
Policy Recommendations to the Government of Canada

- 1) Provide increased financial support for the democratic movement and programmes designed to promote the peaceful transition to democracy in Burma.
- 2) Promote Canada as a player in inter-governmental consultations on migrant labour and refugee issues and encourage ASEAN to lead.
- 3) Facilitate the process of consultation and policy development of the major players in Burma's democracy movement; the facilitation should include financial support and the provision of travel documentation and visas for consultation participants.
- 4) Host future meetings of the UN informal consultative mechanism on Burma of which Canada is a part.
- 5) Continue to support the cost of providing for refugees from Burma and internally displaced persons in Burma. Monitor and promote the interests, security and well-being of Burmese refugees in Thailand, Bangladesh and India.
- 6) Ensure that Canada not include Burma in any debt-forgiveness campaigns and promote a rule of thumb that countries which spend a disproportionate amount of their budget on the military be exempt from any debt-relief efforts.
- 7) Impose investment sanctions on Burma, maintain the suspension of ODA funds and oppose any programmes by the United Nations (especially UNDP and UNDCP) in Burma, unless or until all resolutions pertaining to Burma by the UN General Assembly and the UN Commission on Human Rights have been implemented.
- 8) Continue to find pressure points at regional (ASEAN), bilateral (India and Thailand) and multi-lateral (UN, Commonwealth) levels. Give special focus to India/Bangladesh border and implications of 1995 India/Burma border trade agreement on HIV, drugs, forced repatriation of refugees etc.
- 9) Convene a parliamentary delegation to visit the region including Thailand, India, China and Burma. The parliamentary delegation should visit colleagues, fellow members of Parliament, who were elected in the 1990 elections and are now based on the borders; visit the refugee camps and the human rights groups documenting the abuses. An attempt should be made to make a solidarity visit to Rangoon and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
- 10) Research what the new South Korean government's position is on Burma, its role in South East Asia and what role it could play to further the democracy movement.