

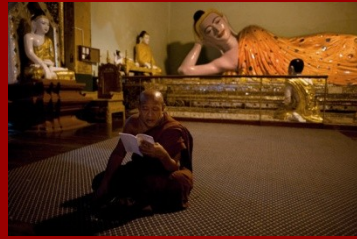
United States Policy toward Burma/ Myanmar: An Overview





“The United States continues to seek a peaceful transition to a democratic government that will promote stability and prosperity in Burma and in the region. We support continued engagement by the UN Security Council and United Nation Secretary General Ban's good offices mission, as well as sustained regional engagement.”

President George W. Bush, February 25, 2008



-
- The United States is committed to helping the people of Burma achieve their goals of freedom and democracy
 - America's commitment to Burma is longstanding and deep

Roots of the Burma Problem

- 1962: General Ne Win's coup: xenophobic regime destroyed Burma's economy, brutalized its people
- March 1988: Student-led protests call for change
- August 8, 1988: Military forces kill over 1,000 peaceful protesters



Roots of the Burma Problem

- Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy emerge as opposition leaders
- NLD wins 392 of 485 seats in May 1990 election
- Regime responds to election results by jailing opposition leaders, harassing opposition figures



Roots of the Burma Problem

- August 2007: monks and pro-democracy groups peacefully protest Burma's dire economic situation
- September 2007: regime cracks down violently on peaceful protestors



Regional Concerns

- Narcotics
- Refugees
- Disease
- Internal/ External Security



The U.S Response

- 1990: Downgrade diplomatic relations from Ambassador to Charge d'Affaires
- 1997: Prohibit new investment by U.S. individuals or entities in Burma



The U.S Response

- a ban on all imports from Burma
- a ban on the export of financial services to Burma
- a freeze on the assets of certain Burmese persons and financial institutions
- extended visa restrictions on Burmese officials
- a ban on the sale of defense articles

The U.S Response

- October 2007, Executive Order 13348:
- -blocks assets of individuals who are responsible for human rights abuses and public corruption,
- -blocks assets of those who provide material and financial support to the regime
- Continually looking for ways to target key regime figures and their supporters



The U.S. Response

- U.S. committed to working with international partners
- Support the efforts of UN Special Envoy Ibrahim Gambari
- Encourage ASEAN to take a stand on the need for reform in Burma.



The U.S Response

- United States is concerned about the proposed referendum
- Constitution drafted in secret
- Aung San Suu Kyi, pro-democracy groups, ethnic minorities must be allowed full participation

