NLD Statement 34/2000:

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

Statement 34(3/00) (translation)

1. Deputy Chairman U Tint Lwin, Deputy Chairman U Myo Kyi, Secretary U Mya Thein, and Joint Secretary U Soe Myint of Kawa township, Pegu Division of the National League for Democracy Organising Committee have been unjustly convicted and sentenced by the military authorities wielding power.

2. The Ward and Village Peace and Development Council, the Union Solidarity and Development Association, and the Police were threatening, intimidating and resorting to illegal tactics and making offers of special favors to obtain the resignations of NLD members. Because of this the NLD organising committee was preparing to take strong and active counter measures.

3. To send letters of complaint to the different authorities, they made copies at the Han Win Photocopy shop in Pegu. Information about this was given to the Military Intelligence and the Pegu PDC by Ma Thitsa, an employee of the shop resulting in prosecution under the 1962 Printers and Publishers Registration Law and Section 5 (10) of the Emergency Provisions Law. They were all sentenced to 14 years imprisonment, 7 years under each law to run separately.

4. The trial proceedings were conducted in secret in contravention of the rules and regulations promulgated by the authorities themselves. The right of defense was denied to the accused. The trial was unfair, unjust and the punishment out of all proportion to the offence. This browbeating tactics is reprehensible and strongly condemned.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

Rangoon
20 March 2000