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C.I.T.U.
अखिल भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन काँग्रेस
ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS
24, CANNING LANE, NEW DELHI - 110001

President : CHATURANAN MISHRA M.P.
General Secretary : INDRAJIT GUPTA M.P.

4th August 1984.

The General Secretary,
AITUC.

JOINT UNITED ACTION ON THE ELECTRICITY
T. U. FRONT

In the light of the decision taken in the last C.E.C. meeting of A.I.F.E.E. at Delhi to build up a broad T.U. joint platform on the Electricity Front to project, the various problems viz. power crisis and the wage policy etc. to-day we had an initial discussion with C.I.T.U. led Federation. Comrade Bardhan and myself from our side and Comrade E. Balandan from the otherside were there.

Therein it was agreed to build up a broad joint platform roping in all the other centres connected with this sector.

As a preliminary step it was decided to convene a small representative meeting in the first week of October 1984 sponsored by Federation of an all India nature: Therein the problems and other agitational and organisational problems could be ^{sorted} shattered out.

Yours faithfully,
K. A. Rajan
K.A. RAJAN

522-2

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CITV

किसान मजदूर एकता जिन्दाबाद ।

1 OCT 1984

सी० आई० टी० यू० जिन्दाबाद ।

हरियाणा सरकार को मजदूर विरोधी व मालिक परस्त नीतियों के खिलाफ 23-8-84 को बोट क्लब दिल्ली पर

धरना और गिरफ्तारियां

साथियों ।

बेरोजगारी और बढ़ती हुई मंहगाई से आम जनता के साथ मजदूर वर्ग पर आर्थिक बोझ बढ़ता जा रहा है। पतन्तु मौजूदा औद्योगिक हालत ने हजारों मजदूरों और उनके परिवारों को रोजी रोटी से वंचित करके सड़को पर ला पटका है। कारखानेदारों के खिलाफ कोई कारवाई करने और मजदूरों के बेरोजगार की सुरक्षा करने की बजाय कांग्रेस (आई) सरकार भाषा, इलाका और धर्म के दंगों की आग लगाकर उसमें अपने ओच्छे चुनावी हित पूरे करना चाहती है। ताकि आम जनता का ध्यान मंहगाई, बेरोजगारी, तालाबंदी और अन्य सामाजिक संकटों से हट जाए और वह सरकार के खिलाफ लड़ाई लड़ने की बजाए आपस में ही एक दूसरे के खून का दुश्मन बन जाए संगठित मजदूरों की ताकत को तोड़ने के लिए बर्बर हथकंडे इस्तेमाल हो रहे हैं तथा पूरे देश में एक व्यक्ति शासन को पनपाने के लिए देश तानाशाही लादने के कुप्रयास हो रहे हैं।

हरियाणा प्रान्त में जहां जीवन के प्रत्येक क्षेत्र में रिस्वतखोरी और भ्रष्टाचार एक संस्था का रूप ले चुका है। नौकरी लेने या तबादले का प्रश्न हो, वेतन वृद्धि, पदोन्नति या गांव व शहर के साधारण विकास कार्यों का प्रश्न हो सभी जगह खुले तौर पर वैसा चलता है और इस पूरी प्रक्रिया को न सिर्फ उपर कीशह प्राप्त है बल्कि ऊपर से नीचे तकइसे मान्यता प्राप्त है और यह आज हरियाणा के प्रशासन का एक सार्वजनिक तौर तरीका ही बन गया है।

हिसार टैक्सटाईल मिल में सरकार ने क्या किया :-

यही एक मात्र पैमाना हमारी औद्योगिक नीति को निर्धारित करता है। किसी कारखाने में कोई भी बात हो जाए प्रशासन को यह मानना होता है कि मजदूर और यूनियन ही बदमाशी कर रही है। मालिकों को यहां पर दूध के धुले हुए और अत्यन्त शरीफ और ईमानदारी का स्थाई प्रमाण पत्र दे दिया गया है। हर द्विपक्षीय समझौते का खुला उलघन करके अगर हिसार टैक्सटाईल मिल को मालिक बंद करदे तो सरकार को यह कहने में कोई संशय नहीं होता कि हम कुछ नहीं कर सकते। हजारों मजदूरों, उनके परिवारों तथा लाखों लोगों को प्रभावित करने वाली मिल बन्द करने की कारवाई देश का एक इजारेदार धरना करता रहे। मर्जी में आए तो कारखाना खोले और मर्जी में आए तब बन्द करदे। क्योंकि सरकार उसको रखैल है और कोई भी कायदा कानून उस पर लागू नहीं होता, आम आदमी पर ही होता है। अभी भी मजदूरों की ग्रेच्युटी का लाखों रु० मालिक खा रहा है और श्रमिक विभाग बेशर्मी से चुप्पी धारण किये हुए है।

यही पैमाना हरियाणा कान्कास्ट और हांसी स्पिनिंग मिल पर लागू है अनियमितताओं तथा भ्रष्टाचार के बावजूद मुनाफे पर चल रहे हैं परन्तु यहां के उद्योगपतियों और सरकार को फूटी आंख भी नहीं सुहाते लिहाजा इनको बेचने के प्रयास हरियाणा सरकार लगभग 4 वर्ष से कर रही है जिसके

RECEIVED

पीछे मोटी रकम की सौदेबाजी हो सकती है। यह है हमारी समाजवादी सरकार की सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की नीति सी. आई. टी. यू. की यूनियनों लगातार इनको बेचने के खिलाफ संघर्ष करती रही है। परन्तु अभी भी यह षड़यंत्र टला नहीं है।

हांसी स्पनिंग मिल में लाखों के घोटाले :-

आज हांसी मिल को बन्द करके यह कहा जा रहा है कि इस मिल में घाटा हो रहा है। लेकिन हमने यहां के प्रबन्धकों के द्वारा किये गये लाखों के घोटाले और अनियमिताएं नगी की है। बोगस बिलों के ठोस सबूत पेश किये हैं और बताया है कि घाटा कौन कर रहा है। लेकिन नाममात्र की भी जांच नहीं की गई। कारण स्पष्ट है, एम. डी. और दूसरे अधिकारियों की नियुक्ति राजनैतिक आधार पर की जाती है तथा वे अधिकार मंत्रियों के रिश्तेदारों या चहेते होते हैं। इस कारखाने को बेचने के लिए एक योजना बन्द तरीके से सैकड़ों मजदूरों को हटाया गया, खुला आर्थिक भ्रष्टाचार किया गया, भगड़े करवा के मिल को बन्द किया गया है।

अगर किसी कारण से घाटा भी होता है तो जब सरकार प्राईवेट मालिकों को करोड़ों की घाटा-पूर्ति करती रहती है तो पब्लिक सेक्टर को क्यों नहीं चलाया जा सकता ?

सरकार के लूपाक इरादों को विफल करेंगे :-

इस स्थिति को चुप बैठकर सहन नहीं किया जा सकता। इसके खिलाफ संगठित लड़ाई को तेज करना होगा। इसीलिये हम आम जनता से अपील करते हैं कि जब मुख्य मन्त्रो, हरियाणा भूठे वायदे करते फिर रहे हैं तो उनसे पूछा जाए कि हिसार टैक्सटाईल मिल के मालिकों द्वारा एक तरफा तौरपर मिल बंद किये जाने के खिलाफ कारवाई क्यों नहीं की गई जबकि शहर की हजारों जनता इससे प्रभावित हुई है। यहकि कान्कास्ट और हांसी मिल को क्यों बेचा जा रहा है ? पूरे मजदूर वर्ग से अपील करते हैं कि आज धर्म, जाति और इलाके नाम पर लड़ाने वाली स्वार्थी ताकतों को नंगा करें और हर स्तर पर अपने जुझारू संगठनों का निर्माण करके संघर्ष करें।

इसी लड़ाई के एक चरण में 23 अगस्त को दिल्ली वोट क्लब पर विरोध धरना और गिर-फ्तारियां दी जाएंगी। आपसे अनुरोध है कि निम्नलिखित मांगों के लिये इसमें शामिल हो :-

- 1 हरियाणा सरकार को कान्कास्ट और हांसी मिल बेचने से रोका जाए।
- 2 हांसी मिल के घोटालों की जांच सी.वी.आई. से करवाई जाए और मिल को तुरन्त चालू किया जाए।
- 3 हिसार टैक्सटाईल मिल को राष्ट्रीय टैक्सटाईल कार्पोरेशन के अर्न्तगत लेकर चलाया जाए
- 4 हिसार औद्योगिक क्षेत्र में न्यूनतम वेतन और ट्रेड यूनियन अधिकार लागू किये जाये।

प्रधान,
रामकिशन

सचिव,
टेकचन्दगुप्ता

जिला सो० आई० टी० यू०

522-3

HARYANA STATE COMMITTEE
CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNION
INSIDE NAGORI GATE, HISAR(125001)

Dated: 28-9-84.

To

The Labour Commissioner,
Haryana, Chandigarh.

Sub:- Diversification of powers from Labour Officer-cum-Conciliation Officer to Labour Courts.

Sir,

For the welfare of the workers in India, the constitution of India enacted various acts and a few are give as:-

- Payment of Wages Act;
- Minimum Wage Act;
- Payment of Gratuity Act;
- Workman's Compensation Act.

To settle the disputes concerning these Acts an authority is appointed by the State Government. Hence the function of the authority so appointed is that of judicial in nature and required to be adjudicated on principles of fair play and justice. In order to determine rights and wrongs the authority must be free to apply the principles of justice without the pressure of outside elements in Haryana. The power under these acts have been entrusted to the Labour Officer in Haryana in addition to the powers of Labour Officer, thereby, the Labour Officer while enjoying the above powers, have also been given the executive powers i.e. the said officer is enjoying judicial as well as executive powers.

As per the constitution, judiciary must be separated from the executive and the said principles has been followed in all the States in India except Haryana. An executive of the state cannot be a free person while giving decisions in the disputes relating to above acts. The Labour Officer also plays with the records as per their sweet will and they temper the record to make them useful for the enterprises as well as the Government. Moreover, the Labour Officers are also not so qualified and trained and well acquainted with these Acts and to decide the cases under these Acts. In case the decisions given by these Labour Officers while exercising the above powers are given to some JUDGE of a Court for scrutinization, the fact regarding the wrong decisions given by these Labour Officers will be fully proved.

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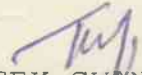
In the past, the powers under these Acts were used by the Senior Sub Judges in Haryana but these powers were snatched from the said judicial officers and were entrusted to the concerned Labour Officers.

From the above, it can be concluded that the interest of the workers is not safe in the hand of the Labour Officer as Courts. The Directive Principles of the State policy as enshrined in our constitution vide article 50, the State shall take steps to separate the Judiciary from the Executive in the public services of the state. Thus the powers given to Labour Offices is not appropriate and against the provisions of the constitution.

Now, the Haryana Government has appointed the Additional District Judges as the Presiding Officers of the Labour Courts. Hence, it will be in the fitness of the things that Haryana Government should consider the transfer of the above powers, which is also correct as per the directive principles of the State, to the Additional District Judges appointed as Presiding Officers of Labour courts, to give fair justice to the work-force of the Nation. Every Distt. be provided with Labour Courts.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,


(TEK CHAND GUPTA)
General Secretary.

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110 001

President :

B. T. RANADIVE

General Secretary :

~~P. K. GANGULY~~
SAMAR MUKHERJEE

11th February, 1985.

Bhopal Gas Tragedy

The General Secretary,
All India Trade Union Congress
24, Canning Lane,
New Delhi-110001

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13 FEB 1985

A. I. T. U. C.


Dear Friend,

The Bhopal gas tragedy has exposed the utter callousness of observation of safety measures in the manufacturing process in industries in India. It has also laid bare the sinister role of the multinationals in the country and particularly of the Union Carbide which did not maintain the same standard of safety in manufacturing the toxic gas as in its home country. The gas tragedy of December 3, 1984 killed thousands of people and permanently maimed tens of thousands and the travails are not over.

Various trade unions and Scientific organisations have initiated movements and seminars etc on the issue. It would be worthwhile that the Central Trade Unions should take a joint move in this regard. We propose that the Central Trade Unions along with various scientific organisations should jointly sponsor a seminar on the issue which can be held at Delhi sometime in April, 1985.

We shall be glad to know your opinion in this regard. Awaiting your reply, signifying your acceptance of the proposal for co-sponsoring steps in this regard,

yours Sincerely,



(P. K. Ganguly)
Secretary.

522.5

Copy

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February 14, 1985

Com.P.K. Ganguly,
Secretary,
Centre of Indian Trade Unions,
6. Talkatora Road,
NEW DELHI 110 001.

Dear Friend,

Thanks for your letter dated 11th
February 1985.

We were already planning to organise a ~~ten~~
trade union seminar on the Bhopal issue. So
your proposal is welcome. Unfortunately, due
to the intervening State Assembly elections,
nothing can be done in this regard till April
which is rather late. We suggest that the
seminar/convention be held in Bhopal itself.

Meanwhile, why can't a joint trade
union delegation at least visit Bhopal for on
the spot survey, meeting the victims and their
families in hospital, come back and address
a Press Conference? It would get, publicity.

Yours sincerely,

(INDRAJIT GUPTA)
General Secretary

522-6
CITU

CITUC - AITUC
Cooperation

N. Delhi

27/4

Com. General Secretary,

During H.M.S. Conference I had talks with Com. Pande on how to avoid hickories & conflicts at lower level between AITUC + CITU unions. I suggested that a code of conduct between our two organisations be evolved to avoid such conflicts and I think that our sect. should work out a proposal ^{of such} code of conduct and send it for the consideration of CITU. I suggest the following points:-

1. The affiliates of AITUC + CITU should form a joint action committee everywhere and should generally launch campaign jointly in consultation with each other.

2. The affiliates of CITU and AITUC should not criticise each other openly and if there are ~~any~~ any point of difference it should be first discussed in the joint action committee or by the leaders of both the unions & settled.

3. In case of difference between the leadership of ~~the~~ ^{such} unions the matter be referred to ^{the} State Committees of CITU + AITUC

4. The state committees of AITUC + CITU should have a joint standing committee to settle such points of difference and to have joint campaigns on ~~such~~ mutually agreed issues.

5. The CITU + AITUC should have a joint committee at National level to co-ordinate joint campaign and settle points of differences referred to it by the state committees.

6. If the matter is not solved even at national level, each side is free to act as they like.

Chaturman Hishor

CITU

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS
6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

President :

B. T. RANADIVE

General Secretary :

SAMAR MUKHERJEE, ~~MAK~~

Dated: 7th May, 1985.

Com. Indrajit Gupta
General Secretary,
All India Trade Union Congress,
24, Canning Lane,
New Delhi-110001.

RECEIVED
- 9 MAY 1985
A. I. T. U. C.

Dear Comrade,

Thank you for your May Day 1985 Greeting Card
conveying your best wishes.

I reciprocate and wish you further success
in developing united struggle in our country in
defence of Peace and living standards of the people
while fulfilling our international duty.

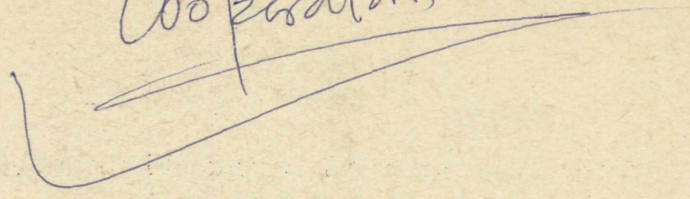
With Greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Samar Mukherjee
(Samar Mukherjee)

522-3

AITUC - UTU
Cooperation



May 11th, 1985.

Comrade B.T. Ranadive,
President,
Centre of Indian Trade Unions,
6, Talkatora Road,
New Delhi-110001.

Dear comrade,

Recently, while attending the HMS Conference at Rourkela as a fraternal guest, I met Comrade M.K. Pandhe and had occasion to discuss with him the desirability of our two organisations (AITUC and CITU) taking some concrete steps to avoid mutual conflicts and bickerings, particularly at the lower levels, and to improve our joint campaigning and united actions on common issues affecting the workers' interests.

Though our discussions could not be detailed or exhaustive, I had broadly suggested to Comrade Pandhe that we might try to evolve an agreed code of conduct which would at least help to solve differences and to defuse avoidable tensions and bitterness.

I got the impression that Comrade Pandhe welcomed the general idea. I also hope you will approve the suggestion, especially in view of the very serious situation which our organisations are facing today and the growing offensive of all reactionary forces.

In order to discuss the contents of the proposed code of conduct, and to give it concrete shape, I suggest we should meet at an early date and exchange our views.

With fraternal greetings,

~~(Signature)~~
~~(Signature)~~
President

Gram : CITUCENT

Phone : 384071

522.9
CITU
CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

President :

B.T. RANADIVE

General Secretary :

P. RAMAMURTI, M.P.

RECEIVED
29 MAY 1985

26-5-1985

A. I. T. U. C.

Dear Chaturmand,

I thank you for your letter of 11th May, 1985. I am sorry I could not reply to you earlier as I was out of Delhi. I welcome your proposal to hold joint discussions to avoid conflict and bickerings between our two organisations. However I regret that it will not be possible for us to meet till the 15th of next month. I will be out of Delhi till then.

Thanking you,

Fraternally yours,

B.T. Ranadive

(B.T. Ranadive)

To

Shri Chaturanand Mishra,
President,
All India Trade Union Congress,
24, Canning Lane,
New Delhi - 110 001

अखिल भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन कांग्रेस (एटक)

गा जि या बा द ।

कार्यालय :- ट्रेड यूनियन हाउस
पुरानी चुंगी मेरठ रोड,
गाजियाबाद ।

20th July, 1985

दिनांक.....

CITU

पत्रांक.....



To,

The General Secretary,
All India Trade Union Congress,
24, Canning Lane,
NEW DELHI

Gen. Council (CITU)

Dear Com.,

We have gone through report of the general council held at Hyderabad recently and came to know that our organisation is in touch with the leadership of C.I.T.U. to discuss such matters which are main obstacles in building unity at the lower level. In our opinion circumstances existing in Ghaziabad should be taken up for discussion in any meeting which take place in future.

It is important to note that one Kishan Pal, who was expelled from the Executive Committee of the union viz. Danfoss Employees Association, affiliated to A.I.T.U.C., for his anti social activities, which included consuming liquor and other drugs while on duty. Comarades of the C.I.T.U. Particularly Comarade Virendra Sirohi, now expelled from C.I.T.U. made use of this incident and in the case of his murder lodged a F.I.R. implicating the important Comarades of the A.I.T.U.C. particularly Comarade Sukhbir Tyagi, General Secretary, A.I.T.U.C. Ghaziabad and other 7 important and active Comarades of A.I.T.U.C.

The case under section 302 I.P.C. is pending with Sessions Judge and the Lower leadership of the S.I.T.U. despite the expulsion of Shri Virendra Singh Sirohi is mobilising all its cadre and resources to give evidence in the above case as prosecution witness, so that our active comarads are convicted.

Can one expect to build up unity in such circumstances ?

We are giving the above case as an instance because we really feel that Sh. Sirohi when incharged the affairs of the C.I.T.U. here had been doing all such acts and using anti social elements for the same. Since after he was expelled there is no instance of any conflict or confrontation with the leadership of A.I.T.U.C. & C.I.T.U.

We hope you will take appropriate steps to see the central leadership of the C.I.T.U. prevail on it and the local leadership refrain from deposing in the court with a view to get the leadership of of A.I.T.U.C. as police witnesses. We also feel that it will be a

इन्कलाब जिन्दाबाद !

जि ला क मै टी

दुनिया भर के मेहनतकशों एक हो !

अखिल भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन कांग्रेस (एटक)

गा जि या बा द ।

कार्यालय :- ट्रेड यूनियन हाउस
पुरानी चुंगी मेरठ रोड,
गाजियाबाद ।

पत्रांक.....

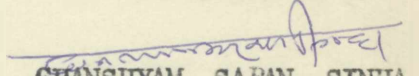
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दिनांक.....

turning point in building a unity between the two.

With Greetings,

Comradely yours,


GHANSHYAM SARAN SINHA

(522-11)

CITU

July 25, 1985.

Comrade B.F. Ranadive,
President,
Centre of Indian Trade Unions,
6. Talkatora Road,
New Delhi-110001.

AITU-CITU
Cooperation

Dear Comrade,

This is in connection with your letter of May 26th to me, wherein you had welcomed my proposal to hold joint discussions to improve relations and cooperation between our two organisations.

I regret there has been some delay in pursuing the matter due to our other engagements. Now I shall be in Delhi for most of the time during the next month or so. I would like you to suggest a suitable date and time when our discussions could begin.

Yours fraternally,

(CHATURANAN MISHRA)
President.

5-22-12
CITU

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

President :

B. T. RANADIVE

General Secretary :

SAMAR MUKHERJEE

RECEIVED

- 7 AUG 1985

A. I. T. U. C.

Dated 5-8-1985.

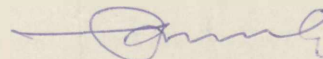
Dear Comrade,

Ref: Seminar on Bhopal gas tragedy.

