



Speaking Notes: Hayden F. Burguess

Through: Pacific & Asia Council of Indigenous Peoples PACIP

On behalf of: Kachin Independent Organization Brang Seng
Member : National Democratic Front

Agenda Item : Review of Development

A Forced Labour of Indigenous Peoples--National Gorit Forces Indigenous Peoples' members to perform military activities

E.g. Summer 1987

14,000 persons from the Myitkyina-Waimaw region rounded up and forced to act as as porters for Burmese army into indigenous controlled territories.

These people carry the food supply and weapons for the Burmese soldiers. If too weak to perform work, abandoned or as if more often the case, killed.

Used as human mine sweepers, walking ahead of Burmese troops when in territories hostile to them.

Used as human shields when in open hostilities, forced to walk in front of Burmese shoulders who use them as their protective shield.

Recently some shans from the Hopin region was able to escape and tell their stories of such forced marches, torture, lack of food and medicines on them.

B Science and Technology Abuse

Science and technology are employed to detract from the course of respect of humanity:

I E.g. herbicidal spraying over Indigenous territories

Chemical compound 2-4D, a component of the dreaded "orange agent" found to be carcinogenic by epidemiological studies conducted in Sweden and the United States of America.

This chemical is used in a spraying programme under the guise of carrying out a war against drugs.

Spraying programs are accomplished in the following steps:

WGIP 88/SEA-MMR/2

1. Cleaning the area of people
 - a. Indigenous peoples are rounded up if any not rounded up are sprayed upon.
2. Spraying from 1,000 feet high:

No ability to pinpoint spraying. Wind carry spray to result in indiscriminate spraying.

Destruction of all crops, of livestock, of humans.

Specific example -- Kengtung area of the Shan State.

2-4D is biodegradable, in a few days when acted upon by pseudomonas bacteria found largely in hot tropical climates, soils.

But in indigenous areas, high mountains, cool, the pseudomonas is not readily present.

Thus, 2-4D remains up to a year, making these territories inhabitable.

II High velocity anti personnel mines paths as well as fields and villages are seeded with these mines into and out of indigenous areas.

Indigenous peoples injured are quickly affected by gangrene and infection.

Amputation of the extremities is required for even the very minor injuries of death results.

Two theories for this new phenomena:

1. Mines contain poison to infect the victim immediately; or
2. Extremely high velocity of shrapnel cause micro vascular damages -- shock wave effect.

C Ethnocide:

"Burmanization" program to integrate all peoples into Burmans. Seventy different groups in a rich diversity of human culture and experience are being lost to humanity.

E.g. Only one official language -- Burman. No other state languages are official anymore.

E.g. Education -- only Burman history, Burman culture, Burman world view is taught.

D Liant Developed Country Status "LDC" status:

Abuse: More than 50 per cent of national budget supports military
suggestions: Required aid to LDC country

1. Non-military use.
2. End all hostilities against indigenous people.
3. Hold contributors equally responsible for abuse of contributions
as the national governments of receiving states.

Positive Development: National Democratic Front (NDF) wants peace,
and they request:

1. Peace negotiations between national government and NDF.
2. Negotiate in neutral territory or country.
3. International oversight.

Peace -- Not the peace of death, of loss of identity, of loss of
dignity, of land, etc.

But the peace of justice, of equality of mutual respect, of unity in
diversity.