

Party to go ahead with ^{BP 88-0910} charade

Rangoon (AP, Reuter) — Soldiers were seen removing mattresses from the Strand Hotel yesterday and told a diplomat that they were taking them to the parliament building.

Delegates are gathering there for the ruling party's emergency congress that Maung Maung says will set the future course of political life in Burma.

The government has declared the vicinity around parliament a no-demonstration zone during the congress and barricades have been set up around the building.

"We would like to stop the congress," former defence minister Tin Oo told a radio interviewer.

"There will be a strong, strong demonstration on Monday showing that their activities should be stopped," he said.

Tin Oo, 62, a former chief of the Burmese army's general staff, said Monday's protest would be non-violent and added other strikes and demonstrations were planned.

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Solarz: Maung Maung may like change

Washington (AP) —
Burmese leader Maung
Maung may favour a
peaceful transition to de-
mocracy in Burma but it
is uncertain whether re-
signed strongman Ne
Win would agree to it, a
US Congressman who
met Maung Maung said
on Thursday.

Possible bloodshed and
civil war are at stake in
the coming decision,
which has prompted pro-
democracy demonstra-
tions in Burma's capital,
Representative Stephen
Solarz said in a television
interview.

"I had the impression
that Maung Maung him-
self might be willing to
take the kind of initiative
which would make possi-
ble a peaceful transition
to democracy in Burma,"
Solarz said, reporting on a
three-hour talk and lunch
he had with the new lead-
er last weekend in
Rangoon.

"But inasmuch as he
(Maung Maung) doesn't
appear to be calling the
shots by himself and any
really critical decision
needs to be approved by
Ne Win, it's by no means
clear what will happen,"
Solarz told interviewer
Bernard Shaw on the Ca-
ble News network's "In-
ternational Hour."

On Friday, Solarz told
CBS television's "CBS
this Morning," that he
thinks "most of the enlist-
ed men and probably most
of the junior offices up to
the level of colonel are
sympathetic to the aspi-
rations of the people for
democracy."

"But whether the top
level of leadership in the
army will be willing to
side with the people rath-
er than with the govern-
ment when the moment of
truth comes is not yet
clear."

Solarz sponsored a reso-
lution adopted late
Wednesday by the House
of Representatives urging
multiparty elections in
Burma.



Various religious groups march in the streets of Rangoon Thursday demanding democracy during an anti-government march. Over one million people turned out to demand the resignation of President Maung Maung. — AP

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