

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 16/27/97

16 October 1997

Further information on EXTRA 134/97 (ASA 16/26/97, 9 October 1997) - Health concern/Prisoners of conscience

MYANMARU Cho Aung Than
Dr Aung Khin Sint, medical doctor
U Win Tin, aged 67, writer

On 10 October 1997 the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC, Myanmar's military authorities), responded to queries made by journalists about the health of U Cho Aung Than, Dr Aung Khin Sint, and U Win Tin. The SLORC stated that U Cho Aung Than had been admitted to hospital on 26 September for treatment of high blood pressure. Dr Aung Khin Sint was admitted on 11 June for treatment of diabetes, high blood pressure, and cardiac problems. U Win Tin was taken to hospital on 19 September, also for cardiac problems. The SLORC stated that their medical condition was not critical, and that they had been moved to Yangon General Hospital because prison authorities believed that they would improve more rapidly with additional medical treatment. The SLORC also said that they were improving prison conditions and upgrading prison medical facilities.

Amnesty International welcomes the fact that these three men are receiving the care they need, but continues to appeal for their immediate and unconditional release. The organization also welcomes the improvements made in Myanmar's prison system. Prison conditions amounting to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment have been a long-standing concern for political prisoners in Myanmar.

No further action by the UA Network is requested. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.