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Congressmen Trying To Split Assam: Borbora

From Our Special Representative

GAUHATI, Sept. 27.—The Assam Chief Minister, Mr Golap Borbora, has alleged that certain Congressmen are encouraging separatist tendencies in the two hill districts, Karbi Anglong (former Mikir Hills) and North Cachar Hills. He says: "We cannot afford a situation similar to what happened in 1960, and 1972.

He is perhaps countering the former Chief Minister, Mr Sarat Sinha's charge about the Janata Party hobnobbing with the Plains Tribal Council of Assam, which has suddenly stopped pressuring for a tribal State on the north bank of the Brahmaputra.

Mr Borbora said his party was working with the tribals to help them enter the mainstream of life. He said the Congress was responsible for the dismemberment of Assam. One of its senior leaders, he alleged, was seen making collections at Fancy Bazar in Gauhati.

Mr Borbora's allegations underline the war of attrition in Assam. Social tensions are surfacing all over the region and the Chief Minister does not rule out foreign interference.

Mr Borbora says he will put down violence at all costs. The police has been given a flexible mandate firmness tempered by restraint. The Government feels

that it will be futile to offer temporary palliatives without tackling the problems in their totality.

A judicial inquiry into the Dhumarpur incident has been instituted. Mr Borbora wants time and all-round cooperation to mould the police into an instrument of social change. An additional police battalion's being raised to cope with infiltration across the border, though this is primarily the responsibility of the Border Security Force.

Unemployment poses a problem for Mr Borbora. He aims at "adequate and rational" absorption of local youth. An official of the State is being deputed to Bongaigaon Petrochemicals as personnel manager. The system of recruitment to the Northern Frontier Railway is being changed.

Both the Congresses are exploiting the unemployment issue. The Assam Pradesh Congress Committee has said that local young people are being discriminated against in Government and public sector jobs, as also in the private sector. The party wants the State Government to define clearly the concept of local ("thalua") people.

The Youth Congress has joined the fray. Inaugurating a State seminar, Mr Priya Ranjan Das Munshi announced a programme to focus on youth unemployment. Periodic demonstrations and picketing will begin on October and continue till the end of November. "Mr Das Munshi says, Mrs Gandhi has destroyed the "democratic morality" of India.

The former Prime Minister is expected here by the end of the month. Congress(I) sources expect her to announce a "democratic chapter of activity" for her party.