

TN 880731

Third political party emerges In Burma

RANGOON — A second pro-democracy party, comprised of followers of one-time Prime Minister Nu, has emerged to rival the powerful, military-backed political apparatus that has dictated Burma's course for the past 26 years, it was learned Wednesday.

The state-owned Radio Rangoon said Tuesday that the Democracy Party had been formed with freedom fighter Bohmu Aung as its patron and Thu

Wai as chairman. The party is a splinter group from the League for Peace and Democracy, formed last month by ex-Prime Minister Nu, but now virtually moribund.

Bohmu Aung was a member of Burma's "Thirty Comrades" who fought for independence from Great Britain during World War II. Thu Wai served as an aide to Nu when the ousted prime minister led an

unsuccessful guerrilla movement against strongman Ne Win from bases along the Thai-Burmese border in the early 1970s.

Widely believed to be potentially more powerful is the League for Democracy, which yesterday named retired Aung Gyi as its chairman and immediately called for an interim government to replace the military autocracy and prepare for free elections.

— AP

04/19/88 / 38 / 0001

