National League for Democracy  
No: (97/B), West Shwegondine  
Bahan Township, Rangoon

Statement 94 (10/98)

1. The Military Intelligence Service has illegally arrested and held NLD parliamentarians, NLD members of organising committees (States, Divisions, Townships, Wards, and Villages), and ordinary members for no legitimate reason but purely out of spite making a mockery of the "rule of law" which is being proclaimed.

2. These illegal arrests and imprisonment and abuse of power to the extreme are being falsely reported as "holding discussions". This is a mean and shameful strategy and should not be resorted to. In law, depriving a person of the comfort and company of his family and home life by taking him away through the use of authority and power, amounts to illegal restraint and imprisonment. The truth of the matter is that no discussion took place. It was out and out arrest and interrogation.

The questions put to them by the military intelligence were:-

(a) Questions similar to those that have been embodied in NLD statement 71(9/98).
(b) Calling for the convening of the people's parliament by the NLD is it lawful or not?
(c) Whether or not you will attend the parliament convened by the NLD.
(d) Whether the NLD was given the mandate to convene parliament.

3. The NLD members who are under arrest have committed no criminal offence nor have they violated any provision of law that is right and proper. They are persons of good repute who desire genuine democracy and human rights for the country and are working towards that goal.

4. The people voted in NLD members to parliament with one voice because they had confidence in their integrity. They believed that the individuals they voted for would act for the good of the country and they approved of the policies and activities of the party.
5. These individuals in whom the people laid their trust and who have the ability to perform tasks for the good of the country are now suffering arrest and imprisonment. The military intelligence personnel are treating these highly respectable individuals in a very shabby manner.

(a) Instead of admitting that they had been arrested and imprisoned, it is falsely reported that "discussions" are taking place. Genuine discussions do not go on for such a long period of time.

(b) In addition to these lies, they permit some of the NLD parliamentarians to spend a day or a night with their families or otherwise on a Saturday or a Sunday making it appear that they are having a break. This is an attempt to demoralise the individual and members of his family. Such contemptible strategies should not be adopted.

(c) Without their consent, photographs with videos and cameras are taken of them sometimes when they are allowed to meet with their families, or when they are having a meal together. This is for the purpose of presenting to the world a false picture. This is shameful behaviour void of fellow feeling or compassion.

(d) The military intelligence personnel deceitfully told those NLD parliamentarians who were permitted to return to their homes for a short visit that if they stopped their association with the NLD or if members of the NLD did not contact them, they would be allowed more visits - perhaps once a week or once a month. This is an attempt to drive a wedge in between the members of the party, a most demeaning trait of character.

(e) Some NLD members were abruptly forced to leave while taking a meal with the family by the military intelligence personnel. This again reveals the lack of common courtesy and fellow feeling.

6. The Central Executive Committee of the NLD enthusiastically applauds the NLD parliamentarians for not caving in but standing firm and adhering to the policies laid down by the party, despite the mental and physical hardships imposed on them. We announce our pride and joy in this matter. This is evidence of the fact that an individual's firm convictions cannot be demolished in any way and under no circumstances. Similarly we applaud the tenacious spirit of their families.
7. The crafty activities of the military personnel as enumerated above is despicable and akin to the methods used in communist and fascist countries. Now is the time when the NLD and other democracy activists and the people are striving with all their might to bring about a multi-party democratic system.

8. The activities of the military personnel are deliberately designed to deceive the special envoy of the Secretary General of the United Nations who is in the country at this time. If they are genuine and want to show it they can immediately and unconditionally release all -by this we mean all- the NLD members who have been restrained and or imprisoned. By now the "discussions" should be over.

9. The National League for Democracy rebukes and denounces the military intelligence services for the above activities. We hereby announce that we are determined to implement the results of the 1990 general elections by the convening of parliament and to take whatever necessary steps even though the parliamentarians are being made the scapegoats. We will stand firm and not waver one bit and continue in our efforts to convene the people's parliament.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy