

Burmese Ruling Junta's stance towards Armed Resistance troops after the commemoration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Wa peace building on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2009

Wa met with SPDC in Tangyan of Lashio Township with an attempt to assess the **Regime information** on the recent Wa military parade to mark the 20th Anniversary of Wa Resistance day against BCP (Burma Communist Party) and to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Wa peace building in Parng Sarng, the Wa Headquarter on 17th April, 2009. Some News Agency reported: the meeting took place immediately after the Wa commemoration due to the cause of the assembly of all stripe Ethnic resistance groups with a special close door meeting at the Wa Ceremony's place and due to the reason of the upcoming General election 2010 that would be hosted by SPDC.

While watching Wa Troop marching on the ground, one of SPDC Generals shouted, **“the days of armed peace must be over and this is the last step of marching for Wa group”**. Some hinted “such a military marching made Burma's ruling junta touchier and lost conscience to the truce with most of the armed opposition groups since 1989.”

In the meeting, Lt-Gen Ye Myint put forwards new conditions: **The Wa shall report a full inventory of strength, weapons units, and a list of members to retire. The Burma Army also dropped a sweet word for them that Tadmadaw would “assist” in the reorganization of the Wa forces and the responsibility of WA's maintenance till stability.** Xiao Minliang, the “Wa State Government” Vice President and head of the Wa delegation replied that a response could be made only after consultations among Wa leaders. However, on the reason of the reorganization within 6 months planned by SPDC, Wa shall have a decision for the response by the end of June. The delegation got back in Panghsang on 28 April, and rumoured that the Wa would take the Regime's ultimatum into serious consideration in their next general meeting.

Apart from the meeting in Tangyan, simultaneously, the ruling's Junta also held a meeting with Shan State Army (SSA) North and National Democratic Alliance Army (NDAA) but details are declined to be publicised. The peculiar hint is that Ruling Junta Party will no longer insist that Resistance Groups exchange arms for peace.

Ye Myint also met representatives from the Karenni Nationalities Peoples Liberation Front (KNPLF) in Loikaw on 27 April. In the meeting, he insisted that the group register its men, weapons and units with the Burma Army and the Burma Army would be responsible for the salaries starting the end of June.

However, the response of all the arms resistance groups seems relying on Wa decision while Wa in turn is waiting for what China's reaction to the new conditions set up by SPDC during Thein Sein staged a diplomatic campaign with PRC. Some political analysts said “it is now a turn for China to play an important role on Burmese

issue between peace keeping groups and Regime's Generals." Earlier, a senior Chinese official was reported that the groups need not surrender their arms.

Whatever matter is, Border Observers believed that Beijing would make sure that Chinese interests are not affected in the new military-form transition.

The scenario of Wa military parade on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2009 became a motivation for



Regime to speed up negotiation with Armed Resistance Groups for the stability of their power. This time, regime came to negotiation table with Armed Resistance Groups with another tactical tricks that

**all armed ethnic ceasefire troops would not be forced to surrender arms for peace but to incorporate Tadmadaw as a Border Security Guard under the form of coalition military troops provide security along the border where each group belong to after 2010 election.**

Under this tricky plan, a border guard battalion would consist of 326 troops including 18 officers and three commanders with the rank of major. Each battalion would have appointed two majors from ceasefire groups, one major from the Tatmadaw in charge of administration, and a general staff officer and quartermaster officer with the rank of captain drawn from the Tatmadaw while Company commanders in each battalion would be drawn from ceasefire groups. 27 soldiers in other ranks, such as company sergeant majors, sergeant clerks, nurses, etc., would be drawn from Tatmadaw forces. Salary for the border forces would be the same to soldiers in the Tatmadaw.

In the plan's outline, it was noted that border guard troops could only be mobilized in areas within their own territory under the command of the Tatmadaw during the "beginning period."

The military plans to form three committees to coordinate the transition of the ceasefire groups. Various Regional Level Transition Working Committees will be chaired by Tatmadaw regional commanders. This is the policy related to the 2008 Constitution, which is acceptable to majority consent from the last year referendum across the country.

The constitution provides that in ceasefire group controlled areas, referred to as self-administered divisions or self-administered zones, the local administrative bodies can legislate for civil issues such as urban and rural projects; construction and maintenance of roads and bridges; public health; developmental affairs; prevention of fire hazards; maintenance of pastures; conservation and preservation of forests; preservation of the natural environment; water and electricity issues; and market matters relating to towns and villages.

Under the constitution, the military can assign duties relating to security and border affairs in self-administered zones (ceasefire areas). One-quarter of the

administrators of self-administered zones (ceasefire areas) will be made up of military officers appointed by the commander-in-chief of the Tatmadaw.

Still now, Ceasefire groups have made no official statements in regard to the plan of incorporation.