

INDIA

As part of a renewed effort to get closer to Burma, India has provided the Tatmadaw with a range of weapons, ammunition and equipment. In May 2003 the Indian Defense Ministry confirmed that it had sold the Tatmadaw eighty 75mm howitzers (or "mountain guns"). Also, India has reportedly sold mortar and artillery ammunition to Rangoon, and advanced communications equipment. A Burmese military delegation visiting India in early 2004 said that the Tatmadaw welcomed further arms deals. The Indian Defense Minister has stated that New Delhi is keen to sell Burma naval vessels. A demonstration by Indian combat aircraft in Burma this year prompted speculation about future sales to the Burma Air Force.

UKRAINE

The Russian language press stated in late 2002 that the Ukraine had contracted to provide Burma with some 36D6 radar systems. In mid-2003 it was reported that the Ukraine had sold the Tatmadaw 50 T-72 main battle tanks. In February 2004, a Ukrainian-flagged ship made a secret delivery to Rangoon, probably of air defense weapons. Also, in May 2003, one of the Ukraine's leading arms exporters signed a contract with Burma worth US \$500 million, to provide the Rangoon regime with components for 1,000 BTR-3U light armored personnel carriers. Over the next ten years these vehicles will be supplied in parts, and assembled in a new, purpose-built factory in Burma. More arms deals between Rangoon and Kiev are likely.

SERBIA

In December 2003, Serbian language sources claimed that Rangoon had contracted with Belgrade to buy a number of "Nora" self-propelled howitzers. The cost of these weapons, which are marketed by Jugoimport-SDPR, is unknown. In addition, in March 2004 about 30 Serbian engineers arrived in Burma to repair and upgrade the Burma Air Force's 12 Soko G-4 jets, which were purchased from the Republic of Yugoslavia in the 1990s. These aircraft have been grounded for several years, due largely to a lack of spare parts.

RUSSIA

In late 2002 the SPDC purchased eight MiG-29B-12 air superiority combat aircraft and two dual-seat MiG-29UB trainers from Russia, at a reported cost of about US \$130 million. All these aircraft were delivered to Burma by the end of 2003. In addition, in July 2002 Rangoon signed a contract with the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy (Minatom) for the construction of a nuclear reactor in Burma. While the project has encountered major problems, probably due to its cost, it may still go ahead. It is likely that the shipments of Russian military equipment detected in southern Burma in April 2003, which were thought to be components for the reactor, were in fact deliveries of a new communications system.

SLOVAKIA

According to a news report dated October 2003, the Unipex Company of Slovakia is currently being investigated for taking part in the illegal export to Burma of machines for the manufacture of "artillery grenades" (possibly rocket propelled grenades).

It is likely that other contracts have been signed but not yet been made public. The frequent visits to Rangoon of North Korean and Ukrainian cargo vessels over the past 18 months, and the measures taken to hide the nature of their cargoes, strongly suggests that other deliveries of arms and equipment have occurred. Several eastern European countries are keen to sell arms to Burma. Also, countries like Singapore, Pakistan and

Israel maintain close links with Rangoon. All have weapon systems that are on the Tatmadaw's wish list. In the past, these factors have often led to substantial sales of weapons, military equipment and dual use goods to Burma, and related training contracts.

PAYING THE BILL

In considering the financial implications of these sales, several factors need to be borne in mind. Not only does the regime need to cover the initial purchase price of these arms, but it faces the continuing costs of keeping them serviceable, providing facilities to house them, buying spare parts to maintain them and training people to repair and use them. The latter often includes sending selected military personnel overseas for specialized training, and in a few cases supporting foreign experts resident in country. Some of these costs can be paid in local currency, but they still constitute a heavy drain on Burma's precious foreign exchange reserves. The regime is still able to earn hard currency through the export of gas, gems, timber, agricultural produce and other natural resources, but its economy is facing major problems. These have not been helped by the new sanctions imposed by the U.S. in June 2003, after a government mob violently attacked democratic opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

In the past, some of these costs have been met through trade deals, under which Burma has paid for part of its contracts with primary goods like rice and teak. North Korea and Russia, for example, have accepted such commodities in part payment for arms and military equipment. Even the Russian nuclear reactor could be paid for in part through barter arrangements. Also, for strategic and other reasons, some arms suppliers have been very generous in their terms. For example, China has repeatedly offered the Rangoon regime special "friendship prices" for arms, and overlooked deadlines for the repayment of loans. The Ukrainian firm selling Burma APCs has probably provided vendor financing of some kind.

Even so, given the regime's current debts, its continuing need for foreign logistical support, and its latest acquisitions, the investment required now and in the future will be huge for a country like Burma. These costs must inevitably be carried at the expense of other sectors of the government that are desperate for scarce resources.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for a resolution submitted yesterday by Senator MCCONNELL and myself that urges the United Nations Security Council to respond to the growing threats posed to the Southeast Asia region by conditions in Burma under the rule of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC).

I have been proud to work with Senator MCCONNELL to raise awareness about the situation in Burma and to put pressure on the SPDC to respect the wishes of the Burmese people, restore democracy, and release from house arrest the leader of the National League for Democracy and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Aung San Suu Kyi. Congress has acted decisively in support of these efforts by passing the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 to impose a complete ban on Burmese imports for one year and renewing that ban this past July.

There is still much work to be done. The threat posed by the military junta

goes beyond Burma's borders and extends to the entire Southeast Asia region. The SPDC has committed numerous human rights abuses and detained over 1,300 political prisoners. It has allowed the spread of HIV/AIDS to go unchecked. It has engaged in the illicit production and trafficking of narcotics. It has engaged in the trafficking of human beings. It has attempted to purchase weapons from North Korea, China, and Russia.

The international community simply cannot afford to ignore these threats any longer. Inaction will only strengthen the regime in Rangoon and foster greater instability in the Southeast Asia region. This resolution simply encourages the United Nations Security Council to consider the situation in Burma carefully and take appropriate action.

While I am proud that the United States has acted in support of freedom and democracy in Burma, we need the help of our friends and allies to put pressure on the SPDC to change its behavior and respect the wishes of the Burmese people and the international community. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3664. Mr. CAMPBELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2666, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

SA 3665. Mr. CAMPBELL proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2666, supra.

SA 3666. Mr. CAMPBELL (for Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Mr. DURBIN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2666, supra.

SA 3667. Mr. CAMPBELL (for Mr. DURBIN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2666, supra.

SA 3668. Mr. LUGAR (for himself and Mr. BIDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2781, to express the sense of Congress regarding the conflict in Darfur, Sudan, to provide assistance for the crisis in Darfur and for comprehensive peace in Sudan, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 3669. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. HOLLINGS (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2279, to amend title 46, United States Code, with respect to maritime transportation security, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3664. Mr. CAMPBELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2666, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 21, strike lines 13 and 14 and insert "approval of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate and the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives."

SA 3665. Mr. CAMPBELL proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2666, making