

Dr U Ne Oo
Campaign Sub-Committee
18 Shannon Place
Adelaide SA 5000
Australia

1 March 2005

Daniele Smadja
Director, External Relations
European Commission
B-1049 Brussel, Belgium.

Re: International arms embargo on Burma

Dear Director

We wish to express our thanks to the European Union taking strong stand against the Burmese military junta. In particular, we are very grateful that the EU has an embargo on sales of arms to the military junta in Burma.

In this connection, we should like to express our concerns about the European Union lifting of arms embargo on China, as has been proposed in some diplomatic quarters recently. We fear that such a move will trigger an international arm race in the future.

Furthermore, we are very concerned about China selling of arms to the military regime in Burma. Since 1989, China has sold an estimated 3 billion USD worth of arms to Burma.

As the European Union has an embargo on sales of arms to Burmese military junta, we would like to point out that EU lifting of arms embargo on China will be inconsistent with its Burma policy.

The Burmese military junta refuses to enter negotiation with the elected parliamentarians. The junta continues to detain the opposition leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The junta had excluded the elected National League for Democracy along with all other political leaders in drafting of constitution. Just last week, the delegates from International Labour Organization have to end their visit to Burma due to the lack of co-operation from the junta. It is therefore most appropriate that the UN Security Council to put Burma in its agenda.

We particularly advocate that an international arms embargo on Burma authorised by United Nations Security Council is most appropriate at this time. We ask the member governments of European Union to help put forward the case of Burma at the UN Security Council together with implementation of international arms embargo on Burmese military junta.

Yours respectfully

W/ 1/3/2005

(U NE OO)
Political Campaign Committee
Burma Action Group in South Australia.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EXTERNAL RELATIONS DIRECTORATE GENERAL
DIRECTORATE Multilateral relations and human rights
The Director

Brussels, 20 September 2004
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Dr U Ne Oo
Hon. Secretary
Burma Action Group SA
18 Shannon Place
Adelaide SA 5000
Australia

File Copy

Subject: The United Nations Security Council action on Burma

Thank you for your letter of 29 June 2004, in which you expressed concern about the situation of democracy and human rights in Burma.

The European Commission is deeply concerned by the deterioration of the political situation in the country. The European Union has a strong Common Position on Burma/Myanmar, which was first adopted in 1996 and has been strengthened on a number of occasions since. It includes an arms embargo imposed in 1990, the suspension of defence co-operation since 1991 and the suspension of all bilateral aid, other than strictly humanitarian assistance.

There is also an EU visa ban on the members of the military regime, the members of the government, senior military and security officers and their families, as well as the suspension of high-level governmental visits to Burma/Myanmar.

Separately, EU trade privileges, normally granted to Least Developed Countries, were withdrawn from Burma/Myanmar in 1997 because of forced labour. On 10 April 2000, the EU strengthened its Common Position through the introduction of a ban on the supply of equipment that might be used for internal repression or terrorism and a freeze of funds held abroad by persons named in the published list. In response to the deteriorating political situation, the EU reinforced its Common Position on Burma in April 2003 by extending the scope of the list for the visa ban and asset freeze to include also individuals, organisations and companies that benefit from the activities of the military government or implement its policies. At the time it was decided to suspend the implementation of the strengthened sanctions temporarily.

Since the attack of 30 May 2003, the European Union has repeatedly urged the Burmese authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other members of the National League for Democracy. The EU has also called on the Burmese authorities to ensure that those responsible for the attack are held to account. Unfortunately the Burmese Government has not reacted so far.

The EU remains fully supportive of the efforts of the United Nations Secretary General Special Representative to Burma, Tan Sri Razali Ismail, and of the vital role of the United Nations in bringing about political change in the country.

Yours sincerely,



Danièle Smadja
Director