Personal/Top Secret
New Delhi,
November 14, 1977.

Dear Shri Charan Singh Ji,

I had sent a letter to you sometime back enclosing a copy of the Scheme for the establishment of peace camps in Mizoram, as approved by the MNF Headquarters. The approved scheme incorporated certain changes including: (i) my immediate visit to Aizawl to meet the Executive Committee for finalising the political demands of the MNF, (ii) commencement of the political talks forthwith and (iii) postponement of elections till the finalisation of talks, etc. As these demands could not be favourably considered by the Government of India, a deadlock has been created in the peace talks.

2. As I am determined to restore peace in Mizoram this deadlock has caused a serious concern and anxiety to me. Since, however, I have taken up the difficult task of bringing peace in Mizoram with complete dedication and sincerity, I am determined to make it a success and remove every obstacles in its path. It is
unfortunate that at times I have been misunderstood and my bonafides doubted keeping in view the great importance of this mission to us, the Mizo people and the country as a whole, I do not want to take a rigid and uncompromising stand which may stand in the way of restoration of peace.

3. In our previous meeting, you had been kind enough to assure us that if we give up our secessionist ideology, accept the Constitution of India, hand over our arms and live like loyal Indians, you would forgive and forget the past. This assurance gives us all a great hope and courage and we feel that there is no reason why the present peace talks should fail. Therefore, hope, Sir, that after we hand over the arms, the Government of India treats with the same compassion, sympathy and consideration as it treats its other citizens our problems and helps us in solving them.

4. I have got a definite time-bound programme of action to suggest for your considerations and in case it is favourably considered by the Government of India, I am prepared to take full responsibility of restoring complete peace in Mizoram. Sir, I propose to lay down our arms straightaway unconditionally at suitable places. I am confident that this process will be
APPENDIX IX

completed by January 26, 1978 our Republic Day. My volunteers straightaway hand over their arms to the Government of India when they come to the camps and armouries etc. I realise the great responsibility on my shoulders to convince each and every person in MNF organisation but I assure you, Sir, that with your help and cooperation, I hope to accomplish this task in a short time.

5. Knowing that you have an open mind and sympathetic heart towards Mizo people, and that you are not averse to give statehood to the people of Mizoram, I may be permitted to come to Delhi with representatives of various groups of political and social organisations to present the aspirations of the people of Mizoram. This, of course, would only be done after the peace has been fully restored in Mizoram. At that stage we would request the favour of your granting a statehood with certain safeguards to Mizo people as fulfilment of their aspirations and not as a reward of an armed rebellion to the MNF.

6. I also understand that there will have to be a sufficient time gap between our laying down of arms and your considering demand of Statehood for Mizoram. Sir, I do hope that this idea will receive your blessings. I assure you that I will faithfully
APPENDIX IX

discharge my obligations of bringing complete and permanent peace in Mizoram.

7. I also take this opportunity to withdraw all the changes suggested in the proposed scheme. As it is not considered proper by the Government of India that I should go to Mizoram at this stage, I am prepared to postpone my visit till the process of handing over of arms is well in progress. The question of our demanding holding of political talks also does not arise. As regards holding of elections, I leave the decision regarding choice of suitable timing to the Government of India which, I am sure, will keep in view the greater task in hand of restoration of peace in Mizoram and also our interests while taking a decision.

8. However, you will agree sir, that even after handing over of the arms and restoration of peace in Mizoram, it will be necessary to build up a psychological atmosphere of trust, peaceful and friendship in Mizoram I would be grateful if you could consider utilising my services by offering a suitable office to me during the transitional period for this task. Sir, I want to avail this opportunity to prove my bonafides to the people and the Government of India and convince them
APPENDIX IX

that I, as a true nationalist, will dedicate my entire energies for the development of Mizoram and the country as a whole. It will also give me an opportunity to look after the interest of my erstwhile colleagues in the MNF who will have various personal, psychological and political problems to face immediately after handing over their arms. This will also enable me to deal effectively with persons from our old organisation who may decide to take the path of violence, which, however, is a very remote possibility also volunteers to offer my services for bringing peace at other parts of North Eastern region in any way the government deems fit. To assist me I may like to avail the cooperation of two of my colleagues.

9. Sir, as I have been given a time-bound programme of action and the time that I have suggested is extremely short I would be grateful if I could be obliged with a clearance from your side at the earliest. May I request you Sir, to treat this letter as personal.

Yours sincerely,

With best regards,

Shri Charan Singh,  
Union Home Minister,  
New Delhi.

Sd/-

(LALDENGA)

President, MNF,

14.11.'77 *