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June 17, 1993

Ms SADAKO OGATA,
UNHCR,
CASE POSTALE 2500,
CH-1211 GENEVA-2 DEPOT,
SWITZERLAND.

Dear High Commissioner,

RE: Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh-Burma border

With regards to the request of an internationally monitored repatriation for Burma-Rohingyas, we have made a plea to the Australian Foreign Minister, Sen. Gareth Evans on April 27, 1993. We noticed that some initiatives in this regard have been carried out by the international community. On 20-May, officials from US state Dept. requested ASEAN to refuse Burma of the membership if no concessions being made. On 27-30 May, there was a high level talk between Singapore and SLORC took place. By observing such a high-level visit paid by the Burmese military, it is conceded that SLORC is keen to join ASEAN. As yet, there are no signs of concession from SLORC on this issue.

We expect that further approaches by the Government of Bangladesh and UNHCR may help for SLORC in considering the concession. It had been reported that SLORC is considering to allow a UNHCR contingency in Arakan State [Bangkok Post 24/3/93]. We are sending letters to the Government of Bangladesh for a follow-up talk on this issue. We wish the High Commissioner encourage the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh for this task.

The SLORC is apparently suspicious of UNHCR's intention and appears worrying about the implications of allowing UNHCR inside Burma. It will be helpful to clarify the possible role of UNHCR in Arakan State. It will be definitely helpful to issue a threat of United Nations Security Council resolution on this issue.

We therefore urge the High Commissioner to consider at issuing following message to SLORC:

- UNHCR have limited resources and now an urgency to repatriate Burma-Rohingyas.
- UNHCR intend to set-up a contingency in Arakan State. The UNHCR head quarter will be resided at Sittwe(Akyab) and its sub-divisions at Buthidoung and Moundaw. There will be only the UN personnals (No UN security forces intend to deployed.)

- The UNHCR will treat Rohingyas as refugees after repatriated back to Arakan State (*). The refugees will not be hand-over to SLORC. These refugees will be hand-over to forth-coming democratic government.
- The Rohingyas should be allowed to participate their normal livelyhood activities after resettled in their former inhabitant. The UNHCR team will regularly check the Refugees.
- The UNHCR will be sensitive to the serious human rights abuses by the local authorities. UNHCR will not tolerate serious treatments by Burma's authorities, such as forced labour, rape, extra-judicial execution, detention and prosecution without a proper trial.
- The SLORC is advised that, because of actual urgency to repatriate refugees, UNHCR will commend the 1992 resolution of UNGA to be enforced through United Nations Security Council, unless the proposed concession is being made.
- A friendly advise is given that the SLORC personnels who believe to be involved in shooting the refugees at Naaf river on February 1992 should transfer to other states.

(*) To our knowledge, Burma is not a signatory to the international law regarding with refugees. In this case, UNHCR may have to work with the promise given by SLORC.

My personal thanks are to the High Commissioner for the attention given to the Burmese refugees and Burma. We are hoping that SLORC will make this concession in time for next ASEAN ministerial meeting in July. We will be advocating the United Nations Security Council to intervene unless the concession being made by the end of July 1993.

Yours respectfully and sincerely,

Ne Oo
17/6/93

(1) Sen. Gareth Evans, The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2601.



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600

17 May 1993

U Ne Oo
Department of Physics and Mathematical Physics
The University of Adelaide
South Australia 5005

Dear U Ne Oo

Thank you for your letter and enclosures of 27 April 1993 addressed to Senator Evans concerning the situation of the Rohingyas in Burma and the Australian Government's response. Senator Evans has asked me to reply on his behalf.

The Australian Government is deeply concerned at the serious human rights situation in Burma and the refusal of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) to transfer power to a democratically elected government.

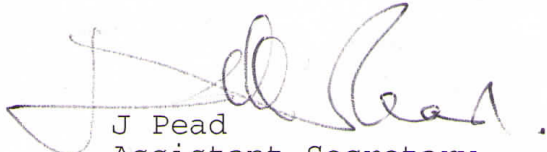
The Australian Government has introduced a number of measures to help maintain the momentum of international pressure on the SLORC to accelerate the pace of political reform and to adhere to internationally accepted standards of human rights. The Australian Government has implemented bans on bilateral aid and defence exports to Burma. We have urged countries known to supply arms to Burma to discontinue such exports. We have encouraged the ASEAN countries to use their undoubted influence with Burma to promote positive changes. The Government also initiated a seminar on Burma at Griffith University in Brisbane from 3-4 December 1992 to help focus attention, both in Australia and overseas, on the situation in that country.

Other measures implemented by the Australian Government to promote change in Burma include support for strong resolutions at last year's United Nations General Assembly and this year's session of the UN Commission on Human Rights (CHR49). These resolutions focus on the human rights situation and make specific reference to oppressive measures directed at ethnic minorities.