Since the seminar on the Bhopal gas tragedy we have not been able to sit together to examine the points of the resolution which was adopted and other related matters. We feel it is necessary for us to discuss the possibilities of implementation of the suggestions enumerated in the resolution. In view of this we propose to hold a meeting of the Central Trade Unions which participated in the seminar at 6, Talkatora Road on 20th August 1985, at 5 P.M. We solicit your participation in the meeting.

With greetings,

Yours comradely,



(P.K. Ganguly)

Secretary.

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

President :

B. T. RANADIVE

General Secretary :

SAMAR MUKHERJEE

11th November, 1985.

Com. Chaturanan Mishra, M.P.
President
All India Trade Union Congress
24, Canning Lane
NEW DELHI-110 001.



Dear Comrade,

As directed by Com. B. T. Ranadive, who would remain out of Delhi for about a month, I am addressing this letter.

Com. BTR is sorry that he could not address the letter much earlier. In fact your talks with him was reported to the Secretariat by him and the Secretariat was of firm opinion that the present co-operation between the AITUC and CITU on issue to issue is not enough and there is ample scope of expansion of such co-operation and it should expand.

As a large number of our leaders and activists are busy in the forthcoming party Congress of CPI(M) we are not in a position to immediately apply our mind to this aspect. We would however do that immediately after the Party Congress is over.

With Greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Nrisingha Chakrabarty

(Nrisingha Chakrabarty)

Secretary.

522 14

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

President :

B. T. RANADIVE

General Secretary :

SAMAR MUKHERJEE

5th February, 1986.

Com. Indrajit Gupta
General Secretary
All India Trade Union Congress
24 Canning Lane
New Delhi-110 001.

Dear Comrade,

Apropos the discussion between Com. B.T. Ranadive and Com. Chaturanan Mishra, the Secretariat had discussed the question of greater consultation between our two organisations for joint campaign, movement and struggles. Strike against Price-hike is a subject on which there have been some consultation between our two parties and certain line of action has been decided upon.

I understand that the National Campaign Committee is meeting on 6th February '86 and you have a very tight programme in the meanwhile.

The Secretariat felt that the May Day this year will be the centenary year of the Chicago Hay market incident and could be observed jointly in a befitting manner projecting the international outlook and the glorious struggles that the Working Class has fought during these hundred years establishing workers' Govts in more than one-third of the world. In view of the growing war dangers, the May Day acquires more importance.

I would, therefore, request you to find some time to meet with us for a discussion on the subject. I am going out tomorrow and would be returning on 15.2.86. Hence we may meet in the afternoon of 15th or 16th Feb. '86. In case however the date does not suit you, you may fix up another date in mutual consultation with our office.

With Greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Samar Mukherjee
(Samar Mukherjee)
General Secretary.

Gram : CITUCENT

Phone : 384071

522-15

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

President :

B. T. RANADIVE

10th February, 1986.

General Secretary :

SAMAR MUKHERJEE

Com. Chaturanan Mishra, M.P.
President-AITUC
11-Canning Lane,
New Delhi-110 001.

Dear Comrade,

Com. B.T. Ranadive has asked me to keep you informed of the developments since your last meeting with him.

We had discussed the question of greater Co-operation between CITU and AITUC and we also feel that there is necessity to carry our united efforts still further. We had suggested that observance of May Day this year, which is the Centenary year of the Chicago Hay Market incident, may be jointly planned.

I am enclosing a copy of the letter dated 5.2.86 written by Com. Samar Mukherjee to Com. Indrajit Gupta for your information. Com. B.T.R. hopes that you would be able to spare some time for the discussion, as your presence in the discussion would be helpful.

With Greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Nrisingha Chakrabarty
(Nrisingha Chakrabarty)

Secretary.

Encl:1

*Com. General Secretary,
I am leaving for Patna on
the 15th evening. If I am
needed in the meeting with
CITU prior information
is needed for me.*

12/2

522-16

120 CITY

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS
6, TALKatora ROAD, NEW DELHI - 110001

Grams : CITUCENT

Phone : 384071

February 19, 1986

The
News Editor/Special Correspondent

RECEIVED

22 FEB 1986

A. I. T. U. C.

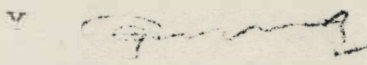
Dear Sir,

Re : Final Conclusions of the Indian Labour Conference.

The Government had circulated the Final Conclusions of the Indian Labour Conference to the participating organisations. The CITU has recorded its note of disagreement with the Final Conclusions drawn by the Government. We are releasing herewith the following for favour of publication:

1. The forwarding letter by Shree Samar Mukherjee, General Secretary, CITU
2. The comments of CITU on the Final Conclusions
3. The amendments suggested by CITU to the Draft Conclusions earlier sent by the Government.

Yours sincerely,


(P.K. Ganguly)
Secretary

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS
6, TALKatora ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

Grams : CITUNENT

Phone : 384071

February 19, 1986

Dear Shree Sangma,

We have received from your ministry the final conclusions of the Indian Labour Conference, held in November, 1985 under the Presidentship of Shree T. Anjaiah. As per the decisions of the conference, the labour department had sent the draft conclusions for finalisation by the participating organisations. As the draft contained many points which did not correctly project the deliberations in the conference, in that it included some points not discussed at all and also missed several points on which discussions were held and /firm opinions given by the Central trade unions, the CITU, as also AITUC and other trade unions had sent their amendments.

But we are sorry to note that not a single amendment sent by us has been accepted. On the contrary the final conclusions drawn by the Labour Ministry include points which were neither discussed, nor were in the draft even. The final conclusions again have omitted some of the vital matters which were discussed.

In our opinion, therefore the final conclusions sent by the Government has become, more distorted omitting the facts of the discussions and opinions given in the conference. What is more surprising that the earlier courtsey extended to the unions for expressing their reservations has been withdrawn while the same has been extended to the employers. The manner in which the opinions expressed by the national trade union centres have been treated by the Govt. is most reprehensible. The CITU therefore records its note of disagreement with the final conclusions sent by your ministry.

We are however enclosing herewith both our comments on the final conclusions, as well as the amendments to the draft conclusions again. We hope the final conclusions will be reformulated accordingly.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Samar Mukherjee
(Samar Mukherjee)
General Secretary

Shree P.A. Sangma,
Minister of Labour,
Government of India,
Shram Shakti Bhavan,
Rafi Marg,
New Delhi-110 001

COMMENTS ON THE FINAL CONCLUSIONS

1. Standing Labour Committee: The CITU, AITUC and several other trade unions had suggested that the Standing Labour Committee should be constituted in consultation with the Central Trade Unions. This has not been incorporated and its composition has been left to be decided by the Labour Minister, to which we do not agree.
2. Raising Rs. 35,000 crores for Public Sector: This point was not discussed at all, nor was it in the agenda. The Finance Minister who happened to address the conference had only suggested it in his speech. But this has been incorporated despite our objection. So we do not agree to its incorporation.
3. Industrial Relations Situation: We do not agree to the Government's view that there is a general improvement in the industrial relations situation. Despite our objection it has again been incorporated. We had also recorded our objection to the view that voluntary arbitration should be preferred to adjudication. Therefore we do not agree to this final conclusion.
4. Sanat Mehta Committee: The conference never urged, nor any organisation suggested that the government should finalise its views on the recommendations of the Sanat Mehta Committee regarding setting up of Industrial Relations Commissions. This point was not in the draft even and is totally an extraneous matter brought in the final conclusions. We totally reject this point.
5. Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Bill: The Conference did not welcome this Bill. The trade unions on the contrary criticised the government for introducing the Bill without prior discussion in the conference. But this point has not been considered at all. We therefore do not agree to this point.
6. Workers' Participation In Management: There was a general agreement that the existing scheme should be amended and improved, and workers should participate in management on equal footing upto the Board level and their representatives be elected through secret ballot. This general consensus has not been incorporated in the final conclusion.
7. Amendment of Factories Act: The opinions given by the trade unions were that the Government should finalise the amendments in consultation with the trade unions. But this has not been incorporated in the final conclusions. The question of compulsory imprisonment of the officers responsible for violation of the safety provisions has also not found place in the final conclusions. We therefore cannot agree to this conclusion.
8. Employees Provident Fund: Here again an extraneous point has been brought in which was not there in the draft, i.e. "However majority of the employer group had reservation in the matter". Actually it was not so. We therefore do not agree to this point.

..2..

9. The most important point which has been totally ignored is the repeated demand made by the trade unions for amendment of Article 311 (2) of the constitution. This is the demand of all sections of the working people which the government is most adamantly refusing to consider.

Under the circumstances, we cannot agree to the final conclusions drawn by the government and record the note of disagreement by the CITU.

(Samar Mukherjee)
General Secretary

AMENDMENTS SUGGESTED BY CITU

1. The Conference authorised the Union Labour Minister to constitute the Standing Labour Committee in consultation with the Central Trade Union organisations participating in the Conference. However the draft does not mention anything about this consultation.
2. The proposal given by the Union Finance Minister regarding raising of Rs.35,000 crores of resources for the Seventh Plan by the Public Sector Undertakings was not discussed in the Conference. Hence it would not be correct to call it a consensus and hence this so-called conclusion should be deleted.
3. The Conference did not consider the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Bill 1985 since its copies were not circulated among the participants. The members, on the contrary, criticised the move of the Govt. to introduce the Bill in Parliament, without first discussing it in the Indian Labour Conference as per earlier practice. In view of this it is incorrect to state that the Conference generally welcomed the Bill.
4. The consensus recorded on workers' participation was also not correct. As a matter of fact there was general agreement that the existing scheme should be improved, the workers should be associated at all levels including the Board level, the participation should be on the basis of equality and the worker's representatives should be elected on the basis of secret ballot. Regarding the question of statutory provision it was felt that it should be referred to the Standing Labour Committee.
5. Regarding industrial relations it is wrong to state that "the Conference noted with satisfaction the general improvement in the industrial relations situation" as stated in the draft consensus. It is also wrong to state that the Conference agreed that "the voluntary arbitration should be preferred as compared to adjudication". The following conclusion was not reached by the Conference though the draft consensus claimed that: "the Conference felt that it would be desirable that if special benches in the High Court are set up for consideration of the Labour matters". This question was not discussed in the Conference. A suggestion made by one member cannot be called a consensus.

In the Conference the workers' delegates were unanimous in their opinion that Industrial Disputes Act should be suitably amended to provide that after conciliation proceedings have failed, the aggrieved worker should have the right of directly moving the Industrial Court/Tribunal for hearing and award. They further unanimously suggested that trade unions should have the right to prosecute the management for violation of the Labour Laws. However, this important aspect does not find a mention in the consensus.

6. The Conference expressed concern at the recent Supreme Court judgement regarding Article 311(2) of the Indian Constitution depriving a worker the right to defend himself before penal action is taken against him. It therefore suggested that the relevant clauses in the Constitution should be amended. This also does not find any mention in the draft consensus.
7. Regarding safety and health the draft states that the Conference "felt happy" at the proposed amendments to the Factories Act. However, the Conference was not even informed what were the amendments. Under these circumstances the formulation should be changed. The draft further stated that the conference suggested that the amendments should be expedited. Actually it should have stated that the Government should finalise the amendments in consultation with trade unions. The demands raised in the Conference by most of the speakers that, for repeated violations compulsory imprisonment should be imposed on the officers responsible for violations, does not find a mention in the draft consensus.

8. On the Gratuity Insurance Scheme the draft only records the approval of the scheme, but does not mention the following suggestion given by several speakers:

"in case the employers do not pay the contribution to the LIC, the workers should not be penalised by non-payment of gratuity".

9. Regarding the National Minimum Wage the draft states that "till such time as this is feasible, it would be desirable to have regional minimum wage in regard to which the Central Govt. may lay down the guidelines". We are sorry to state that no such consensus emerged in the deliberations.

Instead of asking for linking the minimum wages with cost of living, the draft only states they should take into consideration to increase in cost of living.

10. Regarding the Employees State Insurance Corporation there was no consensus that the question of granting exemption should be discussed by the Standing Committee of the ESI Corpn. However, the consensus mentioned it so.

Hence it is clear that in their anxiety to show exaggerated picture of the achievements of the Conference the officials of the Union Labour Ministry have mentioned to the press and in their conclusions even the issues which were neither on the Agenda nor discussed in the Indian Labour Conference.

Since the Government circulated the draft consensus to the press before finalisation, we have no other alternative but to circulate our suggestions to the Press to avoid confusion on the issues stated in the draft consensus.

We hope the Govt. will make necessary corrections in the draft as already suggested so that a factual position should emerge on the issues involved.

.....

National Campaign Committee of Trade Unions

PRESS STATEMENT

19.2.86

National Campaign Committee supports Bandh on February 26.

Committee

The National Campaign of Trade Unions has issued the following statement:-

The National Campaign Committee of Trade Unions extends its full support to the call for All India Bandh on February 26, 1986, given by the opposition parties in protest against the recent price hike of the petroleum products and other essential commodities resorted to by administrative orders by the Government. It calls upon all the unions and workers to observe the day by launching strike actions, rallies, demonstrations, etc. jointly. In those states like Delhi, West Bengal and Tripura where bandhs had already been observed on the issue, the workers should extend support to the bandh by holding joint rallies, demonstrations, gate meetings, etc. The NCC also reiterates its support to the countrywide strike of the State Government employees on February 26 demanding amendment of Art 311-(2) of the Constitution.

sd/ Indrajit Gupta M.P.
General Secretary, AITUC

sd/ Prabhakar Ghate,
General Secretary
BMS

sd/Samar Mukherjee
General Secretary
CITU

sd/ Umraomal Purohit
General Secretary HMS

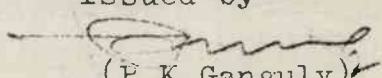
sd/ J.S.Dara
President ITUC (Dara)

sd/R.K.Majumdar,
Vice-President
TUCC

sd/ Pratul Chowdhury
Secretary, UTUC

sd/ Pritish Chanda
President UTUC (LS)

issued by


(F.K.Ganguly)
Tel: 384071

522-17

CITU

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

President :

B. T. RANADIVE

28th Feb. '86.

General Secretary :

SAMAR MUKHERJEE

Com. Indrajit Gupta
General Secretary
All India Trade Union Congress
24 Canning Lane,
New Delhi 110001.

Dear Comrade,

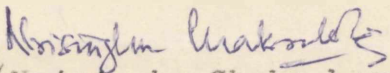
I am enclosing the draft of the May Day
Manifesto which we propose to be jointly issued.

In case you have any suggestion in this regard,
kindly send the same in writing so that the Secretariat
may consider the same for finalisation.

After the Manifesto is jointly approved, I
propose to get in touch with others so that it could
be jointly issued with others also.

With Greetings,

Yours fraternally,


(Nrisingha Chakrabarty)

Secretary.

ON THE CENTENARY OF MAY DAY THIS YEAR the Trade Union movement in India SENDS its greetings to the working class of the world, to the working class and people of all socialist countries, to the working class and the peoples of capitalist countries struggling against unemployment and deteriorating economic conditions and to the national liberation fighters all over the world. It sends its greetings to the working class and the peoples of all third world countries who are struggling against poverty and backwardness and whose independence is being daily threatened by the US imperialist.

The Trade Union movement also sends its warm greetings to all honest people workers, and working people, men and women who are waging a brave and courageous struggle against the danger of nuclear war which the US imperialists threaten to impose on the world.

Never before in recent history was there so much international unity, so many millions involved for a common purpose, as is the case with the peace movement of our time.

Every year for the last hundred years workers from all parts of the world have come out on the streets to honour the memory of the Chicago martyrs who had the courage to demand 8 hours day from an ⁷owing class which still then refused to accept any limitation on their exploitation of their workers.

Every year they have come on the streets to honour the memory of those who were shot down by the USA police.

Every year they have come out on the streets to honour the memory and courage of the working class leaders of Chicago who were framed ^{for} the May Day killings and who walked to the gallows with erect head.

The observance of May Day was originally confined to a few countries of Europe and the USA. But soon voice of working class unity began to reach all the continents and May Day with its demand for limitation of working hours and other demands began to be celebrated over increasingly large number of countries.

Today it is celebrated in all socialist countries, in all the advanced capitalist countries and in all newly liberated countries.

On May Day the working class every year announces that it is a single army determined to put an end to the capitalist system and rescue humanity from the perennial curse of poverty and unemployment.

Within hundred years of the First May Day when the ruling classes would not tolerate even the demand for a reduction of working hours, the working class aided by the people and fighting for their cause has smashed one bastion of exploitation after another and today its triumphant banner waves over one third of the world.

The 1917 Revolution led by Lenin and the Bolshevik party was the first big blow given to the capitalist system. A new type of state was born with the working class leading the state, supported and aided by the vast majority of toilers.

The mighty anti-fascist victory of the Soviet Union in which the working class, the red army and the people of Soviet Union played a glorious role gave another shattering blow to the world imperialist system and another big chunk of the world was torn away from the capitalist system. The victory of the great Chinese revolution, the victories of socialist revolutions in several European countries, the victory of the Cuban and the Korean revolution and the unparalleled victory of the Vietnamese revolution were the direct result of the increased strength of the world working class determined to put an end to the capitalist system.

The smashing victory in the anti-fascist war led by the first working class state, the Soviet Union, disintegrated the imperialist system and enabled the enslaved countries to regain their independence from the yoke of imperialism. It enabled country like India to achieve her independence with comparative ease.

How could this transformation be achieved in such a short time. It was because the revolutionary section of the working class movement continued to abide by the revolutionary traditions of the earlier May Day. The earlier May Day was not only devoted to the defence of immediate interests, of the working class, it also

inscribed on its banner, the slogan of international unity of working class and of capture of political power for the working class to end the capitalist system and its exploitation.

Those who strayed away from the path and concerned themselves only with the immediate demands of the working class turning a blind eye to the basic objectives of socialism and working class power and to the need of international unity gradually turned into reformist collaborators of the capitalist governments.

Those who carried forward the revolutionary traditions of the earlier May Day and combined the daily practical struggle of the working class with its basic objective of socialism and never lowered the banner of proletarian internationalism were able to organise successful socialist revolutions.

They were also able to place the working class at the head of the people in the national liberation movement, they were also able to build an alliance of the workers and peasants in the national liberation movement for subsequently turning to socialism. Such were the Marxist Leninist parties who led the socialist revolutions.

Hundred years of working class experience calls on the working class of India to review its own actions and struggles and examine whether they are in consonance with the revolutionary traditions of the international movement.

In India though the May Day is being observed for more than half a century, by and large its observance still remains confined to the immediate partial demands.

The May Day centenary calls upon India's working class to break with this tradition of exclusiveness and emerge on the national scene as a leading class seriously tackling the grave issues facing the country and building a formidable force in alliance with the peasantry to combat all reactionary forces and open the path to wider democracy and socialism.

It calls upon the working class to raise the slogans of People's Democracy in place of the existing bourgeois-landlord rule so that the state power controlled by the people can make easy transition to socialism.

Every section of India's working class must fully realise what the May Day fighters hundred years back had already realised that poverty, unemployment and economic crisis cannot be overcome without ending the capitalist system.

The centenary calls upon the working class of India to examine whether the international consciousness of the working class is sufficiently high to discharge its immediate responsibility in regard to international movement. A very big section of the working class under the influence of bourgeois ideology and reformist unions is devoid of international consciousness and often takes a hostile attitude to the successful socialist revolutions of the world.

The talk of two super powers indulged in by the ruling party and opposition bourgeois parties which equates the imperialist USA with the socialist Soviet Union is easily accepted by this section. It is necessary to repair this damage.

International unity of the working class and opposition to all militarist, imperialist and aggressive wars is an integral part of the revolutionary heritage of May Day struggle. Today the entire world is again threatened with the danger of nuclear war. It is not a war between two super powers but a war that is being organised by the imperialist camp against the socialist camp which is the achievement of hundred years of struggle of working class.

Why do the imperialist wants to unleash a war against the Socialist Camp? Because there is no unemployment, no poverty, no economic crisis, and no capitalist exploitation in the ^{Socialist countries. Practical achievements of} socialism are attracting like a magnet millions of people towards it. The imperialists want to stop this march of progress, destroy the socialist system and reconquer the whole world again for their exploitation.

The USA and its imperialist allies are spending millions of dollars on nuclear and other armament while more than 30 millions are unemployed and starving in these countries. To be able to attack the Soviet Union they have deployed missiles in Europe and are also increasing their conventional armaments. Reagan's Star War Project is a diabolical device to carry nuclear war into outer space.

The nuclear war plan is also a plan for global domination, for re-enslavement of countries like India.

That is why the USA imperialists and Reagan refused to accept any limitation on nuclear armament, any limitation on military expenditure and refuse to leave outer space free from nuclear weapons. The USSR has made several proposals for stopping the piling of nuclear armaments, for slowing down the drive towards war. It has made a unilateral declaration that it will not be the first to use nuclear strikes. But the USA Govt did not respond and refused to pledge that it would not be the first to use the nuclear strike. In fact the star war project is precisely intended for nuclear first strike.

In these circumstances the recent proposals made by Comrade Gorbachev, General Secretary of CPSU to eliminate nuclear weapons by the end of this century, and to take initial steps towards the aim serves cause of peace and shows a way to save humanity from a most destructive war. The Trade union movement and the entire working class of India must lend their full support to these proposals. Their adoption will protect international unity of the working class and uphold the banner of proletarian internationalism.

