1. The authorities which assumed power in 1988 promulgated the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law and Rules despite the fact that there was no constitution. Then, they proceeded to hold multi-party democratic elections under the provisions of that law.

2. Section 2 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law states "Hluttaw means Pyithu Hluttaw". Accordingly, Hluttaw does not refer to the Constituent Assembly but it means the Parliament.

3. Section 3 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law states clearly and unequivocally that "The representatives of the constituencies elected in accordance with the provisions of this law must convene (assemble) and form the Pyithu Hluttaw". The authorities very clearly and decisively announced that they would adhere to the requirements set forth in this section.

4. To a question put to the authorities by reporters about fixation of the date for the assembling of parliament the reply was that after the elections it will be up to the elected representatives to negotiate and settle this matter. They never claimed that there was no constitution by which a parliament is to be constituted.

5. The authorities later claimed that "They could not state exactly when parliament would be convened but they had no intention to delay the process".

6. Therefore, with a sense of responsibility, the National League for Democracy wrote to the authorities on 25-3-96 requesting that "a date be fixed for the convening of the first meeting of parliament". There was no response whatsoever by the authorities.

7. In accordance with the provisions of the law, and in keeping with the promises previously given to the people, the National League for Democracy, on 23-6-98 wrote to the authorities whose legal duty is to convene the Pyithu Hluttaw urging them "to convene the Pyithu Hluttaw before the 21st August 1998".

8. There is nothing in the Pyithu Hluttaw Elections Law or in the rules which was promulgated by the same authorities that prior to convening of the Pyithu Hluttaw a constitution must be established and confirmed.

9. The Pyithu Hluttaw is the nation's highest body which is empowered by
the people to govern by making appropriate laws for the administration and for judicial matters. Under the country's present circumstances, the people's elected representatives are charged with the duty of drawing up of a democratic constitution for the future.

10. In failing to convene the Pyithu Hluttaw the authorities are not only flouting the will of the people but are committing a breach of promise to the nation.

11. Therefore, in this matter of convening the Pyithu Hluttaw, it is now time for the elected representatives of the people from the National League for Democracy, representatives of all ethnic nationalities, representatives from all the other political parties, independent representatives together with the electorate and all the people to take on this responsibility.

12. We now proclaim that the National League for Democracy will convene a Pyithu Hluttaw comprising all elected representatives of the nationalities in the near future.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

Rangoon
August 21, 1998