

End repression, says AASU leader

By A Staff Reporter

The Union Government must end all the repressive activities and create a congenial atmosphere in Assam for any successful talks and negotiations with the peoples' representatives in solving the foreign nationals issue, stated Dr Debo Prasad Barooah of the All-Assam Students' Union, on Tuesday.

Addressing newsmen, Dr Barooah, who is a member of the AASU's publicity team visiting

the city, said Assam is now virtually a police State with all its citizens' civil and democratic rights being suspended by the Government.

Some leaders of the AASU and the AAGSP have also been arrested by the Government and repeated attempts are still being made to impose a minority Government on the people. In this atmosphere it was difficult to hold any meaningful talks, he asserted.

In the face of all provocation from some agent provocateurs and anti-social elements the movement had still retained its peaceful and non-violent nature, he said. It was the Government which was trying to ruthlessly suppress the popular movement, but even the British had failed to succeed in any such attempt and the Union Government too couldn't succeed, he added.

Assam, Dr Barooah said, was prepared to accept some of the 'refugees' from Bangladesh, but it was for the entire country to bear this burden and not only Assam. Even West Bengal had complained when it had to support about 2 lakh refugees a few years back; and Assam now has up to five million such 'refugees', he added.

Assam shouldn't be made a dumping ground for these refugees, even on a humanitarian ground.

He warned that the same foreign nationals which the Government was now protecting would become the majority population shortly and even demand secession.

The team also met former Prime Minister Morarji Desai and apprised him of the situation in Assam, in view of the tripartite talks to be held in Delhi in June.