Appendix
APPENDIX - I

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM AND BRU NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (BNLF) -

The main points of agreement between the Government of Mizoram and BNLF are -

1. The BNLF agrees to lay down their arms and ammunitions and come overground to lead normal life as law abiding citizen. The Government of Mizoram on its part agrees to take back genuine Reangs from Tripura refugee camps.

2. With the signing of agreement and immediately after laying down of their arms and ammunitions, the BNLF shall stand automatically dissolved and shall cease to exist.

3. The BNLF will make a complete inventory of their arms and ammunitions and other equipments will be held at Tuipuilibari in Mizoram.

4. After signing this agreement, the BNLF will neither recruit new members nor assist any other insurgent or underground outfit in the form of weapons, money or other assistance directly or indirectly.
5. Rehabilitation and resettlement of the BNLF returnees and their family members will be carried out as per scheme prepared separately. The BNLF returnees will be accommodated at Tuipuibari rehabilitation camps for a period not exceeding three months.

6. The Government of Mizoram will grant amnesty to all those BNLF cadres having criminal cases inside the state. It shall also request other neighbouring state governments to do likewise in respect of those BNLF cadres who have been convicted and kept in jails outside Mizoram.

7. The Government of Mizoram will take steps for changing Reang to Bru in the Scheduled Tribe List.

8. After BNLF lay down their arms and join the mainstream, the state Government will take all necessary steps to accelerate the pace of development in western belt of Mizoram covering all Bru settlements. The Special Development Project will be implemented depending upon the quantum of financial assistance received from the Central Government. The Government of Mizoram shall continue to work for the
socio-economic upliftment of the Bru people living in different districts of Mizoram.

9. The scheme of reception, rehabilitation and resettlement of repatriated Reang refugees will be implemented after the BNLF lay down their arms.

10. The Government of Mizoram agrees to take necessary measures for inclusion of eligible Bru voters in the Electoral Roll with due process of law after they are resettled inside Mizoram.

The Government of Mizoram and the Bru National Liberation Front have accepted the above points on this day of 26th April, 2005.

SURYAMONI  
President, BNLF

H.V. LALRINGA  
Chief Secretary

Govt. of Mizoram
Respected Chairman Pu H.V. Lalringa, chief guest Pu Tawnluia, Hon’ble Home Minister of Mizoram, Respected DGP Pu Lalngheta Sailo and other government dignitaries, My Colleagues, Church leaders, representatives of various leading NGOs, ladies and Gentleman;

At the very outset, I would like to convey my heartfelt gratitude to you all in this auspicious occasion of the Arms lying down of BNLF ceremonial function. I would like to express my thankfulness to the Govt of India, the Govt of Tripura, the Assam Rifles and all other government machineries for their commitments which make the signing of Peace Accord possible. Special gratefulness goes to the Mizoram Synod, Mizoram Kohhran Hruaitu Committee (MKHC) and Bru Welfare Association of Mizoram (BWAM) for their exemplary contribution concerning the success of peace negotiation between the BNLF and the Government of Mizoram. The role played by leading organizations like Young Mizo
Association (YMA) and Mizo Zirawl Pawi (MZP) is worthwhile. I would also like to assert my thanks to Mizoram Bru Displaced People’s Forum (MBDPF), Bru Students Association (BSA) and other Bru Organizations for their tireless effort in bringing about the settlement of the vexed Bru issue in Mizoram.

The Bru tribe belongs to the Mongoloid racial stocks and their dialect is akin to the Austro-Asiatic Tibeto Burman family. A total of thirteen sub-tribes formed this community with rich cultures and traditions. Mostly, in Mizoram, the Bru people spread along the Terei and Longai (or Longkaih) river in Mamit district, Kolasib, the western part of Chimtuipui district bordering Bangladesh and in the western part of Lunglei district. Unfortunately, even after the lapse of fifty years of India’s independence, this tribe remains isolated from various fields of development. The negligent attitude of the government can be learned from the fact that majority of the Bru people are still entirely dependent on Jhum (Shifting) Cultivation and therefore, are still semi-nomadic and economically, their condition is miserable and that the literacy percentage among Brus is less than 10 percent. Taking into account of the step motherly treatment, the need for exclusive administrative umbrella mainly for political, economic, cultural and educational development was strongly felt by the Bru people of Mizoram. Slowly but steadily, they
began to realize the intense necessity of Autonomy for protection of identity, culture, language, traditional heritages, customs and usages etc. In the provision of the Indian Constitution, creation of Autonomous Districts and Autonomous Regions are provided under Sixth Schedule, Article 244 (2) and 275(1) in the state of Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. And for claiming this organization known as "Bru National Liberation Front" emerged in 1996. Thus, the BNLF came into existence due to necessity and compelling circumstances.

