

A STUDY ON THE PERIODICALS OF THE BUREAU OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATION (BSI) (Vol. IV, No. 1 – 12) FROM HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

Though the newly independent Myanmar had to deal with the tasks of reconstruction and development of the country in postwar era, it faced with instabilities in various aspects for several reasons. By taking advantages of these instabilities, some of the power holding politicians, civil servants and businessmen committed briberies and corruptions. Their misconducts caused the loss of public properties and finances seriously. In order to prevent this situation, the government extended the already formed Public Property Protection Police (PPPP) to the Bureau of Special Investigation (BSI) in 1951. With the aim of informing the people about the endeavours of BSI in protecting the public properties and finances from the misuse of corrupted persons, its administration board started to publish a monthly periodical in January 1954. This paper is an attempt to disclose the endeavours of BSI in safeguarding the public properties and finances as well as part of the history of BSI that reflects the history of the country in early years of independence by studying the available issues of BSI periodicals that published in 1958.

Keywords: Misuse of Public Property and Public Finance, Endeavours of BSI, History of BSI

Introduction

When Myanmar gained independence in 1948, Prime Minister U Nu instructed to form the Public Property Protection Police (PPPP)¹ that affiliated to the Burma (Myanmar) Police Force and assigned it to safeguard the public properties and finances from the embezzlement of corrupted responsible persons. While the country faced with the instabilities in many aspects for several reasons in its early years of independence, however, dishonest ones from the political circle, public services and business firms committed briberies and corruptions by making good use of the instabilities. In order to deal with this situation effectively, Prime Minister U Nu decided to upgrade the PPPP to be a highly authorized body. He proposed the “Special Investigation Administration Board and Bureau of Special Investigation Bill” at the Parliament on 4 October 1951 and the latter approved it as an Act. According to this Act, PPPP became a separate body with the new name of the Bureau of Special Investigation (BSI). U Nu himself acted as the Patron of the Special Investigation Administration Board and he assigned U Chan Tha (ICS) as the Chairman of the board. Since its inception, the BSI faced with both welcoming and criticizing by the optimists and pessimists. The optimists welcomed the formation of BSI with the belief that it would be able to eliminate effectively the corrupted ones from the political, public service and business circles by utilizing the authority which vested to it in accordance with the provisions of the Act. On the other hand, the pessimists criticized the BSI by predicting that U Nu would utilize it as a tool to suppress the political opponents and the ones who defined against his authority. The BSI that emerged amongst such optimistic and pessimistic views, nevertheless, carried out its assigned tasks by using accurately the authority that bestowed to it by the Act. In order to inform the endeavours of the BSI to the people, moreover, the Administration Board of BSI started to publish the BSI periodicals since 4 January 1954 as a monthly issue.

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¹ This police branch was termed in abbreviation 4Ps by the newspaper at first. Then the government itself came to use this abbreviation in mentioning it.

Nowadays, those periodicals are rare to be found and hence difficult to find out the complete set of collections. Among them, No. 1 to 12 of Volume. IV that published from January to December of 1958 are available. By studying them, the endeavours of the BSI to protect the public properties and finances from misuses; guidance to its members to follow the code of conduct in undertaking their duties; dissemination of working knowledge to its members for practical use as well as its historical events that reflect the history of the country in the early years of independence are discussed in this paper. The editor, publisher, authors, regular sections, size and layout of the periodicals are also described as the background information.

