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### Cited by the Special Crimes Tribunal:

- AUNG HLA & OTHERS VS. KING-EMPEROR, *Indian Law Reports, Rangoon series, vol. IX, p. 404;*  
 KING-EMPEROR VS. NGA MYO, *1938 Rangoon Law Reports, p. 190;*  
 MAUNG MYA & ANOTHER VS. KING-EMPEROR, *1938 Rangoon Law Reports, p. 30.*

### Appeals by U Saw and associates :

- USAW & OTHERS VS. THE UNION OF BURMA, *1948 Burma Law Reports, High Court, p. 217;*  
 USAW & OTHERS VS. THE UNION OF BURMA, *1948 Burma Law Reports, Supreme Court, p. 249*

## PREFACE

Crime does not pay, and politics by assassination pays even less. That is perhaps the one sharp lesson which stands out from the trial of U Saw and his men for the murder of Bogyoke Aung San and his colleagues. The trial is a historic one, and the murders undoubtedly altered the course of Burma's modern history. I present the judgement of the Special Tribunal in full and the story of the assassinations for the record, in the hope that they will serve historians and our peoples in Burma in several ways.

Mr. Justice Mya Thein of the High Court gave me the records which he compiled of the trial while serving on the prosecution. That was a few years ago, and I have, since then, wanted to edit and publish a book of the trial. Dr. Myint Thein, Chief Justice of the Union, also gave his file of the records to the Defence Services Historical Research Institute, and I was able to check and compare the papers. To both I owe and sincerely acknowledge thanks. I am also grateful to Mr. Justice Aung Tha Gyaw of the Supreme Court who answered my questions with kindness and courtesy, and to U Kyaw Soe, Director of Information, and his staff, who dug up the pictures which are published in this book.

I found the time to work on the records of the trial at Yale on a grant from the Ford Foundation and a visiting lectureship extended to me by the University's Southeast Asia Studies Programme. At Yale I was able to use the ample library resources of the University, and read with some system the books and material on Burma and the law reports which my friend U Htin Leong, Director of the Government Press, was good enough to collect and send.

The Library of Congress, with its excellent and exciting holdings, has also been a good place to work in, and Cecil Hobbs, the head of the Oriental division, has been particularly helpful to me.

It was a good opportunity to read and write, free from temptations. I hope this kind of opportunity will become more widely available to my research-minded friends in Burma.

The Asia Foundation has kindly expressed willingness to distribute some copies of this book on its educational books programme, though responsibility for the views and opinions which I have expressed is, of course, entirely mine.

*Aung San of Burma*, a volume containing selected speeches and writings by Aung San, and on him by his contemporaries, is due to be published soon by the same publisher.