APPENDIX V

Mizo National Front Strategy - An Act of Gross Betrayal

What did they promise? The President and the Vice-President of the Mizo National Front gave to the Chief Minister of Assam an assurance in writing (Photostat copy of the letter) as follows:-

Camp- Shillong,
the 14th Feb. 1964.

My dear Chief Minister,

We are very grateful to you for having given Pu Lalnunmawia, Vice President of the Mizo National Front and me an opportunity of meeting you and explaining the position which has resulted in the unfortunate situation in which we find ourselves. We know, Sir, that on the basis of the reports received by you, action to detain us has been taken. We understand that this action was because we were suspected to have gone over to Pakistan and consorted both with the military and civil administrations there. In fact, we fully realise that particularly in the context of relationship between the two countries it would be entirely wrong for anyone of the M.N.F. or otherwise to meet or discuss political matters with the Pakistani authorities. We can assure you that we did not do
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so. We have written earlier and we beg to confirm that it was our intention to meet our Mizo brethren in Pakistan on the border, but not in any circumstance to meet or discuss matters with the Pakistani officials. Why we wanted to meet the Mizo brethren in Pakistan was also because we had received reports of some harassment to them and we also wanted in the general line of our thinking of ultimately having a vast Mizo Brotherhood, of talking to our people and finding out their grievances. We realise, Sir, that this intention and desire of ours was not correct. It was also, we now realise, a violation of the Passport Rules and travel restrictions between the countries. For this technical violation we are sorry and would seek to be excused. We can, however, assure you and reiterate that we have not met or discussed matters with Pakistani military personnel or other officials nor will we ever do so in future.

As our motives may, in the circumstances, have been liable to be misunderstood and considered as activity against the interests of the Indian Union, we wish to state the programmes and policies of the Mizo National Front are not anti-State and we would not take a course of action which is against the Constitution of India. We hope, Sir, that you will accept this statement and assurance on our behalf and by releasing
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us from detention, give us the opportunity of playing a constructive role in the development of our beloved Mizo District.

I, Pu Laldenga, had met you on more than one occasion earlier and discussed about development of our District and I hope I could impress upon you that I and my party are very much interested in the development programmes of the Mizo District. We would like to continue this association and cooperation in the cause of development of the Mizo District.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
Laldenga, 14/2/64
President, M.N.I.

Sd/-
Lalnunmawia, 14/2/64
Vice-President, M.N.I.

Shri B.P. Chaliha,
Chief Minister, Assam,
Shillong.
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What did they practise? In spite of the solemn assurance not to have recourse to any unconstitutional activity, the Mizo National Front surprised everybody by starting violence from the night of 28th February, 1966 throughout the Mizo district in the name of Mizo independence. This amounted to a gross betrayal of the cause of the Mizo people and the trust of the Government. Are the violent activities of the Mizo National Front armed gangs indicative of the constructive role which the President and the Vice President of the Organisation promised to play in the development of the Mizo District? The Mizo people must have realised by now the hollowness of the promise of the Mizo National Front leaders and the underlying motive of their deceitful behaviour. There can be no peace and progress of the people in the district so long as the Mizo National Front armed gangs continue to play their role of coercion. It is therefore inevitable that the Mizo National Front armed gangs must be destroyed with the combined efforts of the Government and the people.

Issued by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Government of Assam, Shillong.