



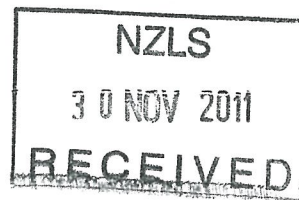
Office of Hon Murray McCully

Minister of Foreign Affairs

COPY

29 NOV 2011

Mr Jonathan Temm
President
New Zealand Law Society
P O Box 5041
Lambton Quay
WELLINGTON 6145



Dear Mr Temm

Thank you for your letter of 19 September 2011 addressed to the Prime Minister. As this issue falls within my portfolio, your letter has been referred to me for reply.

The resolution on the human rights situation in Burma is an annual event at the United Nations General Assembly. It is an initiative of the European Union, along with a resolution on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. New Zealand routinely cosponsors both resolutions and encourages other states to support them.

There has been some discussion of the possibility of including in this year's Burma text the proposal for a Commission of Inquiry into possible crimes against humanity in Burma. This was originally recommended by the United Nations Special Rapporteur, Tomas Ojea Quintana.

The government is already on record as supporting in principle the convening of such a Commission. This was stated late last year in response to a recommendation from the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee of Parliament.

In August this year the Special Rapporteur was able to make a further visit to Burma and assess the latest conditions there. He found that there had been a few improvements. It will be interesting to see whether he renews his call for a Commission of Inquiry. In the meantime we have not lost sight of the proposal and have been discussing it with partner governments in order to assess the best way of proceeding.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Murray McCully', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Murray McCully
Minister of Foreign Affairs