

dialogue was only possible within the framework of the National Convention from which the NLD had withdrawn and subsequently been expelled, and that the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) accorded greater priority to talks with the national races and the resolution of the various insurgencies. The report notes, however, that a meeting had been held between SLORC's Secretary-1 and the Chairman of the NLD as well as two members of the NLD Central Executive Committee as well as the fact that a second meeting was proposed but did not take place because the NLD wanted Aung San Suu Kyi included, something to which the government could not agree since it does not recognize her position within the NLD. Neither the government nor the NLD considers that the contacts to date between them amount to the start of a political dialogue.

On the subject of the the National Convention, the report notes that the authorities explained that it had not met since March 1996 because the constitutional chapter to be considered next dealt with the key issue of power-sharing between the central government and the states and future self-administered areas and zones. The authorities stated that the subject required extensive discussions and a consensus with the national races needed to be built. The Foreign Minister was not in a position to give a time-frame for the resumption of the Convention, but reiterated that the government's goal was the establishment of a constitutional and multi-party system. The report notes that inquiries revealed no indication by the authorities that they might be considering changes in the composition and procedures of the National Convention to make them more representative and transparent.

A summary of contacts between the government the various insurgent groups, as well as the Karen National Union (KNU) is included, as well as comments on discussions between the government and the ICRC. On the latter point, the report notes the government's assertion that laws dating back to colonial days prevented it from accepting the ICRC's conditions regarding access to prisoners and detainees. On the question of an invitation to the CHR Special Rapporteur to visit, the report notes the government's position, namely, that since the SR's predecessor had submitted reports that did not reflect the real situation in the country, it had become necessary in the national interest to exercise considerable restraint, but a visit might take place at an appropriate time.

General Assembly resolution on the situation in Myanmar

The General Assembly adopted a resolution on the situation in Myanmar (A/C.3/52/L.63) in which the GA, *inter alia*: recalled that the Universal Declaration states that the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; expressed grave concern at the travel and other restrictions placed on Aung San Suu Kyi and other political leaders and continued arrests and harassment of members and supporters of the National League for Democracy (NLD), trade unionists and students for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association, at forced resignations of elected representatives and at the long closure of all universities and colleges following the student demonstrations in December 1996; welcomed the contact between the government and political parties, in particular the NLD, but regretted the failure of the government to engage in a substantive political dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi and other

political leaders, including representatives of ethnic groups; expressed grave concern at the continuing violations of human rights in Burma; noted that the human rights situation has resulted in flows of refugees to neighbouring countries, thus creating problems for the countries concerned; urged the government to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur and to ensure his access to Burma, without preconditions; deplored the continuing violations of human rights in Burma; requested the government to permit unrestricted communication with and physical access to Aung San Suu Kyi and other political leaders by members and supporters of the League and to protect their physical well-being; urged the government to release immediately and unconditionally detained political leaders and all political prisoners, to ensure their physical integrity and to permit them to participate in the process of national reconciliation; urged the government to pursue its contacts with the NLD with a view to engaging, at the earliest possible date, in a substantive political dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi and other political leaders, including representatives of ethnic groups; encouraged the government to broaden its dialogue with the Secretary-General and to facilitate access by his representative to the political leaders in Burma; urged the government to take all necessary steps to ensure that political parties and non-governmental organizations can function freely; expressed concern that the composition and working procedures of the National Convention do not permit the elected representatives freely to express their views; concluded that the National Convention does not appear to constitute the necessary steps towards the restoration of democracy; strongly urged the government to ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; urged the government to fulfil its obligation to end the impunity of perpetrators of human rights violations, including members of the military, and to investigate and prosecute alleged violations committed by government agents in all circumstances; welcomed the accession by the government to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; appealed to the government to consider becoming a party to the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Convention against Torture; urged the government to fulfil its obligations with regard to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international instruments it has ratified; and, called on the government and other parties to hostilities to respect fully their obligations under international humanitarian law.

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CAMBODIA

Date of admission to UN: 14 December 1955.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: Cambodia has not submitted a core document for use by the treaty bodies.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Signed: 17 October 1980; acceded: 26 May 1992.
Cambodia's initial report was due 30 June 1994.

Civil and Political Rights

Signed: 17 October 1980; acceded: 26 May 1992.
Cambodia's initial report was due 25 August 1993.