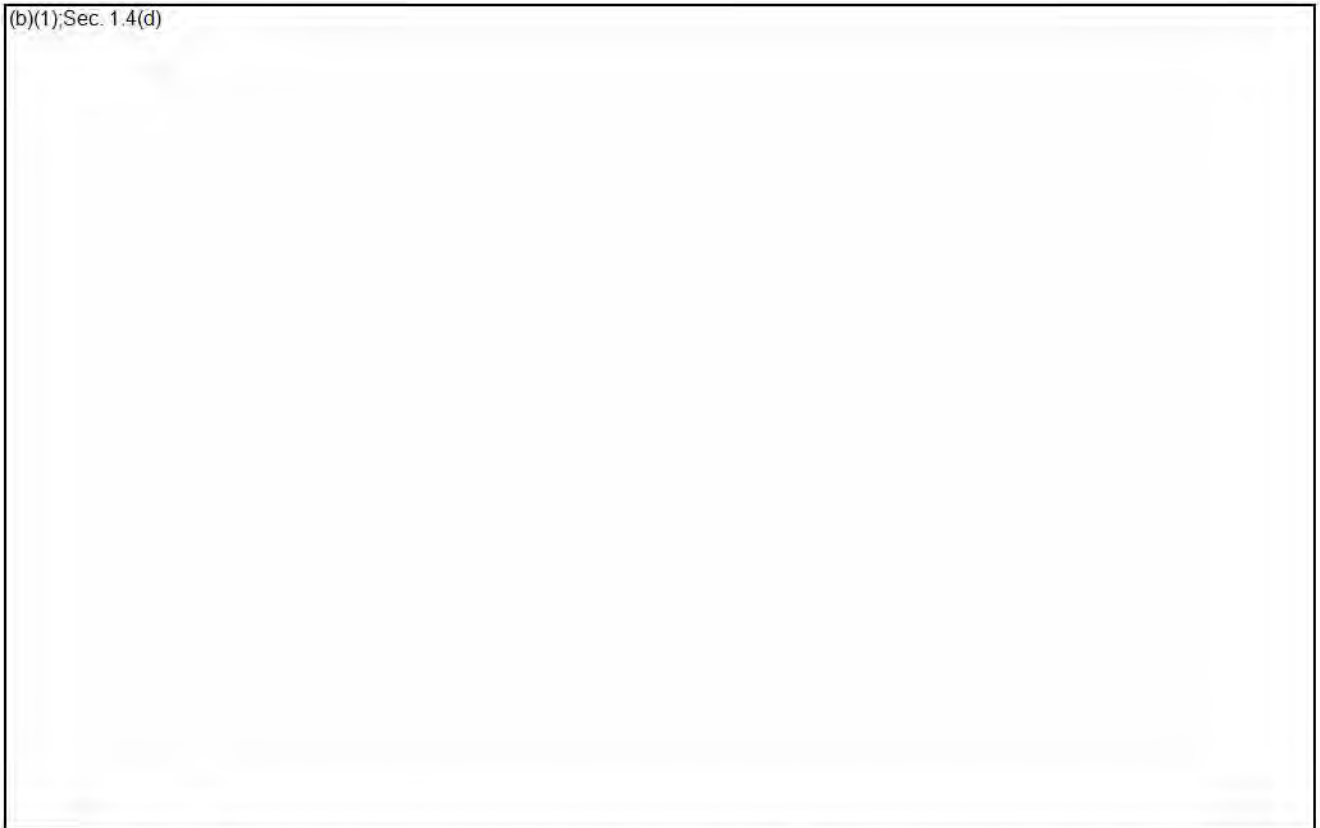




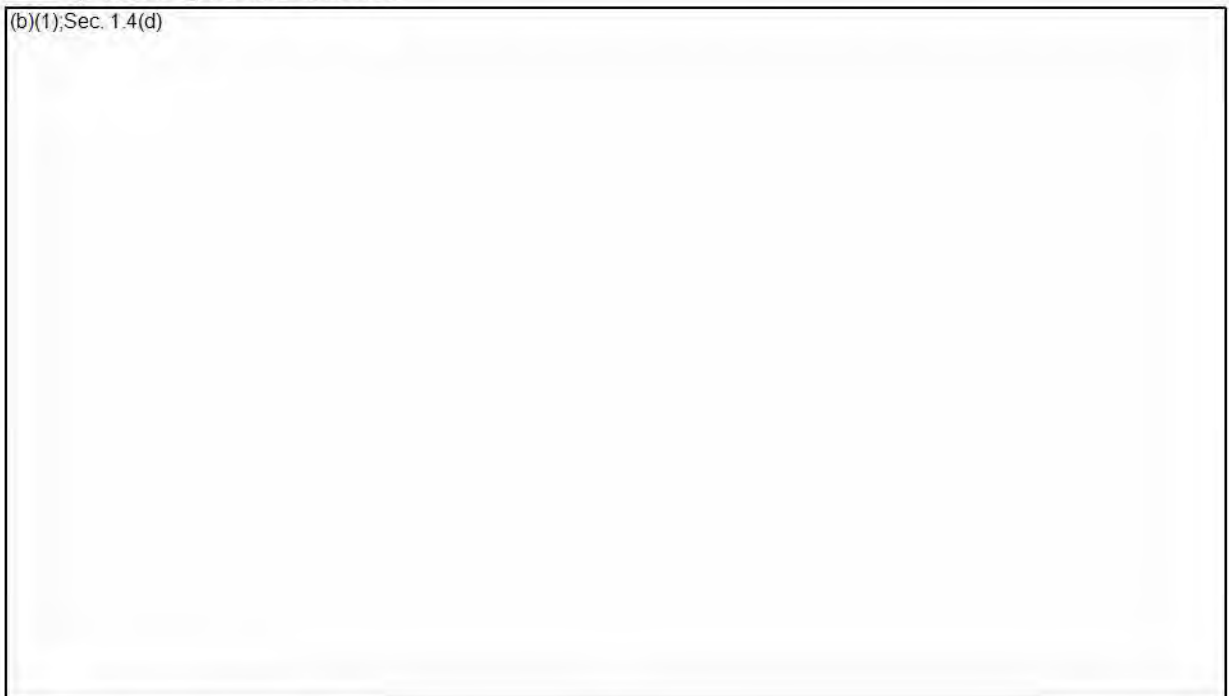
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(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(d)

