

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

26 October 2007

Excellency,

I wish to thank you for having received my Special Adviser, Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, at a time when the situation in your country is attracting unprecedented attention and raising serious concerns within the international community. My Special Adviser is visiting your country on my behalf and with the strong support of the international community, including that of the countries neighbouring Myanmar, members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and of the United Nations Security Council. Expectations are very high and I am confident that you will continue to extend all necessary cooperation to my Special Adviser.

I have taken note of the initial positive steps taken by your Government to de-escalate tension and welcome the announcement of your readiness to engage in dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. I was also encouraged by the reports that Minister Aung Kyi, whom you have appointed as Liaison Officer to facilitate relations with the detained leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD), has met with her for the first time. I urge you to ease the restrictions imposed on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi so that a genuine dialogue can start. I have asked my Special Adviser to remain available to you in order to facilitate any efforts in this regard.

To that end, my Special Adviser is tasked to consult with Minister Aung Kyi and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the scope, objective, modalities and time frame of such a dialogue. Furthermore, I would like him to consult broadly with as many stakeholders as possible, including with the NLD and other political parties, ethnic nationality groups, student leaders, monks and other representatives of Myanmar society. I have also asked him to consult with members of the Constitutional Drafting Committee on ways by which its work can be made more inclusive.

His Excellency
Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
of the Union of Myanmar
Nay Pyi Taw

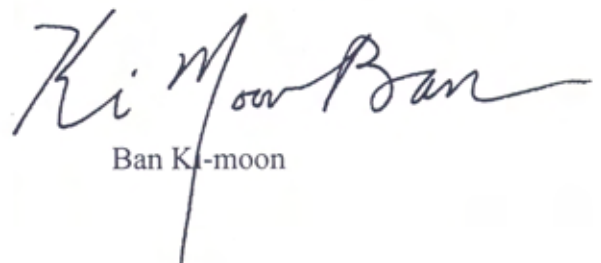
SG letter to Sr. General Shwe
Drafter: DPA
Proofread by: KG/ SA
AJ ed by [signature]
Date: 26 October 2007

I wish to reiterate, however, that I remain deeply concerned about continuing reports of human rights violations by the Myanmar authorities in the wake of the recent demonstrations. I personally attach great importance to your Government's full adherence to international human rights standards, and I urge you to do everything necessary to put an immediate end to such abuses. All political detainees, student activists, monks and other civilians detained should be released. I am pleased that your Government has invited Mr. Paolo Sergio Pinheiro, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar to visit your country before the ASEAN summit and am confident that you will extend your cooperation to him. I am equally encouraged that your Government has agreed in principle to a visit by a delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). I hope that your Ministry of Home Affairs and the ICRC will be able to reach agreement on the timing of such a visit very soon.

The United Nations recognizes that the responsibility for the future of Myanmar ultimately lies with its people and Government. The international community is today closely watching how that responsibility will be exercised to meet the needs and expectations of all the people of Myanmar through an inclusive process of national reconciliation. I am convinced that Myanmar cannot afford a return to the status quo that existed before the crisis. It would be most regrettable if your efforts over the past years were to be nullified by failure to urgently address the concerns that underlie the most recent unrest through dialogue and understanding.

As Secretary-General, I am prepared to do everything possible to mobilize international support for Myanmar's development, commensurate with tangible progress in the areas of concern to the international community. I remain committed to ensuring that the United Nations continues to work with Myanmar in support of your efforts to implement the relevant decisions of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, with a view to advancing the shared goal of a prosperous and democratic Myanmar living at peace with itself and with full respect for human rights.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Ban Ki-moon



Note to the file

Letter was first dtd 31/10 [see copy attached] and was signed by SG on 12/10 and handed to Mr. Gambari who was to hand-deliver it.

On 26/10 a slightly amended version – dtd 26/10 - was signed after VN authorized the use of the autopen.

This new letter was handed to Mr. Yoon [trip coordinator] who will hand it to Mr. Gambari in Istanbul who will then hand-deliver it.

26 October

The original 1st version of the letter dtd 31/10 - was returned to OSG on 19/11 by Mr. Erwan Pouchous and was subsequently shredded.

20 November



31 October 2007

Excellency,

I wish to thank you for having received my Special Adviser, Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, at a time when the situation in your country is attracting unprecedented attention and raising serious concerns within the international community. My Special Adviser is visiting your country on my behalf and with the strong support of the international community, including that of the countries neighbouring Myanmar, members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and of the United Nations Security Council. Expectations are very high and I am confident that you will continue to extend all necessary cooperation to my Special Adviser.

I have taken note of the initial positive steps taken by your Government to de-escalate tension and welcome the announcement of your readiness to engage in dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. I was also encouraged by the reports that Minister Aung Kyi, whom you have appointed as Liaison Minister to facilitate relations with the detained leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD), has met with her for the first time. I urge you now to consider the immediate release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and to initiate a genuine dialogue with her. I have asked my Special Adviser to remain available to you in order to facilitate any efforts in this regard.

My Special Adviser is tasked to consult with Minister Aung Kyi and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the scope, objective, modalities and time frame of such a dialogue. Furthermore, I would like him to consult broadly with as many stakeholders as possible, including with the NLD and other political parties, ethnic nationality groups, student leaders, monks and other representatives of Myanmar society. I have also asked him to consult with members of the Constitutional Drafting Committee on ways by which its work can be made more inclusive.

His Excellency
Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
of the Union of Myanmar
Nay Pyi Taw

I wish to reiterate my deep concern at the continuing reports of human rights violations by the Myanmar authorities in the wake of the recent demonstrations. I personally attach great importance to your Government's full adherence to international human rights standards, and urge you to do everything necessary to put an immediate end to such abuses. All political detainees, student activists, monks and other civilians detained should be released. I am pleased to learn that your Government has invited Mr. Paolo Sergio Pinheiro, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar, to visit your country before the ASEAN summit and am confident that you will extend your cooperation to him. I am equally encouraged that your Government has agreed in principle to a visit by a delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). I hope that your Ministry of Home Affairs and the ICRC will be able to reach agreement on the timing of such a visit very soon.

The United Nations recognizes that the responsibility for the future of Myanmar ultimately lies with its people and Government. The international community is today closely watching how that responsibility will be exercised to meet the needs and expectations of all the people of Myanmar through an inclusive process of national reconciliation. I am convinced that Myanmar cannot afford a return to the status quo that existed before the crisis. It would be most regrettable if your efforts over the past years were to be nullified by failure to urgently address the concerns that underlie the most recent unrest through dialogue and understanding.

As Secretary-General, I look forward to strengthening my contacts with you for the achievement of the abovementioned objectives. I am personally prepared to do everything possible to mobilize international support for Myanmar's development, commensurate with tangible progress in the areas of concern to the international community. The United Nations will continue to work with Myanmar in support of your efforts to implement the relevant decisions of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, with a view to advancing the shared goal of a prosperous and democratic Myanmar living at peace with itself and with full respect for human rights.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Ban Ki-moon