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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by **Glenys Kinnock and Max van den Berg**

on behalf of the PSE Group

on Burma

PE 342.502

B5-0138/2004

European parliament resolution on Burma

The European parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Burma, in particular those of 11 April 2002, 13 March 2003, 5 June 2003 and 4 September 2003,
 - having regard to the Council's Common Position 96/635/CFSP of 28 October 1996 defined by the Council on the basis of Article J.2 of the Treaty on European Union, on Burma, as renewed and extended by the Council's Common Position 2003/297/CFSP of 28 April 2003 on Burma,
 - having regard to the External Relations Council meeting of 16 June 2003 that brought forward the implementation of the extended sanctions,
 - having regard to the 20 January 2004 Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the Updated EU Visa Ban and Assets Freeze List,
 - having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 552/97 of 24 March 1997 temporarily withdrawing access to generalised tariff preferences from Burma,
 - having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1081/2000 of 22 May 2000 prohibiting the sale, supply and export to Burma of equipment which might be used for internal repression or terrorism, and freezing the funds of certain persons related to important governmental functions in that country,
- A. whereas on 30 May 2003 Aung San Suu Kyi and a convoy of National League for Democracy (NLD) supporters was attacked by government-backed militia in Depayin, which resulted in the arrest of hundreds of NLD supporters, including Aung San Suu Kyi, and the closure of NLD offices across Burma,
- B. whereas Aung San Suu Kyi was imprisoned until September 2003, but was subsequently transferred to house arrest where she remains without access to telephone communication and where visitors require government permission to see her,
- C. whereas a further 1350 political prisoners remain in jail in Burma, and the Burmese government continues to deny prisoners adequate medical care whilst imprisoned,
- D. whereas after winning a clear majority in the last elections held in Burma in 1990, the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) has failed to respect the results of those elections and the National League for Democracy (NLD) have been prevented from taking office, regardless of their legal right to do so, and Aung San Suu Kyi has been subject to periods of house arrest totalling more than 8 years,
- E. whereas on 30 August 2003 the Burmese Prime Minister, General Khin Nyunt, announced a seven-point 'Roadmap' with a constitutional convention supposedly culminating in free and fair elections,

F. whereas UN Special Envoy to Burma, Razali Ismael, had meetings in Burma last week with Aung San Suu Kyi, General Khin Nyunt and ethnic leaders,

G. having regard to Amnesty International's 22 December 2003 official statement on Burma,

H. having regard to the UN Special Rapporteur of the Commission of Human Rights' report of 5 January 2004 on the situation of human rights in Burma,

I. whereas the people of Burma are subject to human rights abuses including forced labour, persecution of dissidents, conscription of child soldiers, rape of ethnic minority women and children by government troops, and forced relocation,

J. whereas the US Centre for International Development and Conflict Management has identified Burma as a country in danger of genocidal violence,

K. whereas the NLD has called for investment sanctions against Burma,

L. whereas in spite of Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD's request that tourist package holidays to Burma should cease, a number of travel agencies in the European Union continue to offer such holidays,

M. whereas it is reported that leaders of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) - of which Burma is a member and over which Burma is due to preside in 2006 - have requested Burma's participation in the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) Foreign Ministers' meeting in Ireland in April 2004 and at the ASEM summit in Vietnam in October 2004,

1. Calls for all those detained or put under house arrest since May 2003 be immediately and unconditionally released, and considers that the release of all political prisoners would be a major step towards the restoration of democracy in Burma;
2. Calls for all the NLD offices closed in May 2003 to be immediately reopened;
3. Insists that the SPDC relinquish its grip on power and that the results of the last elections be fully respected;
4. Notes that there has been no evidence of substantive progress on the so-called 'Roadmap';
5. Insists that the recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur's report - in addition to those listed above - and those of the Amnesty International official statement be implemented;
6. Reaffirms its strong commitment to and full support for democratic, judicial and political change in Burma;
7. Calls on the Council and the Commission to show their readiness, in collaboration with the UN, to help facilitate the national reconciliation process in Burma;
8. Insists that the EU's Common Position on Burma should be strengthened, and should include the following measures: preventing EU companies and citizens from investing in Burma; banning the import of goods and services from enterprises owned by the military, military

personnel and their associates; banning the import of strategically important goods from sectors of the economy under monopoly, such as gems and timber; and banning international financial transfers and transactions either by a citizen or an entity of an EU member state;

9. Suggests that these measures should be included within the Common Position when it is reviewed in April 2004, but that the Council should review the situation in June 2004 and then implement these measures if tripartite dialogue between the NLD, ethnic minority leaders and the Burmese authorities, or other concrete steps towards political change, have not taken place;
10. Stresses the importance of having a strong Common Position on Burma after EU enlargement takes place;
11. Calls on the UN to impose targeted sanctions on Burma, and for the UN Security Council to address the situation in Burma as a matter of urgency;
12. Calls on travel agencies and independent tour operators in the EU to stop promoting and selling tourist visits to Burma;
13. Calls on ASEAN states to exert greater pressure on the SPDC to release Aung San Suu Kyi and other detained NLD members immediately, and to take meaningful steps to exercise their influence over the Burmese regime to bring about democratic change in Burma;
14. Insists that Burma should not attend the ASEM meeting scheduled for April 2004 in Ireland, and that Burma should not become a member of ASEM until irreversible political change towards democracy takes place in that country;
15. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the ASEAN and ASEM Member States, Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD, ethnic minority leaders, the UN Secretary-General and the SPDC.