1. In Sagaing Division, De-pae-yin Township, the authorities had made written contracts for advance purchase of paddy at the rate of Kyats three hundred and fifty per basket. It was specifically stated that such purchase will be conditional to a successful harvest.

2. Unpredictable weather condition this year has caused a shortfall and in some cases no planting at all. The farmers were forced to give up all their crops including seed paddy for the next season and are in great trouble. Those who could not plant anything were not exempted and were forced to contribute Kyats seventy per acre (two hundred acres together), to entertain the purchasing party. These farmers are suffering enormous mental hardship.

3. NLD members in De-pae-yin Township are being forced to resign their membership from the party. Should they refuse they have been threatened with their children's removal from schools.

4. U Kan Sa, the chairman of the village administration unit of In-daing village in De-pae-yin township told the people who would not put their signatures to the letters of resignation that they would suffer the consequences. Then he called for the surveyor and inspected the fields after which he ordered payment of Kyats four hundred per acre. If that could not be paid then he ordered that 8 baskets of paddy per acre be supplied.

5. The farmers complained to U Nyunt, the principle purchasing agent that they were being forced despite the fact that an inspection of the fields revealed a failure of the crops. His reply was he had to obey orders of the village chairman regardless of crop failure or success. The farmers were forced to pay Kyats thirty one thousand two hundred for 78 acres at the rate of Kyats four hundred an acre. This is the information that we have received.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

Rangoon
18 February 1999