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BLOODLESS ARMY COUP IN BURMA

"DETERIORATING SITUATION": GEN. NE WIN TAKES OVER

PRESIDENT AND PREMIER ARRESTED

(From Our Correspondent)

RANGOON, March 2.

Burmese armed forces led by the Commander in Chief, Gen. Ne Win staged a bloodless coup d'etat and took over administration to-day.

President U Win Maung, Prime Minister U Nu, the Chief Justice of the Union U Myint Thein, Cabinet Ministers and Speakers of both Houses of Parliament were detained by the Army before dawn and kept at an undisclosed place.

RANGOON CALM AND QUIET

17-MAN COUNCIL SET UP

Army personnel then proceeded to the residence of the former President, Mr. Sao Shwe Htaik, a Shan hereditary chief, who lived some hundred yards from U Nu's home. Guards at the residence opened fire confronted by troops of General Ne Win.

In the exchange of fire Mr. Sao Shwe Htaik's son was fatally hit by a stray bullet.

GEN. NE WIN

Both the Speakers of the Houses of Parliament, four Ministers and one Member of Parliament were released later.

General Ne Win declared this morning over the Burma Broadcasting System: "The Army has taken control of a vastly deteriorating situation. The people must remain calm. The Government servants must carry on their duty as usual. We assure you that we will make all possible efforts to serve the Burmese people's interest".

This was the first official announcement of the *coup d'etat* staged in the middle of the night. It is widely reported that all Ministers' residences were surrounded by Army elements between 3 and 5 o'clock in the morning and the Ministers whisked away by men of the Military Intelligence.

POPULACE UNAWARE OF MIDNIGHT ACTION

The situation in Rangoon was "quiet" where all shops opened as usual The population learned of last night's *coup* only through General Ne Win's announcement which was repeated in several languages on the Radio. The Rangoon airport was closed to traffic.

The Army took position at all strategic points last night and simultaneously arrested over fifty leaders.

Both external and internal air communication was temporarily suspended and reopened at twelve noon.

Gen. Ne Win announced the formation of a 17-member Revolutionary Council headed by himself.

Members of the Revolutionary Council include:

General Ne Win, Defence, Finance, Revenue and Judiciary.

Brigadier Aung Gyi, Commerce and Industry.

Brigadier Tin Pe, Agriculture, Forests, Co-operatives and Supplies.

Commodore Than Pe, Education and Health.

U Thi Han, Foreign Affairs, Housing and Mining.

Colonel Kyaw Soe, Home Affairs and Immigration.

Colonel Saw Myint, Information and Culture.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ba Ni, Transport and Communications.

U Thai Han, a former Director of Military Supplies, is the only civilian in the new Cabinet.

Gen. Ne Win, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces—originally Thakin Shu Maung, was born in 1910 at Prome. He was educated at Rangoon University, but left it without taking a degree. He had his military training in Japan. He was Commander of the Burma National Army during 1943-45 and rose to the position of Brigadier in 1948. He succeeded Gen. Smith-Dun, as Commander-in Chief. He became a Major-General in 1949 and served as Minister of Defence and Home Affairs from 1949 to August 1950.

On October 28, 1958, the Burmese President, U Win Maung, summoned the Chamber of Deputies to elect Gen. Ne Win, as Prime Minister in place of U Nu, who had resigned that day.

Gen. Ne Win accepted the offer of the President and said an interim Government was formed in view of the "grave disturbance" in the country and it would not be possible to hold free and joint election under such circumstances.

Three parties, the Clean AFPFL, and the Justice Party, nominated him in the place of U Nu, there being no other nominee.

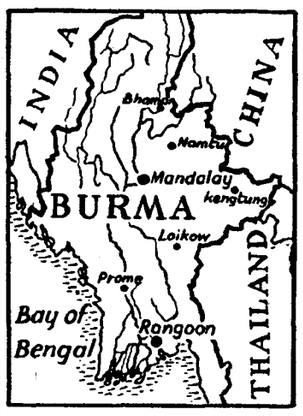
On February 12, 1959, Gen. Ne Win submitted his resignation, two months before the expiry of his term, stating "that he would accept re-election only if the Constitution were amended to permit non-members of Parliament to hold Ministerial office for more than six consecutive months. Both Houses of Parliament approved on February 26, a Bill temporarily amending the Constitution to enable Gen. Ne Win to remain Prime Minister until 1960. Only the Left-wing National United Front opposed it. On February 27, he was renominated by members of the Clean AFPFL, the Justice Party and minority groups and the new Government was sworn in the same day.