Editor, Publisher and Cover Illustration

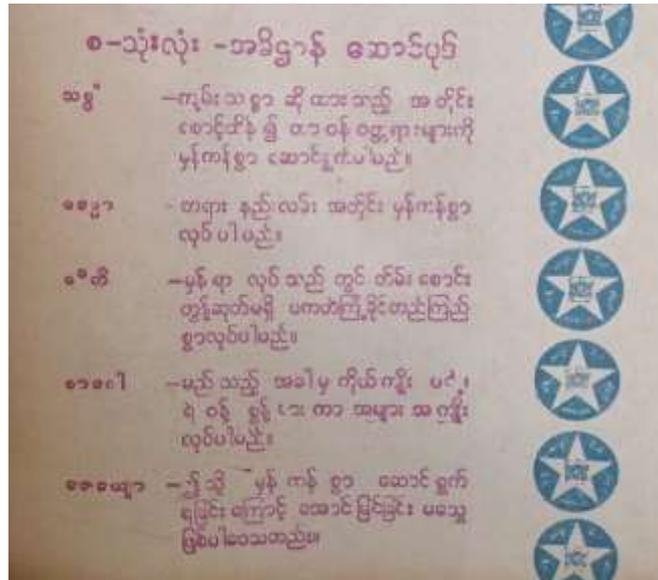
The BSI periodical that published with the Registration No. R. 252 is in fact a monthly issue like the magazines though it is named periodical. Among the available periodicals that published in 1958, it describes at the bottom of the back cover of Vol. IV, No. 1 that the periodical is edited and published by Thiri Pyanchi U Than Tint; director of the Special Investigation Administration Board. But at the same place of the later issues (Vol. IV, No. 2 to 12), it describes that it is edited and published by author Dagon Hla Pe on behalf of Special Investigation Administration Board. One distinctive thing about the front cover of 1958 issues is that the same illustration of artist U Ba Kyi is used for all issues with different colours with the exception of Vol. IV, No. 2. The illustration depicts a commander in the military uniform of monarchical time rides a horse in front of the Independence Memorial Pillar of Yangon downtown. He holds the flag mast of the Union of Burma (Myanmar) in his right hand and a shield that bears the motto oath of BSI “Thitsan, Dhamman, Dhiti, Sargaw, Zeyaw” (Oath of allegiance, Abiding the law, Conducting the tasks without shrinking, Maintenance of altruism, Gaining victory) in his left hand.¹ U Ba Kyi depicts this illustration with clear and strong lines.² At the front cover of Vol. IV, No. 2, it describes the same theme with the illustration of artist U Ohn Lwin that depicts the pictures in lights and shades. Moreover, U Ohn Lwin draws the name of periodical “Sa Thone Lone” (Myanmar language abbreviation of BSI) by mixing small and big sized characters at the upper part of the illustration though U Ba Kyi draws clearly those characters in the same size to each other.³ In comparing two kinds of front cover illustrations, U Ba Kyi’s illustration and character drawing are stronger and clearer than U Ohn Lwin’s. Based on this fact, it can be assumed that the editor and publisher of the periodical may choose U Ba Kyi’s illustration for the front cover of the rest ten issues. On the other hand, one distinctive thing about the back cover of the periodicals is that the same excerpt from the writing of Letya San Htar (a pen name of board Chairman U Chan Tha) which warns that the bribery and corruption would destroy the country; is described repeatedly for all twelve issues.⁴

¹ Original explanation of this Motto Oath is described in page 4.

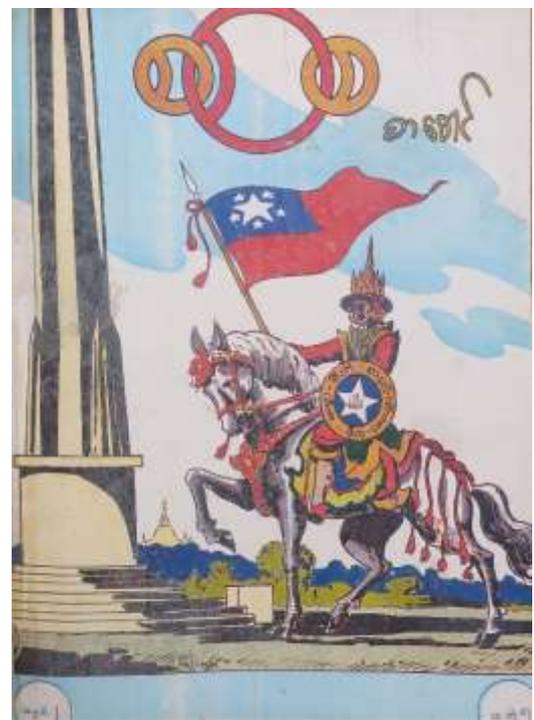
² Though the explanatory note for that illustration is not described, it can be assumed that the commander represents the BSI and he safeguards the independence of the country.

³ Front covers of the periodicals are described in comparison in page 4.

