

News Release

Secretary of
State for
External Affairs



Communiqué

Secrétaire
d'État aux
Affaires
extérieures

No. 229

October 5, 1990

CANADA EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN MYANMAR

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today stated that Canada's Ambassador to Myanmar, Emile Gauvreau, had expressed grave concern to the Government of Myanmar that Myanmar's national assembly has not yet been given legislative authority and that members of the National League for Democracy, including party leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, continue to be detained by the interim government. Canada was among eighteen nations to make representations to the Myanmar government in recent days.

Mr. Clark said that he was particularly concerned and dismayed at recent arrests of other members of the National League for Democracy by the interim government, known as the State Law and Order Restoration Council.

"The interim government and the army must initiate constructive dialogue with the National League for Democracy, convene the elected national assembly, and release all political prisoners. That dialogue is only possible if the leaders of the National League for Democracy are free," said Mr. Clark.

Canada's Ambassador to Myanmar underlined to the Government of Myanmar the seriousness with which Canada views the violation of diplomatic premises, such as the recent intrusion by the army of the embassy compound of the Federal Republic of Germany, and the army's arrest and harassment of locally engaged staff of other missions.

-30-

For more information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
(613) 995-1874