

Aung San Suu Kyi's speeches. The government has been able to reinvigorate its grip on society through opening the economy and financing a massive military build-up from realised profits. However, the end of the business boom in 1997 and the Asian currency crisis may yet bode for potential divisions among the military elites. Therefore, it appears that the relative power of both sides is about equal and may constitute a basis for a breakthrough. The importance of a dialogue and negotiation has never been greater.

While the NDL is ready to negotiate, it does not appear that the regime will approach the table unless forced.

In light of this picture, Myint Swe urged Canada to:

1. **Recognise the Committee Representing the Peoples Parliament (CRPP)** (formed by the NLD on 16th of September, 1998) as the sole representative body of Burma. (The CRPP has been recognised by the Nordic countries and the British Columbia provincial government). This support is important because first, it is due and second, it would delegitimise and subsequently weaken the repressive regime
2. **Employ economic sanctions against Burma** since they would not be particularly harmful to the people as investment mostly enriches an already wealthy group of elite with close ties to the military. "Profit must not be placed before principle."
3. **Use coercive diplomacy to bring the junta to the dialogue table either through the traditional "carrot and stick" diplomacy or through the UN and other multilateral mechanisms.** In the context of Canada's membership at the UN Security Council Canada could:
 - propose a general agenda to discuss a possible UN-sponsored negotiation (as well as at the coming UN General Assembly or through an informal consultative body);
 - make the UNDP humanitarian aid system conditional on NLD's participation as a means to bringing the parties together;
 - introduce a programme on Burma at the monthly briefing of the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Furthermore, Canada could use its active membership in APEC and its status as a friendly nation to ASEAN as means to encourage dialogue in Burma.

4. **Take a more active stance against the repression of the NLD**

In conclusion, Myint Swe said that despite what seems to be a political gridlock, the conditions in Burma are ripe for change. He reiterated Aung San Suu Kyi's recent call to the international community: "More than words, we need concrete action."

II Synopsis of the Discussions

The discussions fell into two broad categories:

1. Thoughts on the general political and socio-economic situation in Burma
2. Canada's "diplomatic," "development," and NGO initiatives/policies