

by the authorities,

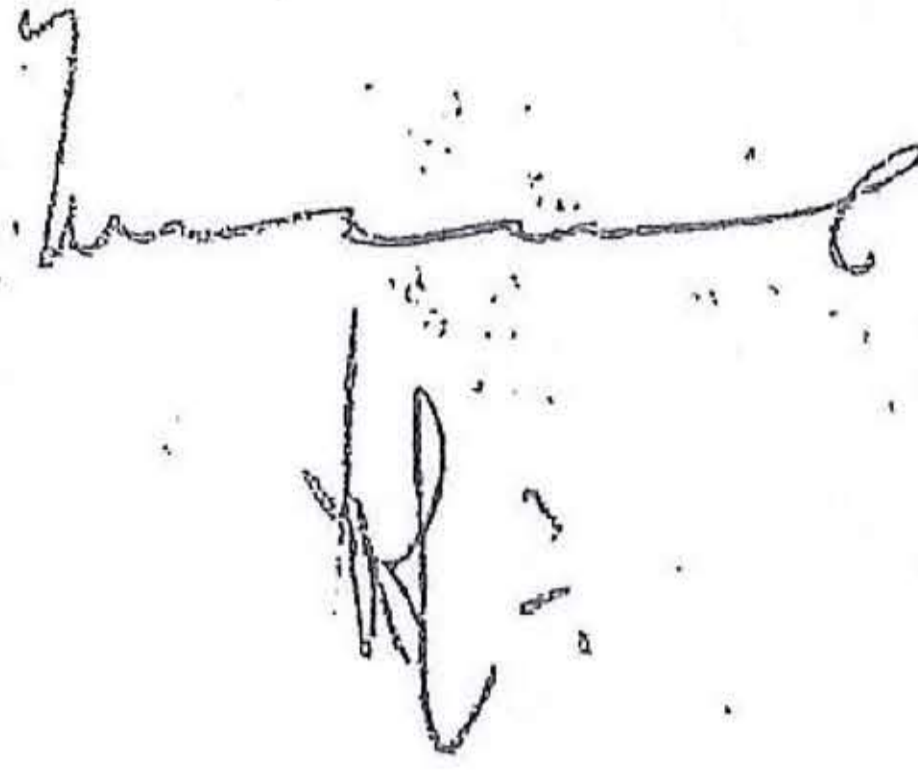
16

974

Will you please refer to your letter of 23rd December which enclosed an extract from the Political Adviser's note? Sir Andrew Clow, who has just returned to Assam, has read it with much interest and is glad to find that the special position of Manipur is receiving recognition. He would add that it presents special difficulties not merely from the point of view of defence and foreign relations, but by reason of its own internal structure. As you probably know the hills are virtually separate from the plain and are, for practical purposes, governed by officers responsible to the Governor and not to the Maharaja or Durbar. This is not a position reached by treaty, nor is it possible simply to hand back the hills to the State authorities without grave risk to both hills and plain. The hills are peopled by warlike tribes who are not likely to submit peacefully to government by the Hindus of the plains. H.E. is not clear when and how problems of this character are to be tackled, and would be glad of some information. He would be very ready to give any assistance he can.

2. The 25 Khasi States present a different problem. Here sovereignty is divided between the Governor and the Sioms, and the position in general does not depend on treaties but on unilateral Sanads. It is clear that there is no future for these States except in some merger, first with the rest of the Khasi area and secondly with the province and it is hardly possible to contemplate setting them up now as Sovereign States. Most of the population lies in one of the States and none of

H.E. would be glad to know if the position of such States has received any consideration and whether he can help in the matter.

Handwritten signature and initials in cursive script.

E.B. Wakefield, Esq., ICS.,
Political Department,
New Delhi.