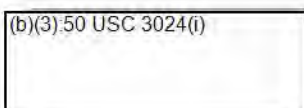


- > (U//~~FOUO~~) The six government ministries, which oversee the state-owned mining projects, pay the military to provide security, according to the Mines and Natural Resources Committee. The ministries have spent millions of dollars annually to deploy and maintain the 16 Army battalions protecting these resources.

(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(d)



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

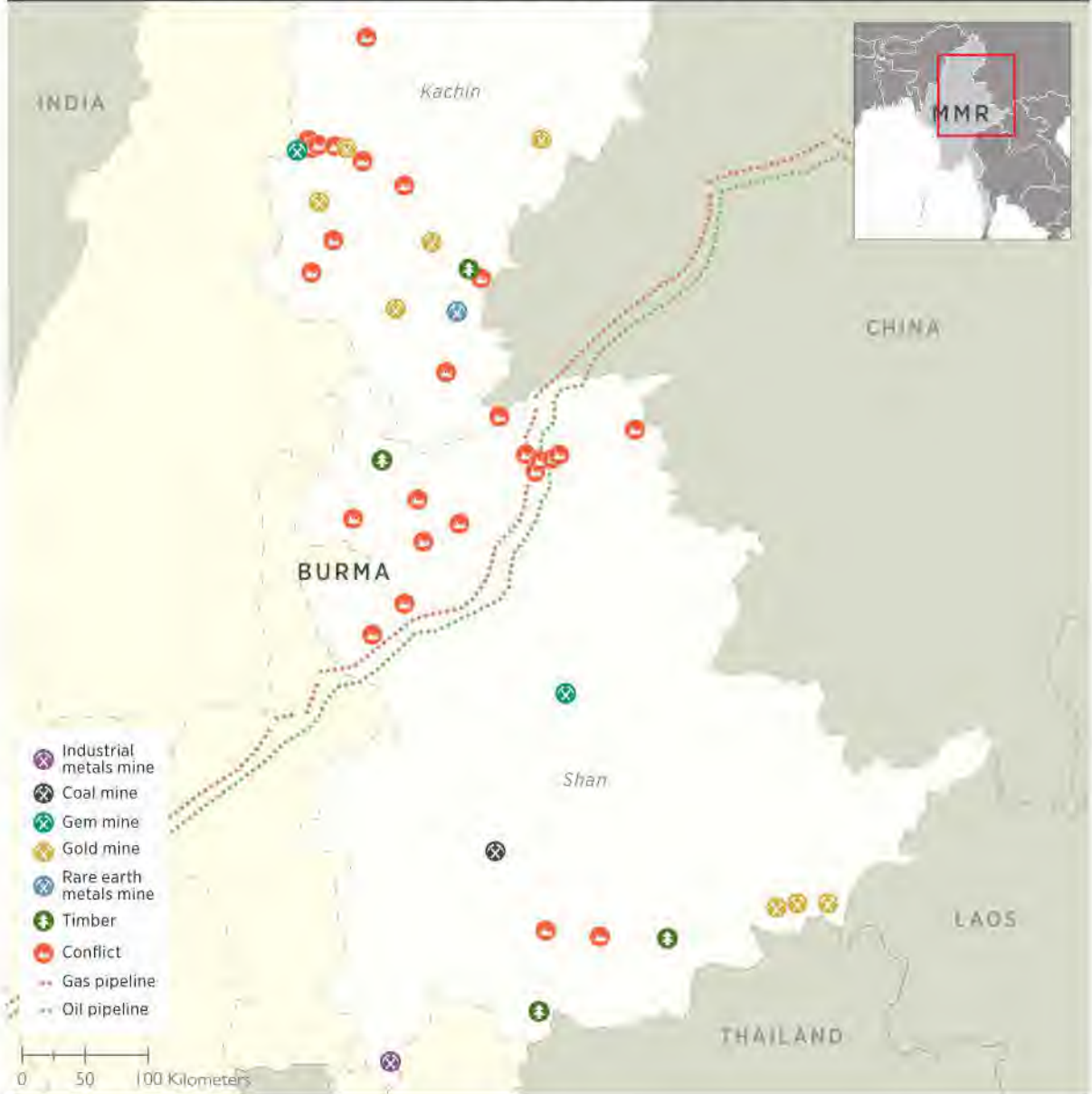




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(S//NF) Recent Conflict and Natural Resource Overview



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(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(d)

The profitability of these illicit activities will continue to be central to cease-fire negotiations.

(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(d) the ethnic groups' insistence on protecting their right to levy taxes and continue resource extraction, and government approval of development projects in ethnic areas.



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(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(d) the relative peace throughout the cease-fire negotiations during the past several years has facilitated the ethnic groups' ability to carry out their illegal logging, mining, and taxation activities, according to diplomatic reporting. The murders of several government officials in Shan State after a seizure of illegally logged timber from the Shan State Army-South late last year probably amplified military uneasiness.

(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(d)

(b)(3);10 USC 424