

on timing. Nevertheless, Burma's admission to ASEAN remains probable during 1997.

CANADIAN POSITION

At the UN General Assembly in November, Canada co-sponsored a consensus resolution on Burma that deplores the continued violation of human rights and calls on the SLORC to allow visits by the Special Representative of the Secretary General in order to establish a broader dialogue. Canada has also suggested the establishment of a contact group, under UN or other auspices, as a means to restore a dialogue between SLORC and the international community.

Canada's direct bilateral relations with Burma are limited because of our human rights concerns. New CIDA bilateral aid programming was suspended in 1988 after the army's massacre of thousands of pro-democracy demonstrators in Rangoon. Canada does not support multilateral assistance to Burma through the International Financial Institutions (IFIs). There is no resident Canadian diplomatic presence in Burma. Canada maintains a direct dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi through the Canadian Ambassador in Bangkok who is accredited to Burma. No encouragement is provided to Canadian firms doing business in Burma and military sales are not allowed. No Canadian Government export programs are open for Burma including the Programme for Export Market Development (PEMD). Bilateral trade is minimal and has remained flat over the last several years. Total Canadian exports to Burma in 1995 were worth only \$1.12 million while Canada imported goods worth \$14.17 million, mostly textiles and seafood. In November 1994, Canada and Burma renewed a textile restraints agreement which locks Canada into levels of imports set by the World Trade Organization (WTO).