

Classification: SECRET//NOFORN

Classified By (b)(3):10 USC 424;(b)(6)

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(b)(3):10 USC 424;(b)(6)

Greetings from (b)(3):10 USC 424;(b)(6) has departed. (b)(3):10 USC 424;(b)(6) arriving tonight.

1. (U//FOUO) SIGACTs (Past & Next 90 Days)

(U) Burma Legislation Passes House: On July 12, as a part of the FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act, the Burma Act legislation passed the House. The prospective legislation seeks to limit military engagement with Burma, impose financial sanctions against the Burmese commander in chief and military-owned corporations, regulate trade and investment in Burma's mining sector, and prompt a further atrocities determination of crimes against humanity or genocide. Similarly restrictive legislation passed the House last year as part of the FY2019 NDAA, but was stripped away in the Senate.

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

(C//REL-FVEY) RE: Visa Sanctions on CINC/DCINC announced 16 Jul: Public and private reactions have been generally restrained following the July 16 announcement of 7031(c) visa designations against four senior Myanmar military generals, including Commander-in Chief Min Aung Hlaing. (b)(1);Sec. 1.4(d)

(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(d) that State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi supports such action being taken against the military leadership, but that the civilian government must be lightly critical in its public response so as not to jeopardize its fragile relationship with the military. After an initial pro-forma dismissal, the military issued slightly stronger statements against the designation. In private, one military general did not criticize the designation but rather repeated the view that other countries need to understand the "true situation" in Rakhine State

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

(C//NF) Thousands gathered in Yangon on August 3 for a pro-military rally to protest the July 16 announcement of 7031(c) visa designations against Myanmar military Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, his deputy, and two other generals. The orderly march and rally - which security services contacts estimated to be 10,000 people - ended without incident. Rally organizers then delivered a letter to Embassy Rangoon, which condemned the U.S. "sanctions," and reflected the military's public comments on this matter. The government has not publicly commented on the August 3 rally, including no comments during a routine August 2 press conference. The National League for Democracy (NLD) spokesperson repeated on August 5 in a private conversation what he told an Embassy officer days after the 7031(c) announcement: NLD supports the 7031(c) designations, although the NLD cannot formally come out in favor of the designations due to tense civilian-military relations.

(C//NF) Comment: The August 3 rally appears to track with similar pro-military, pro-Min Aung Hlaing rallies over the past year in Yangon and around the country. The demonstration marks a slight ratcheting up of the military's rhetoric and tone, albeit through surrogates

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

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