Regime drops mention of 'Socialist Republic'

Rangoon (AP) — News releases issued by the new military government have changed the official name of Burma back to what it was before the military coup of 1962 toppled an elected government.

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

the Union of Burma."

"Union of Burma" was used starting with the constitution of 1947. It was changed after Gen Ne Win mounted the 1962 coup and began a quarter-century of political repression and rigidly socialist economic policies.

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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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