

Assam Border To Have No-Man's Land

From Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, Oct. 31.—The Assam movement leaders today succeeded in making the Government agree to construct a 270-km road parallel to the State's border with Bangladesh. It will be built 100 to 200 metres inside the boundary line, thus creating a no-man's land on the Assam side of the border to guard against further infiltration from Bangladesh.

Creation of a no-man's land has been one of the principal demands of the movement leaders and this was conceded by the Government in course of the five-hour official-level talks interrupted only by a working lunch.

According to Mr Nagen Sarma, adviser to the All Assam Students Union, the Government agreed to construct a wall or barbed wire fencing wherever possible to seal the border with Bangladesh. At present it is an open border. This again would help prevent the exodus from Bangladesh which has been going on at a steady rate, in spite of the agitation in the State.

It was also agreed that river patrolling in the Brahmaputra and Barak would be intensified by the

introduction of more engine and speed boats.

Mr Krishnaswamy Rao Saheb, Cabinet Secretary, was not present at today's talks. The official team was led by Mr R. N. Chaturvedi, Union Home Secretary, included Mr M. L. Kampani, Additional Secretary and Mr K. M. L. Chhabra, Joint Secretary of the Union Home Ministry, and Mr P. K. Katra, Joint Secretary to the Law Ministry.

The Assam team comprised Mr Rafula Kumar Mohanta and Mr Bhriku Kumar Phukan, president and general secretary of AASU, Mr Sarma, Mr Nibar, president of the Purbanchaliya Lok Parishad and Mr Atul Bora, representing the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad.

The talks would be resumed on Monday when the two teams would discuss the issue of detection and deportation of foreigners who had entered into Assam between 1961 and 1971.

The former Home Minister of Assam (in the Anwara Taimur Ministry), Mr Ramesh Saharia, has been meeting the Union Home Minister, Mr Zail Singh, the Planning Minister, Mr N. D. Tiwari and Mr C. R. Krishnaswamy Rao Saheb, to plead that the Government should not stick to 1971 as the cut-off year (for the determination of the issue who are foreigners in Assam), because if it did so, no solution would ever result from the discussions.

Meanwhile, AASU today directed all its regional units to ensure "largest participation" of people from their respective areas in the proposed central mass rally to be held in Gauhati on November 10 to review the latest position of the movement against foreign nationals.

In a statement, Mr Nurul Husain and Mr Bharat Narah, acting president and acting general secretary, respectively, of AASU, said that the organization was determined to continue the movement till a satisfactory solution was arrived and hoped that the people including students, teachers and employees would join the rally in strength to show their resentment at the delay in solving the problem.

They called upon the people to be on guard against the "propaganda" launched by the supporters of Left parties along with the Congress (I) which, they said, were not concerned over the future identity and security of Assam.

CPI(M) To Back Non-Cong(I) Ministry In Assam

From Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, Oct. 31.—The CPI (M) will support the formation of a non-Congress (I) Government in Assam if the Opposition parties—the Congress (S), Janata, Lok Dal and others—agree to take "an unambiguous" stand against the "secessionist" agitation on the foreigners' issue there.

The Marxist leadership feels that any Government bypassing "this task of finding a just solution to the problem of 'foreign nationals' will be purposeless, as the preceding Government, which far from solving the burning problems of Assam, created new ones for the people".

This is the highlight of the resolution on Assam, adopted by the central committee of the CPI(M) on the last day of its five-day sitting here today.

The CPI(M) reiterated its consistent stand, which also was the consensus at the first all-party meeting, that 1971 should be the cut-off year. The compromise formula the Government of India had put forward, of reopening the 1961-71 period, would be utilized by the agitationists to intensify their "secessionist" activities and would prove harmful.

The CPI(M) central committee adopted another resolution on the Punjab situation, in which it reiterated its stand that the Akalis must differentiate between the religious demands of the Sikhs and the common political and economic demands of the Punjabi people.

The resolution criticized the Akalis for allowing the proto-gonists to use of the precincts of the Golden Temple in Amritsar to launch their movement. The Marxists also blamed the Congress (I) for boosting Sant Bhindranwale against the Akalis and using him for the elections. Again, a Delhi Congress (I) Akali, the Santokh Singh, was sent to receive Sant Bhindranwale after his release from detention.

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The Statement,