

NOT FOR PUBLICATION, BROADCAST, OR USE ON CLUB TAPES BEFORE
00.30 B.S.T. ON MONDAY, 10th NOVEMBER, 1941.
THIS EMBARGO SHOULD BE RESPECTED OVERSEAS BY PREFACING ANY
MESSAGES FILED WITH THE EMBARGO.

(Simultaneous publication in Burma has been arranged)

WAR CONTRIBUTION BY THE SHAN STATES

The Burma Office issue the following text of a message which has been communicated by the Chiefs of the Shan States to His Excellency the Governor of Burma, for transmission to His Majesty's Government:-

"The Shan States Chiefs, in view of the immense financial burden carried by the people of Great Britain for the prosecution of the war which is being waged in defence of liberty and civilization, desire that so much of the sum payable by Great Britain as compensation for the abolition of the transit duty on Lease and Lend goods passing through Burma and the Shan States to China as would accrue to the Shan States Federal Fund (namely 7%) shall not be claimed from Great Britain, but treated as a further war contribution by the Shan States to His Majesty's Government."

To this the following reply has been sent:-

"His Majesty's Government gratefully accept the contribution of the Shan Chiefs and warmly appreciate the spirit of solidarity with the struggle against aggression which their gesture in forgoing the subvention in respect of the abolition of transit duties makes evident."

BURMA OFFICE,
WHITEHALL, S.W.1.

UNOFFICIAL NOTE FOR INFORMATION

In recent years a considerable transit trade through Burma to China has developed but until the 3rd September, 1941, a duty of 1 per cent. ad valorem was levied by the Government of Burma on all goods in transit. There was considerable discussion in the United States whether this duty should be levied on Lease and Lend goods destined for China and an approach from His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to the Government of Burma resulted in the decision that all transit duties on Lease and Lend material consigned to China should be abolished with effect from the 3rd September, 1941, but that, in order that the revenues of Burma might not suffer thereby, a subvention, at the rate of Rupees 10 per ton on Lease and Lend goods for China landed in Burma, should be payable by His Majesty's Government to the Government of Burma. The offer now made by the Shan Chiefs is to surrender, as a war contribution to His Majesty's Government, that proportion of the subvention which would accrue to the Shan States Federal Fund in respect of the passage of the goods through Shan States Territories.