NLD Statement 118/2000:

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

Statement 118 (7/00) (translation)

1. We hear that the military anashins in the townships of Aung Lan and Sin-baung-we (Magwe division) are using the USDO a welfare organisation to pressure the people and forcefully get their signatures for a staged demonstration to dissolve the NLD claiming that it is an "aboveground insurgent organization with bad doctrines."

2. To get these signatures as quickly as possible, a committee of five was formed in Aunglan township to summon and talk to dissenters. The township authorities then summoned those who still refused. We hear that orders had been issued for the immediate arrest of dissidents.

3. The illegal and unjust demonstration was held on 24 June 2000 in the playground in front of the No 1 High School. A similar illegal shouting demonstration was staged in Sin-baung-we town on 20 June 2000.

4. Another episode happened at Thayetmyo township, Kyauk-oh-ky-a-gan village where U Hla Maung, NLD organizing committee member's innocent granddaughter, a tenth standard student, was taken hostage by the authorities while U Hla Maung had gone on a journey. We have been informed that the relatives were outraged. Only when U Hla Maung returned home she was released in exchange. How despicable! We denounce this behaviour vehemently.

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy
Rangoon
28 July 2000