The cry of workers of the world unite loses all its meaning if the working class of India is unable to fight the menace of an aggressive war against the successful socialist revolutions, an aggressive war for global domination. May Day centenary calls upon all our unions and all its members to devote their utmost energy to propagate against the danger of war and rouse India's working class to join its hands with the world working class in the struggle for peace.

On May Day centenary the working class and trade unions must announce their decision to break with the tradition of confining their activities to partial demands and express their determination to play their role in meeting the problems facing our country and our people.

By concentrating only on immediate issues the working class and the trade union movement have converted themselves into a narrow force isolated from the large mass of people especially the peasantry and the agricultural workers.

Today every section of Indian people is under attack from the Union government. The economic policy of the Rajiv Government with its concessions to the demands of World Bank and IMF constitute a danger to our economic independence.

The Non Aligned foreign policy is also under attack from the USA and other sources. Waverings and vacillations are being already witnessed which may lead to dangerous anti-national compromises.

Simultaneously the working class is being directly attacked. Hundreds of big factories are closed. Thousands of small factories have been rendered sick. Majority of them are declared unviable that is they cannot be reopened again.

The number of registered unemployed in the cities has reached the figure of 3 crores. The government with its declared policy of computerisation and automation wants to add a few more millions to the ranks of the jobless.

To implement its policy the Rajiv Government takes several anti labour measures, restrict the right and freedom of the trade union movement. The Supreme Court judgement in relation to section 311(2) of the Constitution strengthens its hands to claim arbitrary powers for the dismissal of its employees. The Government take steps to attack collective bargaining and illegalise strikes.

On May Day the working class must unitedly voice its protest against the economic policy of the government and protest against the freedom given to multinationals to penetrate our economy.

It must demand halt to attack on trade union rights and condemn official policy of computerisation. Calling for immediate opening of all closed factories and concerns, it must demand immediate unemployment relief and further demand that the right to work should be embodied in the Constitution as a fundamental right. It must call for immediate and total nationalisation of the cotton textile, jute and sugar industries.

All sections of Indian people are getting crushed under the burden of high prices and high taxation. The agricultural worker is denied employment and gets only bonded labour's wage. The number of unemployed in rural areas exceeds four crores. The peasant is denied remunerative price for his produce. The landlords continue to torture the Harijans and Adivasis and murder them with impunity.

On May Day Centenary the trade union movement must break with its traditional outlook of ignoring the peasantry and come out in defence of the rural masses.

The working class must announce its preparedness and determination to champion the people, the peasantry, against oppression, high taxation and high prices. The working class must realise that without getting a firm support of the peasantry without a firm alliance with it, its striving for advanced democratic rights and socialism cannot be realised.

It must declare its resolve to fight imperialist conspiracies which are undermining the unity of our country, the secessionist and divisive elements which are unleashing forces of disintegration and communal and obscurantist agencies which are disrupting the unity of the toilers.

The great damage to national and class unity inflicted by these forces can be gauged from the happenings in Punjab and Assam. The trade Union movement of the country congratulates the working class of these two states and the working class of Tamilnadu for their courageous fight against divisive and regional chauvinist forces.

On May Day the working class must proclaim its determination to fight the forces of authoritarianism and defend and expand the democratic rights of the people.

On May Day the working class must express its determination to protect national unity, to defeat imperialist machinations against our peoples and fight all measures which compromise our economic independence and our foreign policy of non alignment.

In view of the constant pressure on our foreign policy and the vacillations already evident, the working class must keep a vigilant watch on the conduct of our foreign policy.

On May Day centenary the trade union movement calls upon the entire working class to build trade union unity, an invincible unity, which will not only put up a successful defence for the immediate interests of the working class but will also keep sight of the objective of socialism capture of political power and is able to discharge the immediate responsibilities facing the movement on the national and international plans.

The National Campaign Committee which represents the existing level of trade union unity, deals only immediate issues leaving out the problems facing the country, the people and the international movement. It is not able to speak with one voice on questions of war and peace, on imperialist conspiracies against the people, on defence of national unity, exposure of divisive and communal forces, and the defence of peasantry and rural masses. Unless these limitations are removed trade union unity will neither be able to defend the interests of the working class nor will it be, a force expressing the aspiration of the toiling people of India.

The Trade Union movement calls upon all the unions, other sister organisations and federations to broaden and deepen the scope of trade union unity so that it can really be a weapon of revolutionary change.

The Trade Union movement warmly welcomes the initiative taken by INTUC to develop common trade union action on the question of opposition to war, ^{and attention of divisive forces} and opposition to partition. The united trade union movement must turn in this direction and throw its full weight against war against national oppression and against the divisive forces in our country.

:: 9 ::

The United trade union movement must take ^{steps} risks to unleash a massive campaign for peace among the workers so that the voice of the working class is linked with the great movement for world peace in other countries.

The task is comparatively easy in our country because the ruling party and the government led by it follow policy of non-alignment and peace and oppose all war moves. Given the ~~initiatit~~ initiative and leadership of the united trade union movement, the peace movement in our country can become an all embracing movement involving all sections of our people.

On the centenary of May Day the Trade Union movement and the working class raise the banner of proletarian internationalism, the banner of solidarity of the international working class in the fight against war and exploitation and for end of national oppression, for peace, democracy and socialism.

The Indian Trade Union movement sends its warm greetings to the workers of countries of the sub-continent, the workers of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Srilanka and Nepal.

The Trade Union movement is confident that imperialist attempts to create tension and conflict between Pakistan and India will be foiled by the joint efforts of the workers of the two countries.

The movement sends its warm greetings to the working class of Sri Lanka, to the left forces and Communist Party of Srilanka who are holding aloft the banner of working class unity in the midst of wide-spread chauvinism.

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CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

President :

B. T. RANADIVE

6th March, 1986.

General Secretary :

SAMAR MUKHERJEE

Com. Indrajit Gupta
General Secretary
All India Trade Union Congress,
24 Canning Lane,
New Delhi 110001.

Dear Comrade,

Further to my earlier letter enclosing the draft of the May Day Manifesto, I am enclosing the Page No.7 retyped. You may have noticed that one paragraph was left out and had to be typed at the end. Later after checking up we found that there were other omissions, too. Hence the page has been retyped.

I am also enclosing another three paragraphs which are to be added as paras 3, 4 & 5 on the first page of the draft.

As we are anxious to finalise the draft for printing in our working class which is due to come out in April '86, we would request you to let us have your comments as early as possible.

With Greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Nrisingha Chakrabarty
(Nrisingha Chakrabarty)
Secretary.

It must demand halt to attack on trade union rights and condemn official policy of computerisation. Calling for immediate opening of all closed factories and concerns, it must demand immediate unemployment relief and further demand that the right to work should be embodied in the Constitution as a fundamental right. It must call for immediate and total nationalisation of the cotton textile, jute and sugar industries.

All sections of Indian people are getting crushed under the burden of high prices and high taxation. The agricultural worker is denied employment and gets only bonded labour's wage. The number of unemployed in rural areas exceeds four crores. The peasant is denied remunerative price for his produce. The landlords continue to torture the Harijans and Adivasis and murder them with impunity.

On May Day Centenary the trade union movement must break with its traditional outlook of ignoring the peasantry and come out in defence of the rural masses.

The working class must announce its preparedness and determination to champion the people, the peasantry, against oppression, high taxation and high prices. It must demand overhauling of agrarian relations, break up of land concentration and distribution of land to the tillers. The working class must realise that without getting support of the peasantry, without a firm alliance with it, its striving for advanced democratic rights and socialism cannot be realised.

On May Day the working class must proclaim its determination to fight the forces of authoritarianism and defend and expand the democratic rights of the people.

It must declare its resolve to fight imperialist conspiracies which are undermining the unity of our country, the secessionist and divisive elements which are unleashing forces of disintegration and communal and obscurantist agencies which are disrupting the unity of the toilers.

On May Day the working class must decide to lend its full support to the left forces in the country engaged in fighting authoritarianism and the forces of disunity and division. It must decide to frustrate all conspiracies of the Central Government against the Left front governments of West Bengal and Tripura.

The great damage to national and class unity inflicted by these forces can be gauged from the happenings in Punjab and Assam. The trade Union movement of the country congratulates the working class of these two states and the working class of Tamilnadu for their courageous fight against divisive and regional chauvinist forces.

CofM

522-19

March 6, 1986.

Comrade Nrisingha Chakrabarty,
Secretary,
Centre of Indian Trade Unions,
6. Talkatora Road,
New Delhi - 110001.

Dear comrade,

Thanks for your letter of 28.2.86, enclosing a draft for May Day Manifesto.

Our Secretariat discussed the draft and offers the following suggestions.

The draft sent by you is too lengthy and involved and also contains some controversial formulations. It is more appropriate for a propaganda booklet which you might like to publish on the occasion.

On behalf of AITUC we have also prepared a small booklet explaining the significance of observance of the May Day centenary, and we hope to publish it soon in English and Hindi.

Our Secretariat strongly feels the need for a JOINT MAY DAY APPEAL by our two organisations (and any other like-minded). It should be mainly agitational in form. It should be roughly the size of a foolscap size leaflet, which can be more easily read and understood by ordinary union members and workers. Apart from international working class solidarity against imperialism and war, for peace, progress and Socialism, etc. it should also emphasise the struggle on such issues as trade union rights, reduction of working hours, unemployment, and a living wage, etc.

12:

If CITU accepts this idea, the draft for such a joint Appeal can be prepared. We should also issue a joint Circular to all our affiliated unions.

With fraternal greetings,

(INDRAJIT GUPTA)
General Secretary.

Enclo: as above.



THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

COUNTRYWIDE PROTEST ACTIONS

File

Government Guillotined Against Price Rise

REACTING sharply against the price hikes announced by the Government in essential commodities like rice and wheat, in all varieties of fertilisers and in the petroleum products the people swept into protest actions throughout the country right from January 30, the day of the first announcement. The spontaneous reaction of the people culminated in a massive show of unity in no time. The CITU,

All India Kisan Sabha, All India agricultural Worker's Union, the various State Committees of CITU, the National Campaign Committee and other trade unions immediately issued statements calling upon all sections of the working people and the trade unions to raise their united voice of protest demanding of the Government to revoke the price hike orders. Similarly, the CPI(M) and the different



opposition parties issued statements denouncing the Government for launching this offensive on the people. Several members of the parliament belonging to CPI(M), namely, Basudev Acharya, Dipen Ghosh, Amal Datta, Nirmal Chatterjee, Ajit Kumar Saha and Saifuddin Chowdhury also issued statements condemning the Government for denigrating the Parliament by issuing the administrative orders just on the eve of it.

In its two statements issued on January 30 and February 1, the CITU denounced the Government for sharply increasing the prices of the two most essential commodities like wheat and rice at the fair price shops, while the organised trade union movement demanded fixing of the prices of 14 essential items of foodgrains at lower prices and their distribution through the public distribution system. Only three weeks earlier the government had increased the prices of coal in a similar manner. The CITU criticised the paltry increase in the support price of wheat by Rs. 5 only which would not benefit the peasantry in any way, since their demand was for a minimum increase by Rs. 18. The pleas extended by the government spokesmen and the Ministers were totally untenable and contradictory. During the last increase in the prices of petroleum products in March, 1985 the reason was attributed to the rise in the international prices. But now despite the fall in the international prices, the prices of the petroleum products have been increased. It is surprising that while the former petroleum Minister, Nawal Kishore Sharma had pronounced that the decline in international prices would lead to huge savings in import of petroleum products, the Finance Minister, V.P. Singh now has extended the plea that excessive demands would lead to growing imports and thereby exert pressure on the country's balance of payment position. The actual reason which the Government was desperately trying to elude by using subterfuges was that by surrendering to the dictates of the World Bank and the IMF, the government was deep into a debt trap and a death trap, and to come out of the crisis of its monopoly subservient economic planning, connected with the Western economy, it has launched an open attack on the living standards of the common people, be it a question of slump or increased demand.

Bandh Calls at Delhi, West Bengal and Tripura

Rising up to the demands of the situation, the opposition parties and trade unions in Delhi including the CPI(M), and CITU met immediately and took the decision of Bandh at Delhi on February 10. Simultaneously the Left Fronts and trade unions in W. Bengal and Tripura took decisions of Bandh in West Bengal and Tripura both on February 11. The CITU Secretariat met on February 4 and extended full support to the Bandh. The National Campaign Committee met on February 6 and besides extending support to the bandh calls, announced the programme of All India Protest Day on February 20. The CITU, the opposition parties, the trade unions in West Bengal and those from all other Centres

immediately extended full support to this country-wide action programme and threw their organisational machineries into full gear.

Call for Bharat Bandh

The unison in thinking drove all the organisations towards calling for a Bharat Bandh for the first time in the country against the government policies. The eleven opposition parties were united on this point and wanted the cooperation of the National Campaign Committee. The National Campaign Committee met again for this purpose on February 17 and unanimously supported the programme for all India general strike and bandh. The CITU suggested for 26th February for the day, i.e. before the budget. Although the others preferred it to be held in March after the budget which was to be placed on February 28, yet it was opined that whatever date the opposition parties would finalise, the NCC would support it. The opposition parties in their meeting on February 18 fixed February 26 as the Day for Bharat Bandh. They also extended support to the State Government employees' strike on that day.

INTUC isolated

The INTUC and the Congress(I) were totally isolated due to the magnificent show of unity by all other opposition parties and the trade unions. There were however dissensions in their camps. They are committed to support the government's policies. But this blatant attack by the government had stupefied them. They were unable to give any reasoning behind the price rise and show their faces to the people. They could not so stupidly speak out like the Ministers that the increase in prices were necessary to eradicate poverty. The INTUC in West Bengal did of course meekly say against the hikes, but they were shy of participating in the united struggle against such policies of the Centre. Thus when all the trade unions went ahead with countrywide movements against the government in the interest of the working class and the common people, the INTUC remained tagged with the anti-people policies of the Government exposing their fake leadership over the workers.

The Bandh in Delhi

The Bandh in Delhi on February 10 was unique and the first of its kind. Apart from the price hikes, it also opposed the hike in the bus fares. Hundreds of volunteers of CPI(M), CITU, Janavadi Mahila Samity, SFI and DYFI courted arrests. Everywhere the police resorted to brutal lathi charge for picketing the buses, injuring a large number of women workers also. The women picketers were dragged by their hairs and kicked by the policemen. Angered by the unprovoked brutality of the police the bystanders also joined the picketing and deflated 25 buses. The policemen also arrested the members of Jana Natya Manch and Parcham for staging people's dramas and songs. All the major industrial

All India Protest Day

areas like Okhla, Mayapuri, Naraina, Nazafgarh, Vairpur, G.T. Karnal Road, Shahdara, etc. remained completely closed. All restaurant and hotel workers struck work. The major markets like Connaught Place, Chandni Chowk, Khari Bowli, Nai Sarak, Patel Nagar, Fatehpuri, Kirtinagar, Sadar Bazar, Azad Market, etc remained closed. The private educational institutions remained closed. There was almost no teaching in the Govt. schools because of poor attendance. The University was already paralysed due to the strike by the teachers. O.J. Joseph, CPI(M) member of Rajya Sabha boycotted the consultative committee meeting of the Labour Ministry which was fixed that day.

Bandh in West Bengal and Tripura

The bandh in West Bengal was as usual total and complete. In several other bandhs the Congress(I) and INTUC created obstructions and hooliganism. But this time they could not dare to do that. The entire industrial belt in the state was silent due to stoppage of the factories and the machines. The streets of Calcutta City and other places were empty except massive processions conducted by the left front and the left trade unions. The educational institution were closed. There was no transport. The train and air services were cancelled and so the entire country was dislocated. There was no loading or unloading in the ports. The offices remained empty. Exactly similar was the case in Tripura. The two left front ruled states stood boldly as bulwark of opposition, the symbol of intense class struggle against the anti-people policies of the Government of India. They served as the beacon light to the entire country, getting support from all quarters.

*It was the left front government of West Bengal which had first raised the demand that the prices of 14 essential commodities should be fixed at a low level and should be available freely through the public distribution system. The demand has now embraced broad sections of the people throughout the country. But the government of India is transfixed by the dictates of the World Bank and the IMF and still refusing to accede to the demands of the people. The CITU and CPI(M) congratulated the workers and the people for the successful bandh at Delhi, West Bengal and Tripura.

Court Arrest in Orissa and Rajasthan

Responding to the call of CITU to demonstrate solidarity on the bandh days, CITU and other trade unions in different parts of the country staged demonstrations and rallies. In Orissa, at Cuttack and other parts of the State over 2000 workers including large number of women courted arrest, braving brutal lathi charge by the police. Similarly in Rajasthan the CITU activists courted arrest. The peasantry and agricultural workers at Jhunjhunu resorted to militant agitations. The police brutally resorted to firing killing one. At Kanpur, the trade unions and the State Government employees observed bandh on February 11. Massive protest actions were held on February 13 at Tamil Nadu.

The anger of the people continued and the All India Protest Day was observed in all places with great vigour on February 20, the opening day of the Budget Session of the Parliament. At Delhi, the entire opposition, save and except for AIADMK of course, boycotted the Joint Session of the Parliament addressed by the President. On February 19, they also boycotted the meeting called by the Prime Minister and met the President to hand over the memorandum urging upon him to advise the Prime Minister to withdraw the price hike orders. About 15,000 people which included opposition parties, MPs, trade union workers, women, students and youth courted arrest at Delhi. The majority belonged to CPI(M), CITU and Janvadi Mahila Samity, numbering over 8000. Out of about 100 MPs, 34 belonged to CPI(M) and out of about 750 women, 715 belonged to Janavadi Mahila Samity. Samar Mukherjee, Polit Bureau member of CPI(M) and General Secretary of CITU led the court arrest of the CPI(M) group. *(Picture on the front page.)* Amongst the MPs arrested were Basudev Acharya, leader of the Lok Sabha group and Dipen Ghosh, leader of the Rajya Sabha group of CPI(M).

As per reports received about other places, massive demonstrations and rallies were held in West Bengal and Tripura. Because of the still tense situation in Assam, the CITU unions sent scores of telegrammes to the Prime Minister protesting against the price rise and demanding withdrawal of the orders. Demonstrations were staged before the district authorities and tehsils throughout Rajasthan. At Shimla, a two hour dharna was observed by the workers before the Secretariat after which they went in procession to the Raj Bhawan to hand over a memorandum to the Governor. At Haryana, rallies and processions were held at Sonapat and other places. At Bangalore, a joint demonstration was held in front of the Raj Bhawan. At Patna volunteers of six left and opposition parties and trade unions marched to the District Magistrate and submitted a memorandum. Throughout U. P. dharnas and public meetings were held. At Bombay a 5000 strong joint procession, including large number of women from AIDWA, marched from Azad Maidan to Mantralaya to submit a memorandum to the government. At Chandigarh a joint memorandum was submitted to the Punjab Governor. At Raipur in M.P. a day long dharna was jointly staged by the opposition parties. At Hyderabad, CPI(M) and Telugu Desam demonstrated in front of the Assembly. At Cuttack a massive joint demonstration was staged before the Collectorate. At Bhubaneswar eight opposition parties staged demonstrations before the Secretariat. In Gujarat the entire opposition walked out just before the State Finance Minister started to place the budget. Protest rallies were taken out at Ahmedabad, Mehsana, Himatnagar and other places.

Preparation for Bharat Bandh

With the continuous programmes the opposition parties and the trade unions are preparing for the
(Contd. on page 21)

All India Strike of Coal Miners

DAMODAR Pandey, Jt. General Secretary of Indian National Mine Workers Federation (INTUC), M.K. Pandhe, President of All India Coal Workers' Federation (CITU), S. K. Sanyal, Working President of Indian Mine Workers' Federation (AITUC) and Jayanta Poddar, General Secretary of Hind Khadan Mazdoor Federation (HMS) have issued the following joint statement on February 13:

We warmly congratulate 7 lakh coal mine workers for magnificently responding to the united appeal jointly made by the INTUC, AITUC, CITU, HMS and BMS and successfully implementing the programme of agitation on the following most pressing demands of the Coal mine workers:

1. Immediately restore the commitments unilaterally withdrawn by the managements such as providing jobs to dependants of employees died in harness and disabled permanently etc.
2. Implement the non-implemented welfare measures such as housing facilities, provision for drinking water, educational facilities, medical benefits and safety measures as per NCWA-III.
3. Ensure employment to dependants of retiring employees as per NCWA-III;
4. Immediate formulation of pension scheme for coal miners;
5. Finalise the uniform standing orders for the entire Coal industry;
6. Increase ceiling of gratuity payment from Rs. 35,000 to Rs. 50,000 as per Central Government's decision;
7. Remove ceiling on bonus payment to coal workers;
8. Abolish contract system for jobs of permanent and perennial nature;
9. Finalise promotion policy providing for time bound promotion to all workers;
10. Withdraw all penal action against coal workers such as arbitrary deduction of 8 days wages, loss of lien and break in service;
11. Immediate finalisation of incentive scheme for coal miners.

We call upon all the coal mine workers to observe **ONE DAY STRIKE ON 9th APRIL 1986** in the coal mines all over the country to press for these demands.

