

McCain Congratulates Gore, Says Myanmar Monks Deserved Prize

By Kim Chipman

Oct. 13 (Bloomberg) -- Senator John McCain congratulated former Vice President Al Gore for winning the Nobel Peace Prize, while saying Buddhist monks in Myanmar should have been given the award.

The comment put McCain, an Arizona Republican and presidential hopeful, on the defensive while speaking at a climate-change conference in New Hampshire today. One participant told the senator that the remark hurts efforts to get more Americans to take global warming seriously. McCain, who has called for stronger federal environmental policies, including a national carbon-emissions limit, defended his position.

``I congratulate Mr. Gore. I congratulate him for his steps, and I think it will help in bringing awareness to the issue of climate change," McCain, 68, told the group. ``Because I thought Buddhist monks dying deserve the award in no way, in my view, diminishes the accomplishments that he's made."

Gore won the Nobel Peace Prize yesterday for his work to boost awareness of the dangers of climate change. Buddhist monks last month led more than a week of protests against the military regime in Myanmar, formerly known as Burma. The revolt marked the biggest show of defiance since a pro-democracy uprising by students in 1988.

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