Do you know, brethren, that on the 2nd August last Shri
Niharendu Dutta Mazumdar, Minister for the Welfare of Ttibal and
Depressed-class Hindus met in a conference in his office a deputation
of representatives of the Chitrakar community from Calcutta
and the districts of Hooghly, Howrah, Burdwan, Murshidabad, 24-
Parganas and Midnapore ? The Hon.Minister assured the deputationists
of the Government's readiness to fulfil as far as possible the
demands made on behalf of the Chitrakar community. The question
especially discussed at the conference was that of the social po-
sition of the Chitrakars. The Minister referred to the Anti-untouch-
ability Act passed in 1948 and gave the assurance that the Chitrakars
would no longer have to remain stuck to a lowly place in the Hindu
society. In the eye of the law there is no longer any distinction
between caste-Hindus and Hindus of the scheduled castes. Therefore is
no question of keeping the Chitrakar classified as a scheduled caste
against their will. In the eye of the law a Chitrakar should have the
same status and rights as any high-caste person in the Hindu society.

Chitrakar brethren, now you know where you stand. After long
unhappy ages a happy day has dawned for the Chitrakar community.
Whoever fails to seize this opportunity will lag behind and is doomed
to endless repentance in the future. The government of our independent
country has responded to our appeal. There is no longer any
room for despondency. Let us now cleanse our minds of all resentment and misgivings, become united and proceed to take our rightful place in the Hindu society. What is the use of hurling abuse from outside? Let us enter the Hindu society and try establish our rights there. Is this not the path of wisdom? Please ponder deeply.

[Issued by] Members of the Bangiya Chitrakar Unnayan Samiti
2A, Parbati Chakravorty Lane, Calcutta

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N.B. Enroll yourself as a member of Chitrakar community's representative organisation" Bangiya Chitrakar Samiti".