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

Statement No. 32 (2/99)

The circumstances relating to the acquisition of agricultural land from farmers of Ward 27, New Dagon town (north), and the result of their representation to the authorities because of failure to be suitably compensated as promised is set down here to keep the public informed.


2. Our information is that in May 1990, at a meeting convened by U Ant Gyaw (Director General of the Town and Housing Department), Major Tin Win (Director of the Town and Housing Department), Major Aye Myint (Hlegu township Peace and Development Council) and Major Aung Win (Chairman, Dagon town), the farmers of the above villages were given an undertaking that each farmer would be compensated for the land of their inheritance with a plot measuring 40 feet by 60 feet.

3. The farmers believed the big people and were awaiting the fulfillment of their promise. Another inventory was taken on 6 October, 1993 by the township SLORC. The farmers were told to attend at Land Office branch No 12 on the 25 October 1993 where U Ba Tint, the Township officer (Town and Housing), U Ba Lwin (head of Land Records), U Ye Kyaw Khine (member of township LORC). They were then deceived into putting their signatures on forms purporting to be applications for plots of land while the documentary evidence they produced (books, records, land tax receipts, paddy sale receipts and bank statements) were retained by the authorities.

4. Nothing more was heard after that. The farmers were left without work and impoverished and their sufferings can be enumerated as

1) loss of one's land;
2) loss of the rights and privileges that should have accrued because of the non-fulfillment of a promise made by the state;
3) loss of one's savings with the Rural and Agricultural Bank;
4) loss of one's right to live in one's own hut/house and the irony of being classified a trespasser and forced to vacate;
5) arrest and imprisonment for failure to vacate;
6) cultivation by other farmers was refused;
7) impoundment of one's cows and buffaloes and imposition of penalties;
8) rental of one thousand eight hundred kyats had to be paid to the Head of Dagon University for some plots in some villages (according to information received by us).

5. Through these various methods the farmers have been persecuted and cheated and they are now miserably hard pressed. A small number of farmers of Toe-gyaung-gyi, Toe-gyaung-ga-le and Da-wei-gyaung were given small plots between the period 1988-89 to 1998-99. But the majority of the farmers from these villages and the remaining villages have not been compensated in a way. (This is the information we have received).

Sixty seven farmers presented an appeal.

The list below gives the names of the villages and the extent of compensation.

1. Toe-gyaung-ga-le one third have been given plots of land.
2. Toe-gyaung-gyi two thirds " " " " "
3. Da-wei-gyaung one third " " " " "
4. Thein-gyaung one third " " " " "
5. Ma-da No one has been given any land.
6. Sit-pin " " " " "
7. Kyu-chaung " " " " "
8. Ma-lit " " " " "
9. Ah-waing " " " " "
10. Ywa-thar-gyi " " " " "
11. Lay-daunt-gan " " " " "
12. Shan-tae-gyi " " " " "
13. Thon-gwa " " " " "
14. Nyaung-bin " " " " "
15. Tha-yet-bin-chaung " " " " "
16. Yay-dwin-chaung " " " " "
17. Kwin-ma " " " " "
18. Kyi-su " " " " "
19. Sin-che-ya " " " " "
20. Thit-seik " " " " "

6. We have been informed that an appeal has been presented to the District SPDC. We solicit that the farmers' appeal be given compassionate consideration and they be appropriately compensated for the losses they have suffered.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

Rangoon
24 February 1999