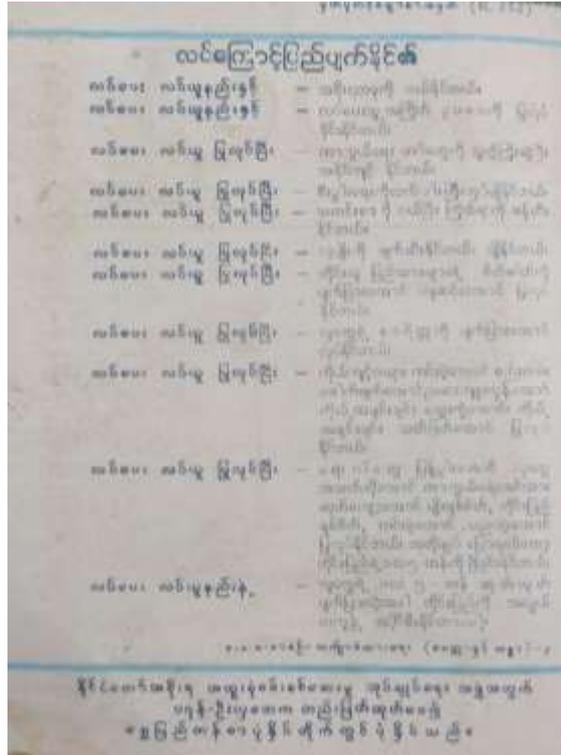
⁴ Sample of that excerpt is described in page 5.



Explanation for the Motto Oath of BSI (BSI Periodical, Vol. IV, No. 12, Supplementary page)



Comparison of Front Covers of the BSI Periodicals Vol. IV, No. 1 and 2
(Front Cover of the rest ten issues are the same with No. 1)



Back Cover of the BSI Periodicals Vol. IV, No. 1 - 12
 (Describe the same extract for all periodicals)

Size, Inner Layout and Regular Sections of the Periodicals

Size of the periodicals is 18 cm × 23 cm and it is similar to the size of other magazines that published at that time. Concerning the pages of the periodicals, No. 1 to 12 of Vol. IV are over 100 pages for the thinnest issue and over 150 pages for thickest issue respectively. Number of copies for distribution are 3,000 copies for the fewest issue and 5,000 copies for richest issue. In comparison with its contemporary magazines like Shumawa, Ngwe Taryee, etc., inner layout of this periodical is lesser in describing illustrations and photographs to support the articles and short stories. But the editor decorates the inner layout of the periodicals with clear cut and attractive ways. For example, headings of the articles and name of authors are described in big sized bold letters. The headings and author names of short stories use to be described in illustrator’s handwritings and one or two colour illustrations. Regular sections of the periodical are Editorial, Sub-editorial, Articles, Travelogues, Short Stories, BSI Detective Stories and Humours. Occasionally, Photo Essays on the special events of the BSI are also included in the periodicals. One peculiar thing about the regular sections, it does not include poetry section though the prewar magazines like Dagon, Thuriya and Myanmar Ah-swe and postwar magazines like Shumawa, Thwei Thauk and Ngwe Taryee use to include this section splendidly.

The Authors who wrote for this Periodical

As No. 1 of Vol. IV is the special new year issue, it can be seen that the famous authors like Zeya, Zaw Gyi, Min Thu Wun and Dagon U Hla Pe wrote articles and short stories in this issue. But the writings of outside authors could not be found in the following issues that published from February to December. In those issues, the inside persons of Special Investigation Administration Board and BSI senior staff wrote articles, short stories, travelogues and BSI

detective stories with the pennames of Letwé Min Nyo, Ireland Kyaw, Phoe Thar Aung, Mon Razu, Taw Pan Gale, Pay Si, Myet Hman, Moe Hnin, Myo Myint Yan Naung, etc. Sometimes they also wrote articles by using their original names. In No. 12 of Vol. IV, the honorary revelation which expresses the fact that who use which pen name in writing articles and stories for the periodicals is described.¹ With the exception of the writings of those inside persons, the writings of two famous authors of prewar Myanmar: Ledi Pandita U Maung Gyi (died in 1939) and Theikpan Maung Wa (died in 1942) are included in the periodicals too. The articles of Ledi Pandita U Maung Gyi which had been described in Dagon Magazine and those of Theikpan Maung Wa which had been described in Ganda Law Ka and Kyee Pwa Yei Magazines are reprinted in the periodicals. U Maung Gyi's articles urge the people especially the youth to maintain moral characters in conducting their professions. Theikpan Maung Wa's (ICS U Sein Tin) articles reveal his administrative experiences as a Sub-divisional Officer and travelogues in prewar days. As a commentary for the whole periodical, it can be said that it describes several sections excluding poetry and those sections aim not only at informing the endeavours of BSI to the people but also at entertaining the readers with the mixture of knowledge and aesthetic tastes. Of them, the writings on the endeavours of BSI and its historical events would be extracted and discussed.

