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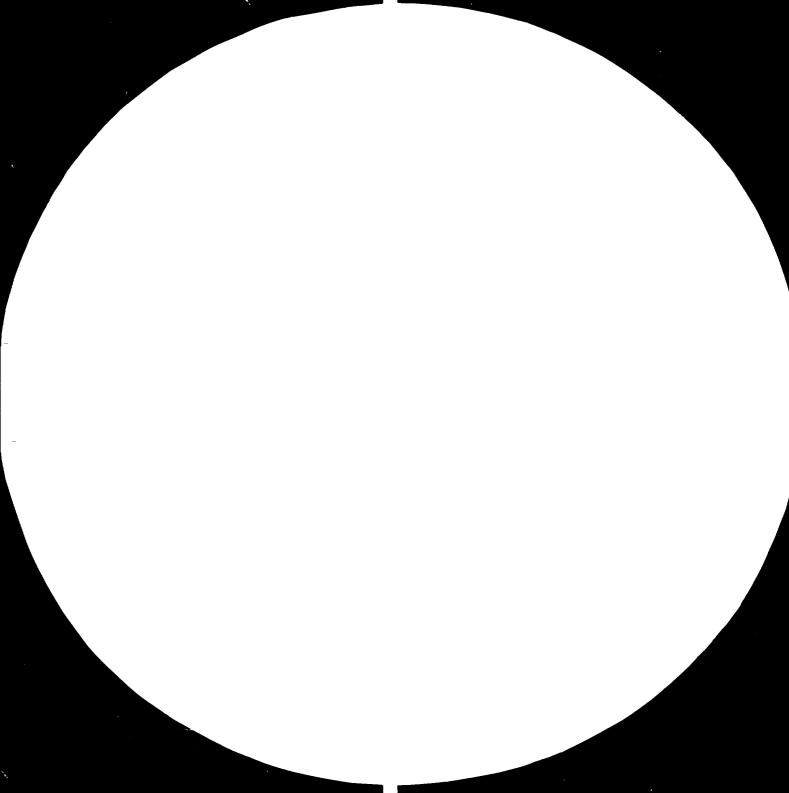
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Mission to Burma, of

Frans J. Soede Senior Industrial Development Officer Institutional Infrastructure Branch Division of Industrial Operations

29 August - 3 September 1981

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This report has not been cleared with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) which does not therefore necessarily share the views presented.

1 1

A) INTRODUCTION

The economy of Burma is divided into the State, Co-operatives and Private sectors. In 1977/78, in respect of the total economy, the real output was shared between these sectors by 36%, 3% and 61%respectively. By 1994 (the end of the present 20 year perspective plan), the Government aims at achieving a distribution of real output by 48% in the State, 26% in Co-operatives and 26% in the Private sectors. This is to be achieved by a faster rate of increase in the state and co-opertives sectors <u>and not through an absolute decline</u> in the private sector.

The number of co-operative societies in 1980/81 was 21,766 with 7124,524 members (21% of the total population) and a turnover of more than a billion US dollars/year. During the same period the number of industrial producers co-operatives was 755 with 94,094 members and an annual turnover of approximately 12 million US dollars.

The products covered by the industrial producers co-operatives are in order of importance: food and beverages, textiles and wearing apparels: construction materials, goods for personal use, handicrafts, transport equipment and agricultural implements.

There is a Ministry of Co-operatives with two major departments under the supervision of Director Generals: Co-operatives Department and Cottage Industries Departments which will be renamed Co-operatives Technical Services Department.

B) FINDINGS (see programme of visits: Annex I)

1. On Saturday 29 August a meeting was attended at the Ministry of Co-operatives with the following persons present:

H.E. U Sein Tun, Minister for Co-operatives H.E. U San Tint, Deputy Minister for Co-operatives Lt. Col. Myo Myint, Director General, Co-operatives Department Dr. Than Htaike, Director General, Cottage Industries Department U Tin Tun, Head of Office, Office of the Minister for Co-operatives Sao Hso Ham, Programme Officer, UNDP

The Minister expressed his satisfaction about this first contact with UNIDO and said that he was very much impressed by its publications. He is interested to strenthan his contact with UNIDO because he feels that this will be of great benefit to the operations of the co-operatives movement and in particular to its industrial and technological dimensions. The Minister presented a number of issues which merit attention and in which development UNIDO could be instrumental:

- a) Establishment of an up-to-date Industrial and Technological Information base;
- b) Development of an integrated industrial base in the villages including post-harvest and processing technologies;
- c) The utiliation of young university graduates in the co-operatives;
- d) The development of packaging technologies;
- e) Renovation of machinery in existing industrial co-operatives;
- f) Utilisation of semi-automatic technologies;
- g) Improved utilisation of UN sponsored training and learning activities such as study tours, individual fellowships, group training. Also the provision of specialised short-term consultants will be highly appreciated.
- On Monday morning 31 August a meeting was held at the Foreign Economic Relations Department (FERD) of the Planning and Finance Ministry, the counterpart agency of UNDR with the following persons attending:

Dr. F. Ba Hli, Technical Adviser, Ministry of Planning and Finance Daw Yin Yin Thwai, Assistant Director, Foreign Economic Relations Dept. Sao Hso Han, Programming Officer, UNDP

It was revealed that the 4th UNDP Country Programme of Burma (1982/85) will cover three projects in the Co-operatives sector:

a) BUR/78/015 - Small-Scale Industrial Development in the

Co-operative sector (UNDP contribution US\$739,200). The project document has been signed and the project will be executed by the ILO. The Senior expert Mr. EADIE will join the project very soon. The project basically covers the identification and creation of three small co-operative industries including equipment.

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b) <u>BUR/79/010</u> - Co-operatives Management Services (UNDP contribution US\$1,826,300). The signature of the project document is imminent and the project will be executed by the II.0. This UNDP assistance will serve the cooperative societies, the Ministry and other authorities that need development planning assistance. UNDP assistance is expected to help the CMS create a technically competent professional staff and develop assistance for imparting some efficient management practices. The approach will also prepare feasibility studies in consumer, industrial agricultural and fisheries cooperatives, produce training materials and implement a programme for 59 instructors.

c) <u>EUR/81/018</u> - Assistance in the Establishment of a Co-operatives

Institute near Rangoon (UNDP contribution US\$1,000,000). This project is intended to produce competent managers and technicians for the cooperative movement. The Institute would eventually provide teaching, research, extension as well as technical and economical consultancy services, acting as a focal point for all cooperative training institutes in the country. No project document exists and no decision has been made about the executing agency.

It is evident that there is no futher room for UNIDO projects to assist development of industrial co-operatives. Dr. F. Bahli suggested that any UNIDO assistance for the co-operative sector should be financed through RP, SIS, UNIDF or multi/bilateral assistance. He thought that also the UNCDF would be an excellent source of funding for the creation of new industrial co-operatives.

3. On Monday afternoon 3 August a meeting was held with the Director General and his collaborators of the Co-operatives Department in which the organization of the co-operative movement was explained (see Annex II). Co-operatives are organized on four levels: primary, townships, provincial/division and central. At the primary level there are three sub-levels: home production, joint production at one location and co-operative production. There are four lasic types of co-operatives: consumers, agricultural, industrial and credit societies. The traditional co-operatives are in weaving, food-processing and fisheries. New co-operatives are involved in rice milling, oil pressing, manufacture of umbrellas, diary industry, etc. Efforts are made to unify small entrepreneurs in similar activities in co-operatives.

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Apart from their organizational and administration responsibilities one of the major tasks of this department is education and training of departmental staff and members, executive staff and managers of the co-operatives. Also the expansion of management services is planned (see 2.b) above.

4. Thereafter a meeting was held with the Director General of the Cottage Industries Department and his staff. The Director General U Than Htaik, holds a Ph D in Chemical Engineering (Sydney) and his technical staff have the following qualifications:

- 3 mechanical engineers
- l civil engineer
- 1 electrical engineer
- 1 textiles engineer
- 3 chemical engineers
- 1 B Sc in planning of works
- 1 Ph D oil-technology

20 B Sc's in food technology, chemistry, botany, zoology, industrial design, fisheris, etc.

Examples of the problem areas which have to be tackled by this Department are the following:

a) vegetable oil and related industries

ertract of residual oil in connection with rancidity; packaging of refined oil for the public;

b) rice-milling and related industries

up-grading of machinery in order to obtain higher standards; post harvest technology, manufacturing of starch and applications for surplus tapioca;