As a preparatory step we appeal to all the unions to observe All India Demands Day on 3rd March

1986 by holding meetings and demonstration to highlight these demands. On 21st March 1986 all unions should serve Strike Notice by holding demonstrations before all coal mine offices.

We are confident that the coal workers of all affiliations will respond in a fitting manner to our joint appeal and make the programme of united movement and industrial action a grand success.

We hope the managements of coal mining industry will see reason and accept the long standing and legitimate demands of coal workers, failing which they will be forced to resort to bigger actions.

**Long live coal workers unity !
Unitedly Prepare for all India strike of coal workers on 9th April 1986 !!**

Protest Day Observed

As per call of All India Coal Workers Federation all the coal unions observed 5th February as All India Protest Day by holding meetings and processions. Leaflets were issued containing appeal of the AICWF to coal workers calling upon them to launch countrywide movement in protest against non-implementation of the NCWA-III and to prepare for joint movement to achieve a new charter of Demands.

The CITU unions in all the collieries also extensively circulated the joint appeal issued by all the central trade unions calling upon them to prepare for all India one day strike. Due to the pressure built up by the coal workers, the chairman of CIL hurriedly called a meeting of central trade union representatives on 7th February to discuss the issues. The workers' representatives who attended the meeting reiterated the demands raised by the joint appeal and told the chairman that unless all the issues raised by the unions were settled there was no question of withdrawing the strike.

Bihar Colliery Kamgar Union organised a massive rally on 3rd Feb. at Bera Colliery Maidan which was addressed by M.K. Pandhe, S.K. Baksi, N.N. Singh and others. Another big rally was organised at Govindpur colliery in the evening on the same day in which workers in adjoining collieries came in processions. Women participated in the rally in good number. The meeting was addressed by M.K. Pandhe, A.K. Roy, S.K. Baksi and others.

The Coal Field Labour Union organised big demonstrations on Feb. 5 at Kedla North and Kedla underground project completely paralysing the work of the colliery for half a day. All the workers wore black badges in protest against non-implementation of the NCWA-III agreement and against heavy mechanisations which jeopardised
(Contd. on page 21)

CITU Rejects Government's Conclusions

AS per the decisions of the Indian Labour Conference, the Government had prepared and sent the draft conclusions of the conference to the participating organisations for finalisation. As the draft conclusions did not project the deliberations correctly, CITU and AITUC had sent their amendments jointly, to the Government (*published in the January issue of the Working Class*). But the Government did not incorporate a single amendment and circulated the Final Conclusions further distorting the facts and bringing in some extraneous matters which were neither discussed in the conference nor were put in the draft even. The Final Conclusions at the same time did not include some other points which were raised and pressed by the trade unions in the conference.

The CITU therefore, with a forwarding letter by Samar Mukherjee to the Labour Minister on February 19 recorded its note of disagreement with the Final Conclusions drawn by the Government and enclosed its comments on each point. Similarly, AITUC also recorded its disagreement. Following are the comments on the Final Conclusions sent by CITU:

Comments on the Final Conclusions

1. *Standing Labour Committee*: The CITU, AITUC and several other trade unions had suggested that the Standing Labour Committee should be constituted in consultation with the Central Trade Unions. This has not been incorporated and its composition has been left to be decided by the Labour Minister, to which we do not agree.

2. *Raising Rs. 35,000 crores from Public Sector*: This point was not discussed at all, nor was it in the agenda. The Finance Minister who happened to address the conference had only suggested it in his speech. But this has been incorporated despite our objection. So we do not agree to its incorporation.

3. *Industrial Relations Situation*: We do not agree to the Government's view that there is a general improvement in the industrial relations situation. Despite our objection it has again been incorporated. We had also recorded our objection to the view that voluntary arbitration should be preferred to adjudication. Therefore we do not agree to this final conclusion.

4. *Sanat Mehta Committee*: The conference never urged, nor any organisation suggested that the government should finalise its views on the recommendations of the Sanat Mehta Committee regarding setting up of Industrial Relations Commissions. This point was not in the draft even and is totally an extraneous matter brought in the final conclusions. We totally reject this point.

5. *Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Bill*: The Conference did not welcome this Bill. The trade unions on the contrary criticised the government for introducing the Bill without prior discussion in the conference. But this point has not been considered at all. We therefore do not agree to this point.

6. *Workers' Participation in Management*: There was a general agreement that the existing scheme should be amended and improved, and workers should participate in management on equal footing upto the Board level and their representatives be elected through secret ballot. This general consensus has not been incorporated in the final conclusion.

7. *Amendment of Factories Act*: The opinions given by the trade unions were that the Government should finalise the amendments in consultation with the trade unions. But this has not been incorporated in the final conclusions. The question of compulsory imprisonment of the officers responsible for violation of the safety provisions has also not found place in the final conclusions. We therefore cannot agree to this conclusion.

8. *Employees Provident Fund*: Here again an extraneous point has been brought in which was not there in the draft, i.e., "However majority of the employer group had reservation in the matter". Actually it was not so. We therefore do not agree to this point.

9. The most important point which has been totally ignored is the repeated demand made by the trade unions for amendment of Article 311 (2) of the Constitution. This is the demand of all sections of the working people which the government is most adamantly refusing to consider.

Under the circumstances, we cannot agree to the final conclusions drawn by the government and record the note of disagreement by the CITU.

Editorial Board

P. Ramamurti (Chairman)

**Manoranjan Roy, Niren Ghosh,
M.M. Lawrence, P.K. Ganguly**

M.K. Pandhe

In Support of DUTA Strike

WORKERS COURT ARREST IN DELHI

FIVE hundred twenty three workers of Delhi belonging to seven central trade unions viz, CITU, HMS, UTUC, ITUC (Dara), BMS, TUCC and AITUC courted arrest at the Ministry for Human Resources Development on January 30. The workers were protesting against non-implementation of the 1983 agreement between DUTA and UGC. The workers demanded immediate implementation of the agreement and end to the policy of threats and intimidation adopted by the Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University. They condemned the Government of India for backing out of the agreement collectively reached with the teachers three years ago.

Hundreds of teachers of the University had also gathered at Shastri Bhawan in a demonstration at the time of court arrest. Leaders of the various trade unions said that it was a memorable day in the trade union movement of the city when the entire organised working class and risen in solidarity with the striking teachers. The speakers condemned the authorities for using a section of the students to threaten the teachers. They also announced the solidarity programme undertaken by scores of white collar organisation in support of the striking teachers. M.M.P. Singh, President of the DUTA, thanked the workers for their solidarity with the teachers.

CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE OF WORKING WOMEN

Ranjana Nirula, Convenor of the Delhi Coordination Committee of Working Women issued the following statement on January 30:

The Co-ordination Committee of Working Women expresses its serious concern at the adamant and unreasonable attitude of the concerned authorities towards the struggle of the Delhi University teachers, which has led to the continuation of the strike. It is an indication of the complete irresponsibility of the authorities that they have refused to implement the agreement reached in 1983, leaving the teachers no alternative but to go on strike. Now the authorities are expressing concern for the future of the students to conceal their own responsibility for the present situation.

We express our solidarity with the striking teachers and also note in particular the determination and prominent role of the women teachers, once

again proving that in a just and democratic struggle women will never lag behind. We demand that the Government of India take the initiative to meet the demands of the teachers and ensure full implementation of the 1983 agreement.

PROTEST BY POLITICAL PARTIES

Joginder Sharma, Secretary, Delhi State CPI(M); Sushil Bhattacharya, Secretary, Delhi State RSP; Tarif Singh, President, Delhi Pradesh Lok Dal; K.K. Handa, General Secretary, Delhi State Congress(S); Vinod Jain, Secretary, Delhi State Forward Block; Prem Sagar Gupta, Secretary, Delhi State CPI and Kanwar Lal Sharma, President, Delhi Janata Party jointly issued the following Statement on January 19:

We, the undersigned political parties, express our serious concern over the indifferent attitude of the Congress government at the centre, the UGC and the Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University towards the just and genuine demands of the striking teachers. It is shocking that the central government and other authorities are not implementing the agreement reached with the teachers in 1983. Unfortunately, the Vice-Chancellor too is equally adamant is not accepting the genuine demands of the teachers which fall within his purview. The central government has further aggravated the situation by denying the payment of bonus to the teachers this year.

This callous attitude undermines the credibility of the central government, the UGC and the Vice-Chancellor and is responsible for the present stalemate in the campus, resulting in difficulty to the students.

It is unfortunate that instead of conceding the just demands of the teaching community, the central government, the UGC and the Vice-Chancellor in particular, are trying to create confusion in the minds of the public and teachers with a view to undermine the organised struggle of the teachers.

We express our solidarity and full support to the striking teachers of Delhi University and urge upon the central government to concede their legitimate demands, so that normalcy can be restored in the campus.

Towards Broad Based Unity

IN the face of deteriorating industrial relations thanks to recalcitrant attitude of railway administration, major trade unions on Eastern Railway found it necessary to come together to meet the challenge unitedly and the Eastern Railway Unity Committee comprising of Eastern Railwaymen Union, All India Railway Employees Confederation and Eastern Railway Workers Union came into being. The Committee has adopted an elaborate programme for holding Divisional Unity conventions in all Divisions of Eastern Railway, for the Workshops and at the Head Quarters, and to form Unity Committees at these levels. The Committee also decided to organise united demonstrations at Division, workshops etc. on 26th February as a mark of solidarity with the state employees who will be on one-day token strike on the day on the demand for deletion of Art. 301(1) & 311(2)(a)(b) and (c) of the Constitution.

At the initiative of the Unity Committee a meeting of representative of all major Unions and Associations of Eastern and South Eastern Railways, of P & T, Defence and other Central Government Departments was held on 12th February 1986. The meeting has decided to observe Solidarity Day on 26th February unitedly in support of state employees strike. Members of all the attending organisations have been called upon to join the mass squatting programme of Central Government employees Co-ordination committee on the day at Calcutta. The meeting decided to hold a convention on job security some time around 10th April.

AIREC

The extended Working Committee meeting of the All India Railway employees Confederation was held in Calcutta on 19th January 1986. Having reviewed the developments since its last meeting held in November 1985, the meeting decided to hold demonstrations, rallies and dharna at Divisions, Workshops and Zonal Headquarters all over Indian Railways on 26th February to demonstrate solidarity with State employees' one day strike on the day. The meeting also called upon the units to launch a programme of weeklong campaign on the issue from 18th to 25th February.

The meeting expressed concern about the squeezing of cadre and reduction in employment opportunity on railways due to impending introduction of high power computers in every Sphere of railway work and demanded withdrawal of ban on recruitment. The meeting also demanded immediate publication of pay commission report. While condemning the anti-labour industrial relations policy of the Government, the meeting called upon all organisations to close their rank and forge "broader Strug-

gling Unity to resist the onslaught and achieve the demands."

DREU Demonstrates

The Dakshin Railway Employees Union had recently staged a massive demonstration and rally before the Office of the General Manager Southern Railway at Madras. Over 2000 workers participated. The demonstrators led by K.A. Nambiar, R. Umamath, P.V. Ramdas and other leaders of the union marched in procession along the city streets before they converged in a rally before the General Manager's office. A memorandum containing major demands of Railwaymen was handed over to the Chief Personnel Officer by a deputation of union leaders. At the request of the union, the Southern Railway authorities instructed the divisional administrations to provide special coaches for the demonstrations but it was ignored by Tiruchy and Madurai Divisions and consequently there was heavy rush at these stations resulting in slight delay in departure of one train from Tiruchy and another from Madurai. The authorities have used this as pretext to suspend 4 office bearers of the union. The union is preparing for protest action.

AIGC — NF Railway

15th conference of the NF Railway unit of All India Guard's Council was held on 28th and 29th January 1986 at Alipurduar Jn. amidst great enthusiasm. 165 delegates from all over the zone attended the conference. The Conference was inaugurated by C.L. Upadhyay, General Secretary. All India Guards Council, Haran Datta, General Secretary Eastern Railway unit was Chief Guest.

The largely attended open session was addressed among others by Hara Mohan Das, General Secretary, AIREC, N.F. Zone. A large procession paraded the streets before the meeting. The poster exhibition and the cultural programme were attractive as well as instructive.

Coal and Ash Handling Workers

The Eastern Railway authorities closed down the coaling point at Azimganj without arranging alternative work for the contractors workers engaged in coal & ash handling work there. The workers launched prolonged agitation. The State Government intervened and ultimately the railway authorities had to agree to provide the workers at other Coaling points.

Maldah unit of Indian Railway Coal Ash and Transshipment Handling Mazdoor Union had earlier submitted a memorandum to the General Managers NF Railway and Eastern Railway demanding alternative employment for Azimganj Coal and Ash Handling workers.

Book Review

"MAY DIWAS KI GOURAB GATHA"

By Kedarnath Bhattacharya

Price: Rs. 10/-, National Book Agency, 12 Bankim Chatterjee Street, Calcutta-700 073.

COM. Kedarnath Bhattacharya, is well known for his long service to the trade union movement, particularly of the office employees in the Dalhousie area of Calcutta. This book is the translated version of his popular Bengali Book "May diwaser Kahini O Aiteejhya", of which three editions have already been published. By publishing the translation of this book in Hindi, albeit at the request and urging of many trade union workers, a great service has been done.

Com. Bhattacharya has amassed almost all available material on May Day. The book does not merely restricts itself only to the struggle in Chicago and thereafter. It describes in detail the struggle against oppressive hours of work. It states when ten hour work was introduced in Europe and then America. It tells in detail how the May Day was considered to be the Day for ushering in Spring for some countries, how Australia first formed the concept of enforcing one common day for the unity of the workers, how this slogan influenced the workers of America and how as a sequel to the struggle for 8 hours work, the workers of Chicago enforced a leave on 1st May 1886.

The book gives the reader a complete understanding of the development of trade union movement in America and Europe during the 19th Century and the conspiracies of the owning class against workers. It describes how the murderous Pinkerton Agency organised itself as a tool in the hands of the owners to do all its dirty jobs including beating of workers which often resulted in deaths i.e. murder.

It describes the indomitable spirit in which the leaders of the American Working Class suffered hanging but refused to bow down. The saga of the heroic struggle would enthuse all who have not gone through the repression yet.

The best point in the narration is the link which was established with the International Working Men's Association and how Engels reacted to the Hay Market incident and the decision of the Second International.

It has traced the Origin of the red flag to show its international character and how it was accepted by the Working Class of one country after the other.

The book is a rare compilation of articles on May Day from Lenin, Engels, Rosa Luxemburg and others. The working class would be observing the centenary of the Hay Market incident this year. This is a book which is a must for all Hindi knowing workers who want to know the details as to why May Day is observed as the International Working Class Day of Solidarity.

Consumer Price Index Numbers

(Base 1960)

State/Centre	Sept. 1985	Oct. 1985	Nov. 1985								
				Bangalore	669	675	684	Coonoor	654	654	672
				Chikamagalur	611	609	631	Madurai	642	641	649
				Kolar G.F.	595	598	624	U.P.			
Andhra Pradesh				Kerala				Kanpur	625	632	627
Gudur	548	548	553	Alleppey	668	673	677	Saharanpur	628	634	628
Guntur	649	658	656	Alwaye	665	666	662	Varanasi	697	696	706
Hyderabad	605	641	634	Mundakayam	606	604	601	West Bengal			
Assam				Madhya Pradesh				Asansol	611	616	632
Digboi	620	618	620	Balaghat	638	644	649	Calcutta	617	626	628
Doom Dooma	499	497	493	Bhopal	686	697	714	Darjeeling	518	528	537
Labac	490	491	483	Gwalior	635	640	646	Howrah	570	583	582
Mariani	526	523	524	Indore	659	663	671	Jalpaiguri	527	531	528
Rangapara	510	512	594	Maharashtra				Raniganj	550	560	584
Bihar				Bombay	639	647	654	Delhi Territory	649	654	658
Jamshedpur	581	589	600	Nagpur	640	641	647	Other Centres			
Jharia	538	541	546	Sholapur	642	657	656	Berhampur ('49)	898	909	916
Kodarma	626	627	628	Orissa				Cuttack ('49)	814	819	858
Monghyr	630	629	640	Barbil	564	569	590	Jabalpur ('49)	799	799	798
Noamundi	547	535	552	Sambalpur	702	693	656	Beawar ('51-52)	728	744	749
Gujarat				Punjab				Tripura ('61)	561	568	564
Ahmedabad	595	604	609	Amritsar	618	620	629	H.P. ('65)	447	451	455
Bhavanagar	656	661	661	Rajasthan				Goa ('66)	468	465	470
Haryana				Ajmer	633	641	639	Bhilai ('66)	421	422	425
Yamunanagar	616	629	639	Jaipur	660	665	665	Bhilwara ('66)	388	407	403
J. & K.				Tamil Nadu				Chhindwara ('66)	328	329	334
Srinagar	666	667	670	Madras	625	630	648	Kothagudem ('66)	408	413	420
Karnataka				Coimbatore	667	669	681	Rourkela ('66)	435	432	439
Ammathi	627	633	641					All India ('60)	619	625	630

(Figures in bracket indicate base year)

Meeting of Steel Advisory Committee

THE first meeting of the Steel Advisory Committee was held on February 22 at Vigyan Bhawan, Delhi. The Union Minister of Steel, K.C. Pant presided over the meeting. The meeting was attended by the representatives of the Steel Ministry, those from the public and private sector steel managements, the mini-steel plants and from Central Trade Unions, the representatives of CITU, INTUC and HMS attended the meeting. Jibon Roy, Secretary of Steel Workers' Federation of India represented CITU.

Initiating the discussions, K.C. Pant sought advice from members as to how the gap between production and demands, which according to him stood at 5 million tonnes, could be filled up during the Seventh Plan period. He also sought discussions on how the existing capacity of the plants could be fully utilised and how the cost of steel could be minimised to make it competitive in the international market. Hammering on the same points, the Chairman of SAIL said that the steel price would not be increased further, since it had become highest in recent years, although it was lowest during the sixties.

Some of the technical representatives advised the need for automation and training of the labour force to that direction. Some members suggested that there should be guarantee of the flow of capital investment for the replacement of the existing machinery. Alongwith Gopeshwar of INTUC, the SAIL managements demanded that SAIL should have more power and authority in respect of industrial relations and this should be a central subject instead of state. Some of the private managements suggested that the entire steel industry should be privatised. The workers' representatives unanimously protested against this suggestion.

Jibon Roy criticised the Government's policy of having set a production target of only 12.64 million tonnes of saleable Steel for the Seventh Plan and only 10 million tonnes at the end of the plan. He also said that it was distressing that the planners had envisaged to produce only 21 million tonnes at the turn of the century. He stated that India possessed immense quantity of high quality raw materials to produce steel apart from a vast market of 750 million people and 2.5 millions of experienced steel workers and engineers. Giving the example of China, he said that even during the recession in the international market it continued to increase its steel capacity. He pointed out that the main constraint for the advancement of the industry was the rapid squeezing of the internal market due to the diminishing purchasing power of the vast population. The per-capita consumption of steel was declining with every plan and now it had come to only 15 kg. This was evident from the fact that no new plant was going to be installed during the Seventh Plan. If this trend was not reversed by radical change in the policy of the Government, there would be no new plant during the Eighth Plan also and would further increase the dependence of the

country. He assailed the policy of import and said that there was no alternative to expanding the integrated steel production in the country. He demanded that Indian steel should be protected from foreign dumping.

The entire labour side, the consumers and the mini-steel plant managements expressed serious concern over the issue. The Alloy Steel representative said that Alloy Steel industry had incurred a loss of Rs. 200 crores during the last two years and it might have to be closed down if the market position did not improve. Jibon Roy expressed surprise that during the Sixth Plan period, when the integrated steel plants were starving for markets and more than a million tonnes of steel products were rotting in the plant, the government went on importing steel from outside. As regards capacity utilisation, he pointed out that the real capacity was not in conformity with the book capacity. He gave the examples of Rourkela and Durgapur where even the industry agreed that plants could not produce 1.8 and 1.6 million tonnes technologically as claimed by the government. He pinpointed to the failure of the Government to invest in time for replenishment, which stood as the main constraint to capacity utilisation. In this respect he cited the example of Durgapur, Rourkela and IISCO. After a decade the government was saying that something has to be done. But by this time the machineries had already become junk. He said that under such conditions it was impossible to boost up production.

While expressing satisfaction at SAIL Chairman's remark that the steel prices would not be increased further, Jibon Roy pointed out that by hiking the prices of the important inputs like cooking coal and petroleum, the government had created a mess and an uncertainty over the price front. Now to compensate the hikes the government was demanding cost reduction. He demanded withdrawal of the price hike orders. He also suggested for minimising the Energy cost by improving the coke rate and reducing the consumption of furnace oil and also by saving the Coke Oven and Blast Furnace Gas. He said that the recent price hike would have devastating effect on the industry and the Durgapur plant would further be driven to the red. He warned against the trend of minimising the labour cost and labour displacement through automation. He said that with the existing manpower the labour cost in India was the lowest. He also warned against any attempt to scuttle the ensuing bipartite negotiations. He also demanded departmentalisation of the contract workers to stop drainage of money over the contractors. Regarding workers' participation in management, he said that the present system had nothing do with it and demanded participation of workers elected by secret ballot at all levels on equal footing.

Winding up the debate, the Minister said that the existing plants would be modernised and that the industry should explore all avenues for advancement.

