

National League for Democracy

"Statement"

Aspiring towards the construction of a democratic union of Burma, the National League for Democracy wished to cooperate in the National Convention organized by the SPDC. Therefore the NLD intimated to the authorities the following minimal conditions that would enable the party to participate in the National Convention.

(1) The "six objectives" should be regarded merely as suggestions to be considered in the drafting of the constitution.

(2) The "104 principles" too should be regarded as suggestions to be considered for the drafting of the constitution, not as binding principles.

(3) At the time when the NC was previously held, all political parties, including the NLD, should be able to choose their own representatives freely.

(4) All NLD offices sealed since 30 May 2003 must be reopened and party signboards restored where they have been forcibly removed.

(5) U Tin U, vice-chairman of the NLD and General Secretary Daw Aung San Suu Kyi must be released from detention.

(6) There was agreement with the authorities with regard to point (3) above, but with regard to the others -

(7) While it was indicated that in connection with point (1) and (2), there may be discussions through syndicate meetings, there has been no clear declaration of how the authorities intend to handle these issues.

(8) The authorities did not agree to conditions (4) and (5).

The NLD does not believe that under these circumstances it will be able to benefit the nation by participating in the National Convention. Therefore it has been decided that the NLD will not attend the National Convention.

C E C
Yangon

May 14, 2004.