Writings on the Endeavours of BSI and Upgrading the Capacity of its Staff

The Editorials and Sub-editorials of BSI periodical use to inform the people that the BSI is carrying out the task of protecting public properties and finances from the danger of dishonest persons. They also lay stress on the fact that the staff of BSI are applying precisely the authorities that vested to them in accordance with the provisions of the Special Investigation Administration Board and Bureau of Special Investigation Act. Sometimes, the Editorial reminds the BSI staff to pay attention to follow exactly the code of conduct that prescribed by the administration board in undertaking their duties.

In one Editorial, it mentions that Special Investigation Administration Board Chairman U Chan Tha wrote a series of articles in relations with administrative and political matters of the country by using the pen name Letya San Htar in the previous periodicals.² But in the periodicals that published in 1958, it does not find out Letya San Htar's such administrative and political writings. Instead, U Chan Tha uses another pen name: Letwé Min Nyo and wrote a series of articles about Myanmar literature, art and culture.

Among the regular sections of the periodical, ex-member of Special Investigation Administration Board U Pu (B.A., B.L) (later the director of Civil Service Board) wrote a series of articles named “စ, သုံးလုံး ဥပဒေအလင်းပြ” (**Elucidatory on BSI Act**) by using the penname of Moon Razu. In these articles, the author explained the provisions of BSI Act and Regulations in short and clearcut ways. According to these provisions, he also explained how the actions could be taken on the ones who made forgeries of government contract agreements, counterfeit import licenses and faked telegraph letters; as well as the ones who violated the trust of government and embezzled the public properties. He also explained how the responsible bodies of other countries

¹ *BSI Periodical*, Vol. IV, No. 12, Supplementary page which describes the list of honorary writers

² “Editorial”, *BSI Periodical*, Vol. IV, No. 12, p. Supplementary. F

(i.e., in England and Germany) take actions on such felonies with comparative views.¹ These articles likely to aim at educating the BSI staff in taking actions on the dishonest ones by using effectively the authorities that vested to them in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Moreover, these articles reveal that how the dishonest persons attempted to misuse the public properties and finances with devious means in the early years of independence of the country.

In connection with such misuses of public properties and finances, Deputy Director of BSI Wunna Kyaw Htin U Par Kyin wrote BSI Detective Stories by using the penname of Myo Myint Yan Naung. Board Chairman U Chan Tha makes a remark that Myo Myint Yan Naung's detective stories based on true events that dealt with by the BSI staff in practical fields. In his detective story named “ကြုံလေ ဘုံမွေ” (**An Experience that faced with in the Complex World of Existence**), Myo Myint Yan Naung explained how a gang of liars tried to misuse the public properties and finances by using counterfeit import licenses. He also explained how the BSI staff tried to investigate the case and made great effort to catch the gang members.² His other detective story named “အောင်ဘာလေ” (**Aung Bar Lay**), the author explained how a gang of liars that based in *Ranong* of Thailand tried to withdraw public finances of Myanmar by forging the lottery tickets that issued by the government of Myanmar. He also explains the persistent efforts of BSI staff to reveal this forgery case in order to protect the public finances, in four consecutive issues of BSI periodicals.³ These BSI Detective Stories disclose the endeavours of BSI staff in protecting the public properties and finances as well as the seriousness of the danger of domestic and transnational gangs that tried to steal the public finances in post-independence Myanmar in 1950s.

The one who converted from colonial police service to BSI staff, U Tin Nyunt: retired BSI officer, wrote his memoirs named “ကျွန်တော် မှတ်မိပါသေးသည်” (**I still remember**) in No. 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 of Vol. IV. with the penname, Pay Si. In these articles, the author wrote his firsthand experiences as a junior and mid-level police officer in colonial and postwar eras. He uses to inform the devious means of the felons and their misfortunes in facing with the law enforcers. He also reminds the law enforcement officers to use their intelligence and ability in dealing with the cases that assigned to them. His most important reminder is that the law enforcers must follow accurately their code of conduct in carrying out their duties.⁴ By seeing this, it can be assumed that the retired BSI officer likely to give a take home message to his juniors about the importance of following the code of conduct in undertaking their tasks for the protection of public properties and finances.

