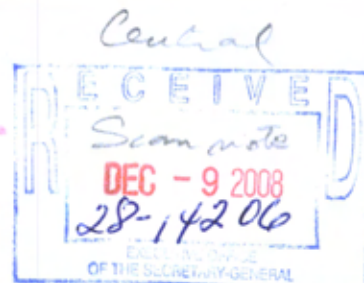


As per Political Unit ✓
Action already taken ✓

Myanmar



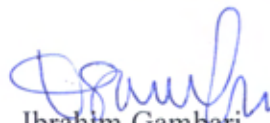
Note to Mr. Nambiar

Group of Friends of the Secretary-General on Myanmar

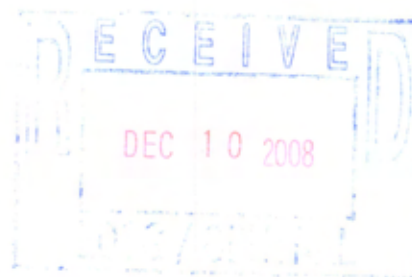
1. As requested, please find attached material for the Secretary-General for tomorrow's meeting of the Group of Friends on Myanmar. The attached includes:

- Draft announcement of the meeting at tomorrow's noon briefing;
- Draft agenda of the meeting;
- Seating chart;
- Current list of participants;
- Draft opening remarks by the Secretary-General;
- Draft closing remarks by the Secretary-General;
- Talking points for the Secretary-General;
- Draft press statement by the Secretary-General.

2. Thank you.


Ibrahim Gambari
4 December 2008

cc.: Mr. Pascoe
Mr. Kim



Announcement for
Noon Briefing

Announcement for the noon briefing on Friday 5 December 2008

MYANMAR

This afternoon, the Secretary-General will convene and chair a meeting of the Group of Friends on Myanmar to discuss current developments in the country and ongoing efforts in the context of his good offices mandate. The Secretary-General will address the press at the stakeout outside Conference Room 7 after the meeting at 5:30pm

Agenda

DRAFT AGENDA

**MEETING OF THE GROUP OF FRIENDS
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON MYANMAR**

Friday, 5 December 2008

4 to 5:30 p.m. - Conference Room 7

- I. Opening Remarks by the Secretary-General**
- II. Remarks by Mr. Ibrahim Gambari,
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General**
- III. Discussion**
- IV. Closing remarks by the Secretary-General**

Participants

GROUP OF FRIENDS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON MYANMAR

Friday, 5 December 2008, 4 p.m.

