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No. 1-161/89-TN
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
SECRETARY

Port Blair, the 7th March, 1991

To

The Secretary,
Government of India,
Ministry of Defence,
New Delhi

Subject: Surrender of 410 acres of land in Little
Andaman Island for realignment to the
Nicobar-ese tribes at Harninder Bay.
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Sir,

An area of 410 acres of land has been (Station
allotted to the Defence for the purpose of M2/M3 for
I.N.S. vide Order No. 15 dated 4.1.1979 of the Deputy
Commissioner, District of Andamans, Port Blair.

It appears that the abovesaid land has not
been utilized by the Defence so far during the last
several years. This land is adjacent to the Harninder
Bay, Nicobari tribal settlement village in Little
Andaman Island.

It is requested to consider revocation of the
abovesaid land for re-allotment of the same to the
Nicobar-ese tribes because of the following
reasons:-

There was a proposal to settle 300 Nicobari
families from Car Nicobar in Little Andaman Island
at Harninder Bay by allotting 10 acres of land for
each family. The proposal was approved by the Govern-
ment in principle initially. Then the Ministry of
Agriculture, Govt. of India, released 500 acres of forest
land after de-reservation for the settlement of 50
Nicobari families in 1973 vide their No. 11034/31/72-
FAX (F.I.I.) dated 7.3.1973. Accordingly 50 Nicobari
families were settled in Harninder Bay, Little Andaman.

Following the settlement of 50 Nicobari families
by the Administration, more Nicobari families migrated
from Car Nicobar to Little Andaman Island voluntarily
and started living together with the 50 Nicobari families
officially settled. Now the total number of Nicobari
families who migrated to Little Andaman Island is 100.
For their basic livelihood, these additional 100 families
need at least 10 acres of land per each family.

Earlier the Govt. of India was requested
de-reserve the forest land for allotment of the same
to the Nicobari families migrated to Little Andaman
Island but the proposals for de-reservation of forest
land have been turned down time and again.

There is no revenue land available with the
Administration in Little Andaman Island on which com-
pensatory afforestation could be done and as such the
Govt. of India have not agreed for the de-reservation of
forest land.

But the Nicobari tribes have been demanding
for the allotment of land for their livelihood. This
long standing tribal demand could not be met because
of the above reasons.

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