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Since Sunday's coup led by military commander Gen Saw Maung, the releases have borne the name "Union of Burma" instead of "Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma."

No announcement has been made of the name change, and no officials were available to explain it.

Successive governments over the past two months have been trying to convince the people that Ne Win's ruinous policies would be abandoned.

There was also talk earlier of dropping "socialist" from the name of the sole legal party, the Burma Socialist Programme Party. Analysts say the party now exists in name only, after the mass resignations of government officials and military men. The premised elections would be the first multi-party balloting since 1960.

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