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## **Canada's constructive engagement has failed to substantially change Cuba**

### **Financial Post 2008**

[ | Financial Post *Fidel's sorry legacy*, p.A18 | 02/20/2008 | Accessed 10-05-08 ~ lexis-nexis !DJC]

Canadian leaders have often defended our Cuba policy saying it constitutes "constructive engagement." Yet little that is constructive has emerged. In 1998, for example, then-prime minister Jean Chretien visited Cuba to make the case for four imprisoned Cuban human rights activists. Mr. Chretien left with a picture of himself with Castro, while the activists continued to languish in jail. Prime Minister Harper now has the chance to change a historic wrong. No longer should Canada turn a blind eye to the tyranny in Cuba and pretend our policy has been a principled one. Instead, Canadian trade policy should be tied directly to improving human rights and monitoring progress. Moreover, the Canadian government would do the Cuban people a favour by making clear to Canadians that Cuba is, as Theo Caldwell argued in these pages yesterday, an "island prison" -- one they should think twice about visiting.

## **Constructive engagement fails to change policy**

**Caldwell 2008**

**[Theo | The Financial Post *Don't support Castro's island prison*, p.A13 | 02/19/2008 |  
Accessed 10-05-08 ~ lexis-nexis !DJC]**

The Canadian government's policy on Cuba continues to be "constructive engagement," which is precisely the kind of mealy-mouthed formulation that has been used to justify profit made from misery since time immemorial. Defenders of the status quo insist that Ottawa and Havana have "agreed to disagree" on some issues. How tragically typical of anaemic Canadian foreign policy that our response to tens of thousands of deaths, disappearances and torture carried out over half a century is an emphatic, "We disagree!"

## **Constructive Engagement has failed in Southeast Asia**

### **Manila Standard 2007**

[ | Manila Standard A *FAILED POLICY*, p.online | 08/01/2007 | Accessed 10-05-08 ~ lexis-nexis !DJC]

THE Association of Southeast Asian Nations can be proud of many achievements since it was established in 1967, but its policy of constructive engagement is not one of them. This approach, also used by the United States on various repressive regimes, argues that it is better to engage such states in dialogue than to isolate them with punitive action. For more than 10 years now, the Asean has adopted this policy toward one of its own members, Myanmar (formerly Burma), hoping to nudge the country's military dictators on the road to democracy. The effort has been an utter and embarrassing failure. One need only look at the continued house arrest of pro-democracy leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi as evidence of this failure.

## **Constructive engagement fails in efforts to promote democracy**

### **Asian Political News 2007**

[ | Asian Political News *ASEAN\'constructive engagement\' with Myanmar a failure: Malaysia*, p.online | 09/29/2007 | Accessed 10-05-08 ~ [http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_m0WDQ/is\\_2007\\_Sept\\_29/ai\\_n27465566 !DJC](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0WDQ/is_2007_Sept_29/ai_n27465566 !DJC)]

ASEAN's policy of "constructive engagement" with military-ruled Myanmar has failed, Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Friday. "I could say that it has not succeeded. It was a formula that we used when dealing with Myanmar, but up to this stage it has not been successful in the sense of what we like to see happen," he was quoted saying by the official news agency Bernama from New York where Abdullah is attending the U.N. General Assembly. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations decided to follow the approach of constructive engagement and a policy of noninterference and admitted Myanmar as a member in 1997 with the hope that it would be persuaded to slowly open up to democratic reforms. But reforms have been too slow, or as Bernama reported Abdullah saying, "appeared to be stagnant."