A NEW DAWN IN MYANMAR: Possibilities and Prospects

Dr. Patrick M. Cronin Center for a New American Security 26th Asia-Pacific Roundtable 30 May 2012 Kuala Lumpur

MOST ABRUPT U-TURN IN HISTORY OR IRRATIONAL EXHUBERANCE?

• A POLITICAL MIRACLE AT THE TOP

• DEBATING THE CATALYST (GENERAL SHAPING VS. PROXIMATE CAUSE)

• FIVE MAJOR CHALLENGES

CHALLENGE 1: STATE BUILDING

- STRATEGY
- INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY
- POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND RULE OF LAW
- ACTORS AND PEOPLE

CHALLENGE 2: NATION 'BUILDING'

- INDUSTRY MINISTER U SOE THANE
- MAJOR SECTORAL STRATEGIC
 FRAMEWORKS
 - -QUICK WINS
 - -SEQUENCING MAJOR ECONOMIC PRIORITIES

CHALLENGE 3: PEACEBUILDING

- NO PEACE W/O RESOLVING ETHNIC DISPUTES
- MINISTER AUNG MIN'S CONFIDENCE
- FROM CEASEFIRE TO PEACE CENTER

CHALLENGE 4: DOMESTIC POLITICS

- TACIT ALLIANCE
- THE ICON AND THE MOVEMENT
- MAJOR INSTITUTIONS
- SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PEOPLE?

CHALLENGE 5: OUTSIDE 'ASSISTANCE'

- THE NEIGHBORS --BURMA REBALANCING
- THE REGION
 - -COMMUNITY BUILDING
- THE WORLD --DO NO HARM

TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS

- PARADOX OF IRREVERSIBILITY
- SCENARIOS FOR ABRUPT SETBACK
- TEMPERING MYANMAR MANIA