

aid, the withdrawal of GSP privileges, the denial of OPIC and EXIMBANK programs, visa restrictions on Burma's senior leaders, and a vote against any loan or other utilization of funds to or for Burma by international financial institutions in which the United States has a major interest. We have also maintained our diplomatic representation at the Chargé d'Affaires level since 1990.

Our goal in applying these sanctions is to encourage a transition to democratic rule and greater respect for human rights. Nevertheless, we remain concerned about the growing humanitarian crisis in Burma. In 2002, we initiated a \$1 million program to address the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic in Burma by funding only international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) to undertake prevention activities; no assistance is direct to the regime. Discussions with the government continue on allowing INGOs to conduct voluntary HIV testing and counseling, as well as a greater commitment to more effective prevention, treatment, and care programs, including for pregnant mothers and high risk groups. We also use a portion of the funding from the U.S. Burma earmark to develop programs in support of democracy in Burma, as well as democracy, social, educational, and governance-related programs outside Burma. None of these funds are disbursed to or through the Government of Burma. We will also continue to examine the potential for cooperation with Burma on terrorism and narcotics issues. Should there be significant progress in Burma in coming months on political transition, economic reform, and human rights, the United States would look seriously at additional measures that could be applied to support the process of constructive change. Absent progress, we will be forced to consider, in conjunction with the international community, additional sanctions and/or other measures.

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