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## *Foreword*

In response to the growing levels of interest and activism on Burma brewing across the country, a national consultative conference entitled **“Burma: Creating New Policies and Partnerships”** was held on April 25 & 26 1998, in Ottawa, to harness the energy and expertise of a variety of people from a cross-section of Canadian society and internationally. The conference was hosted by Canadian Friends of Burma and funded by the International Center for Human Rights and Democratic Development, the John Holmes Fund, the Open Society Institute and the European Office for the Development of a Democratic Burma.

The goals of the conference were:

- To consolidate the existing Canadian network of people and organizations who are working for a free and democratic Burma.
- To formulate recommendations for Canadian government action
- To formulate strategies for Canadian citizen action

In order to meet these goals, the conference was set up over two days.

Day 1 consisted of a half day of updates to give conference participants the opportunity to hear

from the Burmese pro-democracy leadership, and from human rights/ refugee relief workers on the most current aspects of the democracy movement and human rights crisis.

Day 2 consisted of a full day of action-planning and focused exclusively on the question “What can we do further to work for a democratic Burma?”. Three concurrent workshops were held in order to be able to brainstorm and discuss strategies and action plans.

1. Pressuring the Burmese Regime
2. Supporting the Democracy Movement
3. Canadian Campaigns - what are the next steps?

This report will allow the reader to have access to the dynamic discussions and developments which occurred throughout the conference and learn of the policy recommendations which were created as a result.

May the energy and creativity which prevailed at the conference carry on in all of our work and each recommendation be given life in order to further support the struggle for democracy and human rights in Burma. Canadian Friends of Burma wishes to thank all those who took part in the conference and the volunteers who helped make the event possible.

***“When spiders unite they can tie down a lion”***

—Ethiopian proverb