

# Burma ruling party's move not sincere, say dissidents

by Cimi Suchontan

RANGOON'S old regime's caving in to a multi-party government and call for elections are fake, said overseas Burmese student leaders Tin Maung Win and Ye Khaw Thu yesterday.

"We clearly view this latest attempt as dubious and deceitful by the Burma Socialist Programme Party to cling on to power," said Mr Ye Kyaw Thu, secretary general of the Virginia-based "Committee for Restoration of Democracy in Burma" (CRDB), the largest overseas Burmese opposition group.

They also warned against infighting among opposition figures with the rejection over the weekend of U Nu's provisional government.

"The situation does not permit such disunity because the plight of 38 million Burmese are at stake," said Ye Kyaw Thu, his voice hoarse from several days of shouting in anti-Ne Win demonstrations outside the Burmese Embassy last week.

"It is our ardent hope the Burmese leaders, regardless of representing political organisations or military organisations, will place the interest of the nation before their own interest," he said in an

interview with the *Bangkok Post*.

He referred to the rift after Aung San Suu Kyi and Gen Tin Oo had openly criticised ex-prime minister U Nu's attempt to form a parallel government to rival the ruling BSPP regime under President Maung Maung.

## DIFFERENCES

Mr Tin Maung Min, chairman of the CRDB, said students and opposition groups in Burma should hold off their differences until the first objective of ousting the 26-year regime is completed.

"Time is short. The people have suffered enough," he said. "There will be widespread hunger, epidemics will break out and many natural catastrophes if the confusion reigns and the present situation deteriorates," he said. "The only people that will benefit from the resulting chaos will be Ne Win and opportunist groups."

Other leaders in the CRDB group said they feared the "communists" who have infiltrated the ranks of the student groups and "inner circle of Aung San Suu Kyi's camp" may be in favour of creating confusion for their own causes.

Two of Aung San Suu Kyi's aides are said to have communist lean-

ings, one favouring Maoist ideas, the other Soviet ones, said one senior CRDB member.

"Aung San Suu Kyi is not a communist but it is likely she was influenced by them as she is inexperienced," he said. "She only recently returned to Burma from the UK to help the students, her husband is English."

Asked if the pro-Western CRDB, with several thousand members in the US, Canada, West Germany, UK and Australia would object to another communist government in Burma (to replace the BSPP), the source said: "That is up to the people to decide. Democratic elections will facilitate who they choose."

Tin Maung Min said U Nu's mistake was setting up the provisional government hastily, excluding student leaders from top Cabinet positions.

He said U Nu should try to form another Cabinet, this time to rein in the military support with Gen Tin Oo and more importantly include Gen Aung Gyi, who is regarded as the man who started the current protest against the Rangoon regime.

It was necessary to unify the student movement with the military to put an end to one-party rule, he said.

04/03/88/08/0008