NLD SEAL
THE NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR DEMOCRACY
No. (97/B), West Shwegondine Road
Bahan Township, Rangoon

NLD Statement 12/97

1. On 5/11/97, it was arranged for youths from the Tamwe Township NLD Office to be assigned duties and responsibilities. The Tamwe Township NLD notified the local Law & Order Restoration Council (LORC) Office on 3/11/97 of the proposed arrangements. The authorities then used various unlawful means to block, obstruct and prevent the meeting from taking place.

2. Moreover, the Tamwe Township LORC issued a letter [No. 027/1-1/Ma Wa Ta (Ta Ma) on 4/11/97, stating:-

   It has been noted that the NLD has been extending its activities and carrying out Youth Organisation in the townships. By so doing, the peace and tranquillity of the community and the prevalence of Law & Order could be harmed. Further, it could also hinder the social and economic development of the country. Therefore, permission can not be granted regarding the letter referring to the gathering of persons in Tamwe Township. How can a groundless accusation based on opinion, such as this be made against a legitimate organisation going about its lawful business? This is but an absolutely untrue and groundless accusation.

3. The NLD has stood as a legitimate organisation in accordance with the laws of the registration of political parties and has carried out its work in line with democratic principles for democracy and human rights. The lawful work of a legitimate political party, carried out in a lawful way can in no way harm the peace and tranquillity of the community. It is also totally out of context to state that it hinders social and economic development.

4. The authorities concerned also barred the (NLD) General Secretary, who has been given the responsibility of carrying out Youth Organisation work, from leaving her compound. Further, Vice Chairman U Tin Oo, who came to the compound to make enquiries about the situation, was denied entrance to her compound.

5. Some (50) NLD Youth members and NLD Women members were arrested and taken away. They had entered the Tamwe Township NLD Office in accordance with all the regulations stipulated by and with the permission of the authorities concerned.
This (a) although no meeting was held in the office, and
(b) clearly there was no defiance of orders as the office was occupied
with the permission of
   the authorities [one line blurred]

6. These actions against a legitimate organisation’s lawful activities
   in accordance with democratic principles carried out peacefully and
calmly is but an unlawful act of obstruction. It is a very inappropriate
   action. It also greatly hampers national reconciliation. The NLD is a
   political party which won a landslide victory with the support of the
   mass of the people in the 1990 multi-party democratic elections.

   Therefore, we declare that we roundly condemn the unlawful obstruction,
   hindrance and limitation against the right of the NLD to carry out its
   lawful activities.

   Central Executive Committee
   National League for Democracy
   Rangoon
   5 November 1997