- c) food processing
 - i) production of food for school-children: improvement of nutritional value and hygiene. Utilization of soy bean and sesamum;
 - ii) stabilization of fruit juices. Concentration and reconstitution of fruit juices;
 - iii) appropriate technologies for freeze drying of juices and meat;

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- iv) processing of milk and other diary products. Replacement of enamel containers by stainless steel;
- v) quality control of all food products listed above.
- d) Fish and fish products production of fish oil and fish protein concentrate (FPC)
- e) <u>Textiles and weaving apparel</u> quality control
- f) <u>Building materials, prefabricated and low cost housing:</u> improve quality and introduction of appropriate technologies. The Department showed interest in UNIDO's wooden bridges project
- g) <u>Packaging</u>

development of new materials, improvement of existing and adaptation of new technologies

h) <u>Metal working</u>

An agreement with the FRG for a project in metal fabrication has been signed. It will provide two medium-term experts, short-term consultants, fellowships and equipment.

On Tuesday afternoon the laboratories and library of this departmant were visited which were found very modest and heavily underequipped. It is estimated that about US\$0,5 million worth of equipment will be required to carry out the mission of this department in a large number of activities such as development of products and processes, testing and analysis, standardization, trouble shooting, industrial metrology, quality control, industrial engineering and industrial information.

U Than Htaik handed a list of 323 UNIDO publications of which he would like to have copies. There is also great interest in the two UNIDO manuals on project evaluation and forty copies of each are requested. In case supply free of charge of all documents is not possible, the Ministry is willing to pay in local currency.

4. On Tuesday 1 September industrial cooperatives in two townships in Rangoon and on Wednesday 2 September industrial co-operative in Pegu (80 km north of Rangoon) were visited. The author was accompanied by: U Myint Than, Deputy Director (Technical Services) Cottage Industries Department

U Aung Khin, Head of Branch (Library), Cattage Industry Dept and U That Maung, Assistant Township Co-operatives Officer, Co-operatives Dept.

a) Insein Township Rangoon Division

This township has 102 cooperative societies (32 consumers, 12 producers, 40 credit and 18 others). In the township society there are 210 staff (15 executives, 10 full-, 5 part-time). The number of members in the 102 societies is 560. The first society visited was a machine jobbing shop. It is adjacent to a technical school of which some of the machine tools are used, if available. The work covers spare parts, gears, etc. There are 12 members of which 4 are instructors of the school. Good layout. Some of the machine tools have been rebuilt from scrap! The second co-operative (see annex II) produces leather pickers for textile mills. metal budckets, wooden bread plates for export to Denmark, and wooden brief cases for Japan. The society has 19 members. There are technological problems with the leather pickers because the life time is only 15 days in comparison with the 45 days of the Japanese model. Price, bowever is 12 K* instead of 48 K. There are attempts to copy a Japanese weaving shuttle but this problem is too difficult for the society and it requires assistance from the Ministry. There are plans: to manufacture household utensils from aluminium.

b) Okkalapa Township Rangoon Division

The 18 member cooperative visited, manufactures a very good hurricane kerosene lamp (see annex IV) copied from a Hungarian model. Production has been 20,000/year. Price is 28 K compared with 35 K of similar models imported from the PRC and Japan. There is a requirement to use local paint which is not available. The cooperative manufactures also eyelets for army boots and produces at present moulds for army boots manufacture. There are plans to manufacture compasses and other drafting equipment for

*/ 1 US dollar = approximately 7,2 K

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schools. This cooperative was a private enterprise 1 1/2 years ago but because the owner was unable to handle all problems himself it was decided to convert the enterprise into a cooperative.

c) <u>Pegu Division</u>

A visit was paid to the Pegu Division syndicate which covers 28 townships and 3,5 million inhabitants. The activities of the industrial cooperatives cover agricultural implements, furniture, handtools, aluminium casting, bamboo baskets, hats, weaving, diary products, oil mills, timber mills, handicrafts, timber processing, vehicle repair workshop.

One cooperative visited is doing blacksmithy work and produces agricultural implements (weeders), axes, knives, sickles, etc. The other cooperative which has 8C members produces toys (beautifully designed and coloured), wooden salad bowls and salt and pepper pots in subcontract for a Danish firm. The production takes place in the houses of the members. There are a total of 40 "workshops".