Increasing Demand to Amend Art. 311(2)

THE retrograde Supreme Court judgement on the basis of Arts. 310 and 311 (2) (a) (b) & (c) of the Constitution upholding the so called "pleasure doctrine" and the right of the Government to dismiss its employees without observing the elementary principle of natural justice has led to mounting unrest among all sections of the Government employees. This is evident from the series of conventions, demonstrations and other action programmes that are being held at different parts of the country. We are giving below some of the reports of such conventions which mobilised the opinion of large sections of the working people from different aspects of life to raise the demand for amendment of these anti-democratic Articles of the Constitution and establish the right of the workers to self defence. The conventions also adopted resolutions against computerisation, price rise ban on recruitment, etc. and supported the strike of the State Government employees on February 26.

Durg: The trade union council of Chhatisgarh region organised a convention of all central and state government employees' unions including the Railway unions at Durg, M.P., on December 18 and 19, 1985. N.C. Ray Chowdhury inaugurated the convention. It was attended by over 300 delegates from Raipur, Jagdalpur, Jabalpur Rajnandgaon, Raigarh, Bilaspur and Ambikapur. Yogeshwar Gope, President of Bihar State CITU and leader of the state govt. employees speaking as the Chief Guest pointed out that the immediate result of the judgement was that 1500 railway employees and 2000 para military and security staff were dismissed. The other speakers included R.K. Singh, Asst. General Secretary of the A.I. Telegraph Engineering Employees Union, Line staff and Class IV and R.K. Agarwal, Circle Secretary of RMS, Class IV, M.P. circle.

Varanasi: The Central Government Employees Coordination Committee, Varanasi organised conventions on December 22, 1985 which was attended by about 600 delegates. The convention was inaugurated by Dr. Chandra Bali Singh. The speakers included Nirmal Shankar Srivastava, S.P. Ghosal, Dr. Mohan Lal Tiwari, C.M. Singh, M.N. Prasad, Parasuram Singh, S.K. Seth, Vishwanath Singh (HMS), Ram Naresh Singh (BMS), Kamala Pati Tripathi (CITU) and Raj Kishore, MLA.

Khurda Road: The A.I. Railway Employees Confederation, Khurda Road Division organised a convention on January 19. The convention was inaugurated by Dushmantha Das, Secretary of the Bhubaneswar City Coordination Committee. The speakers included Nandini Satpathy, Bhagabat Behera, Prasanna Patsani, G.V.K. Murthy, Lambodar Nayak, Ram Chanda Nayak, Jagabandhu Sahoo, K.C. Behera, Ramkrishna Panda and Prahlad Pradhan.

Agartala: In pursuance of the call given by the A.I. State government employees Federation, the Tripura Coordination Committee of State Govt.

Employees held a rally at Agartala on January 21 and marched to the Assembly and submitted a memorandum to the Central Government through the State Government demanding amendment of Art. 310 and 311(2) of the Constitution.

Jamalpur: The AIREC and State Govt. Employees Federation organised a convention at Jamalpur on January 22 which was participated by about 350 delegates. The convention was inaugurated by C.M. Singh, S.K. Dhar addressed the convention as the Chief Guest. The other speakers were Harsh Narain Jha, Ram Bagath Singh; Shyam Sunder Mastana and Hari Nandan Singh.

Bareilly: AIREC organised another convention at Bareilly on January 30, which was addressed among others by Har Sahay Singh, Vice President of CITU, Anil Kumar, Girish Chandra Bharaty (AITUC), A.S. Gupta, Radha Krishna Sharma, A.P. Singh, Ravindra Kumar Rayyadh, Chuni Lal Jail and A.A. Khan. The main resolution was moved by S.R. Khan. About 400 delegates attended the convention.

Adra: The AIREC and BEFI jointly arranged a convention at Adra on Feb. 2, which was inaugurated by Basudev Acharya, M.P. CPI(M). The main resolution was placed by Saumya Mallik and supported by M.N. Prasad. Samir Ghosh, Secretary, RBEA addressed as the Chief Guest. The speakers included S.K. Dhar, C.M. Singh and others.

Sonepur: The AIREC and State Govt. Employees jointly organised a Convention at Sonepur on February 6, which was attended by about 500 delegates. Inaugurated by C.M. Singh, the convention was addressed by S.K. Dhar, M.N. Prasad, Ganesh Prasad Singh, Jamna Prasad, Ram Shanker Das and Ranjit Ojha. After the convention, an open session was held which was attended by 1000 employees.

Garhara: The AIREC organised a big mass meeting at Garhara on February 7, which was attended by about 1500 employees. The convention was presided over by I.D. Singh and addressed by C.M. Singh and S.K. Dhar.

Samastipur: Two largely attended gate meetings were held on February 8 at the Loco gate and Wagon workshop gate attend by about 1000 railwaymen in total. The meetings were addressed by S.K. Dhar.

Shillong: The State Govt. employees of Meghalaya organised a convention at Shillong on February 1. The convention was attended and addressed by the representatives of various associations and unions of Central, State and Public Sector Undertakings.

Jalandhar: The AIREC organised a massive convention at Jalandhar on February 9 which was participated by more than 5000 representatives of the Central, State and Public Sector organisations. The convention was addressed among others by Nagar Singh, Har Kewal Singh, R.P. Manchanda, Joginder Singh, R.L. Moudgill, Amarjit Singh Sodhi, T.S. Rana, etc. A massive procession was

(Contd. on page 11)



Vandalism by NBCC Management

A case of open collusion by the management of National Building Construction Corporation, a Central Public Sector Undertaking, with a group of hoodlums led by a self-styled leader, has come to limelight. The NBCC Worker's Union (CITU) Calcutta was engaged in a struggle against the management with their various demands which included protest against violation of previous agreements and against irregular appointments by the management. The management created one stooge Pranab Kumar Gosh to counter the union. This stooge was earlier thrown out by the union. Backed by the management he declared himself still continuing as leader of the union, with virtually no membership. The management subsequently submitted counter demands to the NBCC Workers' Union. On February 1 this self-styled leader entered the office of the NBCC Workers' Union at Metro Railway Project with some hooligans and threatened the union leaders with dire consequences if they did not desist from trade union activities. The union however, defied the threats and decided to lodge a protest to the Chief Engineer through a procession and demonstration. On February 7 when the workers were approaching the Chief Engineer's Office at Acharya J.C. Bose Road, this self-styled leader with a large number of hooligans with lethal weapons blocked their way. Several comrades were injured being hit by broken fluorescent tubes. The union leaders however remained unprovoked and determined and ultimately could submit the memorandum to the Chief Engineer being escorted by police officials. The hooligans had to beat retreat, but before that they broke several window panes of the building and damaged one private car.

But then the surprising actions by the management headed by the Chief Engineer came exposing their direct collusion with the hoodlums. They filed a FIR with the police and inflicted cooked up criminal cases on 46 workers. They suspended the General Secretary of the union, Amal Krishna Kundu who was not present that day at all. They locked out the establishment and went further to file a writ petition at Calcutta High Court praying to put a stop to all activities of the union and also to direct the West Bengal Government to activate the police to control "law and order" situation for the protection of the managements. The management's stance was clearly not only to foist its own hooligans' union on the workers and set at naught the trade union rights of the workers and forcing them to submit to its dictates, but also to blackmail the leftfront Government of West Bengal by locking out the establishment and sabotage all the ongoing projects of the NBCC in the state. The union however is carrying forward the struggle in a determined way to frustrate the evil designs of the management. It has submitted a memorandum to the Union Minister of Works and Housing. The

CITU Centre likewise, as well as two Members of the Parliament belonging to the CPI(M), viz, Basudev Acharya, leader of the Lok Sabha group and O.J. Joseph of Rajya Sabha, have also made representations to the Union Minister.

CITU Opposes Increase in Tuition Fees

B.T. Ranadive, President, Centre of Indian Trade Unions has issued the following statement on February 11:

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions is shocked to see a Press report indicating that the Govt. intends to increase the tuition fees by 50 per cent or more in higher studies to cover up the gap of Rs. 1500 crore between the Plan allocation and the Govt. resources. This infamous move to cut down the Govt's. expenses on health and education while increasing the burden on the people is the IMF prescription, which the Govt. of India is going to make a part of its "New Education Policy" would shut out the prospects of the talented but the poor while promote the dull but the rich only on economic considerations.

The CITU opposes the proposed hike in the tuition fees as it would affect the lives of the poor students who would be forced to opt out of higher studies.

The CITU calls upon the entire Working Class, their various trade union organisations and the democratic mass organisations of the Country to raise their powerful voice of protest to make the Govt. to desist from such an undesirable step concerning higher education.

[The SFI also issued an identical statement. But the Govt. issued a statement next day denying any move to increase the tuition fees.]

(Contd. from page 10)

taken out after the convention which raised slogans for communal harmony also.

Dhanbad: The AIREC organised the convention at Dhanbad on February 16, which was inaugurated by K.C. Ray Chowdhury. The speakers included Sirajul Haque, A.K. Roy, G.K. Bakshi, A.K. Saha, Mathura Prasad, B. Bhattacharya, Ramanuj Prasad and Raghu Prasad. About 500 delegates attended the convention.

Similar conventions were held at Purulia and Rourkela on 16th, at Kharagpur on 17th and at Palasa on 23rd of February.

Sukomal Sen, M.P., CPI(M) and General Secretary of the A.I. State Govt. Employees Federation has also drawn the attention of the Prime Minister in a letter on February 11, demanding amendment of the Articles and also gave him the notice of the strike on February 26.

Secretariat Decisions

Against Price rise: The Secretariat of the CITU which met at New Delhi on February 5 under the presidentship of Com. B.T. Ranadive and was attended by Com. Samar Mukherjee, E. Balananda, M.K. Pandhe and Nrisingha Chakrabarty welcomed the decisions of the Left-Front of West Bengal for a 24 hour industrial general strike and bandh on the 11th February in protest against the unjustified price increase administered just before the budget. The Secretariat appealed to all other trade union centres to support the strike call on 11th February so that the working class could come out in a massive protest action against the price-rise which would affect the common men. It called upon all CITU State Committees and Unions to organise and synchronise the protest action on 11th preferably through strike or otherwise by massive protest demonstration.

On DUTA Strike: The meeting condemned the Govt. of India for its refusal to implement the earlier agreement with Delhi University Teachers Association (DUTA) and creating serious impediments in the studies of the students. The Secretariat denounce the policy of going back on agreements and repression on those who fight for the implementation. The Secretariat demanded that the Govt. of India should release those already arrested and start implementation of the earlier agreement forthwith in the interest of the studies of the students and restoring the education process. The Secretariat expressed its solidarity with the struggling teachers of Delhi University.

On Coal Workers Strike: The meeting also heard the report of the enthusiasm that had been created among the coal-miners on the decision of one day's token strike taken jointly by all constituents of the JBCCI and called upon all unions in the Coal industry affiliated to CITU to intensify the campaign in order to ensure success of the strike.

May Day Centenary Celebration: The Secretariat discussed the preparation for holding of May Day this year celebrating the Centenary of the Chicago struggle in 1886 in a befitting manner. It decided to contact other trade union centres having an outlook of proletarian internationalism. It decided to publish a special number of the Working Class and CITU Mazdoor and planned out the articles.

Samar Mukherjee to Visit Dhaka: The Secretariat nominated Samar Mukherjee to attend the Conference of Jatio Shramik Jote (Bangla Desh) to be held at Dhaka on 11th March.

General Council Meeting: The Secretariat decided to hold the General Council meeting at Calcutta from March 31 to April 2, 1986.

Other Meetings: It also decided to hold the

meeting of the Coordination Committee of Public sector unions at Durgapur on March 28 and 29.

The Working Committee meeting of Electricity Employees Federation of India will be held at Calcutta on March 27, 28 and 29.

The Working Committee meeting of All India Road Transport Worker's Federation will also be held at Calcutta on April 3.

The Secretariat also decided that the Conference of the All India Plantation Worker's Federation will be held at Wynad from April 4 to 6. (*At the request of Kerala the dates were changed to April 18 to 20 in the meeting held on February 17.*)

Meeting of February 17

The Secretariat meeting held on February 17 was presided over by Com. B.T. Ranadive and attended by Coms. Samar Mukherjee, Nrisingha Chakrabarty, and P.K. Ganguly.

Meeting with INTUC: The meeting heard the report from Nrisingha Chakrabarty regarding the meeting convened by INTUC on the question of National Integration, Peace and Disarmament and against Apartheid. This meeting was held on February 15 and 17. While Nrisingha Chakrabarty attended the meeting on 15th, the meeting of 17th was attended by both him and P.K. Ganguly. The other Central Trade Unions that attended the meeting on invitation were AITUC, UTUC, TUCC, HMS, BMS and UTUC (LS). The meetings after discussions unanimously adopted three Declarations, viz, on National Integration, on Peace and Disarmament and against Apartheid. (*The declarations have been printed in this issue.*) The meetings also decided to have another meeting on March 22 to decide suitable programmes in pursuance of the Declarations. The Secretariat decided to finalise the suggestions of CITU before that.

Meeting of NCC: The meeting also heard the report of the meeting of the National Campaign Committee which was held on February 17 on the question of one day's general strike and bandh in protest against the recent price hikes. Except HMS all other Central trade unions of the NCC attended the meeting. While CITU's opinion was to have the bandh before the budget which was to be placed on 28th February, all other organisations preferred to have it after the budget in March. However, after discussions, the NCC decided to suggest to the meeting of the opposition parties, scheduled to be held on 18th, that it preferred to have the Bandh in March, but if the opposition parties wanted to have it before the budget, then it should be on 26th February. The meeting also extended support to the strike of the State Govt. employees on February 26.

General Council Meeting: The Secretariat discussed about the subjects to be discussed in the General Council Meeting. It decided that apart from the new economic policy, the situation in coal, steel, jute, sugar, public sectors, the follow up of the textile convention, etc. should be discussed. Similarly, the General Council should also adopt resolutions on the retrograde labour policy of the Government, on the developing struggles of the teachers, etc. The meeting also decided to invite one comrade each from Andaman Nicobar and Himachal Pradesh in the General Council meeting because of the advancing struggles in these two states.

Appeal of AUCCTU: P.K. Ganguly, raised the point about the letter from AUCCTU and its Appeal on the question of the new peace proposal of the Soviet Union. The meeting supported the peace proposals. Com. B.T.R. will send an appropriate reply to the letter. The meeting also decided to place the Appeal in the General Council meeting.

Special Issue of the Working Class, CITU Mazdoor: The question of the Special May Day Centenary Issues of The Working Class and CITU Mazdoor were discussed in detail. It was decided that the Special Issues should be brought by 1st or 2nd of April, but not later than 7th April in any case so that campaign on the Centenary celebration could be organised. The earlier idea of including the General Council reportings was given up. The Special Issues should come out as against the normal April issue and the articles should be given by 7th March so that these could be translated for CITU Mazdoor in time. The titles of the articles were also finalised and the responsibilities taken up.

Minimum Wage Advisory Board: It was reported that R. Umanath had requested again to be relieved from his post in the Principal Board. The meeting decided to nominate P. K. Ganguly in his place.

Issues for the Parliament: The meeting also decided to prepare notes on specific issues for raising in the Parliament.

Meeting of Water Transport Workers Federation

THE Working Committee meeting of Water Transport Worker's Federation of India was held at Delhi on February 9. The meeting assailed the attitude of the Shipping Companies in ignoring the Forward Seamen's Union of India, which is recognised by the Government of India, for invitation to the National Maritime Board for arriving at a negotiated settlement on the issue of revision of wages and other conditions of service of the Indian Seamen. The meeting condemned the role of the

Government of India which remained a silent spectator to such indulgence in unfair labour practices by the shipping companies. The meeting adopted a resolution urging upon the Government to intervene in the matter and compel the shipping companies to invite the FSUI for negotiations. It also appealed to all Indian Seamen to unitedly fight the recalcitrant attitude of the shipping companies.

In another resolution the meeting greeted the workers of Paradip Port for their heroic 35 days struggle against the move taken by the authorities to dismiss 3900 cargo handling and clearing and forwarding workers by introduction of Pay-Loaders and Bulldozers for handling cargo. The meeting appealed to all Port and Dock workers and the Indian seamen to build up an united struggle against the Government of India's policy of mechanisation, containerisation, computerisation, etc. without paying any heed to the mounting unemployment problem of the country.

It also appealed to the working class in general for waging an unremitting struggle against the serious attack being unleashed against the working class through random modernisation.

The Working Committee also decided to hold the Third Conference of the Federation from March 8-10 at Haldia, West Bengal.

General Council Meeting

The General Council meeting of CITU will be held at 53, Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, Calcutta from March 31 to April, 2, 1986. The meeting will start at 10 AM on March 31. All comrades must inform the General Secretary, West Bengal State Committee of CITU at the above address the date and train of their arrival at Calcutta, and for their return journey reservations with remittance.

Working Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Working Committee of CITU will be held at the above address on March 31 at 9.30 AM sharp.

AROUND THE STATES

KARNATAKA

State Council Meeting

The Karnataka State Council of CITU met at Kundapura on February 9 and 10 under the Presidency of Suryanarayana Rao. The meeting was attended by 65 members. After a condolence resolution on Com. Ramdas, C. Nanjundappa placed the General Secretary's report. 27 members participated in discussions on the report. The meeting adopted a bye-law under the Constitution which prescribed payment of one rupee per member to the State Committee each year on the basis of membership shown in the Annual returns, the rate being 50 paise per member in respect of unions whose members' monthly earnings were below Rs. 500/- a month. The meeting nominated M.B. Katti as Convenor of the Co-ordination Committee of CITU in Chitradurga, Dharwar, Uttara Kannada and Bijapur. It also nominated Narayan Rao Bhaun as Convenor of Bangalore D.C. of CITU. The meeting dropped three members, viz. Poornima from Mangalore Beedi Worker's Union, Ankanna Reddy from ITC Worker's Union, Bangalore and T.R. Radhakrishna of Coorg District General Workers Union, Virajpet for inactivity. The meeting coopted Aanda Rao, A. Jayaram and L. Range Gowda from Harihar Polyfibres Construction Worker's Union, Bharat Goldmines Employees Union and the Bhadravati Unit of Steel Worker's Federation of India respectively, as members of the State Council.

The meeting adopted resolutions on struggle for peace, price rise, in support of State Govt. Employees Strike on February 26, equal wages for equal work, closures and lockouts, minimum wages and on various local issues. The meeting decided to hold the Dakshin Kannada and Bangalore District Conferences by June 30. The meeting took the following programmes:

- Statewide agitation against the recent price hikes on February 19;
- Vidhan Soudha Chalo on March 3 with the demand for minimum wages;
- to observe May Day Centenary Celebrations all over the State for the whole month of May in addition to the All India programme. For this a Centenary Committee will be formed to organise seminars and symposia and 500 copies of pamphlets will be published. The CITU flag will be hoisted on each member's house and union offices from May 1 to 31.
- Subscribers for CITU Sandesha will be enrolled.
- Contribution of one day's wages from each worker towards drought relief fund.

In the evening of February 10 a huge colourful procession was taken out which marched through the streets, a distance of 10 Km. from Koteshwara and culminated in a rally at Nehru Maidan. The

rally was presided over by P. Ramachandra Rao and addressed among others by Suryanarayana Rao, Nanjundappa and V.J.K. Nair.

MAHARASHTRA

Demonstrations by Peasants, Agricultural Workers

On January 24, the Maharashtra Kishan Sabha and Agricultural Worker's Union organised a joint demonstration throughout the State on the issue of drought which is stalking large parts of the State for three years in a row. 16,000 villages in the State are without even drinking water. A mere 12 per cent of the total cultivable area in the State are under irrigation. From that too the lion's share is cornered by the sugar barons. There is no assistance from the Central Government. The State Government instead of expanding the Employment Guarantee Scheme to provide work to the drought stricken, has actually whittled down the outlay on it for the current year. In this background the call given by the two organisations were responded magnificently. The organisations mobilised thousands of Kishan and agricultural workers in the districts of Nasik, Amravati, Wardha, Parbhani, Dhule, Thane, Jalgaon, Kolhapur and other places. The CITU, SFI and DYFI also helped in mobilisation of workers in the districts. CPI(M) leaders like Narunda Malusore, Jiva Pandu Goit, Ramchandra Ghangare, Vithalrao Naik, Udyan Sharma, Gangadhar Appa Burande, Kumar Shiralkar and others addressed the rallies at different places.

Demonstration at Vidhan Sabha

The CITU organised a big morcha at the Nagpur Vidhan Sabha on January 15 during the State Assembly's current session. The morcha was organised against the Government of India's new economic policy, and the policy on textiles, education, computerisation against price rise, closures, lockouts and retrenchments, etc. The morcha was joined by large number of SFI, DYFI, women cadres and peasants and agricultural workers. It raised demands of the peasants and agricultural workers also. The morcha started from Gandhi Bagh and was culminated in a rally at Kastur Chand Putle where it was blocked by the police. The rally was addressed among others by B.P. Kashyap, Vin Rao Khobragade, V.P. Asai, Amrit Mishram, Madan Bhagat. A delegation led by B.P. Kashyap and Lahanu Kom met the Chief Minister and submitted a memorandum containing the 27 point demands.

