

power. Unregulated and rapid depletion of the teak forests also has potentially severe environmental consequences for the region.

### CANADIAN POSITION

Canada recognized Burma at the time of Independence in 1948 and established diplomatic relations in 1958. Burma opened a permanent mission in Ottawa in 1966, closed it in 1978 and reopened in 1985.

Canada's relations with Burma are limited because of our human rights concerns. Canada suspended its aid program in 1988 and military sales have been halted. The Canadian Government does not encourage Canadian business to become involved in Burma.

Canada has worked through bilateral and multilateral channels to promote democratic development and respect for human rights in Burma. Canada's Ambassador to Burma (resident in Dhaka) makes regular representations to the SLORC on Canadian views. During his next visit in January, the Ambassador has been instructed to again seek further information on specific political prisoners based on lists provided by Amnesty International. We have called in Burmese officials in Ottawa to seek details on the disturbing reports that Aung San Suu Kyi may be refusing food to protest her continuing detention and to reiterate our call for her immediate release. The Secretary of State for External Affairs wrote to Aung San Suu Kyi in October 1992 to reaffirm our admiration for her struggle to promote democracy, human rights and ethnic reconciliation in Burma through peaceful means. Ms. McDougall also wrote to SLORC to express this Government's outrage at the continued detention of Aung San Suu Kyi and to exhort the regime to release all political prisoners immediately.

Canada continues to consult with a wide range of countries on Burma and we coordinate policy with a group of "like-minded" countries which hold similar views. Ms. McDougall called for an international arms embargo on Burma at the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference in Manila in July 1992. At the United Nations General Assembly in December 1992 we reiterated our views through our input in and co-sponsorship of the Burma resolution and in our UNGA statement on human rights. Canada has actively promoted a number of joint demarches on Burma in an effort to promote positive change.

### POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- Considering the SLORC's intransigence in dealings with the international community on its human rights record, as illustrated by its attitude during the CHR Rapporteur's visit, what measures are available to CHR to influence movement in the right direction ?

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