STATEMENT 88 (7/99) (translation)

1. Villagers living in Ze-gyo have been evicted because the Mandalay Division, Ta-da-oo township international airport road (temporary) cuts through their village. Not only is forced labour required of the villagers in that township but they have had to dig up the soil in their compounds.

2. On the dirt road, forced labour of the villagers is required for transporting crushed granite powder from the vehicles transporting the rocks to designated road sites. Whenever the rock-carrying vehicle arrives, villagers are forced to leave whatever work they are doing to perform this task. These villagers are day to day wage earners and this forced labour is causing untold hardship.

3. In addition, collection of Kyats 15 per horse drawn cart, Kyats 20 per bicycle, Kyats 50 per motor vehicle (small), Kyats 100 per motor vehicle (big) is taken allegedly for the construction of the road.

4. Such imposition of poor and struggling village dwellers is hurting them very badly. We urge that the above practices be immediately stopped.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

Rangoon
2 July 1999