SHAN STATE PROGRESS PARTY

To,

December 13, 2014

The Embassy of the United States of America,
Yangon, Union of Burma.

Attention: H.E. Ambassador Derek Mitchell

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Shan State Progress Party / Shan State Army (SSPP/SSA), the undersigned is pleased to welcome the ambassadorial delegation's visit to Lashio and appreciate your interest in our endeavors in the peace process.

We hope that similar delegations will take place to areas of other ethnic nationalities as well. As a member of the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC) we are aware that during President Obama's last visit to Burma he did not include any discussions with the ethnic nationalities even though we made several approaches in advance. We observe this as a fact that he does not see the political importance of the role the ethnic nationalities play in the union. In the past months we have had the NCCT holding talks with the UPWC in trying to draw up a single text agenda which have been rudely interrupted by constant violations of the ceasefire agreements by the Burma Army. The latest examples against the KIO/KIA's military academy and the SSPP/SSA's forces in Ta Hpar Sawng show glaring evidence of President U Thein Sein government's intentions for attaining peace. In the past 11 months (January 01 –November 30, 2014) alone there have been 102 battles that have occurred in the SSPP/SSA area in addition to the previous years, a lot more of dead, wounded, suffering and dire hardship to the people. Our negotiations with the MPC for the past three years seem to be stalled by the latest comments by U Hla Maung Shwe that whatever that had been agreed on will be discussed only in the Hlut Taw after the 2015 elections. This means that we have come to a dead-end: a political stalemate.

We shall be grateful if the United States can pressure the present government to be more sincere in their peace building and try to rebuild trust, all which have deteriorated to zero.

Best regards.

Yours sincerely,

Lt. Gen. Sao Hso Hten
SSPP/SSA