5. On Thursday morning 3 September an exchange of views took place with Mr. Jacob Guyt the UNDP/RR a.i. in the presence of Sao Hso Hon, UNDP Programme Officer. The salient points are:

a) It is realised that UNIDO has the right qualifications to contribute to the UNDP projects assisting the Cooperatives Ministry. It is not considered to be wise, however, to propose any changes to the project documents at present because the preparatory work has taken considerable time. UNIDO should however be associated with these projects as much as possible.

b) Mr. Guyt recognises that the technological aspects of the UNDP assistance to the Cooperatives Ministry is rather weak. He has however hope that some funds may become available to UNIDO from the UNDP/IPF after one or two years to make up for this deficiency. There is also the problem that the UNIDO's assistance, up till now, has been concentrated only in the Industry Ministries 1 and 2.

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c) Mr. Guyt is willing to put his telex and the UN pouch at the disposal for communication with UNIDO Vienna in connection with future requirements of the Industrial Information Centre of the Co-operatives Ministry.

d) Mr. Guyt thinks that some bilateral resources for example (Finland, India, Netherlands, the PRC, Scandinavia and Switzerland) could be tapped for multi-bilateral assistance projects to the Cooperatives Ministry. He is also very much in favour to try out the use of the UNCDF. Burma has been accepted as a recipient for assistance from this fund notwithstanding its non-LDC status.

6. On Thursday afternoon a round-up meeting was held with the Minister of Cooperatives with the two Director Generals, the Director of the Minister's Office and Deputy Director U Mynt Than of the Cottage Industries Department attending. The salient point are:

a) The Minster agrees that the technological contribution of UNDP's assistance to Ministry is too small but he hopes to make up for this deficiency by using his own and bilateral resources. As the buildings to house the equipment mentioned under the end of item 3 will be only available by the end of 1982 there is still time. He considers that the staff of the Cottage Industries Department is competent to compile the detailed lists of this equipments with all the specifications;

b) As to foreign assistance the Minister said that in Burma the emphasis is on self reliance so that experience could be had and self confidence could be gained. He is not in favour of "spoon feeding" by long term experts where the results collapse after the expert's departure. It is, however, realized that certain requiremerts, such as equipment are beyond the national means;

c) The Minister is very much interested to see the staff of his Ministry participate more in the UNIDO training programmes, seminars, workshops, meetings, etc.

d) The Minister considers industrial information as one of the key elements of supporting the reinforcement and creation of new, industrial co-operatives. Any additonal assistance of UNIDO in this field will be highly appreciated;

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c) The Minister will also appreciate UNIDO's intermediary role in bringing to the attention of bilateral donors the foreign assistance required by this Ministry;

f) In food processing the policy of the Minister is to produce in the industrial co-operatives only wholesome food and consequently to avoid the use of chemical additives as much as possible. This will preclude at the same time the need for import of these additives cr the necessity to produce them locally.

g) The Minister expressed his willingness to receive delegations from other developing countries to a 1dy Burma's co-operative movement.

C) CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THE AUTHOR OF THIS REPORT IS HIGHLY IMPRESSED BY THE EFFORTS MADE IN THE CO-OPERATIVE SECTOR OF BURMA TO SATISFY BASIC NEEDS, TO UTILISE AND RECYCLE LOCAL MATERIALS, TO APPLY INTERMEDIATE TECHNO-LOGIES, TO PROMOTE RURAL INDUSTRIALIZATION, TO USE RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY AND TO BE AS MUCH SELF-RELIANT AS POSSIBLE. THESE EFFORTS MERIT THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF SUPPORT BECAUSE THEY REPRESENT PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF MANY OF THE RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE UN LEGISLATIVE BODIES.

2. Although it appears that in the area of assistance to industrial co-operatives, UNIDO is rather late and will not have many UNDP funds at its disposal during the 4th UNDP country cycle, there is still scope for assistance by using other resources. Ways and means should be explored to initiate UNIDO's sponsored activities in the co-operative sector by using the UNCDF.

3. The first area is Industrial Information were UNIDO can assist by shipping the requested documents as soon as possible and free of charge to Rangoon. A second area is the intensive use by the Ministry of UNIDO's enquiry service and INTIE (Industrial and Technological Information Bank).

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4. The Director General of Cottage Industries Department shall be invited to come to UNIDO, Vienna for one or two weeks to meet our specialists in the different fields mentioned above such as agroindustries, building materials, light engineering, textiles, packaging, industrial information, small-scale industries, etc. This visit could also be used to acquaint him with the characteristics and procedures c. our different sources of finance.

