



Conseil Economique  
et Social

Distr.  
GENERALE

E/CN.4/1997/120  
12 mars 1997

FRANCAIS  
Original : ANGLAIS \*/

---

COMMISSION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME  
Cinquante-troisième session  
Point 5 de l'ordre du jour

QUESTION DE LA JOUISSANCE EFFECTIVE, DANS TOUS LES PAYS, DES DROITS  
ECONOMIQUES, SOCIAUX ET CULTURELS PROCLAMES DANS LA DECLARATION  
UNIVERSELLE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME ET DANS LE PACTE INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIF AUX DROITS ECONOMIQUES, SOCIAUX ET CULTURELS, ET ETUDE  
DES PROBLEMES PARTICULIERS QUE RENCONTRENT LES PAYS EN DEVELOPPEMENT  
DANS LEURS EFFORTS TENDANT A LA REALISATION DE CES DROITS DE L'HOMME

Note verbale datée du 12 mars 1997 adressée au secrétariat  
de la Commission des droits de l'homme par la Mission permanente  
du Myanmar auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève

La Mission permanente de l'Union du Myanmar auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des autres organisations internationales à Genève présente ses compliments au secrétariat de la cinquante-troisième session de la Commission des droits de l'homme et a l'honneur de lui adresser ci-joint copie de la lettre No 68/3-27/02(20), en date du 19 février 1997, que l'ambassadeur U Aye, Représentant permanent de l'Union du Myanmar, a adressée à Mme Fatma Zohra Ksentini, Rapporteur spécial de la Commission des droits de l'homme chargé d'étudier la question des mouvements illicites de déchets toxiques, en réponse à la lettre No G/SO 234(17-6) en date du 6 février 1997 par laquelle le Rapporteur spécial, faisant état de certaines allégations, avait demandé au Myanmar de l'aider à en préciser la teneur et de lui transmettre à ce sujet toutes informations ou observations jugées pertinentes.

La Mission permanente du Myanmar prie le secrétariat de la Commission des droits de l'homme de bien vouloir distribuer la lettre de réponse au Rapporteur spécial comme document de la cinquante-troisième session de la Commission, au titre du point 5 de son ordre du jour.

---

\*/ La pièce jointe est distribuée telle quelle, dans la langue originale.

Dear Mme Special Rapporteur,

I wish to refer to your letter No. G/SO 234(17-6) of 6 February 1997 by which, in your capacity as Special Rapporteur on toxic wastes, you have brought to my Government's attention allegations in which my country is said to be concerned as a State where traffic of toxic or dangerous products and waste originate or as a State recipient of such traffic. You have attached a summary of these allegations with a request for cooperation in clarifying the substance of these allegations and in providing any information or observations deemed pertinent.

It is a well-known fact that Myanmar is neither a State where illicit traffic of toxic or dangerous products and wastes originate nor a State recipient of such traffic. In this context, therefore, a classification of the substance of the allegations is not necessary.

However, the allegations referred to in your letter seem to be related to alleged human rights violations in the context of the construction of a natural gas pipeline in Myanmar. We therefore provide you with relevant information and observations in order to enable you to understand the actual situation regarding this matter:

The natural gas fields in the Gulf of Mottamma are being developed with the participation of TOTAL of France, UNOCAL and TEXACO of the United States of America and some other foreign oil companies.

Natural gas from the Yadana Gas Field is contracted to be sold to Thailand, and at present a pipeline is being laid by TOTAL and UNOCAL to carry the gas to the Myanmar-Thai border. The route selected for this gas pipeline is the one that poses the least threat to the environment and does not pass through any village. The two foreign oil companies involved in this project are actually helping the people living along the route of the pipeline. Workers are hired by these companies and are paid more than local rates. No one has been forced to work in these projects. There are no human rights violations. The oil companies have even built schools and health clinics and initiated agricultural, prawn-breeding projects as well as shrimp, poultry, pig and goat farms in the villages along the route to provide new economic opportunities for the villagers, thus improving significantly the lives of the local populace.

The Government of the Union of Myanmar, with the active participation of the people, has been making efforts towards achieving peace and stability within the country and for the all-round development of the nation. Major restructuring of the economy was carried out within the context of a market-oriented economy. The Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy is undertaking oil and natural gas explorations and production in collaboration with international oil companies.

Moreover, the Government and the companies concerned have undertaken to provide facilities for independent media persons and concerned officials from Western countries to make extensive tours of the areas in question and these sources have not supported any of the allegations mentioned in your report.

Mme Special Rapporteur, may I observe that the allegations contained in your letter are unfounded and totally untrue. They emanate from the opponents of the Government of the Union of Myanmar, residing within and outside the country. The purpose of their action is to denigrate the Government and the Armed Forces of the Union of Myanmar. They have their own ulterior political motives.

News cuttings regarding this matter are attached herewith for your perusal. I trust that the information provided will help dispel misconceptions and false allegations that there exist human rights violations in the construction of the natural gas pipeline in Myanmar.

Signed: U Aye  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

-----