FEDERALISM ISSUE

AFPFL'S OBJECTION TO IMPORT POLICY

Burma has been rocked recently by a number of controversial problems beginning with the question of making Buddhism a State religion and followed by the decision of the U Nu Government to nationalise private import trade in the country by constituting a Joint

(Continued on page 7)



TROOPS BUILD-UP BY CONGO

TSHOMBE'S CHARGE

ELISABETHVILLE, March 2

The Katangese President, Mr. Tshombe, charged to-day that the Congolese Central Government was planning a "massive attack" on three North Katanga towns.

He claimed that the Congolese Premier, Mr. Cyrille Adoula, and his two Generals, Gen Joseph Mobutu and Gen. Lundula, had gone to Albertville "to plan the assault" with Gen. McKeown, the United Nations Commander in the Congo.

Mr. Tshombe told a news conference that U.N. and Air Congo planes had flown in battalions of Central Government troops to Albertville and Kabalo.

NEHRU REFUSES TO COMMENT

NEW DELHI SHOCKED

INDIAN EMBASSY STAFF SAFE

NEW DELHI, March 2.

The news of the military coup in Burma early to-day came as a great shock and complete surprise to official circles in New Delhi.

When Prime Minister Nehru was informed of the coup by the PTI as he was coming out of his office at lunch time, he went back to his office for a few minutes.

Mr. Nehru declined to comment stating that he would not make any statement now.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman would also not say anything beyond stating that "in Burma all our Embassy staff are safe."

U NU and Mr. NEHRU

This statement is, however, taken to mean that New Delhi is in touch with the Indian Embassy in Rangoon.

According to informed circles here, Prime Minister U Nu, accompanied by General Ne Win, was to have paid a visit to India shortly. Although no date had been fixed, the invitation to the Burmese leaders was extended during the last visit of U Nu to India in January.

LEADING NEUTRAL FIGURE OF ASIA

Burma's 56-year-old Prime Minister, U Nu, became the first Prime Minister of an independent Burma in 1948. He led the country until 1956 when he resigned to devote himself to the re-organisation of the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL). the Government party.

U Nu is one of Asia's leading neutralist figures. He has always been close in his thinking and personal relationship to Mr. Nehru, the Indian Prime Minister.

U Nu's neutrality springs from his staunch Buddhist beliefs, with hatred of violence.

An example of his scrupulous neutralism was when during a visit to Peking, he praised the Americans as "courageous and generous people", and when in Washington referred to the Chinese in similar terms.

U Nu (the name means Mr. Tender) has one of the most engaging smiles of any public figure.

THANT DECLINES TO COMMENT

UNITED NATIONS, March 2.

U Thant, Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations, declined to comment to-day on the army take-over in his country, a spokesman told reporters.

U Thant was a former Secretary of the deposed Prime Minister, U Nu, and had headed Burma's delegation to the United Nations before he was chosen to succeed the late Secretary-General, Mr. Dag Hammarskjoeld.

The spokesman said the Burmese revolt did not affect U Thant's status.

DHEBAR MEETS KATJU

SITUATION IN M.P DISCUSSED

EFFORTS TO FIND NEW LEADER

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT)

BHOPAL, March 2.

Mr. U. N. Dhebar, who arrived here this morning to study the situation arising out of the serious reverse suffered by the Congress in the State in the elections, had separate discussions with the Chief Minister, Dr. K. N. Katju and Mr. Deshlehra, the P.C.C. chief.

