

## Nagas and Mizos Intensify Struggle

Operating in northeast India, the armed forces of the Naga, Mizo and other peoples have launched many effective attacks against Indian troops this year. Reuter revealed that in March and April alone the Mizos killed or wounded more than 40 Indian officers and men. In a March 20 engagement, they killed 20 Indian troops and wounded 7 others in a jungle area near Imphal, capital of Manipur.

The Nagas, Mizos and Kukis have recently made combined raids on the reactionary troops. According to the Indian bourgeois press, some 200 Mizo fighters arrived in the Naga Hills in April to join the Naga forces there. On April 30 and May 1, the latter mounted violent attacks on government patrols in the hilly Ukhrul and Saddar areas.

Alarmed by their increased co-operation and activities, the Indian Government has tried to put down these armed forces by resorting to counter-revolutionary dual tactics. While inducing some Naga leaders to agree to "peaceful negotiations," it has simultaneously stepped up its collusion with the reactionary Bur-

mese Government to set up "security corridors" in the Indian-Burmese border region and send out joint patrols against these peoples. While talking to representatives of reactionary political parties on May 10, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi hinted that the Indian central government would "provide necessary manpower and materials" to strengthen the suppression of the Nagas. P. P. Kumaramangalam, Chief-of-Staff of the Indian Army, went to eastern India on a secret inspection late in May.

And sure enough, the Indian Government mobilized large forces and launched a brutal suppression campaign against the Nagas and Mizos.

Indian bourgeois papers disclosed that the Nagas fought fiercely against the reactionary troops near Kohima, capital of Nagaland, for several days on June 7, 8 and 10. The London *Times* quoted Indian journalists who had visited Nagaland as reporting that about 90 Indian troops were killed. But officially, Indian casualties were listed as only 29 dead. Meanwhile, the Mizo forces were also locked in a large-scale battle with the reactionary troops in the Mizo Hills on June 10. The Mizos used mortars, machine guns and automatic rifles in a powerful counter action.

The stand of the Indian revisionists on the Nagas and Mizos is worth

noting. Instead of supporting their armed struggle, they preach Indira Gandhi's willingness to "meet the demands" of these peoples and claim that she has given her blessing to a scheme to set up an "autonomous hills unit" in Assam State. By spreading such propaganda these revisionists try in vain to help the Indian Government benumb the militant spirit of these armed forces and inveigle them to lay down their arms.

However, neither armed suppression nor political deception can curb the development of the armed struggle of the Nagas, Mizos, Kukis and other peoples. Fighting for a just cause, they will surely win final victory.