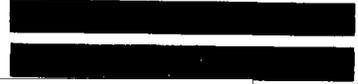


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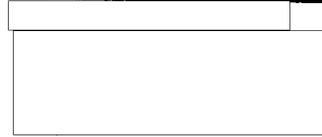
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BURMA: Outlook for National Election Bleak

Burma's military regime is sparing no effort to prevent an opposition victory in the constituent assembly election on 27 May, harassing party workers and severely restricting opposition political activities. The two most prominent opposition leaders—Aung San Suu Kyi of the National League for Democracy (NLD) and former Premier U Nu of the League for Democracy and Peace—are under house arrest

The regime has forcibly resettled several hundred thousand residents of NLD strongholds to new town sites in recent months.

Comment: The regime's measures show it believes the NLD would win in a fair election. Rangoon's rejection of international election observers, including denying all visitor visas this month, also strongly suggests it intends to tamper with the vote count. The parties and population are too intimidated to protest, but the regime, nervous about the underlying discontent, is relying on a heavy troop presence in the capital and other large cities and warnings to discourage unrest.

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