1. Living conditions for political prisoners in Thayet prison in Magwe Division are outrageous.

2. Information given to us is that the total number of political prisoners is 74 and even though the term of imprisonment is over for some, they have not been released because Military Intelligence Unit 11 has not given its consent to their release.

3. Three persons are placed in each of the cells measuring 12' x 8' where they sleep, eat, and defecate. These conditions are most inhuman and a danger to health of the prisoners which has resulted in sickness and death for some.

4. These conditions are in violation of Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which stipulates that "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment". In addition, these conditions violate the provisions of Section 7 of the Prisons Act which stipulates that "When conditions in prisons are likely to have harmful effects on the health of the prisoners, new temporary structures should be constructed to ensure the safety and convenience of the prisoners". Furthermore, Section 13 of the Prisons Act which provides that the prison doctor is responsible for the health and cleanliness of the prison is being violated. The provisions of law in Chapter 8 under the heading "Health of Prisoners" are not observed neither are some of the provisions of Chapter 8 of the Prisons Manual adhered to.

5. The present inhuman and negligent treatment of political prisoners is deplorable. We urge the respective authorities to take necessary steps and direct corrective measures in the matter.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

Rangoon
25 March 1999