TAMILNADU

March to Madras against Closures, Lockouts

Various sections of workers in the State are on struggle against closures and lockouts of factories. In Mettur, a complete bundh was observed on January 10 demanding immediate opening of Mettur

Textile Mills where 2,500 workers are out of employment for the last six months due to lockout. Similarly in Alexandar Threads over 300 workers are affected due to closure of the concern for the last two years. The bandh was the culmination of a series of other action programmes. The Joint Action Committee of Textile workers in the State consisting of the Central Trade Unions and some other trade unions have decided to organise a March to Madras from Coimbatore demanding reopening of all closed and locked out mills. The March to Madras will start on February 26 and start picketing the State Secretariat there.

On January 23, our 3000 workers including large number of women and family members marched to the State Secretariat at Madras protesting against the notice of closure of Binny Engineering which employs more than 1000 workers. The march was led by V.P. Chintan and S. Chandrasekhar. Eight units of the State owned Small Industrial Corporation have been closed down affecting more than 1000 workers.

At Pondicherry, although the Government has taken over the Anglo-French Textiles, yet the 7000 workers are still uncertain about their future, since the take over ordinance is on the same line as in Gujarat. The clauses of the ordinance say that the workers cannot have the right to employment. Only those would be taken whom the management deem fit and their service conditions would be changed. The State CITU has called upon the workers to continue their struggle which has been going on since the last three years.

Textile Workers Serve Strike Notice

Led by the Joint Action Committee, the textile workers of Tamilnadu are again on the path of struggle and have served strike notice from February 19. After a Statewide strike in July 1985 for wage increase, the State Government invoked Section 10 B of the ID Act and referred the matter to the Tribunal and had ordered to pay an interim relief of 75 per cent a month for six months. But while the dispute is still continuing in the tribunal, six months have elapsed. Led by the NTC management, the other mills have discontinued the payment. In this background the JAC served the strike notice demanding continuation of the payment.

Worker's Contribution to Kishan Fund

The State Committee has donated Rs. 40,000/- to the State Kishan Sabha for expansion of its activities among the rural masses. This fund which is being collected each year since 1984 from each member of CITU at the rate of one rupee per member was handed over to N. Shankaryya, Vice-President of the State Kishan Sabha by A.K. Padmanabhan, Assistant General Secretary of the State CITU at Madurai on January 19, the Martyr's Day in Tamilnadu, being observed since the all India strike on January 19, 1982 when three agricultural workers were killed in police firing at Thirumeirgam in Tanjore district. This day was observed all over the State by paying homage to the martyrs.

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR

Successful Struggle of Forest Workers

Organised under the Andaman & Nicobar Govt. Employees and Worker's Federation, the forest workers of Baratang resorted to strike actions and a 12-day continuous hunger-strike in January, and ultimately compelled the government to come down and make a settlement on January 10. In a settlement arrived at between the Federation leaders and the Chief Secretary in presence of the Chief Conservator of Forests, it was agreed that all transfers of those whose children were studying at Baratang would be held in abeyance. Actually only one worker could not get the benefit of the settlement as he had no school going child. The strike however had to continue till 17th, as the Divisional Forest Officer and the Forest Ranger did not implement the agreement till then. The strike got support from all sections of workers and the people. The CPI (M) MPs, namely Basudev Acharya, Hannam Mollah and Saifuddin Chowdhry made several representations to the Government and also addressed the workers at Baratang.

ORISSA

Seminar on Drug Policy

A seminar on 'Drug Policy is an Instrument of Health Care System' was organised by the Orissa Sales Representatives Union at Cuttack on January 10. M.K. Ghosh, Vice-president of the organisation presided over the Seminar. J.S. Majumdar, General Secretary of the Federation of Medical and Sales Representatives Associations of India assailed the proposed new drug policy by the Steering Committee appointed by the National Drugs and Pharmaceutical Development Council, which would help only in reaping enormous profit by the drug cartels at the cost of the suffering Indian population. He explained in his deliberation an alternate drug policy being proposed by FMRAI and called for opposing the new drug policy which the Government is likely to adopt shortly. The seminar adopted a resolution to this effect demanding of the government to accept the Hathi Committee's recommendation to nationalise the multinational drug companies, to reduce the drug prices and take steps to increase the production of essential drugs and weed out the irrational and hazardous drugs. Eminent persons from different walks of life like Dr. B.B. Tripathy; Ranjit Mohanty, Bar-at-Law; Dr. R.N. Rath; A.B. Patnaik, Chemist; Janardan Pati, the CITU leader and others spoke in the Seminar.

UTTAR PRADESH

Struggle of Govt. Employees

Eighty thousand employees of the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh at Kanpur launched an indefinite strike from January 16 demanding "A" class city

allowance, as Kanpur was declared an "A" class city. All sections of the working people, the State Campaign Committee and the opposition parties supported the strike. Massive processions and rallies were held almost every day with large participation of activists from CPI(M), CITU, Democratic Mahila Samity, SFI and various other organisations. The UP Government, instead of acceding to the justified demand, let loose a reign of repression on its employees. Hundreds of them were arrested, including a large number of women, and dismissed from services and thousands were served with notice of break in service. The employees were brutally lathi charged and tortured in jail. Angered by the ruthless repression by the Government, the people, the trade unions and the opposition parties gave a call for Kanpur Bandh on February 11 which met with unprecedented success paralysing the normal life of the city. The CITU issued a statement condemning the brutal repression and demanded of the Government to settle the dispute forthwith. Sukomal Sen, M.P. and General Secretary of the All India Government Employees Federation visited Kanpur on February 10. He addressed the employees in the jail. He also addressed a large gathering of the striking employees who had assembled despite rains. On 11th, the bandh day, as well as on the previous other days huge processions were taken out by the employees defying Section 144 which was imposed by the Government to intimidate the people. On 11th, groups of CITU, SFI and DYFI activists and from various political parties held a number of street corner meetings and gate meetings at various factory gates. In the afternoon, a rally of about one lakh people was held at Naveen market, which was presided over by Arvind Kumar, the CITU leader. Among those who addressed the rally were Daulat Ram, Ravi Sinha (CPI-M), Shyam Mishra (Lok Dal) and Jamuna Prasad Dixit (INTUC). The employees held out resolutely to carry forward the struggle still their demands were met.

DELHI

Struggle against closure

The employees of EPIL, a public sector undertaking in the field of construction, are on the path of struggle. It is understood that the Govt's decision to wind up this undertaking has created resentment among the employees.

On February 14, the employees marched en masse to Nirman Bhawan and presented a memorandum to N. D. Tiwari, Minister of Industry. It was pointed out by the Union that for seven years, no qualified Managing Director was posted. All those who came in the meanwhile had not only mismanaged the contracts but also had opened flood gates of corruption. The talent and expertise could still be harnessed and utilised.

Nrasingha Chakrabarty Secretary CITU addressing the workers said that the Govt. has already decided on a policy of closing down all public sector companies incurring losses. They want to hand over these companies to private ownership or to such

other public sector companies who were earning profit by depriving the workers their due wages and by exploiting the contract labour. Besides as the workers of EPIL were drawing the Central Govt D.A. rates and the plan to force Industrial D. A. on them was resisted, the Govt has decided to wind up this company and divert the work, to IRCON, NBCC, NPCC, etc. On behalf of CITU he pledged support to their struggle.

It is understood that Shri Tiwari has proposed absorption of these workers in these undertakings.

Parliament Member Condemns Repression on Kishans

B. N. REDDY CPI(M) Member of Lok Sabha has issued the following statement to the Press on February 24 after visiting Sikar District in Rajasthan:

I visited Sikar, in Rajasthan on 22nd February in connection with big kisan agitation which is going on in the State. For the past few months thousands of kishans have been involved in a mass struggle against the steep rise in the power-rates and for relief measures due to drought and famine. The kishans decided to court arrest from 11 February, 1986. The Govt. has unleashed severe repression against the movement. More than thirty thousand peasants have been arrested so far all over Rajasthan.

I visited Sikar jail and met hundreds of peasants including Shri Trilok Singh, Secretariat member of CPI(M) and former MLA, lodged there. They are being kept in terrible conditions and no proper food is being supplied to them. As the jail is overcrowded, many have been kept in dharamsalas converted into jails, where no food has been served to them. I learnt in Sikar that there has been a lathi-charge on satyagrahis in Ajmer jail and many were injured.

The repression let loose has already resulted in the death of Baluram in police firing in Jhunjhunu and one has died in Sikar jail due to food poisoning.

I condemn this inhuman policy of repression of the Rajasthan State Govt. It is immediately necessary that Govt. accede the genuine demands of the peasantry by rescinding the price hike in electricity rates and ensure proper supply to them. Almost entire State is affected by drought and famine conditions prevailing in many areas. Work has to be provided to all able-bodied men and women and fodder for cattle and water supply be provided on a war footing.

I appeal to all democratic minded forces to protest against this callous policy of the Rajasthan Govt. and force it to change its current retrograde policy.

AIDWA Takes Struggle Programmes

THE Central Executive Committee of the All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) met in Bombay on February 8-9 under the Presidentship of Laxmi Sehgal and gave a clarion call for observing February 20 as a protest day against the price-hike on petroleum products, rice and wheat, that was recently announced by the Central Government, by organising joint and independent meetings, demonstrations, dharnas and picketings all over India. A massive women's demonstration will be held before Parliament on that day.

Apart from this, the CEC took three other major decisions. It gave an All-India call for observing March 8 (International Womens' Day) as a day for Peace, National Integration and Womens' Rights. 1986 being designated by the UN as the International year of Peace, the CEC welcomed Soviet leader Gorbachov's proposals for complete elimination of all nuclear weapons in three stages to be achieved by the turn of the century. On the other hand, the meeting condemned the "Star Wars" programme of the US atomic war maniacs, who have moreover earmarked 1800 billion dollars for military spending over the next five years.

Another important decision was to vigorously intensify the all India agitation, propaganda and signature campaign demanding of the Central Government not to buckle under the demand of Muslim fundamentalists to amend Section 125 of the Cr. P.C. The meeting resolved to unequivocally struggle for common rights for all women irrespective of religion or caste, and condemned the reactionary manoeuvres of both Muslim fundamentalists and Hindu communalists against women's equality.

The CEC decided to hold the next All-India Conference of the AIDWA in Kerala in the month of September 1986, and to begin preparations for the same.

In the General Secretary's report, Susheela Gopalan comprehensively outlined the international and national political situation with special reference to its impact on women. The Work Report from states gave an account of the many-sided activities of the organisation, including the various struggles and campaigns in West Bengal, Kerala, Tirpura, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, UP, Bihar, Delhi, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Punjab and Assam.

Public Meetings

On February 10, a large public meeting was held at the Vanmali Hall, Bombay to welcome the All India leaders of the AIDWA. The hall was not only packed but was overflowing with women from various parts of the city. Hundreds of women came in processions under the banner of the Saramik Mahila Sangh, several of them coming

with their little children. There were women from all walks of life — working women in factories and offices, zopadpatti dwellers, contract labour grasscutters, housewives and also women teachers, professors and girl students. They belonged to every caste, religion and language, and included a significant section of Muslim women. Shramik Mahila Sangh activists from Bombay and held several meetings in various parts of the city for two weeks to mobilise for the mass meeting, and among the areas represented were, Wadala, Dharavi, Mahim, Azad Nagar, Sion, Worli, Bhandup, Chembur and many others.

Tara Valanju proposed the vote of thanks. All the speakers, while conveying the decisions of the CEC meeting in the context of the political situation, lashed out at the anti-women policies of the Central Government and dealt with a whole range of issues affecting women, like price-rise, atrocities, dowry and bride-burning, the Shah Bano case and the right to maintenance of Muslim divorced women, education and employment, and also the larger issues of war and peace and national integration. They called for a powerful women's movement to effectively deal with all the above issues, and outlined the sterling work that the 15-lakh strong AIDWA had carried out in various states. At the end of the meeting, a powerful street play in Maratai called "Mulgi Zaali Ho" (A Girl is Born) depicting the discrimination against women at every step, was staged by the Stree Mukti Sanghatana.

Taking advantages of the presence of AIDWA leaders in the city, several other mass meetings were also held in various places on the 10th and 11th February. A large mass meeting at Dharavi was addressed by Susheela Gopalan, Papa Umanath, Laxmi Sehgal and Ahilya Rangnekar on the 10th night. Another meeting on the 11th at Dadar on the Current Political Situation was addressed by Susheela Gopalan, Sarojini Balanandan, T. Devi and Ahilya Rangnekar, while Maharashtra CITU Secretary P.R. Krishnan presided and U.K. Nair made the introductory remarks. Yet another meeting in the Telugu speaking area of Bhoiwada was addressed by the veteran Telangana fighter M. Swarajyam. A Seminar was also held at the Kurla Behrudagar area where Susheela Gopalan was the main speaker.

Late News from Delhi

Led by Janawadi Mahila Samity, over 700 women defied section 144 near Patel Chowk, Delhi on February 20 and courted arrest. The arrested included Kanak Mukherjee, M.P., Ila Bhattacharya, M.P., Vimal Ranadive — all Vice-Presidents of AIDWA and Indu Agnihotri and Brinda Karat, the President and General Secretary of the Janwadi Mahila Samity respectively.

CITU Denounces Shooting Down Drought Stricken People of Rajasthan

B.T. RANADIVE, President, Centre of Indian Trade Unions has issued the following statement on February 13:

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions denounces the shooting down of the drought stricken people of Rajasthan who have been protesting against price rise which has seriously affected their lives. According to reports, the Rajasthan Government and the Police have taken the policy of teaching a lesson to the opposition who had started movement. It is not in Jhunjhunu alone, even in Sikar where about 4000 people courted arrest on Feb. 11, last under the leadership of Shri Trilok Singh an ex-MLA of CPI(M) and a Veteran Kisan leader, the arrested persons were not given any water, food or rugs and kept huddled like flock of sheep. In Sikar, due to intervention some make shift arrangement was made after 1.00 A.M. in the night, while in Jhunjhunu nothing was done and Smt. Sumitra Singh and other ladies who went to protest were abused in filthy language. The protesting people were mercilessly shot down by a retaliatory vindictive police force killing one, seriously injuring about 6 and wounding more than thirty people.

The CITU warmly greets the people of Jhunjhunu who have unitedly observed a bandh on 12th February '86 demanding a judicial enquiry into the entire episode of denial of even water to the prisoners and excessive brutality of Rajasthan Police including shooting down and killing people fighting for their just demands. The people naturally are continuing the movement.

The CITU calls upon the entire Working Class of the country to express their solidarity with the struggling people of Rajasthan.

Demand for Take over of Titagarh Paper Mill

A delegation of four members from the CITU led Bengal Kagajkal Mazdoor Union operating at Titagarh paper Mills No. 1 and No. 2 units. West Bengal met N.D. Tiwari, Union Industry Minister on January 20 and V.P. Singh, Union Finance Minister on January 21 led by Dipen Ghosh, M.P., leader of CPI(M) in Rajya Sabha. The delegation apprised the Ministers about the present affairs of the company through a memorandum signed by Sitaram Gupta, M.L.A. from No. 2 and Achintya Mukherjee from No. 1 unit demanding take over of the management in the national interest and also for

the livelihood of 8000 workmen who are under threat of closure at No. 2 unit and also under lock-out at No. 1 unit. Both the Ministers assured the delegation that they will look into the matter.

The delegation also submitted a joint memorandum signed by Lal Bahadur Singh (INTUC) and Achintya Mukherjee (CITU) regarding the present financial and administrative crisis prevailing in the Weigh Bird (India) Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of M/s. Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd. a Government of India undertaking. The Minister assured them that corrective steps would be taken in time.

OBSERVE MAY DAY THIS YEAR TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF CHICAGO HAY-MARKET MASSACRE OF WORKERS

Office Bearers of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) and Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) who met in New Delhi on February 15, 1986 have issued the following Communique:—

May Day this year marks the centenary of the massacre by the capitalist Govt. of US of workers at the Hay Market Square, Chicago and execution of their leaders, for the crime of demanding an 8-hour working day. Later, this day came to be observed all over the world as May Day signifying the international solidarity of the working class in the struggle against imperialism and capitalism, for socialism and peace.

In order to observe this historic occasion in a befitting manner and on a grand scale as called for also by the World Federation of Trade Unions, the leaderships of the AITUC & CITU met and resolved to hold joint celebrations throughout the country. Details of the programmes will be announced shortly.

The meeting was attended by Comrades Chaturanan Mishra, M.P., Indrajit Gupta, M.P., T.N. Siddhanta, Parvati Krishnan (AITUC) and Samar Mukherjee, Nrisingha Chakrabarty and P.K. Ganguly (CITU).

Declaration by Central Trade Unions

MEEETING for the first time, of its kind, all the Central Trade Unions, viz. INTUC, CITU, AITUC, HMS, BMS, UTUC, TUCC and UTUC (LS) unanimously adopted three Declarations on some specific problems in the national and international situation, that is, on National Integration and the Working Class, on Peace and Disarmament and against Apartheid. The meeting was held at the INTUC office in two sessions on February 15, and 17. The CITU was represented by Nrisingha Chakrabarty and P.K. Ganguly, both Secretaries. It was also decided that these National Centres of Trade Unions would meet again on March 22 to decide upon a plan of actions in furtherance of the pronouncements in the Declarations. The following are the Declarations adopted.

National Integration and Working Class

WHEREAS progress in any direction and achievements of any scale lose much of their impact in the absence of a sense of oneness in the country and its people;

WHEREAS it is regrettable that divergent and divisive forces such as communalism, casteism and regional chauvinism, aided and abetted by internal reactionaries and external agencies have made damaging inroads into our national unity;

WHEREAS these inroads find expression in such intensity and in such diverse form that in the result organisations and mass movements are paying a heavy toll; and

WHEREAS arising out of a very close knit relationship of common interests and common threats working people constitute a significant section of the population who are ideally placed to combat all pernicious divisive forces;

This meeting of the national centres of trade unions of India having met in Delhi on 15th and 17th February, 1986 declares that:

— Working people and their organisations hold the view that for containing and combating divisive forces of every denomination they submerge all such differences as may persist within their ranks and join hands in building up one solid mass of opinion in creating a favourable climate for the strengthening of the forces of national integration;

— Such actions will aim at isolating all such divisive forces from the mainstream of national consciousness;

— Trade unions will refuse to have any contact with such forces as would directly or indirectly encourage communalism, casteism and regional chauvinism;

— A programme for a sustained movement to that end will be worked out and will be implemented from joint platforms and in joint actions.

Declaration on Peace and Disarmament

WHEREAS like freedom peace is a birthright of every human person;

WHEREAS both freedom and peace can only be meaningful when hunger and poverty do not stalk the lives of millions;

WHEREAS in a world scarce of resources—almost all available means and resources for the elimination of poverty and hunger—are being utilised to feed the war machines of nations arraigned against each other thus perpetuating the denial of dignity of man which is a major concern of the trade unions;

WHEREAS the militarisation of outer space today poses the most ominous threat to mankind and gets accentuated every single day;

WHEREAS peace in the Indian subcontinent is threatened by the arming of Pakistan by U.S.A. and American bases in the Indian ocean;

WHEREAS workers have a definitive role in bringing about an end to the armament race as a first positive step towards enduring peace;

This meeting of the national centres of trade unions in India, having met on 15th and 17th February, 1986 calls upon all governments in the world to unequivocally renounce the path of war and violence and to evolve an effective code of conduct for the peaceful resolution of differences between States and declares that:

— Workers are totally opposed to nuclear weapons;

— Workers the world over should demand the restructuring of the world economic system so that economies would no longer be dependent on the creation and sustenance of a war psychosis;

--Workers everywhere should consider the preservation of world peace as its immediate priority.

This meeting further declares that:

--The commitment of the Indian working class to peace and Disarmament is and will continue to be total;

--From this commitment Indian workers extend their support to governments whose policies have been pronouncedly anti-war and pro-peace and express their rejection of any or every move which could lead to an aggravation of tension in international relations;

--Indian workers support the six nations' Peace appeal to make world free of nuclear weapons by the end of this century;

--Indian workers will support peace movements everywhere and will participate in movements designed and conducted by workers;

--Peace and disarmament Day will be observed by holding rallies and demonstrations, either jointly or separately in support of World Peace and Disarmament, and highlighting the imperative need for the preservation of Peace for the elimination of poverty and hunger.

Declaration on Apartheid

WHEREAS denial and defilement of human rights anywhere is a threat to freedom and independence everywhere;

WHEREAS this despicable phenomenon is now pronounced in its most savage form under the racist regime in South Africa;

WHEREAS professing their faith in freedom and human dignity certain governments, in open defiance of world opinion, continue to extend political, economic and military support to the racist regime thus helping it to survive; and

WHEREAS the organised working class should, as it always has, form the vanguard of the struggle to resist all such abhorrent practices and all attempts to support them.

