



## Forum of Democratic Leaders in the Asia-Pacific

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January 28, 1997

Hon. Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright  
United States of America

Dear Madame Madeleine Albright,

It is my great honor to send my warmest greetings to you and your countrymen on behalf of the Forum of Democratic Leaders in the Asia-Pacific. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to allow me to express my concerns regarding the current democratic crisis in Burma (Myanmar).

Foremost, the FDL-AP is an international, non-governmental organization founded on December 1994, with the mission to peacefully promote democratic principles in the Asia-Pacific region. The Co-Presidents of the organization: Madame Corazon Aquino, former President of the Philippines; Dr. Oscar Arias, former President of Costa Rica and Nobel Peace Laureate; and Madame Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation in India; and myself, established this organization to bring an international solidarity and forum to promote human rights and democracy in troubled nations. We are currently focusing our efforts on the political crisis in Burma.

On Nov. 2-3, 1996, the FDL-AP successfully hosted its 1996 Manila Conference: "Transition from Dictatorship to Democracy". During this conference we highlighted the current repression of democracy in Burma, as well as other Asia-Pacific nations. This conference drew a significant international solidarity for the Burmese struggle for democracy. The 200 participants collaborated and produced a resolution outlining what we believe to be the prerequisite step to establish a stable, long-term, democratic form of government in Burma. I have attached a copy of this resolution for your reference and understanding.

I want to mention that I was pleased to have Dr. Sein Win, the exiled Burmese Prime Minister, be an active participant during this historical Manila Conference. Dr. Sein Win is a representative of the courageous and capable democratic leadership in his struggling country. His passionate articulation of the Burmese cries for change against the military dictatorship, the SLORC, reaffirms the international community's obligation to intercede on Burma's behalf.

Furthermore, the FDL-AP delegation discussed and agreed that a visit by Madame Aquino and myself, to the National League for Democracy (NLD) leader, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, will be the essential step forward to begin a constructive dialogue considering change in this current political stalemate. Your involvement on this issue will provide a strong added pressure on the SLORC regime to make reasonable concessions.



Knowing the United States' strength and ability to influence, I would like to take this opportunity to express my desire to meet with you in the near future to discuss this matter. If the tripartite dialogue between the SLORC and the democratic forces led by Madame Aung San Suu Kyi is realized, it will be a historical first step to complete the democratic system in Asia. It will be a great momentum to the democratic movement in the region where Asians themselves have just started to take the lead.

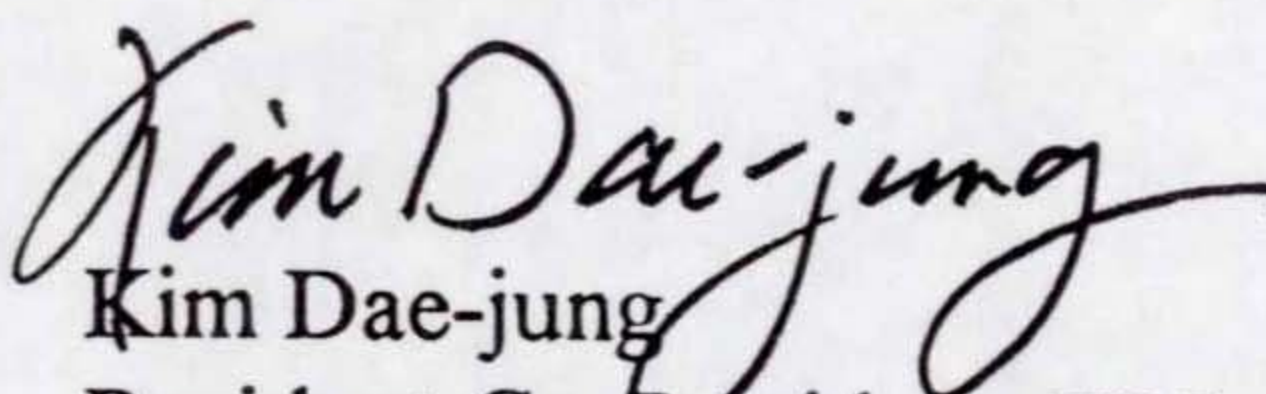
Hence, I earnestly request that the United States seriously reconsider its current economic, as well as its overall diplomatic, relationships with the Burmese nation. The entire world has always looked upon your great nation as a model of democratic success. Historically, your great nation has always provided the positive support and assistance to those nations struggling for their own realization for democracy. I, therefore, call upon you to join in an international solidarity that demands a change from the SLORC military regime to open itself up to free and democratic government policies.

Still, it is easy, during this post-Cold War era, to become complacent and to dangerously rest on the laurels of the democratic victories found in the pockets of the world. Similar to conditions that once existed in the Philippines, South Korea and Pakistan, Burma stands on the verge of a pivotal moment in its history. Burma has two options: the first is to remain stagnated in its current military dictatorship or the second, to move towards its eventual democratic rule. I earnestly believe that the United States' great leadership makes the difference to influence to adopt the latter option.

In order to facilitate the democratic process, there is no doubt that Asia needs the warm helping hands of powerful world leaders, such as yourself in various ways. I hope that you will agree with me on the reality that your leadership and kind support will make a difference in countries, like in Burma whose political freedom and human rights are in question. Your positive consideration on this matter will be a magnanimous contribution to restoring democracy in Asia.

I am grateful for your kind attention and immediate response on this matter. Please contact the FDL-AP if it may be of further assistance in obtaining additional information on any of these issues. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

  
Kim Dae-jung  
Resident Co-President, FDL-AP

Enclosure: 1996 FDL-AP Manila Conference Resolution: "Declaration on Transition from Dictatorship to Democracy"