

Ex-defence minister rules out reprisals against ruling party

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Rangoon (Reuter) — A front-runner to head any interim government in response to the Burmese revolt against single party rule said yesterday time was running out for the ruling socialist party.

General Tin Oo, a former defence minister who enjoys wide respect in the army and among the people, also said there would be no revenge should the party fall.

"Time is running out for the government but the revolutionary feelings of the people will never be reduced," he said in an in-

terview.

Tin Oo said he would be willing to take part in an interim government as a matter of patriotism.

"If the people as well as military ex-commanders and senior commanders in the present army ask me, then I will participate up to free and fair elections.

"After that, I have pledged that I will return to being a man of (Buddhist) religion. But because of the upheaval I cannot stay alone because of my patriotism," he said.

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