



Mino Hnahthlak (or) Mizo Group

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The Mizo group of people who occupy the hills areas between India and Burma are called by Burmese as Chin and by the Bengalese or Indian as Kukies. We knew very little about them before they had settled in the hills areas between India and Burma.

According to the book the structure of the Chin society written by F.K. Lehman, Head of History Department of Illinois University, U.S.A., in chapter 1, in AD 1397, we first hear of the Shan fortress city of Kalay (the Burmese Kalaymyo)...we do not know, of course whether the Chin of these plains were, as LUCE has suggested pushed up into the hills” Though he could not ascertain how and when the Mizo group were pushed up in the hills, it appeared that the Shan occupied the area after the Mizo group left the areas. So we can presume that the MIZO groups enter the hills in or about 1400 A.D.

Dr. Lehman also mentioned that “ so Chin have recently resettled the Kalay valley (see Hobbs, 1956)” what Mr. Hobbs meant are those who returned at the Kalay valley from the present Mizoram under Sailo chief who thought that it would be better to live in the areas where is no regular famines called Mautam or Thingtam. In or about 1930 after Thingtam famine, they made habitation at Tahan near kalaymyo and Khampat near the old side of Khampat fortress believes to be the place occupied by the Shan people after the Mizo group left their plain areas.

When they were in Lentlang areas they were divided into many cleans, each having its own language and leaders and fought each one another for clan supremacy. So it can be presumed some clans left the areas by crossing Tiau Rivers even before 1600 A.D. The latest group who crosses the tiau was Lushai clan under at a place called Selesih under the Chairmanship of Kawhla at about 1350 A.D. Some clans who preferred the Sailo chiefs to be their leaders were Ralte and Fanai in addition to Lushai clan. Small fraction of other clans also included in the list, so Selesih was a very of great settlement having a great influence to whose who first crossed the tiau river and easily occupied the whole of the area covered by the present Mizoram. They claimed that all the area from the Tiau river were their territory which the Falam and other leaders of the east. Respected and never offended against the Sailo chief since sailo controlled various clans, the people under them called themselves as MIZO.

The British, who control the whole of India, when they came in contact with the Sailo chiefs did not like to occupy the area but simply make tea gardens in Cacher safe in 1871. But when they put the whole of Burma under their control in 1885, they could not but decide to occupy the hills area between Burma and India. In 1890 they defeated the

greatest Mizo chief Lianphunga. They also occupied the present Chin Hills almost at the same times.

Although the Mizo in India sides were known as Kuki the British knew that the ruling clan was Lushai, so they called it Lusei but misspelt it as Lushai. So all of them were officially known as Lushai and the Land was named Lushai Hills.

The British were very lenient to the hill people between India and Burma, in order to protect them from the assimilation of the more civilized plain peoples, they made inner line regulation were applicable to the Mizo areas.

Then after about 50 years of British rule in the Mizo areas second great World War erupted in 1944 Mahatma Gandhi demanded British withdrawal from India, under the pressure of United States of America, Mr. Churchill, prime minister of British Government conceded and promised to leave India, there were some problems which might delay the date of leaving India the fully even after the war. One of his points was the problem of the Hills people between Burma and India.

He announced that the hills people between India and Burma were independence before British ruled over them. They were not under Indian, nor Burmese, nor under any government of the world they were Christians at that time, and it would not be fair to leave them under the Hindu or Buddhist rule. The British Government should help them to stand by their own feet before they had to leave them.

The governor of Assam who administered them was given more power to prepare special administration to suit the future; the post of adviser to the Governor was created to be more effective. Mr. Churchill, hoping to get more votes a time the war with the Japanese was going on decided to call for election in August 1946, but the U.S.A. was suspicious of Mr. Churchill's, delaying tactic for withdrawal from India decided to side with Labour Party. So, Conservative party, under the leadership of Mr. Churchill was defeated in that election, in that way his proposal for the Mizo people was overruled by making by India independent Act 1947.

When the proposal of Mr. Churchill was known to us "I tried my best to organized a political party called government creation of Greater Mizoram, by drawing away the International boundary of Tiau river between the East the superintendent, Lushai Hills, Mr. A. Macdonald, ICS the in all authority over the district on the 9th April 1946. And the party soon overwhelmingly spread not only in Lushai Hills but in to the Mizo areas of Manipur and Tripura in India.

Then came "the Indian Independent Act, 1947" sponsored by the Labour party under the leadership of Mr. Atlee, the new Prime Minister. In section no. 7 (c) of that Act, it was stated that "any treaties or agreements in force at the date of the passing of this Act between His Majesty and any persons having authority in the tribal areas lapses." In that Act instead of helping us for any length of time so as to enable us to become independent

in due course, the British government preferred to leave us alone to have the right to self determination.

Our benefactor, Mr. A. Macdonald gave us his advice that the British Government would not be in a position to become independent, any one of the three Government, India, Pakistan or Burma might invade and force us to become satellite. In his opinion it will be advantage to talk to the India Union to join them under the Scottish pattern. Scotland, though they joined England, they are still be enforced without the sanction of the Scottish people. But for the development, Government of India would be made responsible for the whole expenditure.

Then, the cabinet mission from British parliament came to India and decided that Assam in which Muslims and Hindus were equal in number being landlocked by Muslim majority should be included in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). The Assam government did not know that to be done and approached Jawaharlal Nehru who advised them to approach the Mizos or Nagas who had option to choose their own destiny according to India Independent Act, 1947 to earnestly implore them to join in case any one of them decided to join the India Union it would make Assam non-Muslim majority countries and then Mr. Nehru would be in a position to approach Lord Mountbatten Viceroy of India to make necessary change into the resolution of the Cabinet Mission so as to pave the way for Assam to join Indian Union, and them to make a corridor for road connection through Siliguri in Northern Bangal.

The premier of Assam Sri. G.N. Bardoloi made and approach to the Naga people who flatly rejected the idea and then to the Mizo Union, who sent me as a sole delegates our opinion of joining India Union by Scottish pattern as an advised given to me by Mr. Macdonald, Mizoram would be a separated entity with full autonomy within the Union and retaining Inner Line Regulation a long with Chin Hills Regulation, and all development Expenditure to be borne by the Union.

Then, the non-Muslims majority in Assam enable them to become apart of Indian Union, but somehow or other the constituent Assembly of Indian Union though accepting our decision but forced us to become a district within Assam. They accepted Mr. Saprawnga to as a representative of Mizoram (Lushai Hills) who offered to the Mizo people an abolishment of hereditary chief in order to gain majority of the people. So the Mizo Union was splitted into two and Pu Saprawnga obtained majority and I, though a minority leader, said that I have no faith in such leader who did not respect agreement, declared Mizoram to become an independent country.

Since then the spirit of Mizoram Independence was only in the hears of the Young people and after the expiry of ten years I organized non political body called Mizo Cultural Society for Young boys & girls which became a nursery bed of Mizo National Front, from there most of knew the aftermath of the uprising led by the M.N.F.

The birth of Mizoram State on 21st January 1972 (First as Union Territory) gave birth to our original demand of Scottish Pattern, were this Statehood be given to us on the date of

India independence no untoward incidence such as M.N.F. uprising might have been averted.

The State of Mizoram if properly guided can play a very important foundation for the Union of all the Mizo groups effectively.

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