This meeting of the national centres of trade unions in India having met on 15 and 17 February 1986 declares that:

--Indian working class considers the relentless struggle waged by the South African liberation movement as its own struggle and would, in every possible manner, strengthen the South African

Congress of Trade Unions and the African National Congress in their determination to wipe out apartheid;

--For the release of all those freedom fighters, who together with the legendary Nelson Mandela, are languishing in racist prisons, Indian workers would actively participate in all international actions that the fraternity of world working class would mount;

--The struggle for the independence of Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO would be supported by all means at the disposal of the Indian masses;

--While Indian workers would soon observe a National Anti-apartheid Day, their representative organisations would urge the world working class community to make a day as world anti-apartheid day;

--The observance of National Anti-apartheid Day would be a signal of the total commitment of the Indian working class in supporting, strengthening and participating on a continuous basis the struggle for the earliest elimination of the racist regime.

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I, M.K. Pandhe, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sd/-

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(Contd. from page 4)

the employment opportunities. Ramnik Gupta and Nand Kishore Sinha addressed the rallies. A memorandum was handed over to the management. Demonstrations were also held and memoranda submitted at Ara, Kuzeu and Tapin collieries and also at Jharkhand collieries on February 6. In the Singrauli area (M.P.) a big demonstration was held on February 5 at Jayant project and on February 7 at Anlauri project. H.L. Dwivedi addressed the rallies and submitted the memoranda to the managements accompanied by Chhotelal Sahu, Srimohan Chouhan, Jagdish Mahto, Laxmi Naryan Singh and Ram Pyare. On February 8 a big rally was arranged at Bina in U.P. to be addressed by Ramnika Gupta and Rajkishore, M.L.A. of U.P. But the Government imposed section 144 and refused to give permission for the rally. The unity achieved through all these movements created a remarkable enthusiasm among the coal workers for the success the struggle ahead.

Meeting of Coal Advisory Council

A meeting of the Coal Advisory Council was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on February 18 under the Chairmanship of Vasant Sathe, the Union Energy Minister.

The meeting was attended by the representatives from CITU, AITUC, INTUC, HMS and BMS, as well as the CMDs of CIL, ECL, BCCL, WCL, etc. and others. At the outset, Vasant Sathe expressed dissatisfaction at the poor performance of the coal industry. He said that after nationalisation despite spending of the Rs 5000/- crores by the Government the production of coal increased from 73 million tons to 147 million tons only, whereas in China where the production was less than that of India before its independence, now it has reached 800 million tons. He attributed the loss in coal industry to the huge surplus labour.

All the representatives of labour criticised the statement of the Minister and assailed the policy of the Government towards labour. Kanti Mehta of INTUC referred to the various problems faced by labour. He pointed to the lack of safety measures and lack of planning and various facilities. Even drinking water was not available. S.K. Sanyal reiterated that there was no surplus labour in coal industry and pointed to the non-implementation of the NCWA-III. Repeating the charge, Jayanta Podder of HMS said that 90 per cent of the welfare measures as agreed upon in NCWA-III had not been implemented. Damodar Pandey of INTUC referred to the question of illegal minings. S.K. Bakshi of CITU pointed out that in four years nearly 9000 piece rated workers were dismissed or retired which had severely affected production. He also assailed the Govt. and the managements for acquiring the lands of the villagers for mining without rehabilitating them or giving them any

employment. He further criticised the policy of mechanisation of the Government which had failed. He pointed to the operation of the mafia gangs by the contractors and the managements which had aggravated tension in the coal belts and demanded an all round reversal of the policies of the Government.

(Contd. from page 3)

All India Bandh on February 26. Since W. Bengal, Tripura and Delhi have already observed bandh on the issue there will be other solidarity actions in these states in support of the bandh. The CPI(M), the CITU and the mass organisations of women, students, youth, Kishan and agricultural workers are at the forefront for the preparation of the bandh which will sound the warning bell to the government.

Request for May Day Posters from Yugoslavia

The Chairman of the Municipal Trade Union Council of Yugoslavia has requested CITU for May Day Posters for an exhibition under the name of "PRVOMAJSKI PLAKATI" that is "1st May Posters."

All State Committees and unions are requested to send such posters which they may print, to the following address:

OPCINSKO VIJECE SAVEZA SINDIKATA
HRVATSKE—SPLIT, MARMONTOVA
1/11 SPLIT, YUGOSLAVIA

CITU Publication

"GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR
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Calcutta-700 073

E. Balanandan to Rome

Nominated by the CITU Secretariat, Com. E. Balanandan, Treasurer, CITU will leave for Rome on February 27 to attend the Conference of CGIL, Italy to be held from February 28 to March 4.

APPEAL OF AUCCTU

to the Working People and Trade Unions of the World

Com. S.A. Skalayev, the President of the All Union Central Council of Trade Unions, Soviet Union sent an Appeal published by the AUCCTU with a forwarding letter to Com. B.T. Ranadive, President of CITU, on the statement given by M.S. Gorbachev, the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on January 15, 1986, in which the Soviet Union put forward a new proposal for the complete elimination of nuclear and chemical weapons and any other threat of annihilation facing mankind, in three stages before the year 2000. He appealed for active support to the programme. We are publishing Com. BTR's reply and the Appeal of AUCCTU hereunder:

Com. BTR's Reply

Com. S.A. Shalayev 21st Feb. 1986.
President,
All Union Central Council of Trade Unions,
42-Leninisky Prospect,
Moscow 117 119 USSR.

Dear Comrade,

I thank you for your valuable letter, along with the CPSU General Secretary M.S. Gorbachov's statement and the appeal of the AUCCTU.

The CITU applauds M.S. Gorbachov's statement as an outstanding contribution to world peace and lends its full support to the proposals contained in it.

The CITU warmly welcomes the appeal of the AUCCTU to all Trade Unions and supports the call for elimination of all nuclear weapons by the end of the century. The AUCCTU's appeal will be placed before the next meeting of our General Council which meets at the end of March and appropriate steps will be taken to popularise the peace proposals of the Soviet Union. The appeal will also be published in the CITU journal, "The Working Class". Every effort will be made to unite all Trade Unions to fight the menacing danger of a nuclear war.

With fraternal Greetings,

Yours Comradely,
B.T. Ranadive
President

Appeal of AUCCTU

General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee M.S. Gorbachev made a Statement advancing a programme of the complete and worldwide elimination of nuclear arms before the year 2000 and laying down other major peace actions. The new foreign policy initiatives of the Soviet

Union are of unprecedented scope and importance. They cover the whole complex of problems relating to the cessation of the arms race, given the most effective measures of control over the implementation of all the agreements and accords. Mankind is offered a clear, coherent and thoroughly thought-out programme of concrete actions whose realization would allow the 20th century to be completed by marking it with peace and disarmament.

The Soviet proposals are of flexible, constructive and balanced character. They provide a good opportunity for accelerating the negotiations on nuclear and space weapons so as to enable the realization of the accords reached at the Soviet-US summit in Geneva.

Unanimously supporting and approving of these peace initiatives the working people of this country are intensifying their efforts aimed at fulfilling the projected plans for the acceleration of the country's social and economic development, making ever more significant contribution to the cause of safeguarding and consolidating peace.

The Soviet initiatives meet the vital interests and aspirations of the progressive and democratic forces on the globe, the demands of working people in all the countries. Curbing the arms race and switching over to nuclear disarmament would release huge resources which might be channelled successfully along the lines of raising workers' living standards, doing away with unemployment, improving the conditions of work and labour remuneration, developing social security, medical service and protecting natural and working environment. The new Soviet proposals addressed to the entire world are also necessary prerequisites for resolving such pressing issues as economic backwardness, hunger, diseases, increasing foreign debts strangling more and more relentlessly in their loop dozens of developing countries and entire continents.

It is only through concerted efforts that the edifice of a lasting peace can be erected. Further developments depend to a considerable extent on how much united the battle-front will be in fighting against the danger of war. Extensive opportunities for working people to take joint actions in defence of peace are offered by the campaign "Trade Unions and Working People for Peace and Jobs" launched at the initiative of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

On behalf of 137 million Soviet trade union members the AUCCTU appeals to the working people of all countries, to all trade union organizations to give their all-round support to the Soviet Unions' large scale programme for the complete
(Contd. on page 23)

International Struggles

United States

The Organisation of the San Francisco Longshoremen recently celebrated the anniversary of maintaining a weekly picket line before the offices of the West Coast US Shipowner's organisation in protest against the import of South African Cargo. The refusal of the San Francisco Longshoremen to unload apartheid cargo, which however was later enforced by the US Courts, sparked intensification of the anti-apartheid struggle in U.S.A. The Committee for International Support of Trade Union Rights (CISTUR), whose main base is some fifty North Californian local unions, has announced another advance in the growing fight within the United States against the support for apartheid by the U.S. Government and the U.S. based Transnational Corporations which are keeping up the inhuman system of repression in spite of worldwide condemnation. The unions affiliated to the CISTUR had pressed for adoption of the boycott at the national convention of AFL-CIO last October. In a press conference the CISTUR announced that thirteen major retail sales companies with total annual sales of 122,000 million dollars, headed by the giant Sears Roebuck Corporation were compelled to state

(from page 22)

elimination of nuclear arms throughout the world before the end of this century.

We call on the working people and trade unions of the world to press for the other powers, primarily, the USA joining in prolonged Soviet unilateral moratorium on any nuclear explosions; to fight for banning completely the development and production of new types of weapons of mass annihilation including space strike systems; to demand a complete destruction of chemical weapons; to help in every possible way to ensure that the process started by the Soviet-US summit in Geneva will result in the realization of the principled accords arrived at during that meeting, and in concrete agreements to be adopted on the issue of halting the arms race and promoting mutual trust.

We are sure that the trade unions must put aside all differences and reject all that divides them when it comes to the struggle for safeguarding peace, against the threat of a new war. In this we must be united just as in matters relating to the common vital interests of those whom the trade unions are called upon to protect. The Soviet trade unions adhere exactly to these viewpoints.

Any delay is intolerable! In order to enter the third millennium without the weapons of mass annihilation it is necessary to act today! May 1986 designated by the UNO as an International Year of Peace become a turning point in resolving the most pressing issue of our times that of preventing a nuclear holocaust!

in writing their agreement with the CISTUR that they would not buy or sell apartheid goods. Presiding over the press conference, the Executive Secretary of the powerful California Federation of Labour, organisation of the AFL-CIO, announced that the Federation Executive Council had unanimously decided to sponsor the boycotting and henceforth the campaign would be an integral part of the Federation's action programme.

Canada

Organised under the Union of Bank Employees, the employees of Commerce Bank at its VISA centre and central mail room, Ontario are on strike since the last six months demanding better wages and working conditions. All the employees of the bank throughout Ontario, as well as the Canadian Labour Congress and the United Auto Workers Union of Canada extended full support to the strike. The United Auto Worker's Union contributed a loan of one lakh dollars, free from interest, to the Canadian Labour Congress to boost the strike fund of the striking bank employees.

Great Britain

A new crisis concerning British Leyland has loomed before the Thatcher Government with the Department of Trade and Industry admitting that it had received a second proposal for the division of the British Leyland group. The new proposal came from Sweden's Volvo, who are interested in taking over British Leyland's truck manufacturing division. Volvo have proposed that British Leyland, which is government owned and is in the red, should sell their truck making division to a third U.K. based company owned and managed by Volvo. The crisis ridden economy in Great Britain has hit the motor industry at its root. While already more than 500 job cuts have been announced in British Leyland's bus and lorry subsidiaries due to its "hob-nobbing" with the General Motors, as due to one of the terms for its being acquired by them, further offensives against the workers are in the offing. Due to the pressure of the workers in the plant and the opposition in the parliament, the Tory Government has confirmed for the first time that it was in secret negotiations to sell all the manufacturing divisions of Leyland. The company also manufactures Austin and Rover Saloon cars, apart from bus, lorries, trucks and Land Rovers. Earlier, the mounting protests from the workers and the opposition and the feelings of her own cabinet colleagues had compelled Margaret Thatcher to abandon the controversial plan to sell Austin-Rover to the American Ford. But the mounting crisis is driving her Government to take frantic bids to disown all responsibilities of the Government owned enterprises.

In the quagmire of the crisis, women are the worst hit in Britain. Although the Central Statistical Office claimed through its publication, "Social Trends in 1986", of large number of women employment, this is mainly because of large number of part time employment which the women workforce have been forced to accept due to dearth of full time employment opportunities. The statistics however had to admit the widening disparities in the earnings between men and women workers in Britain. Between April 1983 and April 1984, the gross weekly earnings of men rose on an average by 9 per cent, but that of women rose by only 7 per cent. The earnings of non-mannual women employees were one tenth of that of the men employees in April, 1984.

Bangladesh

The military rule of Ershad and the opposition alliance of the 15 party led by Sheik Hasina Wazed and the 7 party led by Khaleda Zia are heading towards a straight intensified clash on the issue of democratic elections. To counter the opposition struggle, Ershad held a rally organised by the Government backed Jatyo Party at Dhaka on February 13 to "reiterate" his decision to hold the "democratic elections" on May 6, which he was forced to postpone three times before. On the other hand, the 7 party alliances and the 15 party alliance held massive rallies on February 14 and 24 and reiterated their decision not to participate in the so-called elections under the dictates of the military Government unless the martial law is ended and the elections are held under a neutral care-taker Government. A total six hour bandh was observed at Bangladesh on February 4 in response to the call given by the opposition alliances. The opposition alliances are chalking out further plans of action and have given the Government the deadline of February 28 to accede to their demands.

Malaysia

Over thirty thousand workers have been retrenched in Malaysia in the past year. Electronics and textiles are the two industries which have been worst hit. The decline in the world demand for electronics products and the rise of protectionism against textile products have been attributed to the main causes for the retrenchments. In the electronics sector over ten thousand workers have been retrenched since the beginning of 1985 with strong indications that more factories will be closed down in near future. In the textile industry, more than eight thousand workers have been retrenched and thousands more are expected to be retrenched in the coming few months. Other industries like tea,

rubber, motor parts, tractors, toys, hotel and construction industry also have been seriously affected by the retrenchment tide. The major cause for this spate of closures and retrenchments has been the down turn of the capitalist world's economy and Malaysia's over-dependence on the their market. The multinationals are going too fast in turning their backs against the workers. The phenomena hold good in other parts of South East Asia. The workers however are not sitting pretty. Massive struggles, demonstrations, rallies, strike and picketing are sweeping Malaysia, Hongkong Singapore, Philippines, Indonesia, Japan and other parts where women have also joined their male counterparts in trade unions in large numbers.

Declaration on Peace by Balkan Trade Unions

The Electric Energy Trade Unions of Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Yugoslavia and Cyprus participating in the Second Balkan Conference at Belgrade recently expressed deep concern over the exacerbation of the international situation due to the spiralling arms race and threat of mankind by nuclear disaster. The Conference declared to involve the Electric Energy Trade Unions in the struggle for peace alongwith all other trade unions and peace loving and democratic forces for the protection of human lives and for a free and independent development of nations which is a precondition for the improvement of the socio-economic positions of the working people and for the social progress of all countries in the world. The participants demanded an end to the arms race by way of conclusion of agreements on holding up of nuclear arms tests, nuclear weapons ban, prevention of transferring of the arms race in space, reduction of the strategic nuclear arms leading to the liquidation of the arms of mass destruction and total disarmament.

MAY DAY CENTENERARY ISSUE OF THE WORKING CLASS

CHANGE OF SCHEDULE

The Secretariat of CITU has decided to publish the Special Centenary Issue of The Working Class by the First Week of April, 1986.

All agents and individual subscribers are requested to send their orders so as to reach the Central Office of CITU by 15th March, 1986.

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CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

President :

B. T. RANADIVE

General Secretary :

SAMAR MUKHERJEE

March 21, 1986

Com. Indrajit Gupta
General Secretary
All India Trade Union Congress
24, Canning Lane
New Delhi-110 001



Dear Comrade,

I am in receipt of your letter dated March 6, 1986 regarding the draft for a joint May Day Manifesto sent by us to you. It is clear from your letter that you do not agree with the scope of the draft and desire to restrict its length to one folioscap page.

It is not possible for us to express what we wish to tell the workers in such short space. We are, therefore, publishing our draft as CITU Manifesto. We however await your draft to see if it can be presented as our joint draft.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

(Nrisingha Chakrabarty)

Secretary

24 March 1986

Comrade Nrisingha Chakrabarty
Secretary
Centre of Indian Trade Unions
6 Talkatora Road
New Delhi 110001

May 86

Dear Comrade,

Thank you for your letter of 21 March 1986 regarding the May Day manifesto.

As suggested in our letter to you earlier we are sending herewith a draft for a joint May Day appeal to be issued. If you are in agreement with the draft we can then arrange for issuing the same jointly.

We had also suggested a joint circular to all our affiliated unions. This will help in ensuring maximum mobilisation for observance of May Day. Please let us have your opinion about this.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

(Parvathi Krishnan)
Secretary

R.

24 March 1986

Comrade Nrisingha Chakrabarty
Secretary
Centre of Indian Trade Unions
6 Talkatora Road
NEW DELHI 110001

Dear Comrade,

Thank you for your letter of 21 March regarding the joint May Day manifesto. As you know we were out of Delhi attending the Congress at Patna



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MAY DAY CENTENARY SPECIAL

THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

RED SALUTE TO THE MAY DAY MARTYRS



The Chicago Blood Bath, May 3, 1885. The worker is picking up the Red Flag to convey the May Day pledge to the International Proletariat

**“There will come a time when our silence
will be more eloquent
than our words !”**

— August Spies

WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!

Stalin's May Day Speech

Moscow, May 1, 1945, After Victory Over Fascism

Comrades, Red Armymen and Red Navymen, non commissioned officers, and petty officers, of the officers Army and Navy, generals and admirals! Working people of the Soviet Union!

Today our country is celebrating the First of May the international festival of the working people.

This year the peoples of our motherland are celebrating the First of May during the victorious consummation of the Great Patriotic War.

The stern times when the Red Army was fighting back the attacks of enemy troops near Moscow and Leningrad, near Grozny and at Stalingrad are gone, never to return. Today our victorious troops are routing the armed forces of the enemy in the heart of Germany, far beyond Berlin, on the River Elbe.

In a short space of time Poland, Hungary a large part of Czechoslovakia, a considerable part of Austria, and Vienna, the capital of Austria, were liberated.

At the same time, the Red Army captured East Prussia, the hotbed of German imperialism, Pomerania, the larger part of Brandenburg and the main districts of Berlin, the capital of Germany, and has hoisted the flag of victory over Berlin.

As a result of these offensive battles waged by the Red Army the Germans lost in the course of three to four months over 800,000 men and officers taken prisoner, and about 1,000,000 in killed. During the same period Red Army forces captured or destroyed as many as 6,000 enemy aeroplanes and 12,000 tanks and self propelled guns, over 23,000 field guns and an enormous quantity of other kinds of armaments and equipment.

It must be noted that in these battles Polish, Yugoslav, Czechoslovak, Bulgarian and Rumanian divisions successfully attacked the common enemy side by side with the Red Army.

As a result of the crushing blows that were struck by the Red Army, the German command was compelled to shift dozens of divisions to the Soviet German front, thereby denuding whole sectors of other fronts. This circumstance helped the troops of our Allies to develop a successful offensive in the west. Furthermore, by striking simultaneous blows at the German troops from East and West the Allied troops and the Red Army succeeded in cutting the German forces into two isolated parts and in effecting a junction between our troops and the Allied troops, thus forming a single front.

There can be no doubt that this circumstance signifies the end of Hitler Germany.

The days of Hitler Germany are numbered.

More than half her territory is occupied by the Red Army and the troops of our Allies. Germany has lost her most vital regions. The industry still remaining in the hands of the Hitlerites cannot supply the German army with a sufficient quantity of arms, ammunition and fuel. The man power reserves of the German army are exhausted. Germany is entirely isolated and stands alone, if her ally, Japan, is left out of account.

In their quest for a way out of their hopeless situation the Hitler adventurers resort to all sorts of tricks, even going to the extent of making advances to the Allies in an endeavour to sow discord in the Allied camp. This new chicanery of Hitlerites is doomed to utter failure. It can only hasten the collapse of the German forces.

Mendacious fascist propaganda is intimidating the inhabitants of Germany with absurd tales to the effect that the armies of the United Nations are out to exterminate the German people. It is not part of the task of the United Nations to exterminate the German people. The United Nations will extirpate fascism and German militarism, they will sternly punish the war criminals, and compel the Germans to make good the damage they have caused to other countries. But the United Nations are not touching, and will not touch, the civilian population of Germany if they faithfully carry out the demands of the Allied military authorities.

The brilliant victories the Soviet troops have achieved in the Great Patriotic War have revealed the titanic might of the Red Army and its high military skill. In the course of the war our motherland acquired a first class seasoned army capable of defending the great Socialist gains of our people and of protecting the state interests of the Soviet Union.

Notwithstanding the fact that for nearly four years the Soviet Union has been waging a war of unprecedented magnitude calling for colossal expenditures, our Socialist economy is growing stronger and expanding and the economy of the liberated districts, which was plundered and wrecked by the German invaders, is successfully and rapidly reviving. This is the result of the heroic efforts of the workers and collective farmers, of the Soviet intelligentsia, of the women and young people of our country who are inspired and directed by our great Bolshevik Party.

The World War, which was unleashed by the German imperialists, is drawing to a close. The collapse of Hitler Germany is a matter of the very near future. The Hitler bosses, who fancied themselves the rulers of the world, have now been left with a broken pitcher. The mortally wounded fascist beast is at its last gasp. The task now reduces itself to delivering the finishing stroke to this fascist beast.

