

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY ISAK CHISHI SWU
CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL SOCIALIST COUNCIL OF NAGALAND
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Respected Madame Chairperson and distinguished members of the house:

I am grateful for giving me this opportunity to express the actual condition prevailing between India and Nagalim at the moment. Madame, we all appreciate and believe in bringing solution to a conflict through peaceful means. Hence, the Naga people, under the aegis of the NSCN, responded positively when the Government of India approached us in 1995 to seek a peaceful political solution to the intractable 50-year-old Indo-Naga bloody armed conflict that has claimed thousands of lives. As a consequence, both the concerned parties solemnly agreed upon the following three terms to be the basis and theme of the political negotiation:

1. The talks shall be without condition from both sides.
2. The talks shall be at the highest level, that is, at the prime ministerial level.
3. The venue of the talks shall be anywhere outside India.

Eventually an agreement to this end was signed and a cease-fire came into being on 1 August 1997. Almost a year has passed since then, but things are yet to turn out as expected, solely because the Government of India is not giving sincere efforts to implement its given commitment to the search of resolution to the Indo-Naga political issue. On the contrary, it has gone back on several counts on the terms initially agreed upon. A number of human rights violations have been willfully perpetrated on the innocent Nagas during the continuing cease-fire period. And, in total disregard to the already agreed terms, the Government of India has started putting an uncalled-for condition. However, notwithstanding the inconducive situations rampantly being created by the occupational Indian Army in Nagalim, we continue to maintain our patience; for we are optimistic that better sense will ultimately prevail upon the Indian leadership. In this respect, Madame Chairperson, kindly allow me to recall the commitment we gave to the previous Indian prime ministers, and I quote: "There will be no problem that cannot be solved through peaceful means if sincerely approached. The Naga people will honour your words. We shall talk with you; we will not betray you." Unquote. Yes, we shall remain faithful to this commitment so long as the peace process is based on the three agreed terms and the Government of India is sincere. However, it must be noted clearly that we cannot accept backtracking or deviation from the path mutually agreed upon.

Madame, I have to make this point clear: If the Government of India betrays itself by discarding the three agreed terms and forces its illogical wills upon the Naga people as it did time and again in the past five decades, the Nagas will be compelled to resume their movement of resistance against the occupational Indian forces to the bitter end with all the means at their disposal. There should be no illusion about it.

Thank you Madame Chairperson.