In the specific case of the Rohingyas, Australia has actively supported the efforts of the UNHCR to gain access to Burmese refugee camps in Bangladesh, and continues to support the establishment of a UNHCR presence in Burma to monitor the repatriation process. UNHCR has advised the Australian Government that it is currently satisfied with the extent of its access to Burmese refugee camps in Bangladesh. While there were reports of some involuntary repatriation of Burmese refugees from Bangladesh in late 1991, UNHCR has indicated that subsequent repatriation from Bangladesh have been made on a voluntary basis. Australia will continue to monitor the repatriation of the Rohingyas very carefully.

Senator Evans has on several occasions urged the ASEAN countries to put more substance into their policy of "constructive engagement" with Burma by using their influence with the SLORC to promote positive change.

Yours sincerely



J Pead
Assistant Secretary
South East Asia Branch

Bangkok Post 24/3/93

sive in nature.

Jiang, in a speech splashed over the front page of yesterday's official *People's Daily*, said China's generals should enhance combat capability while the international situation remains relatively peaceful.

"The world situation still has its grim aspect. Power politics and hegemonism still exist, and regional wars and conflicts have never ceased," Jiang was quoted as saying.

"Only with a strong army which can the Chinese nation have reliable security in the world and the nation's socialist modernisation proceed smoothly."

China's growing military muscle has caused worries among some of its Asian neighbours, who fear Peking may want the role of regional big power as Russia and the United States wane.

Recent Chinese purchase of advanced jet fighters from the former Soviet

to mark the current session of parliament, said fears over China's military capabilities were being fed by international weapons merchants hoping to provoke an arms race in Asia.

China's military spending this year will be about \$7.5 billion, compared with \$274.3 billion for the United States \$37.7 billion for Japan, and similar amounts for Britain and France, according to Chinese figures.

"China's military spending remains the smallest among big nations and relatively low among developing countries as well," Qian said.

"After the end of the Cold War, military industries in some countries lost their markets. They need to find new markets, and that is the reason they create the opinion that China poses a threat and that there is tension in the Asia-Pacific region, to promote the sales of their arms," he said.

Jiang said the army, which Peking used to crush the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests of 1989, would continue to be the chief guarantee of social stability in China.

"Historical experience tells us that there would be no national security and domestic stability without a strong national defence," Jiang quoted as saying.

Burma may change refugee policy

Dhaka (Reuters) — Burma may change its policy and let the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees supervise the return of tens of thousands of Burmese Muslim refugees from Bangladesh, a Bangladeshi minister said.

"Rangoon would have no objections if a small team of the UNHCR visited Burma. If necessary they would consider the stationing of a small UNHCR contingent in their country," Communications Minister Oh Ahmed told reporters on his return from a four-day visit.

Ahmed said he was told of the policy shift by military leader and prime minister General Than Shwe. He also quoted Than Shwe as saying there was an "open invitation" to UN Under-Secretary General Jan Eliasson to visit Burma.

Eliasson visited Rangoon early last year and persuaded the Burmese military junta to sign an agreement with Dhaka in April for the refugees' return.

term on Shoichi Chihama for vandalism and interference in another's business.

The 44-year-old supermarket owner was arrested in 1987 for pulling down and burning a Rising Sun flag at a stadium in his hometown during a softball match which was held as part of Japan's annual national sports festival.

The red disc on a white background and the hymn "Kimigayo (Your Reign)" have been increasingly used as Japan's official emblems at home and abroad — most prominently at sumo wrestling ceremonies and the Olympic Games.

A former anti-war student activist, Chihama has insisted that the flag-burning was "a just act to guard against the infringement upon the freedom of thought and conscience."

He has also pointed to the nationalist sentiment prevailing on the Okinawan islands where some 150,000 civilians were killed in battles between American and Japanese soldiers in the final phase of World War II.

Okinawa, a string of sub-tropical islands in the East China Sea, which was under Japanese rule from 1879 and Japanese in feudal days, was the only part of Japan where land battles were fought in the war.

got underway yesterday with a ceremonial swing of a wrecker's was technically part of China, and for years out of bounds for Hong

Chinese minister talks with Hurd

Peking (AFP) — Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen ruled out yesterday the possibility of a meeting with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, as the row over Hong Kong's political future simmered.

Qian's remarks came after Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten's cabinet decided not to set an immediate date for introducing a controversial electoral reform bill to the colony's Legislative Council.

Qian indicated that in the absence of Sino-British talks on reforming the colony's political system before it reverts to China in 1997, a Sino-British ministerial meeting could not happen.

N. Korea blames US for detente

Geneva (Reuters) — North Korea yesterday accused Washington of sparking a crisis on the Korean peninsula to provide an excuse for resuming military exercises in the South.

But Pyongyang envoy Ri Teheul told the United Nations' Disarmament Conference his country would continue efforts for denuclearisation in North and South despite its withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

"By resuming the exercises, the US and the South Korean authorities have shown they do not want detente, dialogue and reunification of the Korean peninsula but only to pursue their strategic objective of stifling our republic," he said.

"With the real intentions of the US confirmed, the security of our country and our nation again faced grave danger," declared Ri, ambassador to the UN's European headquarters in Geneva.

The crisis followed more than a year of declining tension in the region as the Communist North and US-backed South began direct negotiations after four decades of hos-

The Communications Authority of Thailand Closest To Home

Talking in one's own native tongue of some