While a detailed inquiry will be conducted into the factors that contributed to the shattering blow that befell the ruling party in Madhya Pradesh, the immediate problem is that of finding a leader capable and willing to lead the party. The Central Parliamentary Board is reported to be not in favour of persuading Dr. Katju to continue as leader and Dr. Katju himself is unwilling to fill that role. Some of the senior Ministers, however, are understood to have told Mr. Dhebar that Dr. Katju should continue to be at the helm of affairs, which they felt was essential in the present circumstances. They would appear to be confident of securing absolute majority in the Assembly with the support of some Independents.

The new Legislature Congress Party will meet on March 7.

A spokesman of the Pradesh Congress Committee to-day described as totally baseless and unfounded allegations reported to have been mad by certain quarters that the P.C.C. group had sabotaged the election of Dr. Katju (adds P.T.I.).

He told Pressmen that Dr. Katju's defeat had "certainly brought disgrace to the Congress organisation", but it was unfortunate that certain quarters were exploiting the situation by levelling "false and malicious" charges against the P.C.C. chief and the P.C.C. itself.

The spokesman was commenting on reports in some Madhya Pradesh newspapers that a prominent Congressman of Madhya Pradesh had made representations to the AICC demanding a probe into Mr. Katju's defeat and the suspension of the P.C.C. chief, Mr. Mulchand Deshlehra.

CONGRESS DEBACLE

REASONS ANALYSED

Persistent dissension among the Ministerialist and non-ministerialist groups, lack of co-ordinated effort in electioneering, activities of 'rebel' Congressmen, internal sabotage by rejected candidates and their supporters and above all want of a virile leadership must account for the shattering of the fortunes of the Congress in the elections. One feature of the results is the increase in the number of independents to 39 who include a number of Congress 'rebels' and former Rulers.

It is interesting to note that the Communist Party which has three members in the present Assembly secured only one seat in the elections and that too from Bhopal. The Jan Sangh has added substantially to its strength and has got 41 seats. The P.S.P. has also improved its position with 32 members.

EFFORTS TO MAKE DR. KATJU STAY

Prominent persons including some Ministers are persuading, Dr. Katju, who has lost in the election, to agree to lead the new Congress Parliamentary Party here. The defeat of the Chief Minister and lack of an absolute majority for the party have created a situation more complicated than what the State faced after the death of the then Chief Minister, Pandit R. S. Shukla, within two months of formation of the new Madhya Pradesh. The situation then was tackled by the sending of Dr. Katju from Delhi to take charge of affairs here.

Political analysts and some senior Congressmen attribute the defeat of Dr. Katju to "internal sabotage". Two senior Ministers have asked for an inquiry into the sabotage charge.

CONGRESS GAINS IN CALCUTTA

14 SEATS OUT OF 26 CAPTURED

COMMUNISTS IMPROVE POSITION

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT)

CALCUTTA, March 2.

The most outstanding feature of the elections that have just ended in the State of West Bengal is the coming back to power of the Congress Party with an increased majority—a gain of five seats— in the 252-member Assembly. Ironically though, the Communist Party has also increased its strength from 46 to 50 seats. The leftists alliance's much vaunted slogan of forming an alternative Government has failed to make any impression on the electorate.

The final party position is: Congress 157, CPI 50, Forward Bloc 13, RSP 7, PSP 5, Lok Sevak Sangh 4, Gorkha League 2 and Independents 14.

The present State Assembly has now been dissolved and the new Assembly will be constituted tomorrow (March 3). The Assembly Congress Party will elect its leader on March 9. It is a foregone conclusion that Dr. B. C. Roy will head the new Cabinet. The personnel of the Ministry will be announced by March 12. Three Ministers of the Cabinet and the Speaker of the Assembly have been defeated at the polls and new faces will have to be selected at least for these posts.

A significant outcome of the elections has been the complete rout of the Hindu Maha Sabha, the Jan Sangh and the Swatantra Party. At the same time, the Congress, which lost heavily in the city of Calcutta in 1957 when it obtained only eight of the 26 seats, made a grand recovery by capturing 14 seats. The Praja Socialist Party which had an impressive strength of 21 in the last Assembly has now given a poor performance, having returned only five members while it contested as many as 87 constituencies. The main reason for this is that in the current elections it refused to join hands with the leftist parties to present a united front against the Congress as it did in 1957. The votes got divided and the P.S.P. lost heavily. In fact, all the five seats it has now secured are new and the Party has failed to retain any of the 21 seats it held in the dissolved Assembly.

