



SIXTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Developments concerning the question
of the observance by the Government
of Myanmar of the Forced Labour
Convention, 1930 (No. 29)**

Addendum

Additional information

1. On 31 October 2005, U Aye Myint was found guilty under section 5(e) of the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act of “spreading false information” and sentenced to seven years’ imprisonment. According to the information received, the basis for the charges was that U Aye Myint, a lawyer, had allegedly advised a group of farmers who had had their land confiscated by the authorities to report this matter to the ILO Liaison Officer. In 2003 U Aye Myint had been sentenced to death for high treason for alleged contacts with the Liaison Officer, but had been released in January 2005 (see GB.294/6/2, paragraphs 9 and 12, for further information.)
2. The Liaison Officer a.i. has also received information that three villagers from Aunglan township (Magway Division) were informed in October 2005 that they were being prosecuted by the local authorities for sending false information to the ILO. The charges related to the death in late 2004 of a villager during forced labour which was reported to the Liaison Officer a.i. and on which he intervened with the authorities (see International Labour Conference, 2005, C.App./D.6., paragraph 11).
3. On 9 November 2005, the Director-General received a letter from the Minister of Labour, U Thaug, which is appended.

Geneva, 11 November 2005.

Appendix

Letter dated 7 November 2005 from the Myanmar Minister of Labour to the Director-General

Dear Director-General,

I would like to refer to your letter dated 7 July 2005 regarding our relations with the ILO.

Although at present we are compelled to seriously consider the withdrawal of Myanmar from the ILO due to the desire of the entire populace, I also believe that there still exist time and space to explore options and opportunities to continue our ongoing cooperation with the ILO.

I hope that ILO will reciprocate our good faith and sincerity in our relations. Such cooperation should be free from politicization and mutually beneficial to both sides.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) U Thaung,
Minister.