1. In 1998, forced labour of villagers was used for the reclamation of virgin and vacant lands in Indaw district, Sagaing division for relief and comfort of the civil service members. Again, this year (1999) for the second time forced labour is being required of the same villagers for the same cause.

2. The said areas comprise a total of 300 acres in Mauloo (100 acres), Meza (100 acres), and Indaw (100 acres) and the work involved is clearing of bushes and weeds, cutting down of trees (big and small), digging up of roots. Men, women, children and even the elderly are conscripted. Penalty for inability to supply labour is Kyats one thousand.

3. The people are being driven deeper and deeper into the pit of poverty because of such unreasonably high and increasing cost of living and added to this is the above forced labour requirements.

4. We urge that there be some compassion for people in their misery and such demands for money and forced labour be immediately stopped.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

Rangoon
6 July 1999