National League for Democracy  
No: (97/b) West Shwegondine Road  
Bahan, Rangoon  

STATEMENT 129 (12/98)  

Contents of letter dated 29 December 1998 by the Chairman of the  
National League for Democracy to the Chairman of the State Peace and  
Development Council informing him of the real conditions under which the  
cultivators and peasants have been existing in 1998 are herein published  
for the information of all.  

(Start)  

1. In a letter dated 22 December 1998 from the peasants and  
cultivators of Kaukhmu township in Rangoon Division to the Rangoon  
Division Organising Committee of the NLD it is alleged that what  
appears to be assistance by the government, in fact and truth amounts  
to profiteering.  

2. Though the rate of interest charged by the bank this year was  
(Kyat 1 fifty pyas) at the time of taking of the loan, it increased to  
(Kyat 1 seventy five pyas) at the time for repayment. The only  
explanation was that the rate had increased. The amount fixed on  
peasants for saving too has increased from one Kyat to five Kyats and  
though these savings have accumulated through the years, we have been  
informed that this money can not be traced so the peasants have been  
denied any benefits.  

3. This year, the claim is that the Village Fund is being enlarged  
(by exacting more money from the cultivators) despite the fact that no  
money is spent to benefit the villages and the cultivators. There has  
been no accounts given of income and expenditure of the large amounts  
of money repeatedly collected by the Rural Bank towards this Fund. Only  
this year payments under three different categories (Regular Fund,  
Increased Savings Fund, and Special fund) have to be made at one and  
the same time. It make at the end of six months, the rate of interest  
paid by a cultivator is three kyats per hundred kyats. Paddy price is  
not fixed in advance at the time of purchase. Kyats thirty thousand  
(30,000) is the rate at which Ngasein rice is settled in December even  
though the market price is Kyats sixty thousand (60,000). If farmers  
can not fulfil their obligations, the authorities apply all kinds of  
pressure and the cultivators is extremely hard pressed.  

This information is sent in order that the authorities concerned can  
investigate and equitably settle the matters refered to for the  
peasants in the area.
Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

30 December 1998