NLD Statement 62/2000:
National League for Democracy
No: (97/B), West Shwegonedine Road
Bahan Township, Rangoon

Statement 62 (4/00) (translation)

1. On 18 February, 2000, U Ko Ko (Secretary of NLD organising committee, Wundwin township, Mandalay Division and U Thein Saing (NLD member) visited Dr. U Hla Aung (MP elect) at his home in Pyidawtha village on party business.

2. Corporal Aung Soe Lwin of Meiktila MI 3(Air Force) arrived on the scene while they were talking and after a short while left. Later, when U Ko Ko and U Thein Saing departed, they were approached by Aung Soe Lwin of the Military Intelligence who was spying on them from a short distance and was asked "What was your business? What letters did you bring and leave behind?" He then grabbed the warm clothes out of the front basket of the bicycle which U Thein Saing was pushing.

3. There was an argument between U Ko Ko and Aung Soe Lwin who lashed out at U Ko Ko with a shoulder bag that he was carrying. Aung Soe Lwin's accomplice joined in and wrestled with U Ko Ko causing him to bleed profusely from the ear and other injuries. U Thein Saing's hands were also hurt. In the process, the NLD papers that were in U Thein Saing's coat pocket went missing.

4. The above incident shows that even though the NLD was performing its legitimate duties in discussing party matters with the elected representative, the Military Intelligence, like thieves and robbers, waylaid them on the road and assaulted them resulting in serious injuries to them. Also, they stole documents relating to the legitimate activities of a legally constituted political party. Therefore these questions need to be asked.
   · Are the military intelligence authorities invested with powers to act violently against the people?
   · Has the rule of law been abolished in the country of Burma?
   · Is the Military Intelligence above the laws that are in force?
We harshly condemn the above activities and ask that action be taken in accordance with the law.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy
Rangoon
28 April 2000