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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES,
QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED
PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

Letter dated 20 April 1992 from the Permanent Representative of
Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text, in English and French,
of a statement of the European Community and its member States on Burma,
issued at Lisbon and Brussels on 15 April 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and
its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under
item 97 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative to
the United Nations

* A/47/50.

ANNEX

Statement on Burma issued by the European Community and its
member States on 15 April 1992

The Community and its member States recall their statement of 20 March 1992 expressing great concern at the actions taken by the Burmese authorities against minorities, stressing the plight of Muslim Rohingyas that fled into Bangladesh, currently estimated to number about 200,000.

They also regard with great apprehension the military offensive against Karens, which has led to the influx of Karen refugees into Thailand.

In this context, the Community and its member States recall their decision on 29 July 1991 to refuse the sale of any military equipment to Burma and call again on all other countries to take similar action.

The Community and its member States welcome the visit of the United Nations Secretary-General's representative, Mr. Jan Eliasson, to Bangladesh and Burma as part of the ongoing effort to find solutions to a situation that is seriously threatening regional stability and worrying the international community.

The Community and its member States urge the Burmese Government on strictly humanitarian grounds to refrain from further military and any other repressive action against minorities in Burma. They also urge Burma to cooperate with neighbouring countries, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and non-governmental organizations to resolve existing refugee problems on the Bangladesh and Thai borders by facilitating the return of refugees through appropriate assurances that their civil and human rights will be respected.
