PRE FACE

Nagaland till 1951 formally known as Naga Hills remained a district of Assam from its formation in 1866 to the decolonialization of the Indian sub-continent in 1947. However, regular British administration in this district was introduced in 1881. Accordingly, the period of my research topic is delineated from the beginning of the effective British administration. Nevertheless, the early Anglo-Naga relation from 1826 to 1881 have formed an essential background of the present thesis.

One reason why British rule in Naga Hills is an important subject of study is that the Nagas, who for centuries lived in their secluded village 'states' without any noticeable contact with the outside world, were for the first time in their tribal history brought under alien control and contact with British India. The alien and forced nature of this interactions with the outside world makes this study of particular research interest.

Considering the vastness and extent of the topic covering nearly seven decades, an indepth study might have been beyond the scope of a single thesis. However, close examination revealed that the colonial administration in the District was relatively simple, and its pattern
uniform throughout the period. This has enabled me to
cover the period and make necessary investigations into
the colonial policy and administration of the District
within the confines of the present work.

The task, however, became uphill and difficult to
accomplish because of restrictions on access to primary
source material in the National Archives of India in the
Foreign Department. Repeated requests for permission to
consult the relevant documents was refused despite support
from my guide.1 One way of overcoming the hurdle was to
consult the India Office records in London. Unfortunately,
I could not persuade the Indian Council of Historical
Research to finance my stay in London, even for a short
period. Faced with such rough academic weather, there
was an air of uncertainty for the completion of this
research. Fortunately, however, I was not left alone
to tackle the problem. Unprecedented help both from my
guide and many others enabled me to tide over the hurdles
and made the completion of this work possible. The
materials I consulted include both original as well as
secondary sources and their details are given in the
bibliography.

1. Letter from the Government of India, National
Archives, vide P.No.2-231/77 R.R. dated 25 July
1960, Letters from the Govt. of India, Ministry
of Home Affairs, vide letter no.16/8/81, N.R.T.
Nagaland being regarded as one of the sensitive
contd...
The research is an endeavour to study the different facets of colonial policy and administration in Naga Hills covering the prime British period with special focus on administration, cultural, economic and political colonial policies in the district and their impact on the Naga society.

Chapter I deals with the historical background of Anglo-Naga relations covering the period from the treaty of Yandabo, 1826, to the introduction of regular administration in Naga Hills, 1881. It highlights how Britain in her bid to ward off the Nagas from the plains of Assam changed her policies towards the Nagas from time to time and the subsequent factors which led her to bring the tribes under effective administration as the best means of control.

Chapter II analyses colonial administration in the district and the consequent impacts on the Nagas. It accounts the administrative measures introduced by the Government and the acceptance of the new administration.

contd...
areas, original Government records after 1913 are not opened to the scholars till date. Repeated requests to the concerned authority for consultation of classified documents were not considered for the reason stated above.
by the Naga tribes. On the whole, while the weight of actual administration was light, its impact was far-reaching, especially in so far as the physical partition of the Naga inhabited areas are concerned. The physical unity of the Naga tribes was sacrificed at the altar of colonial administrative interests.

Chapter III is a study of colonial cultural policy in the district which tried to maintain status quo vis-à-vis its intervention for the suppression of Headhuntings, slave trade on one hand and modification of native cultural practices wherever necessary, on the other. A more important aspect was the significant transformation of the Naga society which was brought about by Christian missionaries. The impact of missionary education and Christian gospel immensely revolutionized the Naga society during the colonial period.

Chapter IV examines the economic policy of the British. It mainly studies the measures taken by the government to promote agriculture, trade and communications. The government could not make much headway, though a certain fillip was given to the gradual economic development of the district.

Chapter V is devoted to the impact of colonial political policy on the Nagas and its deeper effect on
their socio-political resurgence. Chapter VI is an overview of the main thesis.

This research work has been done under the kind supervision of Prof. Bipan Chandra. He has been my guide and helper from the beginning up to its submission. To such a helper, I can only say that his is a debt that I cannot repay personally. To him I extend my profound gratitude for constant encouragement and valuable guidance.

Moreover, during my research studies, I had the opportunity of having contact and discussions with many scholars who in various ways contributed help to the making of this thesis. In this connection, I would like to record my deep thanks to the following people: Prof. Suvira Jaishwal, Prof. G. Gopal, Prof. Satish Saberwal, Prof. K.N. Panikkar of the Jawaharlal Nehru University; Prof. S.K. Barpujari of the Gauhati University; Prof. J.B. Bhattacharya, Prof. M. Baren of the North East Hill University; Dr. A.B. Ghosh, Editor, Nagaland Gazetteer; Dr. Datta Ray of St. Edmund’s College, Shillong; Mr. Y. Kithan and Mr. Vinuto Yepthomi of Nagaland Secretariat, Kohima. Moreover I am grateful to other faculty members, Centre for Historical Studies, School of Social Sciences and the fellow research scholars of Jawaharlal Nehru University in whose warm academic atmosphere I did my
research. Special thanks are due to Anthony Thomas and Paulo Philippe for their assistance in material collection, and Hemkhotang and Peter Rungsung for drawing the sketch map of Nagaland. I am indebted to a large number of people of Nagaland who extended to me generous help during my field works. While acknowledging their help in general, I would like to extend my gratitude to a few elderly people with whom I had personal interviews. They are Padmashri Mayangnokcha Ao, Mr. Inti Aliba, Mr. Longrikaba Ao, Mr. Acato Swu, Mr. Holuvi Sema, Mr. Zhuvie Sema, Mr. & Mrs. A. Kevichusa, Mr. Kughato Sukhai, Fr. Patrick Vonk.

Warm thanks are due to the staff of the following libraries for their help and co-operation during my material collection: District Record Office, Mokokchung; District Record Office, Kohima; Assam Record Office, Shillong; Gauhati University Library; National Library, Calcutta; British Council Library, New Delhi; Sapru House Library, New Delhi; National Archives, New Delhi; Central Secretariat Library, New Delhi; Nehru Museum Library, New Delhi; and Jawaharlal Nehru University Library, New Delhi.

Without adequate financial assistance this work would not have been possible. In this respect, I gratefully acknowledge the teacher fellowship awarded to me by the
University Grants Commission and also Indian Council of Historical Research who protected my pay for one year and further provided a grant for my field work. I am thankful to my college authorities and Mr. I. Younger Ao, Principal of Fazl Ali College, Mokokchung, for extending to me all possible help for the completion of my research work. Moreover, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warm thanks to the families of my research contacts who kindly extended to me hospitality.

Before I conclude I would like to say that I am aware of my own limitations and that for any errors of views or interpretations I am solely responsible.

In conclusion, I would like to record my deep appreciation to my wife (Kabuli) and children (Amecali & Phikihe) who shared with me many family inconveniences in the course of my research.

Lastly, I am thankful to Mr. Om Prakash for typing this thesis.

[Signature]

29/2/6