

National League for Democracy
(97/b) West Shwegondine Road
Bahan, Rangoon

Statement 7 (1/99)

Contents of petition dated 7 January 1999 from the Chairman of the NLD to the Chairman Sayadaw (Abbot) of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Order are distributed for public information.

(Start)

" Reverend Benefactors and Sayadaw,

I respectfully place the following facts before you on behalf of the National League for Democracy and the Central Executive Committee.

Our reason for making this petition is because of information we have received about two Buddhist sanghas in the town of Yesagyo, Magwe Division who are collaborating with the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) in their political activities.

A monk by the name of U Nanda Wuntha (a) U Nan Gyi, residing at the western monastery of Ye-sa-gyo-town in Magwe Division, and another by the name of U Ainda Wuntha (a) U Aung Si residing at Min O monastery are assisting the MIS in their endeavour to undermine the NLD, lower their morale and to obtain their resignations from the party.

The National League for Democracy is a legally constituted political party engaged in political activities permitted by the laws made by the present rulers of the country . In the Multiparty general elections held in May, 1990, this party was overwhelmingly elected as representatives to the People's Parliament by men and women who have always donated the four essential necessary for the survival of monkhood. Therefore it can be said that this is a people's party.

We respectfully reiterate that as a political party we have never exploited religion for political gain which is a prohibition stipulated by law. Similarly, in accordance with the teachings of the Lord Buddha himself and as given in the Scriptures, the discipline that must be observed by monks has been laid down. Interference of any nature (in deed or in utterances) is intolerable and inappropriate.

We, therefore, respectfully bow at your feet and petition you to admonish the sangha at all levels (States, Divisions, Townships) to abide strictly by the discipline laid down in the Scriptures and befitting their standing in the community.

May you, the Venerable Chairman Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Order and all the Sangha Nayaka Sayadaws enjoy health and prosperity both physical and mental to enable you to continue in your task for the benefit of the Buddhist Mission. " (End)

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

12 January 1999