A senior BSI officer, U Soe Nyunt wrote a series of articles under the name of “အငြင်းပွားစာချုပ်စာတမ်း စစ်ဆေးခြင်းအကြောင်း” (**Investigating the Controversial Contract**

¹ Moon Razu, “စ.သုံးလုံးဥပဒေအလင်းပြ” “Elucidatory on BSI Act”, *BSI Periodicals*, Vol. IV, No. 1, pp. 78 – 79, No. 2, pp. 87 – 88, No. 3, pp. 27 – 28, No. 4, pp. 49 – 50, No. 5, pp. 73 – 74, No. 6, pp. 95 – 96, No. 7, pp. 82 – 83, No. 8, pp. 60 – 61, No. 9, pp. 103 – 104, No. 10, pp. 108 – 109, No. 11, pp. 109 – 111, No. 12, pp. 103 – 105

² Myo Myint Yan Naung, “စ.သုံးလုံးစုံထောက်ဝတ္ထု ကြုံလေ ဘုံမွေ” “BSI Detective Story: An Experience that faced with in the Complex World of Existence”, *BSI Periodical*, Vol. IV, No.2, pp. 116 – 134

³ Myo Myint Yan Naung, “စ.သုံးလုံးစုံထောက်ဝတ္ထု အောင်ဘာလေ” :BSI Detective Story: Aung Bar Lay, *BSI Periodical*, Vol. IV, No. 9, pp. 112 – 114, No. 10, pp. 71 – 83, No. 11, pp. 80 – 98, No. 12, pp. 89 – 102

⁴ Pay Si, “ကျွန်တော် မှတ်မိပါသေးသည်” “I still remember”, *BIS Periodicals*, Vol. IV, No. 1, pp. 85 – 89, No. 2, pp. 111 – 114, No. 3, pp. 116 – 123, No. 5, pp. 43 – 48, No. 6, pp. 41 – 46

Agreement) by using his original name. In these articles, he explained in details that how can technically examine the counterfeit contract agreements and forgery handwritings which included in those agreements. But he did not write these articles consecutive in the periodicals and those are found occasionally.¹ By seeing the detailed explanations and technical terms that used in his articles, the author may not intend to give knowledge to the general readers, but likely to educate the fellow staff of BSI who have to deal with the cases of such controversial contract agreement. U Soe Nyunt also wrote another article that named “လက်ရေး၊ စက်ရေး လိမ်လည်ရေးခြင်းများ စုံစမ်းနည်း” **(Investigating means for the forgeries with handwriting and typewriting)** with the penname of Theingi Kyei. Like his other articles, the author explained technically step by step how to investigate and reveal the forgeries that used counterfeit handwriting and typewriting in this article.² By seeing the writing style and expressions of U Soe Nyunt (Theingi Kyei), it can be assumed that these articles do not intend to general readers, but just aim at enriching the knowledge and qualification of the BSI staff for their practical works.

Another BSI senior officer: U Pe Han wrote articles about the administrative and religious matters of Konbaung period based on the royal orders with the penname of Myet Hman. The author describes in the introductory part of these articles that he found accidentally the palm-leaf manuscripts and parabaiks of these royal orders in his work trips as a BSI officer. He said, he believed that the instructions which include in these royal orders are still useful in the context of modern time and should be followed by law enforcers like the staff of BSI, police force and administrative department of independent Myanmar. Hence, he said, he wrote these articles with the purpose of knowledge sharing to the fellow staff. In his articles, the author explains about the royal orders of Konbaung period especially those of King Mindon that instructed the administrative and judicial officers to stick to their code of conduct in dealing with their duties.³ In accordance with the introduction part of these articles, the author intends to urge the fellow officers of law enforcement field not only to follow the present laws but also to keep in mind the instructions of Myanmar kings in dealing with their tasks. In fact, such intention would be too difficult to be achieved in practice. Anyway, it should be acknowledged the good intention of the author.

