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# US tells Burmese leaders to meet opposition

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WASHINGTON — The US government has told Burmese leaders formally that they should meet with opposition leaders to end unrest and bring peace to the country, State Department spokesman Charles Redman said yesterday.

Meanwhile, Britain on yesterday condemned the shooting of demonstrators in Burma and called for the introduction of multi-party democracy.

Redman said US officials in Washington expressed their concern to Burmese Ambassador Myo Aung at meetings in the White House and State Department on Monday and that US Ambassador Burton Levin did the same in a meeting with military authorities in Rangoon yesterday.

"The solution to Burma's political problems lies in discussions with opposition leaders on arrangements for an early transition to a multi-party democracy, not in shooting those engaged in peaceful protest," Redman said, summarizing the message given to the Burmese officials.

"Rangoon is now relatively quiet," he told reporters. "By late afternoon local time yesterday, the level of tension seemed to have declined for the moment." In Mandalay, however, it appears the military may be having greater difficulty controlling the situation.

There are also reports of fighting in several other provincial cities. We have no firm data on casualties, but reports received from a variety of sources suggest that as many as several hundred may have been killed.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said yesterday the Reagan Administration is reviewing assistance programmes for Burma to determine whether aid should be cut off or reduced in the light of the military coup and violence in that country.

In London, the Foreign Office issued a statement to condemn the violence in Burma.

"Martial law has been introduced, the shooting of demonstrators has resumed and the general level of violence has escalated," the Foreign Office statement said.

"The British government deplores these developments, particularly the further loss of life ... a lasting solution to the crisis can only come about if the Burmese people's

desire for greater freedom and multi-party democracy is met," it said.

Western diplomats have said about 500 people were killed in Rangoon when the army moved to enforce a curfew and a ban on demonstrations imposed when it seized power on Sunday.

— Agencies

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# Kawthaung-Ranong traffic

## More Burmese arrive

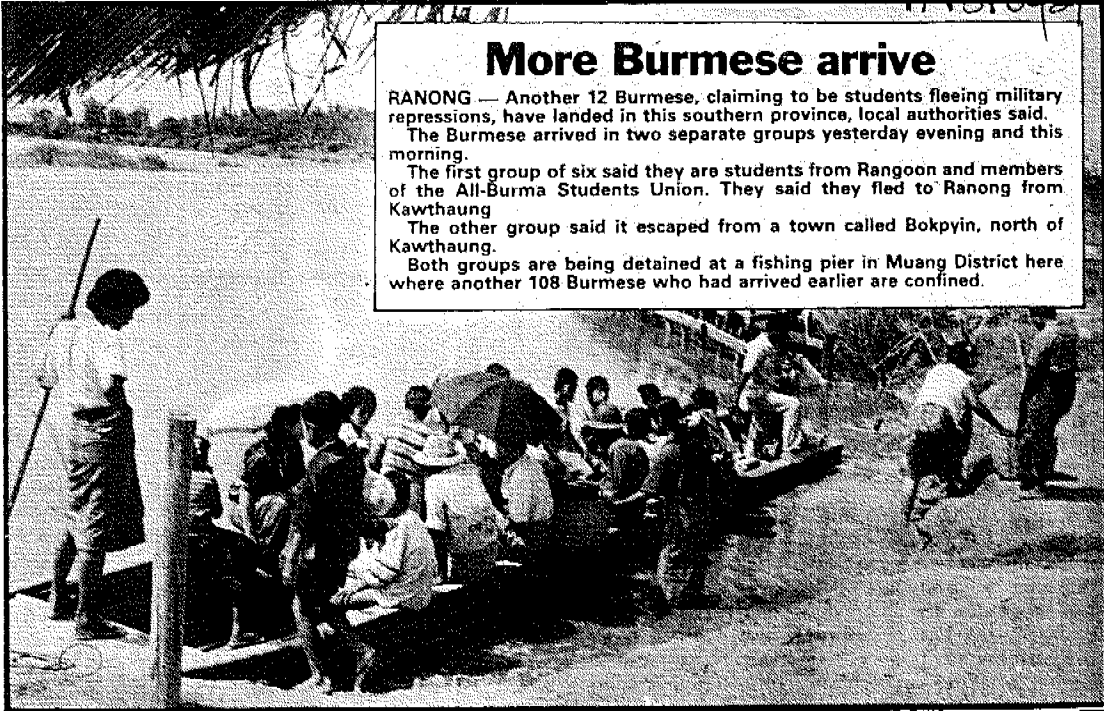
RANONG — Another 12 Burmese, claiming to be students fleeing military repressions, have landed in this southern province, local authorities said.

The Burmese arrived in two separate groups yesterday evening and this morning.

The first group of six said they are students from Rangoon and members of the All-Burma Students Union. They said they fled to Ranong from Kawthaung.

The other group said it escaped from a town called Bokpyin, north of Kawthaung.

Both groups are being detained at a fishing pier in Muang District here where another 108 Burmese who had arrived earlier are confined.



SOME of the Burmese arriving by boat in Ranong yesterday.

THE Burmese army appears to be in control of Kawthaung, a small town on the southern tip of Burma, following the coup on Sunday.

More than 100 Burmese, mostly

students, have fled from Kawthaung to Ranong and are now being detained by Thai authorities.

The Burmese army allowed

trading between Kawthaung and Ranong to resume yesterday after temporarily closing the customs check-point on the Burmese side on Monday.

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