. 25 Burmese Government rejected Chinese Communist offer to help in drive against KMT forces.
- Feb. 26 U Ba Swe said in Hyderabad that Burmese Communist Party was divided and had little influence. He also stated that KMT troops were collaborating with Burmese Communists.
- Mar. 1 As of March 1, with the exception of the change listed for January 1, 1953, the Cabinet was reported to be the same as the list for March 16, 1952.

1953 (cont'd)

- Mar. 2 U Nu announced in Parliament that the Government would shortly raise the issue of Chinese Nationalist troops in the UN and added that arrangements had been made for discussion with representatives of the People's Republic of China whenever occasion might arise.
- U Nu also stated that the Nationalist Government had rebuffed the United States' and India's good offices to have troops withdrawn.
- Mar. 3 Mr. Aneurin Bevan, British Socialist leader, arrived in Rangoon for a visit.
- Mar. 5 IBRD announced that an economic mission would visit Burma for the first time.
- Mar. 7 A four-man mission from the IBRD arrived in Burma to study the Burmese economic situation and to discuss government plans for economic development over the next few years.
- Mar. 11-12 Minister of Defense U Ba Swe said that the Burmese Government had proof that a few Americans had been training and arming Chinese Nationalist guerrillas, but he stated there was no proof that these were U.S. Government agents.
- Mar. 16 Burmese delegate in UN backed continuance of collective security machinery, but regretfully declined a seat in Collective Measures Committee because of his Government's preoccupation with the KMT problem.
- Mar. 17 Burma notified the U.S. that it did not want aid after June, 1953. Total aid by that time would have amounted to \$ 31,000,000.
- Mar. 18 A nine-man Burmese purchasing mission headed by Bo Min Gaung, Minister for Rehabilitation and Public Works, left Rangoon for Hong Kong, Japan, the U.S.A., and the U.K. and Europe to buy essential equipment—machinery and rolling stock—to implement the economic development plans in Burma.
- Mar. 19 A Buddhist goodwill mission headed by the Thathanabang (Ecclesiastical Head) of Cambodia arrived in Rangoon.
- Mar. 24 U Nu left Rangoon for a tour of Indo-Burmese border, during which he would meet Indian Prime Minister Nehru for talks.
- Mar. 25 The Government asked UN to brand Nationalist China an aggressor and charged Formosa with directing and supporting guerrilla activity in Burma.
- Mar. 27 Burmese Government approved a private shipment of rubber to the People's Republic of China, thus risking severance of U.S. aid (in conformity with Battle Act).
- Mar. 28 Nehru backed the Burmese complaint to the UN about KMT troops, while *Isvestia* charged the U.S. with supplying those troops.
- Mar. 29 U Nu and Nehru met at Imphal. Both denied any trouble between Burma and India. They toured a group of Naga villages on both sides of the border.
- U Nu said he hoped that the UN would instruct the Formosa Government to order Nationalist Chinese forces in North Burma to surrender their arms and to submit to internment.
- Mar. 31 UN Steering Committee agreed to recommend inclusion of Burmese complaint against Nationalist China on the Assembly agenda.
- Apr. 4 Thailand closed the border, pending settlement of the KMT issue. The move sought to bar reinforcement or withdrawal of KMT troops through Thailand.

1953 (cont'd)

- April 11 W. J. Seabald, U.S. Ambassador to Burma, and Prime Minister U Nu conferred. Seabald offered to mediate with the KMT on the issue of KMT troops in Burma.
- April 15 In the UN Political Committee, Burma formally charged Nationalist China with aggression. Dr. Tsiang (Nationalist China) denied the charge. He stated that his government could not control the troops and that General Li Mi had been asked not to enter Burma.
- April 17 The new Burmese Ambassador to Thailand, U Pe Khin, left Rangoon to take up his post in Bangkok.
- April 19 A seven-man Indian trade delegation arrived in Rangoon. During their visit the group were to discuss with Burmese officials the possibility of a barter trade agreement by which Burmese rice would be exchanged for Indian manufactured goods and other items.
- April 20 U Myint Thein spoke at length in the UN, accusing the Chiang Government of aggression.
- April 21 Mr. Yeh, Chinese Nationalist Foreign Minister, stated that his government was prepared, in cooperation with other interested governments, to use whatever influence it might have in effecting a withdrawal of General Li Mi's troops from Burmese territory.
- In the UN, Mexico, backed by most of the Asian, African, and Latin-American states, offered a compromise resolution asking for evacuation of "foreign forces."
- Ambassador Lodge stated that the U.S. would continue mediation efforts, but warned that all troops could not be evacuated. He opposed condemning the Nationalists as aggressors.
- April 22 Political Committee approved compromise resolution 58-0, with Burma and China abstaining. Assembly adopted resolution 59-0, with Burma voting for it because of moral backing given her complaint.
- April 23 In letter to *New York Times*, Thai representative to UN denied any aid from his country to KMT troops in Burma. He cited measures taken by his government to cooperate both with Burma and with UN in settling the problem.
- May 1 In May Day speech, U Ba Swe proposed that Burma join India and Indonesia in a "neutralized area" to stay out of a third world war.
- May 4 Burmese Foreign Office refused to comment on possibility of Burma's being accepted as a neutral nation to supervise detention of North Korean and Chinese prisoners of war who opposed repatriation.
- May 8 U.S. reportedly proposed a four-power talk (Burma, Nationalist China, Thailand, and U.S.) to settle the guerrilla issue.
- Burma refused to attend any conference attended by Chinese Nationalist representatives and suggested instead that the U.S., Siamese, and Chinese Nationalist Governments should meet and agree on a plan, which should then be submitted to Burma for consideration.
- May 12 Representatives of the Burmese and Pakistan Governments exchanged the instruments of ratification of the treaty of friendship between Burma and Pakistan.