FORWARD BLOC

The Forward Bloc, surprisingly, did much better than in 1957 and truly the leftist alliance has benefited this party most as is evident from the fact that it has now

(Continued on page 7)

SANJIVAYYA AGREES TO STEP DOWN

SANJIVA REDDI TO FORM NEW ANDHRA CABINET

STATE LEADERS ACCEPT NEHRU'S ADVICE

From K. Rangaswami

NEW DELHI, March 2.

It has been unanimously settled that Mr. N. Sanjiva Reddi, Congress President, should be the leader of the new Congress Legislature Party in Andhra Pradesh.

The State Chief Minister, Mr. D. Sanjivayya, who arrived here last night, has agreed to step down in favour of Mr. Sanjiva Reddi, irrespective of the strength of the different groups in the party.

Mr. Sanjivayya is accompanied by Mr. Alluri Satyanarayana Raju and Mr. M. Pallam Raju, Pradesh Congress President. They met Mr. Nehru. Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri and Mrs. Indira Gandhi separately earlier in the day. Later, in the evening the Andhra leaders met Mr. Nehru, Mr. Shastri and Mrs. Gandhi together, when Mr. Sanjiva Reddi was also present. The Andhra leaders accepted Mr. Nehru's advice to work as a team. It is understood that Mr. Sanjivayya and all his colleagues have agreed to serve in Mr. Sanjiva Reddi's Cabinet.

The principal anxiety among leaders seemed to be to avoid any kind of a contest for leadership, as it would give the impression of a continuing split in the party. Moreover, there was also the feeling that after his term as Congress Presidentship, Mr. Sanjiva Reddi should be enabled to get back to his former post of Chief Minister.

The Andhra Congress Legislature Party is due to meet on March 7 to elect a leader and there is no doubt Mr. Sanjiva Reddi will be unanimously chosen.

Mr. Sanjiva Reddi will not resign the Presidentship of Congress immediately, but will continue until a successor is chosen.

COMMUNIST LEADER'S CLAIM

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT)

HYDERABAD, March 2.

Mr. N. Rajasekher Reddi, Secretary of Andhra Pradesh Council of the Communist Party of India, giving his views on election results in Andhra Pradesh said that the success of the Communist Party in the present elections would act as a check on Congress Party from taking the State in the wrong direction.

By their voting in this election the people in Andhra, he said, had judged that it was the Communist Party alone which could act as a check on the Congress Party from deviating from the path of planned development.

SUKHADIA MEETS NEHRU

NEW DELHI, March 2.

Mr. Mohan Lal Sukhadia, Chief Minister of Rajasthan, met Prime Minister Nehru here to-day and is understood to have discussed with him matters relating to the formation of a Ministry in his State.

The Congress Party in Rajasthan which won 88 seats in a House of 176, has been able to secure a majority of one with the joining of an independent candidate.

Some Punjab leaders, including Mr. Giansingh Rarewala, Giani Kartar Singh, Mr. Naranjan Singh Talib and Mr. Hansraj Sharma also called on Mr. Nehru to-day.

They are understood to have apprised Mr. Nehru of the post-election situation in the State.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

U.N. SEMINAR ENDS DISCUSSIONS

NEW DELHI, March 2.

The U.N. seminar on Freedom of Information to-day completed its consideration of all the items on the agenda—the role of Government, of the publisher and the proprietor, of the professional journalist and of the reader, Press laws and standards of journalism.

When it reassembles on Monday for its final session, the seminar is expected to adopt the report of the two rapporteurs—Mr. George Burns of New Zealand and Mr. Mohammed Sopiee of Malaya—the draft of which was circulated to participants to-day.

Prime Minister Nehru will address the closing session.

NEW MINISTRY FOR MYSORE

LEADERSHIP OF CONGRESS

PARTY MEETING ON MARCH 8

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT)

BANGALORE, March 2.

The 14-member Jatti Cabinet in Mysore has tendered its resignation. The Governor yesterday issued a notification dissolving the 208-member State Assembly.

