

23-July-1979.

Indian Express.

Assam crisis still remains unresolved

Express News Service

SHILLONG, July 22.

The ministerial crisis in Assam, caused by the withdrawal of support by 17 ruling Janata dissidents to the Chief Minister Golap Chandra Borbora, remains unresolved although supporters of Mr. Borbora yesterday made gigantic efforts to woo back the prodigals. The Chief Minister, still hopeful of reconciliation with his detractors, is understood to have informed the Governor, Mr. L. P. Singh, that no action was called for on the communication addressed by the 17 dissidents to the latter intimating withdrawal of support to the Borbora Ministry. Taking refuge behind technicalities, Mr. Borbora is understood to have pointed out that he continued to be the Chief Minister by virtue of his being the duly elected leader of the Assam Janata Legislature Party.

The dissidents had not yet left the JLP nor has the Legislature Party so far expressed its lack of confidence in his leadership. The entire matter was still an internal affair of the JLP and did not fall within the purview of the Governor's constitutional obligations, he argued.

According to well informed sources at Dispur, the Chief Minister, in his reply to the Governor's communication wherein he had called for Mr. Borbora's comments on the letter of 17 dissidents, has informed the Governor that the dissidents claim of his having lost the majority support was not correct. Moreover many of the signatories to the letter withdrawing support to the Borbora Ministry, he claimed, had called on him to assure their continued support and faith in his leadership.