

QUESTION ON NOTICE / Spoken

011 – Public Hearing – 13 May 2021

Topic: International Parliamentary Union

Mr Julian Hill MP

Question

Mr HILL: That would be terrific. Similarly, I think there was a suggestion in the previous public hearing regarding the international parliamentary union—of which I'm one of the parliamentary delegates this term—that at least it would be a symbolic thing that, via the IPU, Australia could raise our voice in what is purportedly a democratic forum to refuse or block recognition of the junta in that forum, but, more than that, to positively maintain accreditation of the elected representatives who were currently there. Is that something that DFAT has any comment on or would have any concerns about if we moved in that direction?

Ms Worthaisong: Yes. I think we've also had engagement on that question of IPU as well.

Again, I can come back to you with details on that immediately after this, if you'd like. I agree with you that we should not be supporting recognition of the regime, but I'm happy to check exactly what engagement we've had with the minister's office and others on that question.

Mr HILL: I ask because the IPU general assemblies are happening over the next week or two.

Mrs Worthaisong: It's imminent.

Mr HILL: We might have asked for some advice that hasn't reached us yet, so I thought I'd try it here.

Ms Worthaisong: Okay, got it.

Mr HILL: Otherwise, we're probably at the point where we'd say: 'That's fine. We've had two weeks and nothing has come. We'll wander off in our own direction.' Here's your opportunity to influence us.

Ms Worthaisong: Thank you. We'll follow up immediately.

Answer

The Australian Government recognises states not governments. Consistent with this approach, we do not extend or withhold formal recognition to the National Unity Government or the military regime as 'the government of Myanmar'.