

**TOP SECRET**

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**INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM**

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Office of Current Intelligence

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Burmese Government Weakening under Communist Pressure

Recent events in Burma reveal that the stability of the Burmese Government continues to deteriorate as a result of military weakness and increasing political subversion. This progressive disintegration of the Rangoon regime's position is leading to Communist control of Burma.

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An equally serious danger to the Government is the increasing strength and activity of overt left-wing political elements. The Burma Workers and Peasants Party, which actually represents the Communist Party aboveground, is constantly attacking the Government's domestic and foreign policies with considerable effectiveness. Not only is this group steadily gaining adherents, but it has lately formed a "triple alliance" with two other influential leftist political parties. Because of its superior organization, popular program and support from the Chinese and Soviet Embassies, this party will, in all likelihood, dominate the coalition and seek to transform it into an overt counterpart of the underground "Peoples Democratic Front," into which the Burma Communist Party is attempting to attract the several insurgent factions.

Another political threat lies in the activities of U Ba Swe, Secretary General of the Burma Socialist Party and leader of that party's large pro-Communist element. He is said to be dissatisfied with the moderate Socialist leadership in the Government and is maneuvering for the Premiership. In order to achieve his ambition it is entirely possible that he will effect a rapprochement between his left-wing Socialist followers and the Burma Workers and Peasants Party. Should Ba Swe become Premier, the Burmese Government's drift to the right would be abruptly reversed, US-UK influence would be reduced to a minimum, closer relations with Communist China would be developed

[REDACTED] and the prospects of early Communist domination of Burma would be greatly improved.

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Burmese leaders, despite the clearly apparent deterioration of their regime,



continue to maintain a complacent attitude toward the Communist threat and to concentrate their energies on personal rivalries or the attainment of wealth and prestige. [redacted] prevent a settlement with the Karens and cooperation with other ethnic groups against the Communists. Finally, the Government's hypersensitivity to leftist criticism forestalls any effort to obtain aid and advice from Western democracies.

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