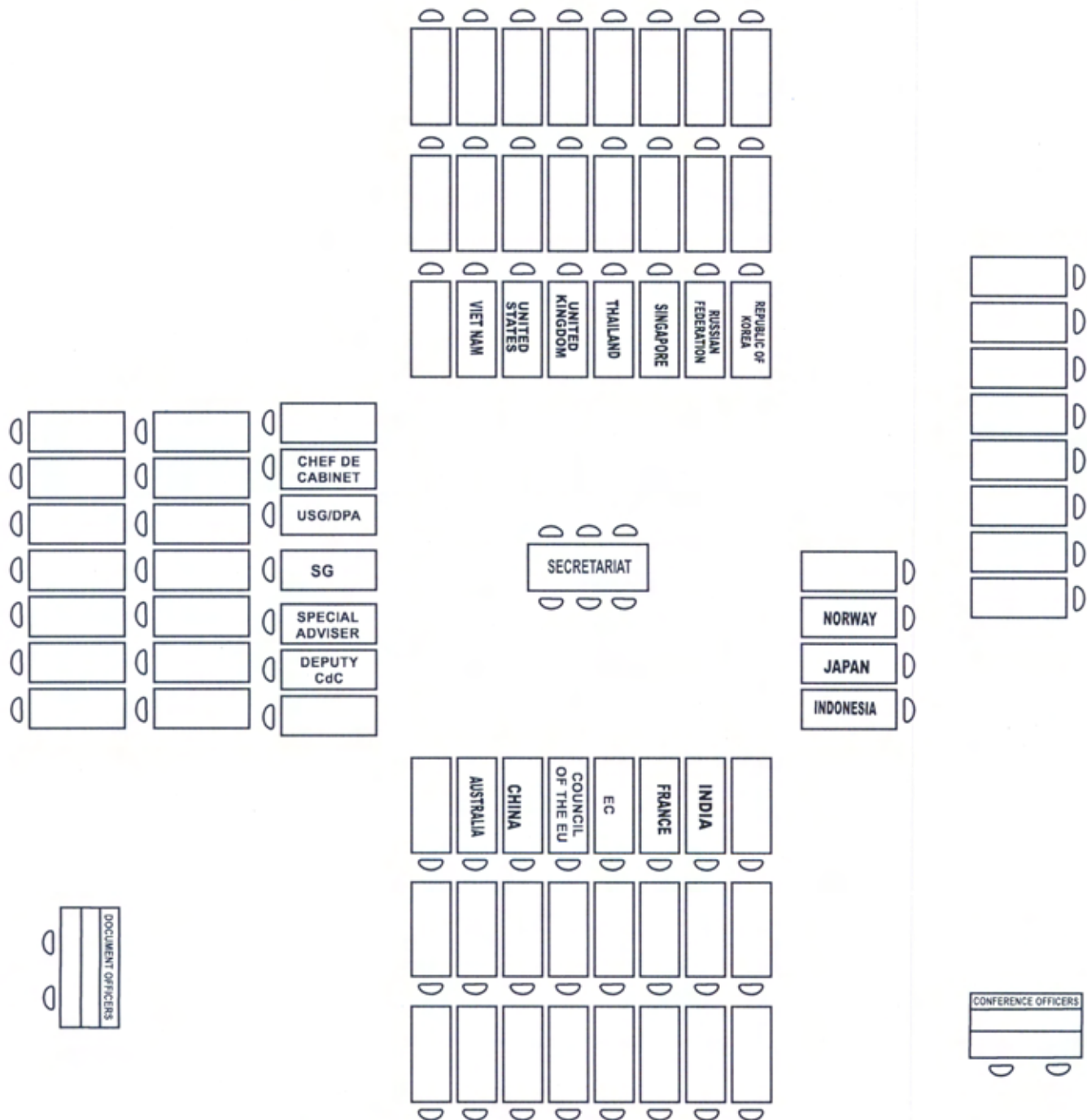
Conference Room 7

COUNTRY	Representation
Australia	H.E. Mr. Robert Hill (PR)
China	H.E. Mr. La Yifan Minister Counsellor
Council of the European Union	H.E. Mr. Pedro Serrano Head of Liaison Office
European Commission	H.E. Hans-Peter Schwaiger Chargé d'Affaires
France	H.E. Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, (DPR)
India	H.E. Nirupam Sen (PR)
Indonesia	H.E. R.M. Marty M. Natalegawa (PR) tbc
Japan	H.E. Mr. Yukio Takasu (PR) tbc
Norway	H.E. Mr. Morten Wetland (PR)
Republic of Korea	H.E. Mr. PARK In-kook (PR)
Russia	H.E. Mr. Vitaly I Churkin (PR)
Singapore	H.E. Mr. Vanu Gopala Menon (PR)
Thailand	H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai (PR)
UK	H.E. Sir John Sawers (PR)
USA	H.E. Rosemary diCarlo (DPR)
Viet Nam	H.E. Mr. Hoang Chi Trung (DPR)

CONFERENCE ROOM - 7 SEATING CHART

MEETING OF THE GROUP OF FRIENDS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON MYANMAR

5 DECEMBER 2008 - 4:00 PM



SG's Opening Remarks



Group of Friends of the Secretary-General on Myanmar

– 5 December 2008 –

Opening remarks by the Secretary-General

Thank you for responding to my invitation, especially at such a short notice. I felt it necessary to convene this meeting to hear your views about current developments in Myanmar and how this Group can help address the challenges facing us. I am gratified for the continued strong support which you unanimously expressed for my good offices and the work of my Special Adviser, Mr. Gambari, at the first high level meeting of this Group on the sideline of the General Assembly. Now, I call on Member States who have expressed support for my good offices to demonstrate, in concrete terms, their commitment to create the conditions which would facilitate positive response by the Government of Myanmar to the five-point Agenda, which my Special Adviser presented during his last mission to Myanmar, especially concerning the release of political prisoners, including Aung San Su Kyi, and the commencement of substantive dialogue between the Government and the Opposition. While the cooperation of all parties is needed, let me reiterate here that the primary responsibility lies with the Government of Myanmar to deliver timely and substantive results in this regard.

As you know, following my visit in May, I expressed my readiness to return to Myanmar to address these and other issues as part of a broad agenda, building on the unprecedented cooperation developed between Myanmar, the UN and ASEAN in response to Cyclone Nargis. I also stressed, however, that I would not be able to do so without reasonable expectations that such a visit would be useful and productive in terms of addressing our key concerns. Unfortunately, recent actions by the authorities in Myanmar are contrary to the spirit of close cooperation between the UN and Myanmar in the political and socio-economic fields. In the meantime, as I indicated in my latest report to the General Assembly, I believe that it is important for us to continue to signal clearly and collectively our common interest in a credible and

inclusive process of national reconciliation and democratic transition in Myanmar with full respect for human rights, as well as our strong concern about any action that may undermine these shared objectives. I now turn to Mr. Gambari to update us on the latest developments.

