

National League for Democracy  
No: (97/B), West Shwegonedine Road  
Bahan Township, Rangoon

Statement 31 (3/00) (translation)

1. On the 6th March, 2000 at about 2:00 p.m. a written notice was delivered to the Chairman of the New Dagon township General Elections Commission and the Township PDC informing them that the New Dagon NLD organising committee would be holding a meeting on the 7th March, 2000.
2. The same night at about 8:30 p.m. U Thoung Nyunt (Chairman), Dr. Myo Aung (Secretary) and Daw Hla Hla (Treasurer and owner of the NLD office premises at New Dagon township) were summoned for discussions and met with a group composed of the Township authority chairman, chief of the township police, and two others.
3. The chairman said that though the NLD was a duly registered political organisation, since martial law was in force, permission for holding meetings had to be obtained. Evidently, the speaker and his party intended to instill fear or were ignorant of the fact that martial law had been withdrawn on 26 May 1990 by SLORC 's Order 12/90.
4. The Chairman went on to say that of those members that were registered in 1991 only one remained on the list and that since the branch had not submitted the list of the remaining members, they were not valid. There is nothing in the Political Parties Registration Law regarding such matters. Therefore, the arguments put forward by the township authority are not acceptable and unlawful.
5. The authorities have acted unlawfully in denying the party the right to hold their meeting and threatening to take action against them should there be a gathering of many people at the office on the 7th March. Since the meeting is in accordance with provisions embodied in Order 2/88 issued by SLORC, no legal action can be taken against the NLD organising committee. Should action be taken, the said authorities will be not only acting illegally but will be violating laws, which they themselves made.
6. The objections and threats made by the authorities to the NLD New Dagon township organising committee who were performing their legal duties peacefully and within the law, is reprehensible and strongly condemned.

Central Executive Committee  
National League for Democracy

Rangoon  
14 March 2000