The above-mentioned articles and detective stories reveal the fact that how BSI endeavoured for the protection of public properties and finances with great efforts. They also disclose the facts that the BSI Administration Board members and BSI senior officials paid attention to educate their staff to utilize precisely the authorities that bestowed to them by the

¹ U Soe Nyunt, “အငြင်းပွားစာချုပ်စာတမ်း စစ်ဆေးခြင်းအကြောင်း” “Investigating the Controversial Contract Agreement”, *BSI Periodicals*, Vol. IV, No. 1, pp. 25 – 29, No. 2, pp. 57 – 60, No. 12, pp. 67 – 69

² Theingi Kyei, “လက်ရေး၊ စက်ရေး လိမ်လည်ရေးခြင်းများ စုံစမ်းနည်း” “Investigating means for the forgeries with handwriting and typewriting”, *BSI Periodical*, Vol. IV, No. 4, pp. 62 – 65

³(a) Myet Hman, “မင်းတုန်းမင်းလက်ထက် မြို့ဝန်လိုက်နာမှုများ” “Rules had to be followed by Myowuns during the reign of King Mindon”, *BSI Periodical*, Vol. IV, No. 3, pp. 89 – 94

(b) Myet Hman, “မင်းတုန်းမင်းလက်ထက် တရားမမှု ပြဌာန်းပိုင်းခြားချက် ဥပဒေများ” “Prescriptions of Laws on the Civil Cases during the Reign of King Mindon”, *BSI Periodical*, Vol. IV, No. 6, pp. 7 – 8

(c) Myet Hman, “မင်းတုန်းမင်းလက်ထက် ပြဌာန်းသော ခရိုင်ဝန်တို့ စောင့်ထိန်းရန်ဥပဒေများ” “Laws that described to be followed by the District Officers during the reign of King Mindon”, *BSI Periodical*, Vol. IV, No. 8, pp. 17 – 19

(d) Myet Hman, “မင်းတုန်းမင်းလက်ထက် ပြဌာန်းသောဥပဒေ” “Law that prescribed during the reign of King Mindon”, *BSI Periodical*, Vol. IV, No. 9, pp. 59 – 61

Act, to follow code of conduct in undertaking their duties, and to enrich their knowledge and upgrade their qualification for their practical use. By seeing those factors, moreover, it can be assumed that responsible persons of BSI tried their best to prove the negative predictions of the pessimists about their bureau were wrong. Though there are a number of other articles and stories in the referencing issues of BSI periodicals, these are likely to entertain the readers with aesthetic tastes and general knowledge. For instance, **Detective U San Ma Tu** stories wrote by Phoe Thar Aung (Administration Board Member (retired-Commissioner) U Aung Kyaw) are the adaptations of Sherlock Holmes and do not relate to the BSI's endeavours. **Travelogues** wrote by Taw Pan Gale (BSI Deputy Director U Htun Shein) are just the travelling experiences of the author and likely to extend the general knowledge of readers. Such writings would be excluded to discuss in this paper as they do not directly relate to the endeavours of BSI. In the next portion, the writings that reflect the history of BSI would be extracted and discussed.

The Writings that reflect the History of BSI

The whole speech of the Board Chairman U Chan Tha that delivered at the annual conference of the BSI (3 January 1958) could be seen in BSI periodical Vol. IV, No. 2. According to the information that expressed in Sub-editorial of the same issue, the newspapers just describe some extract from it as quotation.¹ Hence it can be said that the whole speech of BSI Chairman could be found in this periodical only. This speech reveals the brief history of BSI since its inception (1 September 1951) up to the end of previous year (31 December 1957). In his speech, U Chan Tha discloses the efforts of BSI to protect the public properties and finances as possible as it could though it faced with a number of difficulties in undertaking the tasks. He also reveals the classifications and exact numbers of cases that dealt with by the BSI within six and half years of its lifespan. These factors are important in the history of BSI. According to his speech, BSI deals with the cases in four categorizes as follows:

- (a) cases of the ones who violate the Public Property Protection Act,
- (b) cases of the ones who violate the Anti-Corruption Act,
- (c) cases of the ones who violate the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, and
- (d) cases of the ones who violate the other Acts.

