

Certain initiatives were identified as requiring urgent and immediate attention, such as trying to influence ASEAN members through dialogue to bring influence on Burma. The Canadian Ambassador to Thailand's visits to Burma, and to visit Daw Suu Kyi should be continued. Twelve such visits were noted. Interwoven with the political and economic considerations were two recurrent themes: the desperate situation of Burmese people in the country and on the border, and the worsening situation of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the harsh treatment of other democratic activists by SLORC.

The final initiative called for by participants of the Roundtable was the preparation of Canadians and Burmese for long-term commitment and the expectation of slow changes in Burma's situation. This might require a change in official approach, to acknowledge that ODA and other resources could be used for such activities outside Burma. This long-term approach is thought to be complementary balance to work on immediate issues such as refugees and drugs. With this in mind, Canada should plan and fund programs which prepare Burmese (and Canadians) for eventual changes, gradual though they might be. These programs would build their capacity to influence those changes and contribute to another kind of social, economic, and political development, different from what is happening now. If changes are rapid, Canadians would doubtless respond quickly. But if changes are gradual, and at times imperceptible, this is no reason for Canadian inactivity. Programs with a long horizon are potentially as important as the capacity for rapid response. As one participant said "can we really take ourselves seriously if we aren't doing much about Burma?"