

## မွန် ကရင် ပူးတွဲကျေငြာချက်၊ ဖါပွန်

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE MON PEOPLES' FRONT

AND

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE KAWTHOOLEI GOVERNING BODY.

In order to give full and unequivocal expression to the close and abiding unity of our Mon and Karen peoples in our common struggle against the Government of the Union of Burma, the Executive Council of the Mon Peoples' Front and the Executive Council of The Kawthoolei Governing Body hereby in this 'JOINT STATEMENT' solemnly re-affirm our mutual faith and common objective.

from time immemorial, our Mon and Karen peoples have always been close neighbours enjoying common pastures and the bonds of brotherhood which, through weal or woe, have stood the test of time. After the Second World War, the common urge for greater self-expression in our two peoples resolved itself into a common determination to acquire Independent Sovereign States - a fact which, in tangible forms strengthened the existing ties of our two peoples.

Consequential from this common determination, the publication of a signed agreement was the outcome of the Karen Congress held at Moulmein in October 1947 at which Mon Leaders were present.

This agreement signed by Mon Leaders and Karen Leaders headed by the Karen National Leader, the late Saw Ba U Gyi was to the effect:-

- (1) That the achievement of Sovereign Independence was to be a 'Joint Effort' within Constitutional Means.
- (2) That Failing Constitutional methods and if driven to it, the Mon people and the Karen people will without hesitation and in a united effort lay down their lives for the fulfilment of their common objective.
- (3) That No. separate agreement, whatsoever, was to be signed by either the Mon people or the Karen people without the knowledge and consent of the other.
- (4) That in this common avowed purpose, all shall enjoy equal rights and privileges.

Not long after the signing of this agreement events transpired to bring out the intransigent attitude of Thakin Nu's Government in the stern and suppressive measures it adopted towards our Mon and Karen peoples with the resultant repercussion in the form of widespread incidents of unrest and agitation.

Realising the irrepressible force that lay behind the Mon and Karen demands, coupled with the Arakanese demand which could not and would not be thwarted in any way, Premier Thakin Nu, posing an attitude of sincerity in order to gain time, set about forming a Regional Autonomy Enquiry Commission which came into being in October, 1948.

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At that time the Karens had submitted to Thakin Nu's Govt., a demand for a Karen Independent State comprising:- (a) The Tenasserim Division including Toungoo District (b) The Irrawaddy Division (c) Hanthawaddy District (d) Insein District, and (e) Nyaunglebein Sub-Division. This demand had been made without any prejudice to the demand of the Mon people to which effect the Mon Leaders, in token of mutual understanding were also signatories to this demand made by the Karen people.

In the Mon demand for a Sovereign Independent State made to Thakin Nu's Government comprising:- (a) The Tenasserim Division (b) Pegu Division and (c) The Irrawaddy Division, the Karen Leaders, also in token of mutual understanding that this demand would in no way prejudice the demand of the Karen people, likewise were signatories to the demand made by the Mon people.

This resultant cementing of age-old existing ties and the unexpected joint demands of our two peoples, the Mons and the Karens, drove Thakin Nu to resorting to political chicanery and clever subterfuges that made it utterly impossible for the achievement of our common objective through Constitutional means thereby opening up avenues through which Thakin Nu in purposeful attempts has been mis-representing the true facts to the world, minimising the seriousness of the Mon and the Karen situation in Burma in a ruthless propaganda drive to alienate world opinion and sympathy from our two peoples.

The Mon people for their part, in order to counteract this vicious propaganda of Thakin Nu's Government and to retrieve what had once by rights been theirs - a people, a country and a Government in submersion for almost two centuries - have formed the 'Provisional Government of Monland' on the 27th March, 1953 to achieve this cherished ideal - the restoration of the Government of a land that had long belonged to their forefathers. To this end, the Mon People in a united and concerted effort with the Karen People have worked shoulder to shoulder to prove to the world the sincerity of their belief, their desire and the circumstances that necessitated this common belief in and desire for the attainment of Sovereign Independence.

Therefore, through the medium of this 'JOINT STATEMENT' of the Executive Council of the Mon Peoples' Front and the Executive Council of the Kawthoolei Governing Body, we, the Mon and the Karen Peoples wish to make it known to the world that:-

(1) We respect and recognise the individual rights of self-determination.

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(2) Each of our peoples have our respective governments co-operating on an equal footing.

(3) The relationship of our respective governments is sincere and wholesome and that despite Thakin Nu's attempt to drive a wedge between our two peoples, we are more than ever united, fighting shoulder to shoulder.

(4) We are, in unity, determined not to lose sight of the common goal until its final achievement.

In conclusion, this 'JOINT STATEMENT' of the Executive Council of the Mon Peoples' Front and the Executive Council of the Kawthoolei Governing Body calls upon all Mons and Karens from all parts of Burma to have firm faith in the cause for which we are now fighting, namely a Free Country where we can enjoy equal Rights and Privileges and True Peace and Prosperity.

This 'JOINT STATEMENT' calls upon all Mons and Karens wherever they may be to fearlessly and unswervingly give their full support to the work which has been outlined by our leaders and on which laid-out lines we shall strictly adhere to.

Dated the 6th July, 1953.

Executive Council,  
The Mon Peoples' Front.

Executive Council,  
The Kawthoolei Governing  
Body.