

Official publications on such issues generally smack of propaganda and readers are apt to take them with a grain of salt. The task is now taken up by U Maung Maung who has already earned the reputation of being a balanced and fascinating writer with his earlier publications: "The Forgotten Army", "Burma's Teething Time", and "London Diary". He is unusually well-equipped for the present task. He possesses not only the keen perceptive eye which any writer of personal experiences must have, but a capacity for seeing things in the round, a full, reflective mind and sensibility which reveals itself in all he says.

The fact that most of the young military officers who are at the grim war front are his personal friends lends intimacy and authenticity to what he has to say. U Maung Maung was a young military officer in the Burma National Army, and later Patriot Burmese Forces and took part in the Resistance movement against the Japanese. He edited "The New Times of Burma" when it was published by the Information Department, studied journalism and allied tricks of the trade in London, and was called to the Bar from Lincoln's Inn. He is thus admirably fitted to write a book on so intricate a subject as the KMT aggression with all its international repercussions. The soldier journalist-lawyer writes with knowledge, restraint, urbanity and a felicity of style that will disarm most critics. One chief quality of U Maung Maung is that he combines the Barrister's true reverence for law and orderliness with a flair for popular exposition.

The book is perhaps too carefully balanced; it lacks

Secretary, Ministry of Information

There is something peculiarly exasperating for a secretary to Government to write a Foreword to such a book, "Grim War Against the KMT". Civil Servants are usually considered "correct" only if they are tight-lipped on individual expressions of opinion on foreign relations and on what he or she thinks of other peoples. In this particular instance. However, I find myself a victim of compelling circumstances. For one thing the author insisted on my writing a Foreword, and for another the subject matter of his book is one dear to my heart as a result of my official duties.

Indeed the Kuomintang aggression against Burma calls for a book, the kind of book which is at once factual and dispassionate. It has hit the headlines in the world press, and the Seventh Session of the United Nations General Assembly has passed a unanimous resolution on its solution.

the generous indignation that gives life and heat—and therefore greater readability. I am glad, however, that I have been asked to write a foreword to a book which is not likely to be very heatedly debated and discussed.

It is by no means a full story of KMT aggression and Burma's war against it but it throws a good deal of light on many aspects of it. Intimate sketches of Burmese military officers fighting the KMTs are acute and well drawn, and the political judgments shrewd and to the point. U Maung Maung has given us a book of a very high quality, and done a great service not only to Burma but also to the cause of practice and peace.

31, Windermere Park,
Rangoon,
June 13, 1953.



(1909-1974)

(The former Secretary-General of the United Nations)

"A book of a very high quality, written as a great service not only to Burma but also to the cause of practice and peace."



(1924-1994)

(The soldier-turned-journalist-lawyer as well as the short-lived President of Burma after 1988 uprising in Burma)

The world-shaking, headline-making Kuomintang aggression against Burma, portrayed with the journalist's keen perceptive eye and the barrister's true reverence for law and orderliness with a flair for popular exposition.

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