

ii *Canada's "Diplomatic," "Developmental," and NGO Initiatives/Policies*

The discussion surrounding Canada's "diplomatic" initiatives was started by Peter Gillespie from Inter Pares who drew attention to a paper distributed at the roundtable, produced by the Friends of Burma, and entitled *Canadian NGO Policy Paper on Burma* (a copy for those who did not attend the meeting is included in this package). The paper lists the following ten policy recommendations for the government's considerations (some of them overlap with Myint Swe's list):

1. Canada should **introduce the subject of Burma as a general discussion agenda item at the UN Security Council.**
2. Canada should **initiate a discussion about the humanitarian crisis in Burma with the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.**
3. Canada should **request the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to convene a UN inter-agency meeting to consider the crisis in Burma**
4. Canada should **seek to formalize the existing Burma informal consultative mechanism of the UN Secretary General** and promote it as a forum of the coordination of international policy and strategy
5. The Minister should proceed to impose **investment sanctions** under the Special Economic Measures Act. If the Minister determines that he cannot proceed under SEMA, he should enact a special statute tailored to the particular situation of Burma.
6. The Canadian Government should amend the **Income Tax Act** to bar Canadian companies operating in Burma from deducting any of their foreign business income tax from their Canadian taxes.
7. **The Parliament of Canada should officially recognize the CRPP as representative of the elected Parliament of Burma.**
8. The Ministers of DFAIT and CIDA should **create the necessary framework to enable CIDA to support capacity-building activities** with Burma's democratic movement.
9. Representatives of **CIDA, DFAIT and Canadian NGOs should meet as soon as possible to discuss a capacity-building framework and strategy to support Burma's democracy movement**
10. In 1999-00, CIDA should designate **planning funds for an NGO coalition to investigate capacity-building needs and modalities of support for the democracy movement.**

Others added to the list the following broad issues that need attention:

11. Enhancement of **multilateral efforts beyond the UN** to influence change, perhaps through the ASEAN, or bilateral relations with Thailand or China.
12. **Assistance to people in war zones** with special attention being paid to women and rape as means to ethnic cleansing.
13. **Assistance to refugees.**
14. Engagement in **"track 2" diplomacy** with the Burmese people, NGOs, and civil society in general.