With the Congress Party having been voted back to power in the State for the third time in succession, attention has now shifted to the question of the future leader to head the new party Government.

Mr. Jatti who returned here last night from Jamkhandi told Pressmen that a meeting of the newly-elected members of the party had been convened tentatively for March 8 afternoon in Bangalore. Mr. Jatti to-night received his Cabinet colleagues and Deputy Ministers for a farewell meeting. They had all tendered their individual resignations to him.

Mr. Nijalingappa, who is a member of the Congress Working Committee, who has left for Delhi, will presumably give the top leaders of the party an assessment of the elections in the State. He is expected to return here on March 4.

The leaders who have been defeated at the polls are the Home Minister, Mr. H. M. Channabasappa, the Local Self-Government Minister, Mr. T. Subramanyam, the Co-operation Minister, Mr. A. Mali Mariyappa, the Health Minister, Mr. K. K. Hegde, the Agriculture Minister, Mr. N. Rachiah, the Forest Minister, Mr. H. S. Rudrappa and the Public Works Minister, Mr. H. K. Veeranna Gowdh. The last two Ministers joined the Jatti Cabinet which was exanded as a sequel to the Jatti-Nijalingappa accord last year.

The spirit of concord between the two wings generated by the Jatti-Nijalingappa accord began to wear out on the eve of the elections. As the selection of party nominees for the elections was proceeding, the latent cleavage showed itself up and there were open accusations of partisanship in the choice of the candidates. Matters came to such a pitch that the Pradesh Congress Election Committee, on which both the wings were represented, could hardly reach unanimity on a large number of names until the question was settled by the Central Election Committee. The final selections evoked comments that there was once more an understanding between Mr. Jatti and Mr. Nijalingappa owing to electoral exigencies.

V.K.K. MENON IN BOMBAY

BOMBAY, March 2.

The Union Defence Minister, Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon, arrived here this morning by air from New Delhi on a three-day visit to the city.

A large crowd of men, women and children which had gathered at the Santa Cruz airport greeted the Defence Minister with shouts of "Menon Zindabad". Mr. Menon will be accorded a public reception at the Shivaji Park on Sunday, March 4.—PTI.

REDUCED MAJORITY FOR CONGRESS IN LOK SABHA

RIGHTIST PARTIES IMPROVE POSITION

NEW DELHI, March 2.

With the election of one more Union Cabinet Minister, Mr. S. K. Patil from the Bombay City South constituency to-day, all the Cabinet colleagues of Prime Minister Nehru who contested have been re-elected to the Lok Sabha in the third general elections.

The formal declaration of the election of the Union Law Minister Mr. Asoke Sen's election from the Calcutta North West Parliamentary constituency was made to-day. The election of Defence Minister Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon is expected to be announced to-morrow.

Another Cabinet Minister, Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim, a member of the Rajya Sabha, did not contest the Lok Sabha elections.

While Mr. A. C. Guha, sitting Congress M.P. and former Minister of State at the Centre, was returned to the Lok Sabha from a West Bengal constituency, Mr. Nardeo, another sitting M.P. from Hathras constituency, Uttar Pradesh, was unseated by Mr. Koti Swaroop (Republican).

Several Communist M.Ps. were re-elected to the Lok Sabha to-day from West Bengal, including Mrs. Renu Chakravartty, Mr. Indrajit Gupta and Mohammad Ilias.

With the declaration of further results, it became evident to-day that the ruling Congress Party would have a reduced majority in the new Lok Sabha and other parties a corresponding accretion of strength.

Thus, with only 28 results remaining to be declared to the 494 elected seats of the Lok Sabha, the Congress has secured 338 seats so far as against 128 obtained by other parties and Independents. The Congress Party's strength in the outgoing house is 375.

In the elections to the Lok Sabha from Mysore, Congress has captured 25 seats out of 26.

The other seat went to an Independent, Mr. Shivamurthyswamy, President of the Lok Sevak Sangh

In the 1957 elections, the Congress had won 23 seats.

