State, was elected as the People's Parliament President. Dr. Saw Mra Aung, who is 80 years old, was recently arrested, making him the oldest political prisoner in Burma.

The democracy movement has urged the international community to give their support to the CRPP to strengthen the democratic process in Burma and to pressure the military junta. The Parliaments of Norway, Denmark, Belgium and the EU have formally recognized the CRPP. In May 1999, the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia passed a strongly-worded motion condemning the situation in Burma that included a recommendation that the Government of Canada recognize the Committee Representing the People's Parliament, "as the legitimate instrument of the will of the Burmese people." (Motion No. 61, May 4, 1999)

Recommendation to the Government of Canada:

That the Minister introduce a motion in Parliament that the Parliament of Canada recognize the Committee Representing the People's Parliament as representative of the elected Parliament of Burma.

3.4 Supporting the Democracy Movement - Preparing for Transition

For several years, Canadian NGOs have discussed the development of a long-term program that anticipates democratic transition and builds a Canadian role in support of a democratic Burma. The program would aim to assist in building the capacity of Burmese organizations to prepare for democratic transition and governance. The program would also aim to strengthen the capacity of Canadian NGOs, institutions and government agencies to effectively support democratization.

Elements of such capacity-building, in Canada and in Burma, are already taking place. Canadian Friends of Burma, for example, has been a locus for bringing together Canadians from across the country with an interest and an expertise in Burma. The considerable interest in Burma was evident at the April 1998 CFOB conference "Creating New Policies and Partnerships". Partly as an outcome of this successful conference, CFOB plans to create an annual national forum to help build knowledge and expertise in Canada and to co-ordinate public education activities.

In the Burma - Thailand border region, Canadian NGOs have been supporting capacity-building activities for many years. Inter Pares, for example, has initiated a program to bring development expertise from other Asian countries to ethnic minority organizations working on the border. Capacity-building activities have included training of para-medics and training in psychological interventions with victims of torture and trauma. Exposure visits to countries in the region are planned in 1999 as a way of introducing experiences in development programming.