

Joint Declaration By

AASU And NSF

GUWAHATI, Dec. 7—A joint meeting of Naga Students' Federation and the All Assam Students' Union held at Kohima on December 5 agreed in principle to continue their work together for the upliftment of the entire student community in particular, and the Nagas and the Assamese in general.

The President of the Naga Students' Federation, Sri Zhovelu Lohe and the AASU President, Sri Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, signed a joint declaration after the meeting, which, they strongly believed, would further strengthen the existing bond of friendship and the brotherhood among the Nagas and Assamese.

The joint declaration was signed by the Presidents of NSF and AASU at the Local Ground at Kohima before a big gathering. The AASU President addressed the gathering stressing the age-old relationship between the people of Assam and Nagaland.

According to the joint statement released to Press today by the Presidents of the two students' organisations, the Naga Students' Federation while appreciating and supporting the role of AASU on the foreign national issue, strongly condemned the Government of India's attitude for taking repressive measures on non-violent people of the State instead of coming to solution acceptable to the people of Assam. The NSF reaffirmed its support to the national movement led by AASU and wished the people of Assam a success in their genuine movement. The NSF also assured the leaders of AASU to extend all the possible help so as to bring early solution to their problem.

The AASU and the NSF for

enforcement of Inner-Line Regulation in the State, so save the Nagas from impending grip of illegal infiltrators. Both AASU and NSF expressed its deep concern at the failure of the Government to deport the foreigners. To press the Government for deportation of foreign nationals, it was decided that the foreigners detected in Nagaland will be handed over to the Assam Police through AASU in future by the NSF.

The declaration says to strengthen the traditional bond of friendship between the Nagas and the Assamese and also to keep alive both the communities, the leaders decided to have a cultural exchange programme at least once in a year.

Both AASU and NSF criticised the Government's failure in achieving an amicable settlement on border problem of Assam and Nagaland. The student leaders expressed their firm determination to solve the existing common problem amicably under the atmosphere of mutual trust, understanding and cooperation. To ease out the tensions in the sensitive areas on the Inter-State border, it was decided that a joint visit would be made in convenient time to those areas.

High Command Asks ACLP-I Not To Form Govt With Present Strength

From Our Special Representative
NEW DELHI, Dec 7—The Congress (I) High Command is not in favour of the Party forming a Government in Assam without its rolls increasing to at least 60.

At present, the Party claims to have the support of 58 members. This is setback to the expectations of the Party in the State of forming a Government last weekend or early this week. The question is, therefore, wide open now.

The High Command here has asked the members, who had come here to plead for their candidates, to go back and try to increase the strength of the party. However, these members have pointed out that unless a new leader of the ACLP (I) is finally selected by the High Command in place of Smt Anwara Taimur, it would be difficult for them to convince the fence sitters to join the party on promises of office.

Several groups of Congress (I) leaders from the State who came here last week are holding discussions among themselves about the future leader.

The group still supporting Smt Taimur as the ACLP (I) leader in their desperate bid to save the situation has favoured continuation of President's Rule.

The Governor of Assam Sri Prakash Mehrotra is finding himself in the most unenviable position. His announcement that the nine-party alliance would not be able to form a stable Government has its other implications. This, combined with the Congress (I) failing to come to a decision about ministry forming, has strengthened the hands of the alliance.

There are definite signs that some of the non-committed members from other parties are slowly inclining to join the alliance and Sri Saha is now reported to be in a comfortable position to demonstrate 61 members with him. In this desperate situation, the Governor has sought the advice of some Congress (I) MPs from Assam now here.

The four-member Asom Janata Dal of Sri Jogen Hazarika seems to be holding the balance now. To induce the Dal to join them the Congress (I) leaders are prepared to concede any demand except the Chief Ministership to Sri Hazarika who is expected here tomorrow. But there are reports that the members of the Dal are in two minds whether to join Congress (I) or the alliance. At least two members are reported to have indicated that they would go with the alliance.

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