P.S.P.'S REDUCED STRENGTH

As regards other parties, the P.S.P. has gained only 10 seats so far as against its present strength of 16 in the outgoing Lok Sabha, while the Jan Sangh and the Swatantra Parties improved their positions by obtaining 15 and 17 seats respectively. In the present House, the Jan Sangh has six members and the Swatantra, nine.

The Communists had secured 27 seats till now as against 30 in the present House.

The Communist Party has won both the Lok Sabha seats from the Union Territory of Tripura.

Mr. Birendra Dutta (C.P.I.) was declared elected from the Tripura

(Continued on page 7)

PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA

NEW DELHI, March 2.

Total elective seats: 494.
Total results declared: 469.
Congress 338.
Communists 29.
P.S.P. 10
Jan Sangh 15
Swatantra 18
Socialists 5.
Republicans 3.
Hindu Mahasabha 1
Ramrajya Parishad 2
Forward Bloc 2.
Jharkhand 3.
D.M.K. 7
Ganatantra Parishad 4.
Akali Dal 3.
Muslim League 2.
Independents and others 27.

ELECTION SCORE BOARD

PARTY POSITION AT 2 A.M.

LOK SABHA

	Seats	Results*	C.	Com.	PSP	Swat.	JS	DMK	Others	Ind.
Andhra	43	43	34	7		1				1
Assam	12	12	9		2					1
Bihar	53	25	17	1		7				
Gujarat	22	22	16		1	4				1
Kerala	18	18	6	6					3	3
Maharashtra	44	35	32		1				1	1
M.P.	36	36	24		3		3		2	4
Madras	41	41	31	2				7	1	
Mysore	26	26	25							1
Orissa	20	20	15		1				4	
Punjab	22	21	13				3		4	1
Rajasthan	22	22	14			3	1		1	3
U.P.	86	82	58	2	2	3	7		5	5
W. Bengal	36	35	22	8					3	2
Total (Including Union Territories)	494									

ASSEMBLY

State	Seats	Results*	C.	Com.	PSP	Swat.	JS	DMK	Others	Ind
Andhra	300	299	176	51		19			2	51
Assam	105	105	79		6				12	8
Bihar	318	318	185	12	29	50	3		27	12
Gujarat	154	154	113		7	26				8
Kerala	—									
Maharashtra	264	263	214	6	9				19	15
M.P.	288	288	142	1	33	2	41		** 30	39
Madras	206	205	138	2		6		50	*4	5
Mysore	208	208	138	3	20	9			1	37
Orissa	—									
Punjab	154	151	89	9		3	8		¶ 23	19
Rajasthan	176	176	88	5	2	36	15		8	22
U.P.	430	428	248	14	38	15	48		34	31
W. Bengal	252	252	157	50	5				26	14
Total (Including Union Territories)	2956									

Union Territories					
	—				
Delhi	5	5	5		
Himachal	41				
Manipur	4				
Tripura	30				
	2				
	2				

C. — Congress; Com. — Communist Party; PSP — Praja Socialist Party; JS — Jan Sangh, Swat. — Swatantra Party; DMK — Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Ind. — Independents.

* Results announced so far. ** Socialists 14; Ram Rajya Parishad 10; Hindu Maha Sabha 6. Akalis 19; Socialists 4.

* Forward Bloc 3. Socialists 1.

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3rd day. OF MARCH
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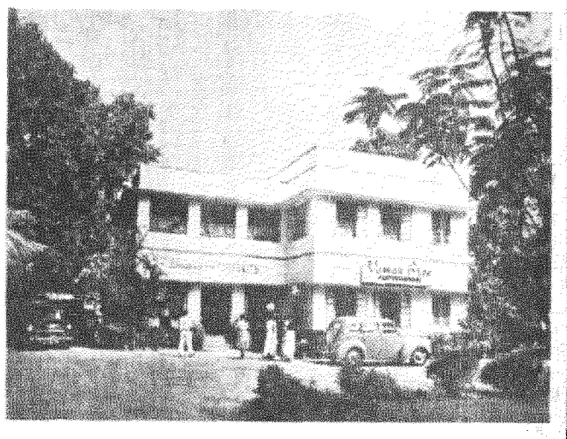
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