

16. Naga Memorandum to The Simon Commission

Z Assam-57/1.

Memorandum on the Naga Hills, from

The Secretary,
Naga Club, Kohima, Naga Hills,
Assam.

We, the undersigned Nagas of the Naga Club at Kohima, who are the only persons at present who can voice for our people have heard with great regret that our Hills were included within the reformed Scheme of India without our knowledge, but as the administration of our Hills continued to be in the hands of the Officers of the British Government we did not consider it necessary to raise any protest in the past. Now we learn that you have come to India as representatives of the British Government to enquire into the working of the system of Government and the growth of education and we beg to submit below our views with the prayer that our Hills may be withdrawn from under the reformed Scheme and ~~put~~ placed outside the Reforms but directly under the British Government. We never asked for any reforms and we don't wish for any reforms.

Before the British Government conquered our country in 1879-1800 we were living in a state of intermittent warfare with the Assamese of the Assam valley to the North and West of our country and the Manipuris to the South. They never conquered us nor were we ever subjected to their rule. On the other hand we were always a terror to these people. Our country within the administered area consists of more than 8 tribes quite different from one another with quite different languages which cannot be understood by one another and there are more tribes outside the administered area which are now known at present. We have no unity among us and it is only the British Government that is holding us together now.

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