He also explains the six headings of BSI in listing these cases as follows:

- (a) number of cases that reported to BSI,
- (b) number of cases that prosecuted at the court of law by BSI,
- (c) number of cases that punished by the court of law,
- (d) estimated value of properties and finances that involved in the cases,
- (e) estimated value of properties and finances that confiscated by BSI, and
- (f) amount of money that fined by the court of law on the cases.

U Chan Tha also discloses the total number of cases, estimated value and amount of fine money under these six headings for the whole lifespan of BSI (from 1 September 1951 to 31 December 1957) as follows:

(a) total number of reported cases	-	3,789
(b) total number of prosecuted cases	-	1,211
(c) total number of punished cases	-	812

¹ "Sub-editorial", *BSI Periodical*, Vol. IV, No. 2, pp. 14 – 15

- (d) estimated value that involved in the cases - 140 million mmks
- (e) estimated value that confiscated by BSI - 10 million mmks
- (f) amount of fined money - 95,000 mmks

U Chan Tha said, the figures show that BSI could only take action on the cases that worth over 10 million kyats out of the reported cases that worth over 140 million kyats. By seeing these figures, he continued, the outsiders may judge that BSI could deal with a few cases out of a number of reported cases. But he urged the ones who want to criticize the BSI to keep in mind the fact that the bureau has only 165 senior and junior staff in dealing with all these cases. The government only had to spend 951,039 kyats per year for those staff. Hence, U Chan Tha said, it is cost-effective for the government to employ the BSI staff in protecting public properties and finances.¹

The revelations of U Chan Tha in his speech disclose the endeavours of BSI in protecting public properties and finances in accurate figures. Moreover, his speech also reveals the fact that BSI had to deal with a great number of cases by a small number of staff. As a result, the bureau could only take actions on the cases less than 10% of reported cases. Nevertheless, he argued that BSI tried its best to deal with the assigned tasks under given situations. By studying U Chan Tha’s speech, the readers could see the capacity and situation of BSI in its early history in brief.

Another notable writing about the BSI is the investigation on the statistics and on-ground situations of နကရဖ (နိုင်ငံတော်ကောက်ပဲသီးနှံ ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့) (**SAMB: State Agricultural Marketing Board**). This Na-ka-ra-pha was set up by the government as a statutory body for controlling domestic consumption and export of rice in post-independence Myanmar. As the stinks about the corruption of some staff of Na-ka-ra-pha leaked out, U Nu assigned BSI to investigate the case. After investigation, the BSI disclosed its findings and actions via press conference. It also described a quarterly report concerning this case in the periodical. According to the report, BSI investigated both on-paper and on-ground situations of Na-ka-ra-pha thoroughly. Investigations revealed the fact that Na-ka-ra-pha has the rice that valued over 150 million kyats on-paper, but it really has the rice that valued over 140 million kyats on-ground. The exact difference of value between on-paper and on-ground is 6.4 million kyats. Of this 6.4 million, the BSI is taking action on the cases that valued 1.8 million. The rest cases that valued 4.6 million would be taken actions soon.²

Like the BSI, in fact, the Na-ka-ra-pha was also a statutory body that highly authorized by the government. In this case, the former had to make investigations and take actions on the corrupted ones of the latter. By seeing this, it can be assumed that this case made the power and image of BSI increased. Consequently, it would be an important milestone in the history of BSI in its early years.

Another important writing about the BSI is “စ,သုံးလုံး အမေးအဖြေ” (**Question and Answer about BSI**) section. This section was described in Nos. 7 and 8 of Vol. IV of the periodical. In

¹ “The Speech delivered by Special Investigation Administration Board; Maha Thayeri Sithu U Chan Tha, at the Annual Conference of BSI (1958), *BSI Periodical*, Vol. IV, No. 2, pp. 34 – 41

² (a) “စသုံးလုံးနှင့် သတင်းစာကွန်ဖရင့်” “BSI and Press Conference”, *BIS Periodical*, Vol. IV, 4 pages in supplementary (page numbers are not described)

(b) “၁၉၅၈ ခုနှစ်၊ ပထမသုံးလပတ် စ,သုံးလုံး၏ လုပ်ငန်းဆောင်ရွက်ချက် အစီရင်ခံစာ” “The Report of BSI for the First Quarter of 1958), *BSI Periodical*, Vol. IV, No. 5, pp. 9 – 15

this section, one noticeable question is “who established the BSI for which purpose?” It is answered that BSI was established by Prime Minister U Nu with the purpose of reconstructing the corrupted moral pillar of the country. Another noticeable question is that “the staff of BSI would be loyal to whom?” It is answered that BSI staff must be loyal to the elected Parliament and the Cabinet formed by that Parliament. With the exception of these organs, the answer continues, the BSI staffs do not need to be loyal to anyone subjectively. One distinctive thing about this section, the same questions and answers are described repeatedly in two consecutive issues.¹

