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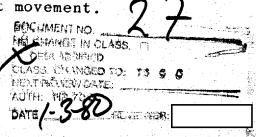
NSC BRIEFING

25 March 1954

BURMA

BACKGROUND

- I. Historical highlights.
 - A. Kingdom incorporated piece-meal into British India in wars 1824, 1852 and 1885.
 - B. Remained province India until
 1 April 1937 when separated
 became separate colony.
 - C. In August 1943, Japanese granted Burma "independence".
 - D. March 1945, Anti-Fascist Peoples
 Freedom League (AFPFL), founded
 by Communists became spearhead
 nationalist movement.



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- E. Mid-1946, Communist Party
 Burma (CPB) known as Red
 Flags, splits with the White
 Flag Burma Communist Party
 (BCP) and AFPFL and goes
 underground.
 - F. Early 1947, BCP kicked out of APPFL.
 - by astrologers as most propitious moment) independence granted by British. AFPFL assumed power and rejected ties with Commonwealth.
- R. Feb 48, BCP goes underground on orders received from USSR via India CP.

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- I. July 48, pro-Commie Peoples
 Volunteer Organization (PVO)
 splits, majority (Yellow
 Armed Band) going underground.
 Remainder (White Armed Band)
 remained with govt. Elements
 of three pro-Commie Burman
 battalions mutiny and go
 underground.
- J. Feb 49 -- Karens go underground.

 Main force consisted of three
 battalions in army, elements
 of one Kachin army battalion
 and undetermined number of
 military policemen.
- of Socialists, who dominate

 AFPFL, leave party and form

 Burma Workers and Peasants

 Party (BWPP) become aboveground instrument of BCP.

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II. Insurgent forces.

- A. Burma Communist Party (White Flags).
 - 1. Leader Than Tun
 - 2. Strength 5-6,000.
 - 3. Location central and south Burma.
 - B. Communist Party of Burma (Red Flags).
 - l. Leader Thakin Soe.
- 2. Strength 1-2,000.
- 3. Location south and west Burma.
 - C. Peoples Volunteer Organization
 (Yellow Armed Band).
 - 1. Leader Bo Po Khun.
 - 2. Strength 3-4,000.
 - 3. Location central and south Burma.

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- D. Karens
 - 1. Leader Hunter Tha Mwe.
 - 2. Strength 5-7,000.
 - 3. Location south and east Burma.
- E. Arakanese (Mujahinds or Moslems) Want join E. Pakistan.
 - 1. Leader Bo Cassim.
 - 2. Strength 500-1,000.
 - 3. Location West Burma.
- III. Ethnic makeup.
 - A. Total population 19,000,000.
 - 1. Burmans 13,000,000.

 Inhabit heartland of

 Burma, are in the majority
 in delta and coastline...

 Tenasserim.
 - 2. Karens 3,000,000. In delta, hills of eastern and southern Burma.

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- 3. Shans 1,000,000.

 Inhabit Shan plateau in east, north of Karens.
- 4. Chins 3-400,000. Located in Chin Hills of northwest.
- 5. Kachins 1-200,000.

 Located in northern Burma.
- 6. Wa's 1-200,000. Located in northeast, between Shans and Kachins.
- 7. Small number of Lahu's,
 Nagas, Lolo's, etc.
 Located in Sino-Burma
 frontier area.
- 8. Chinese 350,000.

 Located mostly in towns.
- 9. Indians 1,000,000.

 Located mostly in towns.

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B. All ethnic minorities resent
Burman control in varying
degrees, have small degree
autonomy and reps. in parliament
but want more. Particularly
incensed over government's
Burmanization policies. Burmans
also have hard feeling towards
Indians and Chinese because of
the latter's ability to surpass
economically.

IV. Relations with China.

- A. Burma, in December 1950, became first non-Orbit country to recognize Peiping.
- B. Much of Burma's border with

 China has never been clearly

 marked.

- C. 77,000 sq. mi. of north Burma has always been claimed by China, and appears as Chinese territory on Chinese Communist maps. But Burmese occupy.
 - D. Official relations cordial, trade agreement now being negotiated.
 - E. However, Peiping embassy in

 Rangoon involved with underground Communists and BWPP.

 Russians believed to be too.
 - F. Burmese, partly from fear, treat Chinese and Russian diplomats with deference.
 - G. Chinese in Yunnan are also training Shans and Kachins who live on both sides of border.

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- H. Peiping believed promoting
 united front tactics of BCP
 both underground and above
 ground. But haven't given
 much material aid because of
 disunity and lack of base area.
 - Insurgents seeking to work with other groups
 in arms against govt.
 - 2. Aboveground Commies clamoring for peace and coalition govt.