

# 'Suu Kyi should get first-hand view of development in Asean'

**Nst 2 9 AUG 2002**

**KUALA LUMPUR, -Wed. —** Myanmar's democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi should visit Southeast Asian countries and get a first-hand view of development in the region. United Nations special envoy Tan Sri Razali Ismail said today.

"In time it would make sense for her to look at her neighbours if she wants to have any (political) role in Myanmar," he said.

"She should look around and see how we have progressed."

Razali said Suu Kyi's visit to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations should not be considered an act of interference in Myanmar's internal affairs.

"No, there is no interference at all here. The decision must be made by her and the Government of Myanmar. We are not demanding that she come out and visit us," he said.

Asked if Asean member countries would accept her visit, Razali said some Asean ambassadors had already met Suu Kyi. "That gives the indication."

Razali, who earlier this month returned from his eighth trip to Myanmar, has said that no restric-

tions were imposed on Suu Kyi after she was freed in May from 19 months of house arrest.

The UN envoy assumed his post as personal representative of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2000.

"She is more positive now. She can travel... it's like breathing fresh air for her. She has gone out there to meet people and is well-received," he said.

Razali declined to comment on the action by Myanmar's military junta to veto a meeting between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Suu Kyi during the former's visit to the country recently.

"I am not involved in the bilateral aspects of Malaysia and Myanmar. I do not want to comment on that," he said.

Malaysia is the sixth largest investor in Myanmar, with more than RM2.25 billion committed to 26 projects over the past 10 years.

Razali is credited with brokering landmark secret talks between the military and Suu Kyi which began in October 2000 and were aimed at promoting national reconciliation and political reform. — AFP