If this section is looked at superficially, it can be assumed that the questions and answers intend to disseminate the basic facts about the BSI for the knowledge of general readers. But it should be noted that this section was included in the issues that published in mid-1958. This time coincided with the split of AFPFL government that stemmed from the dissensions between U Nu and U Kyaw Nyein. Under such circumstances, U Kyaw Nyein revealed his suspect that U Nu might utilize the BSI to suppress the political opponents.² Based on this background situation, it can be assumed that these questions and answers indirectly responded to the suspicious accusation of U Kyaw Nyein. Consequently, it can also be said that this section reflects the political weather of the country in late 1950s.

Last, but not the least, writing about the BSI history is the news of the retirement of its chairman. U Chan Tha who took charge of the BSI Administration Board as Chairman since its inception took retirement on 1 July 1958 while the country was in the political turmoil. The board expresses its special thanks to the retired chairman for his guidance and leadership in the Editorial of Vol. IV, No. 7 of BSI periodical.³ In his place, U Aung Kyaw; retired Commissioner and Member of BSI Administration Board, was assigned as new Chairman by the Prime Minister.⁴ Actually, U Chan Tha who was born in 1910 was only 48 years old when he took retirement in 1958. Moreover, he was in good health at the time of retirement. Though the BSI periodical did not express the reason for the retirement of its chairman, historical records reveal that U Chan Tha joined the Clean AFPFL led by U Nu soon after his early retirement.⁵ By seeing these factors, it can be assumed that the political turmoil of outside world had impacted on the BSI more or less in this period.

Conclusion

Public Property Protection Police (PPPP) was upgraded as the Bureau of Special Investigation (BSI) in 1951 with the purpose of preventing the misuses of public properties and finances by the corrupted responsible persons. Its Administration Board started to publish the BSI periodical in 1954 in order to inform the people about the efforts of BSI in dealing with its assigned tasks effectively. Among these periodicals, the available issues that published in 1958

¹ (a) “စ,သုံးလုံး အမေး အဖြေ” “Question and Answer about BSI”, *BSI Periodical*, Vol. IV, No. 7, pp. 7 – 16

(b) “စ,သုံးလုံး အမေး အဖြေ” “Question and Answer about BSI”, *BSI Periodical*, Vol. IV, No. 8, pp. 7 – 16

² *Bama Khint Newspaper*, dated 6 May 1958

³ “ခေါင်းကြီး” “Editorial”, *BSI Periodical*, Vol. IV, No. 7, pp. 1 – 11

⁴ “မဟာသရေစုည့်သူ ဦးချမ်းသာအား နှုတ်ဆက်ဂုဏ်ပြုဇန့်ခံပွဲ” “Honorary Farewell Ceremony to Maha Thareisithu U Chan Tha”, *BSI Periodical*, Vol. IV, No. 8, Supplementary Ka - Za

⁵ U Kyaw Win, U Mya Han, U Thein Hlaing, *၁၉၅၈ - ၁၉၆၂ မြန်မာ့နိုင်ငံရေး (တတိယတွဲ) (1958 – 1962 Myanmar Politics*, Vol. III), Yangon, Universities Press, pp. 10 – 11

(Vol. IV, No. 1 – 12) reveal the endeavours of BSI in protecting public properties and finances as well as part of its history that reflects the history of the country in post-independence period to some extent. The writings of these periodicals also disclose the facts that responsible persons of BSI paid attention to upgrade the knowledge and capacity of its staff to be able to deal with their tasks effectively. The former also laid stress on the fact that the BSI staff had to stick to the code of conduct in carrying out their duties. The figures that included in some writings unveil the amounts of public properties and finances that misused by the corrupted persons and the effectiveness of BSI in taking actions on those cases under giving situation. Lastly, these periodicals also expressed indirectly the fact that the political turmoil of the country in late 1950s had side-effects on the bureau more or less.

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