SG's Closing Remarks



Group of Friends of the Secretary-General on Myanmar

– 5 December 2008 –

Closing remarks by the Secretary-General

I wish to thank all of you as Friends for your renewed commitment to my good offices and the efforts of my Special Adviser. I have listened carefully to your views and concerns. Since our last meeting, I sense not only a higher degree of expectation at the need for meaningful and timely progress in response to our concerns, but also a growing frustration that, despite our efforts, the investment you have made so far through our good offices has not yet yielded the results we all hope for. I share that sense of expectation and frustration. By nature, the UN's good offices is exercised on behalf of the international community. And by definition, it entails a process of mutual engagement and cooperation with the parties concerned. As Secretary-General, I am determined to continue to implement the mandate you have given me, based on mutual trust and confidence with Myanmar and the necessary active support of a united international community.

To this Group, I want to stress that I count on all of you as Friends to translate your words of support for my good offices into concrete terms. Without adequate tools and leverage from key interested Member States, our capacity to effectively implement on your behalf the good offices mandate you entrusted me with will remain limited. Now is the time to bridge divisions around a consensus path towards the objectives we all share for Myanmar.

To the Government and people of Myanmar, I want to reiterate that the UN is ready to continue to work with all concerned to facilitate your efforts towards a credible and inclusive process of national reconciliation and democratic transition with full respect for human rights. Now is the time for all to come together and for the Myanmar leadership to demonstrate whether it is genuinely willing to work with the UN good offices in the interest of the country and its people.

Thank you very much.

SG's Press Q&A's



Meeting of the Group of Friends on Myanmar

Draft Questions and Answers

5 December 2008

What did you achieve by convening your Group of Friends on Myanmar today?

- In convening a meeting of the Group of Friends today, I wanted to speak to members directly about recent developments in Myanmar, expectations for the good offices going forward, and how we collectively can best address the challenges facing us. I heard a range of views that reaffirmed the strong support for my good offices, but also an expectation that the Myanmar Government do more to cooperate meaningfully with us.

Do you intend to return to Myanmar?

- As I have said before, I am ready to return to Myanmar to discuss a range of issues facing the country. At the same time, I have consistently stressed that such a visit must be meaningful and productive, and should only take place when conditions are right.

Will your Special Adviser visit Myanmar? What will he do next?

- I continue to remain closely engaged on this issue through my Special Adviser, who is following developments and remains in close touch with the Myanmar authorities. More than a question of timing, considerations of what can be achieved and how to ensure a productive visit will determine his next visit. In the meantime, he remains closely engaged with a wide range of Member States to help build shared approaches among the international community to the situation in Myanmar and the way forward.

What do you think about recent developments in Myanmar?

- In my recent report to the General Assembly, I offer a comprehensive assessment of the situation in Myanmar. I have also expressed my concern at most recent developments, in particular the long sentences imposed on a range of members of the political opposition. The close cooperation following Cyclone Nargis demonstrated that it is possible for the Government to work with the international community in the interests of its people. It remains my hope that we will find ways to expand such cooperation to the other issues facing the country.

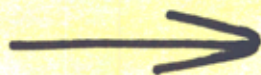
What is the UN's position regarding the Government's plan for 2010 elections?

- From our experience around the world, we have learned that elections can have a divisive or a unifying effect, depending on the level of preparation and the degree of domestic buy-in into the process. That is why we have consistently emphasized the need for any political process to be credible and inclusive. The role of the United Nations is to ascertain the positions of all parties and facilitate their efforts to work together through dialogue towards a mutually acceptable process of national reconciliation and democratization.

How is the humanitarian post-cyclone response proceeding?

- The humanitarian response to Cyclone Nargis is continuing. We are moving past the emergency phase into early recovery, helping people and communities resume their lives and restart their livelihoods. In this endeavor, there has been very good cooperation between the United Nations, ASEAN and the Myanmar Government, for the benefit of the people of Myanmar. I am pleased that all of us were able to work together during this time of need, and hope that we can build on that process to expand cooperation in the humanitarian and socio-economic areas but also foster a similar spirit of partnership in tackling the political problems facing Myanmar today.

SG's Press Statement



Press statement by the Secretary-General

Today, I convened and chaired a special meeting of the Group of Friends on Myanmar to discuss recent developments in the country and ongoing efforts in the context of my good offices mandate.

I welcome the renewed expression of support from all the Friends for my good offices role and the efforts of my Special Adviser, and strongly urge all members of the Group to provide concrete assistance in order to further enable our efforts on behalf of the international community.

I have taken note of the Group's unanimous concern at recent actions by the Government of Myanmar that risk undermining the prospects of inclusive national reconciliation, democratic transition and respect for human rights, and, more generally, at the lack of positive response by Myanmar to the concerns of the United Nations and the international community, contrary to the spirit of mutual engagement and cooperation between the United Nations and Myanmar.

I urge the Government of Myanmar to respond positively without further delay to the specific suggestions endorsed by the Group of Friends in the context of my good offices, including the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all other political prisoners and the initiation of genuine dialogue with the opposition.

New York, 5 December 2008