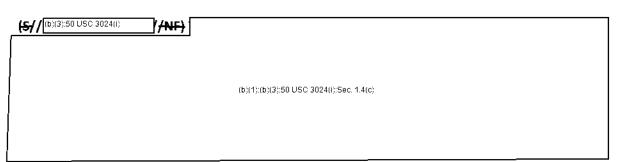
-SECRET//(^{(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)}	NOFORN	
DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE		2 November 2015
(U) Social-Cultural Dynamics		2 November 2015

(U) Burma: Rising Tensions from Monks' Elections Influence



_	(U) Scope Note
(S//NE)	
1	(b)(1):(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i):Sec. 1.4(c)

(U) Monks Shore up Government Party Support, Protect Military Interests

(C//[(b)(3):50 USC 3024(1)]) The military and ruling Union State and Development Party's (USDP) efforts to counter strong backing for opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy (NLD) party probably have led the government to permit, and take advantage of, the political influence of members of a leading nationalist religious movement. Since late last month, the USDP campaign has capitalized on anti-Muslim messaging from the radical fringe of the monk-led Committee for the Protection of Race and Religion (Ma Ba Tha). These monks have accused the NLD of undermining Burma's social and Buddhist religious and social norms by supporting Muslims.²

(b)(1):(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i):Sec. 1.4(c)

CC//NF) Last month, military commander Min Aung Hlaing cautioned the military and their families to vote for the "correct" candidate, who would be willing and capable of protecting Burmese race and religion.⁷

(b)(1):(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i):Sec. 1.4(c)

(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

Stans of P

ICOD: 2 November 2015 DIA-02-1511-007

-SECRET/(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

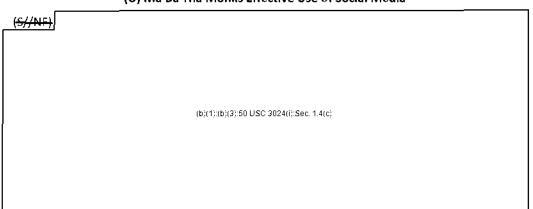
DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE

2 November 2015

(U) Burma: Rising Tensions from Monks' Elections Influence

(b)(1):(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i):Sec. 1.4(c)

- > (U//FOUO) This month, a senior member of Union Election Commission (UEC) said it has no authority to prevent religious figures or organizations from speaking out on politics, according to press reporting.¹⁰ Leading Monks have been publicly endorsing President Thein Sein, encouraging followers to support the USDP, and has linked the NLD to a vote for Muslims.
- > (U//FOUO) As of last month, President U Thein Sein sought to enhance his nationalist Buddhist image by reminding voters that the government had disenfranchised Rohingya Muslims and had passed the four Ma Ba Tha-initiated laws on "race and region," according to press reporting.¹¹ A campaign advertisement by the USDP praised the Thein Sein government's enactment of the "race and religion" laws as protecting national security by restricting interfaith marriage, religious conversion, polygamy, and family size.



(U) Ma Ba Tha Monks Effective Use of Social Media

The following two pages are denied in full under the
denied in full under the
following exemptions: (b)(1);(b)
following exemptions: (b)(1);(b) (3): 50 USC 3024 (i); Sec. 1.4
(c)

NOFORN

SECRET# (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)	NOFORN
-------------------------------	--------

DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE

(U) Burma: Rising Tensions from Monks' Elections Influence

(U) SOURCE ENDNOTES

}	(b)(1):(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i):Sec. 1.4(c)
∠ ² (U) <www.bbc.com< th=""><th>>. Accessed 15 Oct 2015; 8 Oct 2015; BBC; Myanmar's Ma Ba Tha Monks Flex Their Political Muscle.</th></www.bbc.com<>	>. Accessed 15 Oct 2015; 8 Oct 2015; BBC; Myanmar's Ma Ba Tha Monks Flex Their Political Muscle.
³ (U) <www.reuters.c< th=""><th>com>, Accessed 26 Oct 2015; Reuters; Special Report: Buddhist monks incite Muslim Killings in Myanmar, 8 Apr, 201</th></www.reuters.c<>	com>, Accessed 26 Oct 2015; Reuters; Special Report: Buddhist monks incite Muslim Killings in Myanmar, 8 Apr, 201
• (e#	(b)(1):(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i):Sec. 1.4(c)
د ^s (U) <www.bbc.com< td=""><td>>, Accessed 15 Oct 2015; 8 Oct 2015; BBC; Myanmar's Ma Ba Tha Monks Flex Their Political Muscle.</td></www.bbc.com<>	>, Accessed 15 Oct 2015; 8 Oct 2015; BBC; Myanmar's Ma Ba Tha Monks Flex Their Political Muscle.
	VA; SER2815893807048894 ; 3002 0 3Z SEP 15; (U) BURMA: MA BA THA, USDP: ELECTION BEDFELLOWS?; Classificati rial is U; Overall classification is U,
? (U) OSC RESTON Overall classifica	VA; SER2815182215618491; 220426Z OCT 15; (U) BURMA: VOTE FOR 'CORRECT' CANDIDATES, SAYS MILITARY CH tion is U
	15 RANGOON 800724; 131106Z OCT 15; (U//SBU) BURMA: SCENESETTER FOR ONSA BEN RHOOES OCT 18-20 VISIT extracted material is U//SBU; Overall classification is U//SBU; Source is diplomatic reporting.
	VA; SER2815188251724533; 021529Z OCT 15; (U) BURMA: GUARDIANS OF 'RACE AND RELIGION' TARGET NLD; extracted material is U; Overall classification is U.
	I VA; SER2815108262580638 ; 021951Z OCT 15; (U) BURMA: UNION ELECTION OFFICIAL SAYS HANOS TIED ON MA E n of extracted material is U; Overall classification is U; Classification of extracted material is U; Overall classification is U.
	I VA; SER281589258454919 4; 250123Z SEP 15; (U) BURMA: MA BA THA TAKES AIM AT DEFAMATION ACCUSATIONS extracted material is U ; Overall classification is U.
¹² (5//NF)	(b)(1):(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i):Sec. 1.4(c)
1 ² (U) <www.bbc.com< td=""><td>n>, Accessed 15 Oct 2015; 8 Oct 2015; BBC; Myanmar's Ma Ba Tha Monks Flex Their Political Muscle.</td></www.bbc.com<>	n>, Accessed 15 Oct 2015; 8 Oct 2015; BBC; Myanmar's Ma Ba Tha Monks Flex Their Political Muscle.
	(b)(1):(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i):Sec. 1.4(c)
15 (C)	(b)(1):(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i):Sec. 1.4(c)
۲ <u>۵ (U)</u>	(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)
17 (64	(b)(1):(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i):Sec. 1.4(c)
1 <u>8 (64</u>) Г	(b)(1):(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i):Sec. 1.4(c)
¹⁹ (S//NE)	(b)(1):(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i):Sec. 1.4(c)

NOFORN

DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE

2 November 2015

(U) Burma: Rising Tensions from Monks' Elections Influence

