

# U NU FORMS GOVERNMENT

• Gen Tin Oo named defence minister

BURMESE opposition leaders have formed a provisional government and units of the military have mutinied against the ruling Socialist Party, diplomats in Rangoon

said today.

Former prime minister U Nu, chairman of the self-proclaimed opposition League for Peace and Democracy, announced the formation of a Cabinet and called for general elections to be held on October 9 for a

multi-party government, envoys contacted by telephone said.

Diplomats in Rangoon said U Nu, 82, announced the provisional government in a statement issued last night and received by diplomats today.

phone said more than 100 armed, uniformed Air Force personnel had joined the side of anti-government demonstrators and were inside a hostel on the Rangoon University campus.

Some navy personnel demonstrated yesterday and today in Rangoon and diplomats said a number of soldiers had joined the popular upheaval against the government in Mandalay, Burma's second biggest city.

U Nu, overthrown by a coup in 1962, was proclaimed prime minister.

"I am still the legitimate prime minister according to the constitution," U Nu said. He said he would stand for election.

The League for Peace and Democracy groups 21 of the country's most prominent opposition leaders, including General Tin Oo, a former defence minister.

The action by the main opposition group follows months of intense public agita-

tion that brought down two authoritarian leaders but left the Burma Socialist Programme Party and its latest leader, Maung Maung, with a tentative grip on power.

Two hundred Air Force personnel were seen moving along Rangoon's Prome Road towards the university to join their comrades, but were stopped by army troops, a Western diplomat said.

"The army has threatened to shoot Air Force personnel if they proceed beyond a certain point," he said, adding people were pleading with the soldiers not to open fire.

"There has been no shooting but the situation looks very serious and tense," he said.

U Nu told other aspiring candidates to send their names to newspapers and put posters up around the country.

He said the League for Peace and Democracy was not in a position to supervise a

traditional election. He told people to hold mass meetings and elect representatives.

Tin Oo, 62, who was once chief of the Burmese army's general staff, was named defence minister in the provisional government.

Radio Rangoon, virtually the last state organ in the control of the government, repeated old items in its news broadcast this morning.

It did not mention yesterday's latest pro-democracy mass demonstration and general strike, which brought hundreds of

thousands of people onto the streets of Rangoon calling for the resignation of the BSPP, which has ruled Burma through a quarter century of increasing poverty and repression.

Tin Oo said last night that demonstrators would be out in force again on Monday to try to stop the BSPP from holding an emergency congress.

The government has banned demonstrations during the congress in the vicinity of the parliament building, where party delegates are gathering. — Reuter



U NU ... Prime Minister



TIN OO, ... Defence Minister

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