5. It is suggested that the D^r echnical staff members covering the fields mentioned before and their consultants should make a three-day stop-over in Burma in case they vigit countries in the region. In this way they can acquaint themselves with the problems of the industrial co-operatives in their particular field. They could also organize a one-day workshop with the technical staff of the Cottage Industries Department to bring them up-to-date on world-wise developments.

6. The DIO/INFR backstopping Officer for industrial co-operatives Mr. Dino Cannas should also stop over in Burma on occasion of visits to his projects in South East Asia and/cr the Pacific in order to acquaint himself with the activities of the co-operative movement.

7. All ILO experts of BUR/78/015 and BUR/79/010 concerned with technological matters should be briefed and debri 3d by UNIDO specialists in Vienna.

ANNEXES:

ANNEX I	-	Programme of visit
ANNEX II	-	Organization of Burmese Cooperative System
ANNEX III	-	Mechanised Leather Products Producers Co-operative Society (Insein Township)
ANNEX IV	-	Hurricane kerosine lamp

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM MR. SOEDE'S OFFICE:

- (1) Project Document (BUR/78/015) Small Scale Industries Development in Cooperatives Sector
- (2) Project Document (BUR/79/010) Cooperatives' Management Services

(3) UNDP Assistance requested by the Government of Burma for the period 1982-1985

- (4) Co-operative Marketing
- (5) Rural Industries and Crafts Promotion in Cooperatives Sector
- (6) Function of the Producer Co-operatives Technical Services Dept.

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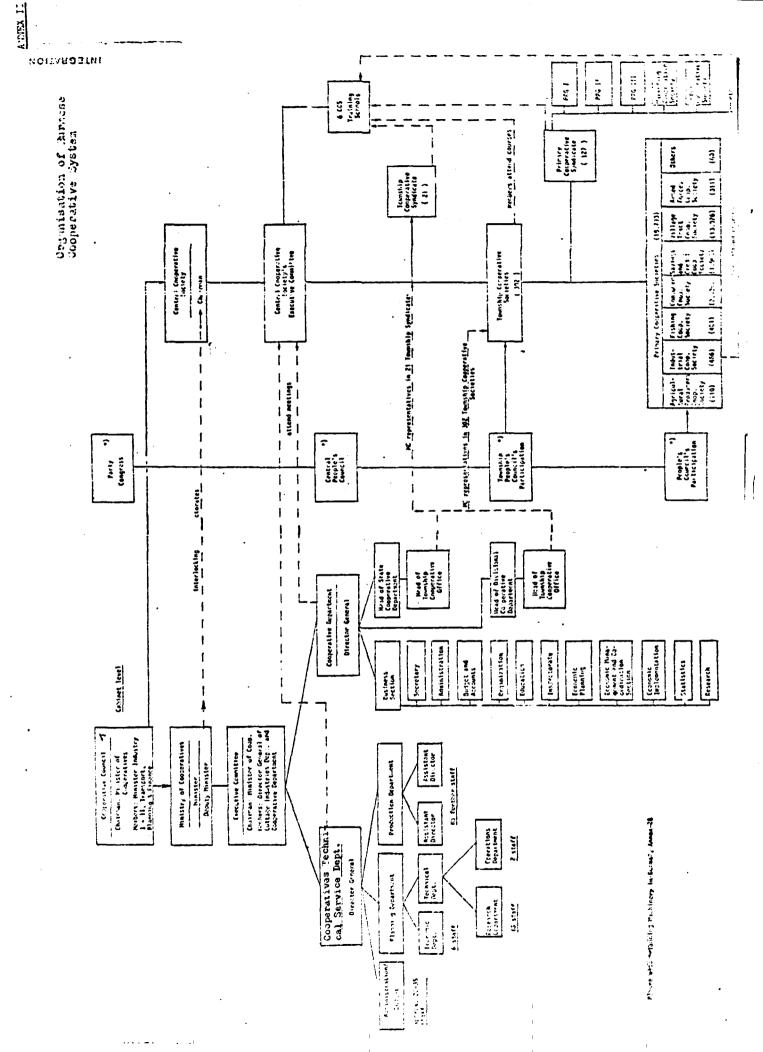
- (7) Co-operative Institute
- (8) Co-operative Movement in Burma
- (9) Burma, Facts and Figures and a Tourist Guide
- (10) Copies of the Government newspaper "The Guardian"