It is well-known to all that the BNLF has stepped down from demanding Autonomous District Council to Regional Council, from Regional Council to Development Council, and later withdrew all such political demands not because of cowardice or imbalance but because of yearning for peace and understanding.

Taking into account of this glorious opportunity, I would like to apologize for all the activities taken during our struggle that may hurt the sentiment of brethrens in Mizoram and elsewhere. Forgetting the past, let us altogether step forward for strengthening relationships, mutual trust, humanity, and universal brotherhood.

On this occasion, I also salute to the cadres of BNLF who have sacrificed their valuable lives for the cause of Bru community. Their sacrificial contribution will remain in the hearts of Brus forever.
Last but not the least, I would like to ardently request all section of society to promote peace and harmony, human virtues, brotherhood of mankind and not to neglect the poorest and helpless sections. I would further earnestly request the Mizoram Government and the Central Government to adopt sympathetic attitude towards the realization of all points mentioned in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and other points not cited there as well. I invite all political parties, communities, social organizations and all section of the people of Mizoram to co-operate with all the governmental activities for accelerating the pace of development in the Bru Settlement in particular and Mizoram state in general.
APPENDIX III

NHRC NOTICES ON REANGS

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) recently served notices to the Government of both Tripura and Mizoram to submit a report on the alleged atrocities upon the Bru (Reang) tribes of Mizoram and on the reported violation of human rights of the Reang refugees now sheltered in Kanchanpur sub-division of North Tripura district.

The Assistant Registrar of the Commission's Law Division asked the Home Secretaries of Tripura and Mizoram to submit the report within four weeks of issuing the notices.

The NHRC notices came after the General Secretary of the Bru National Convention of India, B Reang lodged a complaint with the commission about the gross violation of the human rights of the Reangs. Receiving the complaint, the commission registered a case (39169798) in this connection.

In his letter to the Chairman of the NHRC, B Reang had alleged that since the second week of October, 1997 the Reang people of Mizoram had been subjected to inhuman atrocities and their basic human rights had also been grossly violated. Immediately
after the Reangs had voiced the demand for autonomy under the
banner of the Bru National Union (BNU), the majority Mizo people
had launched massive attacks on the Reangs throughout the entire
state of Mizoram.

Mr. Reang further mentioned that the Reangs had been served
‘Quit Mizoram Notices’ which asked them to leave the state
forthwith. Systematic campaign of terror and violence had been
launched in the Reang inhabited areas. Thousands of houses had
been burnt down by the Mizo miscreants. Several hundreds of
villagers and youths had been subjected to untold atrocities, he had
alleged.

Giving a detailed account of the atrocities perpetrated upon
the Reangs, he had alleged that 16 persons had been brutally killed
and 20 women had been gaugraped over 30,000 people had to cross
over to Tripura, Assam and even to Bangladesh out of fear leaving
behind their homestates.

Reangs are staying in the temporary refugee camps in various
parts of North Tripura districts, 7000 in Assam’s Hailakandi districts
and the rest 9000 had to sneak into the Mayami Reserve Forest of the
Chittagong Hill Tract in Bangladesh.
Mr. Reang had also drawn the commission’s attention to the wretched condition the refugees are living in and had stated that a good number of refugees had died out of starvation and malnutrition in both Assam and Tripura as the authorities had not taken care of the unfortunate people.

"The peace-loving Reangs have been living in Mizoram since time immemorial. But they are treated as sub-human and second class citizen in the state even after 50 years of India’s independence."

Mr. Reang had pointed out, alleging that the Mizoram Government had totally failed to ensure the security of life and property of the minority Reangs. Instead the Mizoram police (MRP) had been repeatedly involved in the mass eviction and genocide against the Reangs, he added.

On behalf of the Bru National Convention of India, Mr Reang urged the NHRC Chairman to visit Mizoram for conducting an on spot investigation into the violation of human rights of the Reangs. He had also requested the Chairman to visit the refugee camps, in Tripura and Assam, where thousands of Reangs are struggling for existence.

As the NHRC swung into action immediately after receiving the complaint, the Bru National Convention expressed satisfaction.
A spokesman of the Convention hoped that with the NHRC's intervention, the injustice and oppression the Reangs were subjected to, would come to an end and they would be able to regain their rights.

(North-East Sun, February 15-28, 1998)

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