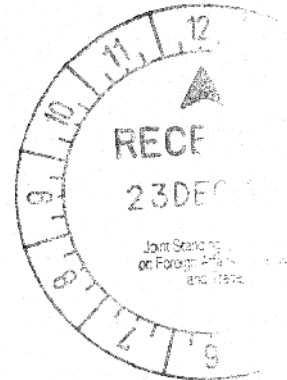


ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်သံအမတ်ကြီး

The Ambassador of the Union of Myanmar

**The Honourable Senator Marise Payne
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Parliament of Australia
Canberra , ACT**



Dear Senator Payne,

I have for reply your kind letter of 14 October, 2002 enquiring if any submissions will be made to the JSCFADT Human Rights Sub-Committee regarding related activities in the Union of Myanmar.

As you are aware, Australia has been very much engaged with Myanmar with regard to this important topic. Legal experts on human rights have regularly visited Myanmar and have held fruitful and successful roundtables and workshops with relevant authorities on the further enhancement of human rights activities in the country.

Myanmar is state party to two important human rights conventions — the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The provisions of these conventions are strictly adhered to — both in law and in actual practise.

It is our pleasure to enclose herewith materials on the topics of interest to the Joint Standing Committee.

Additionally, the Myanmar Embassy has requested the kind assistance and cooperation of Dr. Helen James, Visiting Fellow, National Centre for Development Studies, The Australian National University, to submit relevant materials to the JSCFADT Human Rights Sub-Committee dealing with specific topics on Myanmar which would be of particular interest to you.

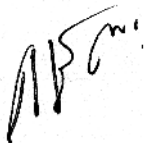
Over the years, Dr. James has successfully concluded numerous research projects on Myanmar, visiting the country a total of 15 times since 1996, and interacting with the Myanmar people from all strata of society. Her intimate and extensive knowledge about Myanmar has led to requests for her to travel to academic and research institutions all over the world to speak on and to table papers about the country.

The Curriculum Vitae of Dr. James is indeed impressive, and I take special pleasure to enclose a copy for your perusal. You will no doubt concur that she is a most appropriate person to also submit relevant papers to the JSCFADT Human Rights Sub-Committee.

In addition to the above offer, Dr. James has also informed me that she will be prepared to appear at a sitting of the Sub-Committee to dwell at length on matters that may be of interest.

I trust that the Sub-Committee can accept this kind offer which no doubt will contribute to enhance the scope and success of your endeavours.

Yours sincerely,



U Aye
Ambassador

20 December, 2002