

NLD Statement 133/2000:

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

Statement 133 (8/00) (translation)

1. Information has been received that Dr. Thein Zaw Myint (USDA Secretary, Twante township, Rangoon Division) was the leader of a mass rally to dismantle the NLD.
2. The chairman of the military dictator's township authority of Twante summoned the authorities in the villages and wards to the USDA office and told them that the NLD had lost their support and was not wanted. It was to be dissolved and dismantled. He said that though the normal process was for the township USDA members to collect signatures, under the present circumstances that was not possible. So it was their responsibility to do the job fully.
3. This task of collecting signatures was commenced on the 23 July 2000 in the township of Twante by the military dictator's lackeys such as the wards and village USDA members, Auxiliary Fire Brigade members, and Red Cross members. They entered every house, asked for the household census list, took down the names of every 18-year-old and above and asked for their signatures. The reasons they gave for this exercise were various, such as distribution of rice, Kyauktawgyi Pagoda festival, and new elections. Those who were reluctant to sign were told that as this was an order from above failure to do so would have dire consequences.
4. We have heard that the majority refused to sign. While some maintained that they supported the NLD, others took a neutral position and the rest were indifferent and didn't want to have anything to do with politics. So the task force were only able to get their names.
5. Our information is that on the 12 August 2000 at 5:00 a.m. the function was staged at the Aung San Thuyira Aye Cho Hall attended by 300 persons. Constituencies 1 and 2 in Twante township has a population of over 200,000 with 276 villages. The doors of the hall were all closed except for one entry point. The meeting was terminated before the people had got out of their beds. Only members of the USDA attended while the police were in mufti for security reasons. The USDA members falsely claiming that this was the wish of the people presented the petition. The Twante township authorities and the USDA membership has by false representation, coercion, intimidation and other tactics acted most deceitfully to try to show that the Twante citizenry has lost confidence in the NLD. We vigorously denounce these activities.

Central Executive Committee  
National League for Democracy

Rangoon  
17 August 2000