

[Extract]

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**Security Council**

Sixty-second year

**5777**<sup>th</sup> meeting

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New York

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[...]

**The situation in Myanmar**

**Mr. Ambassador Ricardo Alberto Arias**

Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations

**Mr. Arias** (Panama) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, allow me to thank Mr. Gambari for his work during his most recent visit to Myanmar and above all for the way in which he has performed his tasks.

Panama welcomes the presence at this meeting of the representative of Myanmar and is pleased that we also shall be hearing from the representative of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. We would have preferred, however, that both delegations had made their statements prior to the members of the Security Council.

Panama notes enthusiastically the successes registered by Mr. Gambari during his most recent visit to Myanmar. We also note in a particularly positive vein the invitation extended to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Mr. Pinheiro, to visit that country. We trust that the Human Rights Council will welcome his report upon his return.

We also note with concern the lack of progress in certain aspects of the Myanmar dialogue. In that regard, we feel that the failure to free political

prisoners and the ongoing detainment of Aung San Suu Kyi are serious obstacles in the way of political progress in Myanmar.

Finally, we urge all nations —particularly those that, because of their geographic or cultural links, are closer and have better access to Myanmar — to leave no stone unturned in their efforts to pursue a satisfactory outcome in the political process under way. It would be most unfortunate if the protection of human rights in Myanmar, rather than move forward, were to regress to its previous status.