National League for Democracy
No; (97/B), West Shwegondine Road
Bahan, Rangoon

Statement 127 (12/98)

Contents of letter dated 2 December 1998 by the Chairman of the National League for Democracy to the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council on the subject given in the heading is published and distributed for all to know.

(START)
"Subject:-Levies imposed on the villagers by the authorities in Htantabin township, Rangoon Division.

1. Information received is that a road is being constructed to Ah-lae-village of Shwe-pyi-thar township from the village of Aye-ywa on the other bank. Aye-ywa is on the road that branches off to Htantabin town from the Rangoon-Nyaungdon-Bassein road.

2. To pay the labour costs for this construction

(a) The authorities ordered every household in the village tract of Kalein to pay a levy of Kyats 7500/- (Seven thousands five hundred kyats). It is reported that this has been collected from 181 households. One very poor couple living in that village could only pay Kats 5000/-. The authorities refused to accept this.

(b) Kyats 200,000/- (two hundred thousand) was the amount levied by the authorities for Kyun-tha-ya village tract and has been collected.

3. The levies that the village tract authorities collected have to be given to U Maung Maung (township authority) and U Tin Tut (Police Supervisor).

4. In Hlaing-thar-ya township money to meet labour charges had been collected. We understand that Kyats four thousand was designated for each one unit of digging of earth and was included in the levy collected. The authorities who received the levies have not accounted for the excess money.

5. The people living in these village tracts are impoverished and it is not fair that they be forced to pay such levies. Therefore we ask that the imposition of such levies be stopped and the people in charge of such works be instructed to refrain from so doing. (END)

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

24 December, 1998