

build-up in refugees along the Thai border. She said that this work has to be done in concert with a number of other donors and agencies.

On the Objective of Canadian Approaches

Participants in the Roundtable were in general agreement on the desirability of sending SLORC a strong message disapproving the violations of human rights in Burma, noting that such a message had been sent in the UN Resolution on Burma passed in April 1997. The urgency of the human rights situation is escalating and calls for condemnation of and/or influence upon SLORC's policies and practices. A matrix of relationships between four key elements emerged as fundamental in the Roundtable deliberations: 1) development of a more democratic society and economy, 2) the appropriate treatment of ethnic minorities and refugees, 4) control of the drug economy and drug trade. 4) development of legitimate investment and trade. Obviously there is a strong perceived linkage between these four objectives: a more democratic society would treat its minorities appropriately, and conditions for legitimate investment and trade would tend to diminish the government's reliance upon the drug trade. Control of the drug economy might lead to a more democratic economy. Refugees could be re-integrated in a more democratic society.

The optimal approach or approaches need to be considered from a broad menu of possibilities: and the Roundtable asked whether should Canada work for change -

unilaterally, bilaterally, and/or multilaterally?

from inside and/or outside Burma?

in official and/or unofficial capacities

The concensus was that all these avenues for change should be actively pursued, although it was noted that Canada's influence through acting unilaterally was very limited, and through working inside the country was very limited; even in these cases, however, participants