National League for Democracy
No: 97/B, West Shwegonedine Road
Bahan township, Rangoon

Statement No: 07/97

1) At 4:00 p.m. on 08-06-97, the authorities concerned informed the family of U Tin Shwe (Monywa), a member of the Central Committee of the National League for Democracy, that he had died at 1:35 p.m. on the same day in Insein jail.

2) After receiving this information, the wife and son of U Tin Shwe went to the mortuary at Rangoon General Hospital (RGH) on 08-06-97, but the concerned authorities would not allow them to view his body. They went there again on 09-06-97. They were again not allowed to view the body, instead they were informed at the autopsy which stated that he had died as a result of succumbing to a blockage of the blood vessels to the heart.

3) When his family requested for an obituary notice to be placed in the newspapers, the authorities would only allow a statement that U Tin Shwe (Monywa), a High Court lawyer, had passed away on 08-06-97. The authorities would not allow any mention of when or where the body would be cremated.

4) When the funeral took place on 12-06-97 at Rayway cemetery in Rangoon, the family, relatives and friends were not allowed by the authorities to take part in a procession to carry his body from the RGH to the Rayway cemetery. They were told that they had to go and wait at the cemetery.

5) The authorities arrested U Tin Shwe on 29-11-90. He was tried on the accusation that he had violated Penal Code Section 5(a)(b)(j) and was sentenced to serve 10 years imprisonment in Insein Jail. Before the previous Water Festival [April 1997], he suffered heart disease and was admitted to the hospital inside the jail.

6) On 21-04-97, his family made an appeal to the authorities for the permission to allow him to have treatment by physicians and specialists outside the jail. The appeal was made in vain. Instead, on the same day he was taken out of the hospital in the jail to the cell where he had been imprisoned.

7) On 23-04-97, learning that his health had greatly deteriorated, Chairman of the NLD sent a letter to the SLORC in which the following was stated:

"...Hereby, the NLD would like to inform that it will hold the authorities if U Tin Shwe was to pass away without enjoying proper
rights of a patient such as proper food and admission to a hospital in order to receive proper care treatment."

8) On 30-04-97, due to his worsening condition, U Tin Shwe was admitted to the Insein prison hospital again, but was discharged and sent back to his cell on 03-06-97. When his family was allowed to meet him on 06-06-97, he told them that his health situation was not bad.

9) On the morning of 08-06-97, while he was meditating, his room-mate went outside for a while. After a while, when the room-mate heard a sound of something hitting the steel bars, he came back and had a look only to find that U Tin Shwe had fallen and lay flat in the room. While he was carried to the prison hospital, he died on the way.

10) From there, U Tin Shwe was taken from the prison hospital to the RGH. Upon arrival at RGH, the officer-on-duty said that the patient could not be admitted as he was already dead. It led to a dispute with the jail staff who was assigned to take the body to RGH. This incident is indicative of the attempts by the concerned authorities to hide their actions conducted with a lack of conscience or responsibility.

11) U Tin Shwe should be highly honoured. He struggled actively and selflessly for the restoration of democracy and devoted his whole life for the goodness of the country. The NLD recognises his death as a loss not only for the NLD but also for the country, and has bestowed high honours on him.

Rangoon

Central Executive Committee
Nayon 7th waxing day, 1359
National League for Democracy
June 12, 1997