ANNEX I

Programme for Mr. Soede, UNIDO Staff Member

(29 August - 3 September 1981)

29-8-81 (Saturday)	10:00 hrs.	- Call on Hon'ble Minister for Cooperatives
30-8-81 (Monday)	09:00 hrs.	- Call on Resident Representative UNDP
	10:00 hrs.	- Call on FERD
	14:00 hrs.	- Discussion with Director Genral of Cooperative Department and Director General of Cottage Industries Department in the Office of the Director General of Cooperative Department.
01-9-81	09:00 hrs.	- Visit Producers Cooperatives in Insein Township
	13:00 hrs.	- Visit Producers Cooperatives in South Okkalapa Township
	15:00 hrs.	- Visit Cottage Industries Department Laboratory
02-9-81	08:00 hrs.	- Visit to co-operatives in Pegu State
03-9-81	09:30 hrs.	- Debriefing for UNDP Resident Representative a.i.
	13:00 hrs.	- Discussions of Findings and Recommendations with the Honorable Minister of Co-operatives and his staff



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2. Date of establishment- II -IC-/6

I. Location -

3. Ain and object (i) To cave foreign each up by producing spare parts

enterplanes.

- raw materials for State erned fectories. (2) To maintain the standard of continuous production of State erned factorys, cooperatives and private
- (3) Utildeing the technical knowledge of industry technicians for the Statef's benefit.
- (4) To promote development of inventions with selfhelp systems.
- (5) To help the people the be able to afford daily basic composities.
- (6) To help the trainess of the school to use their training knowledge and experiences in the right type of job and produce more qualified trainees.
- (7) To use this establishment as a training center in due course.
- 4. Heabers ----- 19
- 5. Reserve sembers ----- 22
- 6. Vorking Committee ---- 9
- 7. Shares of each number- Capital of Kyats 500/- each in installments
- 8. Present activities(i) Producing Wooden and Leather goods for industrial use.
 - (2) Producing Industrial and Agricultural parts.
 - (3) Bacic Compolities
 - (4) Notal veros
 - (5) finber milling, construction of small scale hopping and building furniture.

9. Egrufactured products on cale- Leather picker, Euffer bend and picking

stick for Toxtile fectories.

Bread boards for Dormark.

Vall plaques and toak suiteases for Japan. Iron suiteases and water buckets. Office furniture.

10. Future throat plana----(i) To norminature and produce more bread Leards for Parmarky took suiteses, sail plaques and

for provide such as pedallity; and pedalts for Jappus troken uterails even as bosts and dictory for protrika.

(2) is provide vosion erticles and leather peris for all toxide factories.

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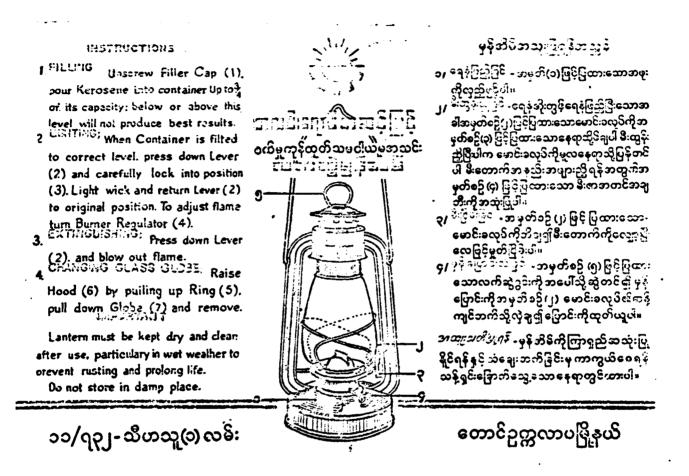
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- If the above requirements can be obtained, foregin experies to these sold countries can be continuously produced and experted in time bringing in fourion exchange for the country. Coold ordered by the various local industries and factories could be supplied in time, which could give full production facilities to these factories. It can upgrade the standard of rooden product for agricultural use and other bicle compdities.

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Yorking Counities. In Egs Ah Eran Producers Cooperative Society, Insein Township.

ANNEX IV



Distribution

Dr.	A. Khaue	D 2263
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Mr.	D. A. Butaev	D 1567
Mr.	M. A. Siddiqui	D 1879

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