(Contd. on page 47)

Revolutionary Traditions of May Day

B.T. Ranadive

THOUGH May Day in our country is largely associated with the raising of many urgent and partial demands, the revolutionary tradition of May Day always combined partial demands with declarations of the international solidarity of the working class and a firm faith and determination to end the capitalist system and capture political power for the working class.

This combination of struggle for partial demands with proletarian internationalism and deposing the capitalist class from political power combined the immediate practical struggle of the working class with its ultimate objective of social emancipation, its objective of socialism.

The trend in the working class movement which confined itself to the immediate struggle only, which looked upon May Day as only a day for declaration and assertion of partial demands, diverted the working class movement from its revolutionary objectives, and ending of capitalist rule and establishing socialism and working class power.

The social transformation that we see today in the world in the course of hundred years from the observance of the first May day, with one third of the world going over to socialism is the direct achievement of the revolutionary traditions of May Day.

In the course of hundred years one third of the world has gone socialist; the old imperialist system has been liquidated; formerly enslaved countries like India have been liberated; the world has seen the great socialist revolution of Russia led by the Bolshevik Party and Lenin; it further saw a complete smashing of the fascist force by the Red Army, the working class and the people of the Soviet Union; it saw the success of the great Chinese revolution and grand victories of socialist revolutions in a number of countries in Europe, in Cuba, in Korea, and the unimaginable and unparalleled victory of the working class and the people of Vietnam.

Two Lines — Revolutionary and Reformist

These victories were the direct result of the revolutionary line of the world working class movement which was embodied in Marxism and Leninism. The observance of the first May Day, the economic demands raised and the political demands put forward were all in consonance with what the first International guided by Marx had taught the working class movement. It is no accident that only those parties which remained faithful to the initial ideology proclaimed in relation to the First May

Day were the leaders of the successful socialist revolutions; such were the Marxist-Leninist parties.

It is no accident either that those who strayed away from the revolutionary understanding guiding earlier May Day observance never succeeded in organising a socialist revolution or a peaceful transition to socialism in any capitalist country. They mostly functioned as an opposition party under the capitalist framework and when elected to form an government they were unable to change an iota of the exploitative system. The histories of these parties, the reformist socialist democratic parties of Europe and the Labour Party of Europe show that they not only turned a back on revolution but also on international unity of the working class. On all crucial occasions this reformist trend betrayed international solidarity and deserted the banner of proletarian internationalism.

During the first imperialist war, during the anti-fascist war the Labour Party of Britain, the Socialist Democratic Party of Europe betrayed the banner of proletarian unity. They remained with their respective governments and during the anti-fascist war they joined the struggle against Hitler only when their governments desired to join it.

The centenary of May Day comes as a fresh call to us to determinedly pursue the militant course of the movement and take the country out of the perilous situation facing it.

Pre-1866 Developments

Hundred years back a brutal capitalist system hardly recognised any rights for the working class. But the struggle for the limitations of working hours, for 8-hours day was already developing both in Europe and the USA, the seats of capitalism.

In August 1866 in the USA a working men's convention held in Baltimore passed a resolution demanding 8 hours day. Within two weeks of this convention the Geneva Congress of the 1st International founded by Marx made the same demand saying: "The legal limitation of the working day is a preliminary condition without which all further attempt at improvement and emancipation of working class must prove abortive. The Congress proposes 8-hours as a legal limit of the working day".

The two contingents of the working class were simultaneously raising the same demand and preparing for a platform for common action and solidarity. This was stated in clear terms in the Geneva Congress resolution: "As this limitation represents the general demand of the workers of

North American United States the Congress transforms this demand into the general platform of the workers of the whole world". Thus began the platform of international action and solidarity.

But this was just the beginning. Between 1866-86 which saw the ushering of May Day with its militant traditions, the working class movement went through many ordeals, facing massacres and executions. But it continued to march forward. It had found reliable guides in Marx and Engels and the International Association of Working Men (1st International), founded by them. The activities of the International reached their climax in the uprising of the workers of Paris and the rise of the Paris Commune, the first state of the working class in 1871. The brutal massacre of the communards was followed by a raging reaction in the countries of Europe. The Head Quarters of 1st international had to be transferred from London to New York. The International ceased to exist in 1876. The first organisation to cement the international solidarity and unity of the working class came to an end.

But the struggle of the working class continued. It could not be entirely suppressed. In October 1884 at the Fourth Congress of the Federation of Organised Trades and Labour Unions of the United States and Canada it was decided that 8 hours shall constitute a legal day's labour from May 1886.

The resolution envisaged a strike on May 1st and this was the beginning of the militant strike tradition of May Day. By 1886 May several thousand workers and several organisations were ready to strike for eight hours day.

Chicago's Blood Bath

The strike was most militant in Chicago where thousands of workers participated in direct action. The employers and the US capitalist government decided to hit back. During the course of the demonstration on May 4th which was organised to protest against police action against the workers on May 3, provocators and hirelings organised a bomb outrage to damn and implicate the leaders of the workers. The events of May 3rd and May 4th which led to what is known as the Hay Market affair was the direct outcome of the May 1st strike. The demonstration held on May 4th at Hay Market Square was called to protest against the brutal attack of the police upon a meeting of striking workers on May 3rd during which six workers were killed and many wounded. The protest meeting was peaceful but the police launched an unprovoked attack. A bomb was thrown into the crowd killing a sergeant. A clash ensued with the result that several police men and four workers were killed. But the authorities were not satisfied with this blood of workers. The fighting leaders of the workers, Albert R. Parsans, August Spies, Adolph Fischer and George Engel were framed and sent to the gallows and other militant workers of Chicago were sent to long terms of imprisonment.

Capitalist justice demanded lives of four working class leaders for demanding 8 hours day, for attempting to limit the exploitation of the workers. Thus started another militant tradition of May Day, the tradition of revolutionary sacrifice.

The defending accused displayed courage and dignity during their trial. They defended themselves and at the same time they accused the authorities. Parsons who had escaped arrest appeared before the court and took his place besides his colleagues. On November 11, 1887 Albert Parsons, August Spies, George Engel, Adolph Fischer were hanged. Spies's last words were "There will come a time when our silence will be more eloquent than our words."

Three leaders who were sentenced to life imprisonment were released in 1893. The new Governor of Illinois had to admit that their guilt had not been proved and that like the other executed leaders they had been the victim of the biased jury. The principal witness had been bribed. American bourgeois justice now stood exposed before the world.

The sacrifices of American workers were not in vain. The developing working class movement in Europe decided to join hands with them. The first Congress of the Socialist International, the Paris Congress which met in 1889 decided to internationalise the observance of the May Day.

Socialist International

The first Congress of the Socialist International was not an ordinary event. The working class movement did not have an international centre after the dissolution of the first International. But the ideas of Marx and Engels continued to guide the working class movement and a new upsurge in political consciousness and organisations was taking place.

Engels was still alive to guide the movement. This was the period when socialist parties of the working class were being formed on the basis of a correct Marxist programme. These parties met in Paris to form the first Congress of the New Socialist International later on known as 2nd International. The first session was attended by Frederick Engels who was all along guiding these parties to give a correct political and organisational form to the new international union of workers.

The parties and leaders who met in First Congress were all influenced in a large measure by Marxist teachings and while deciding to internationalise the May Day they applied the Marxist understanding to the current situation. They therefore could not be content with only declaring for urgent economic demands but combined the partial struggle with the struggle against war and the struggle to end capitalism.

Programme of Partial Demands

Like the first international before it the Paris

Congress called for a comprehensive programme of immediate demands which, in the conditions obtaining then, was bound to lead to intense class conflict and rise in the revolutionary consciousness of the working class. The programme included (1) an 8 hours working day to be established by legislation; (2) prohibition of child labour; (3) restriction on juvenile and female labour; (4) special regulation for night work and hazardous occupations; (5) the establishment of mandatory weekly day of rest; (6) the prohibition of remuneration for work in kind or through factory run shops; (7) the establishment of state institution of factory inspectors. There was also the demand for equal pay for equal work of men and women irrespective of nationality and for an "unrestricted complete freedom of unions and coalitions."

The demands enumerated above clearly show the primitive conditions of living obtaining at the time and the unbridled character of exploitation carried on by the capitalist class. In this situation a concerted international movement for these demands for regulating by law the working day was bound to lead to revolutionary consequences.

The Geneva and Brussels Congresses of the First International had elaborated a similar programme of partial demands. The Paris Congress resolution now again presented a programme of international working class movement systematically presenting the immediate demands of the proletariat. It was further asserted that attainment of these demands was "absolutely imperative in all countries where the capitalist mode of production prevails", in order to "counter the destructive influence of the existing economic system."

Political Struggle and War

But the Congress did not content itself with proclaiming a programme of partial demands. The resolution on international labour protection stated that "Labour and the whole of mankind can only be emancipated by the proletariat organised as a class on an international scale, which must win political power in order to expropriate the capital and convert the means of production into public property." This connected the struggle for immediate needs of the working class with its ultimate goal of socialism.

When the Paris Congress met, the danger of militarism and war was growing in Europe. Prominent leaders of the Socialist parties and above all F. Engels were already busy working out a policy of opposition to war by the working class. The Paris Congress therefore adopted a resolution on disbandment of standing armies and calling for arming of the entire people. This resolution exposed the direct connection between wars and capitalism and underlined that world wide triumph of socialism was the best guarantee that there will be no war.

Internationalisation of May Day

It was in this background that the Paris Congress passed a resolution internationalising the observance of May Day. The resolution said "The Congress decides to organise a great international demonstration so that in all countries and in all cities on one appointed day the toiling masses must demand of the state authority the legal reduction of the working hours to 8 hours as well as the carrying out of the other demands of Paris Congress. Since similar demonstration has already been decided on May 1st 1890, by American Federation of Labour at its convention at St. Luis in December 1888, this day is accepted for the international demonstration. Workers of the various countries must organise this demonstration according to conditions prevailing in each country.

At its next Congress in Brussels in 1891 the Socialist International called upon the workers to observe May 1st to demand the eight hour day and to ensure peace among the nations. This was a very important addition to preserve peace because without preserving peace working class solidarity lost all meaning. The First International under the guidance of Karl Marx in its manifesto on Franco-German war (1870) had already called upon the workers to protect peace and maintain their solidarity. Under this inspiring call the workers of Paris sent fraternal greetings to the workers of Germany when the rulers of the two countries were at war. The call of the IInd International to raise opposition to war and demand peace among nations on May Day was the tradition of internationalism set by the Ist International.

The resolution also demanded that May Day should be observed by organising strikes wherever possible.

How the 1st May Day was Observed

The convening of the Paris Congress was the result of the increased activities among the working class and its rising international consciousness. It was preceded by a large number of strike struggles in all countries of Europe and political advance of the working class on the electoral and parliamentary front. It was not surprising at all that the call of the Paris Congress to observe May Day met with enthusiastic and massive response in Europe and America. On May 1st 1890 hundreds and thousands of workers filled the streets of industrial cities in most of the European countries. In some cities of Germany, France and Denmark a number of factories came on strike to mark the international day. Massive demonstrations were witnessed in a large number of cities. More than a hundred thousand demonstrators demonstrated in Vienna, 60 thousands in Budapest and between 40 to 50 thousands in Marsailes and Lyons, 35 thousands in Prague, between 20 to 30 thousand in Roubaix, Lille, Stockholm, Chicago and many other cities, 20 thousands in Warsaw and 3 thousands in Lvov

(History of International Working Class Movement, Vol. 2).

In Spain and Britain the day of international solidarity was marked on the first Sunday of May 4th. In Barcelona nearly hundred thousand workers demonstrated.

Engels on May Day

Engels took part in the preparations of the London workers for the 1st May Day demonstration. In spite of the influence of the reformist trade union leaders over the workers the situation was extremely favourable. Because at the beginning of 1880 the English workers' movement especially in London had seen a new upsurge due to the fact that success crowned the determined activity of Eleanor Marx Aveling, Dr. Edward Aveling, the leader Tom Menn, John Burns and others to draw the less qualified workers such as the gas and coal workers into the movement. These proletarians organised themselves into their own trade unions for unskilled workers because they had been denied admission into the old trade unions. Engels supported the mass movement, as well as the 1889 strike at the London dock to the extent that he could. Now at last a fresh revolutionary breeze began to blow through the proletarian movement in England also. That made itself apparent at the London May Day demonstration. (Engels Biography, Peoples Publishing House, P. 506).

The May Day rally was held on 4th May a Sunday in Germany. Engels considered it to be truly overwhelming and in his letter to Bebel he wrote "I was on platform four (a large truck) and could only see a part of the crowd one third or 1/8th but jammed together as far as the eye could see. 250 of 300 thousand people of which more than three quarters were demonstrating workers. Avelings, Lafargue and Stepniak spoke from my platform I was only an onlooker." And then at the end of his letter he writes "I carried by head two inches higher when I descended from the truck."

In his preface to the Fourth German edition of the Communist Manifesto written on May 1, 1890 Engels writes "Proletarian of all lands unite. Few were the voices to respond when we launched these words into the world 42 years ago on the eve of revolution in Paris, when for the first time, the proletariat arose and fought for its own rights. On Sept. 17, 1864 the proletariat of practically every land in Western Europe joined hands in the International Workingmen's Association of glorious memory. The international survived only for 9 years. Nevertheless the union that organisation created will live for all times; it is today stronger than ever. Indeed events are showing this to the full. As I write these lines the proletariat of all Europe and of America is holding a review of its forces. It is mobilised for the first time as *one* army marching forward under *one* flag and fighting for *one* immediate aim; an 8 hour working day established by legal enactment

as was demanded by the Geneva Congress of the International Workingmen's Association, and again by the International Socialist Congress held at Paris in 1889. The spectacle that we are now witnessing will make the capitalists and land owners of all lands realise that today the proletarians of all lands are in every truth united.

"If only Marx was with me to see with his own eyes".

Firings and Killings Again

This first international action of the working class did not pass off without blood shed. The ruling classes understood the challenge behind it and in several places they tried to suppress it with brutal firing and terror. On the 1st May Day there were clashes with police in Italy on May 1, 1890 and in France, Italy and Spain in the following years. In Northern French town of Fourmies a peaceful May Day demonstration was met with the rifle fire. At least 50 people including men, women and children fell to the ground. Ten died instantly. The Fourmies slaughter was denounced by the French workers. At a parliamentary by-election the socialists nominated Paul Lafargue as their candidate. (He was in prison for speaking out against the Fourmies shooting). The election swept Lafargue into the Chamber of Deputies.

In Russia where the trade union movement was illegal and political parties were not permitted legal activities, May Day was repeatedly accompanied by mass arrest, jailings, shooting etc. Nonetheless its appeal continued to increase and it began to play a more and more prominent role in the struggle for democracy.

As years went by new and new contingents from different countries joined in the observance of May Day and widened the circle of proletarian international unity. Every year on the First of May thousands from industrial countries were joined by tens of thousands from the industrial cities of colonies and May Day became a symbol of the fight for international freedom for socialism, for abolition of exploitation of man by man. It became the widest expression of protest against the imperialist capitalist system. The militant section of workers from individual factories and some whole districts decided to go on strike to express their solidarity with the demands of international proletariat.

May Day became the tradition of the entire working class movement.

May Day in Russia

In Russia under the guidance of Lenin and the Social democratic party the observance of May Day became a rallying point for the revolutionary activity of the working class. Lenin and the Social Democratic Party saw to it that the May Day was not reduced simply to charter of demands, that it kept

before it the revolutionary objective of ending the rule of capitalists and that it always upheld the banner of proletarian internationalism opposing war and standing for international peace. Lenin also saw to it that May Day did not simply become a day of international solidarity voicing general slogans of internationalism but also become a rallying point for discharging the immediate revolutionary task facing the Russian proletariat, an instrument for rallying the working class as the leading force in the democratic and socialist revolutions. Everything that Lenin wrote on May Day, and the corrections that he tried to introduce were intended to see that the working class fulfilled this role and stuck to the revolutionary traditions and ideology of May Day.

In Russia the First May Day meeting was called by Brusnev Organisation of St. Petersburg. It was held secretly on the first Sunday of May, 1891 in a place that can be easily vacated in the event of a police raid. One of the speakers said "What we need first and foremost is an organised force, consisting of workers consciously striving for an improvement of their conditions, that could compel the government to grant their political rights, for this is the sole condition that gives us the opportunity to set about reshaping the existing economic system."

Lenin on May Day Demands

Within ten years May Day celebration in Russia made quick political advance. Lenin wrote in his preface to the pamphlet *May Day in Kharkov*, written in 1900, "what made the May Day celebrations in Kharkov an event of outstanding importance? The large scale participation of the workers in the strike, the huge mass meetings in the streets, the unfurling of red flags, the presentation of demands put forth in proclamations and the revolutionary character of these demands, the 8 hour days and political liberty. The legend the Russian workers have not yet matured for the political struggle, that their principal concern should be purely economic struggle, which they should only little by little and very slowly supplement with partial political agitation for partial political reform and not for the struggle against the entire political system of Russia—that legend has been totally refuted by the Kharkov May Day celebrations." (Collected Works Vol. 4 p. 358).

Lenin notes here that the workers have broken through the cordon of economic demands and are coming out on May Day with political slogans with basic political demands. Lenin at the same time tells the Kharkov comrades that it is erroneous to include all kinds of sundry economic demands in the May Day proclamation. The economic demands should be of a really revolutionary character which will enhance the revolutionary consciousness of the working class and aid the political struggle. Lenin writes "Let us take for example the demands put forward by the Railway Workshop employees. Of

the fourteen demands eleven have to do with minor improvements which can quite easily be achieved even under the present political system—wage increases, reduction of hours, removal of abuses. Included among these demands as though identical with them, are the following three: (4) introduction of an eight hour day, (7) guarantee against victimisation of workers after the May 1st events (10) establishment of a joint committee of workers and employers for settling disputes between the two parties. The first of these demands (4) is the general demand advanced by the world proletariat; the fact that this demand was put forward seems to indicate that the advanced workers of Kharkov realise their solidarity with the world socialist working class movement. But precisely for this reason it should not have been included among minor demands like better treatment by foremen, and a ten per cent increase in wages. Demands for wage increases and better treatment can (and should) be presented by the workers to their employers in each separate trade; these are trade demands put forward by separate categories of workers. The demand for an eight hour day, however, is the demand of the whole proletariat presented not to individual employers, but to the state authorities as the representatives of the entire present day social and political system, to the capitalist class as a whole, the owners of all the means of production. The demand for eight hour day has assumed special significance. It is a declaration for solidarity with the international socialist movement. We need to make the workers understand this difference so that they do not reduce the demand for the eight hour day to the level of demands like free Railway tickets or the dismissal of a watchman. Throughout the year the workers, first in one place and then in another, continuously present a variety of partial demands to their employers and fight for their achievements. In assisting the workers in this struggle, socialists must always explain its connection with the proletarian struggle for its emancipation in all countries. And the First of May must be the day on which the workers solemnly declare that they realise this connection and resolutely join in this struggle." (p. 362, 363, Vol. 4)

This is how Lenin demarcates the concept of revolutionary May Day from the reformist understanding which seeks to convert it into a day of declaration of partial demands.

May Day and Concrete Revolutionary Tasks

Lenin further told the workers that May Day should not simply mean a general declaration of international solidarity but address itself also to the concrete revolutionary tasks facing the working class in each country.

Combining urgent economic demands having revolutionary significance with a general expression of international solidarity and desire for socialism was not enough. To be able to reach

the goal of socialism it was necessary that the working class of each country addressed itself to the concrete problems of revolution facing it. It was therefore necessary to raise these problems in May Day meetings as part of the struggle against capitalism. This is what Lenin said in 1902 in his letter to Northern League "It should have been added that in our country May Day also became a demonstration against the autocracy, a demand for political liberty. Pointing to the international significance of the holy day is not enough. It must also be linked with the struggle for the most vital national political demands." (Page 168 Vol. VI Collected Works)

Lenin emphasises the same point in connection with the approaching May Day of 1903: "Finally we must try to bring the answer of the workers out on to the street, to broadcast our demands through demonstrations and to show publicly the numbers and strength of the workers, their class consciousness and determination. Let the coming May Day celebration be not only a general declaration of our proletarian demands but also a special and definite answer to the manifesto of Feb. 26" (Page 348, 350, Vol 6, Lenin Collected Works).

The manifesto of Feb. 26th was the manifesto of Russian Czars to befool the people.

The political demands that Lenin asked to be raised on May Day were (1) Immediate and unconditional recognition by law of the freedom of assembly, freedom of the press and an amnesty to all political prisoners and members of religious sects, (2) Demand of the convocation of a constituent assembly which will be elected by all citizens and establish an elective form of Government, (3) Immediate and unconditional recognition by law the full equality of the peasants with all other social stratas and convocation of peasant committees for the abolition of remnants of serfdom in the country side. In short, Lenin asked that the demands for maturing democratic revolution should be fully expressed on May Day.

Russo-Japanese War

By 1904 the Russo Japanese war had already started. It was no longer a question of working class opposition to war in general, but of opposing Czar's war against Japan. Many social democrats and others who considered themselves to be socialists wavered in their opposition and some got overwhelmed by the fumes of bourgeois chauvinism. In this situation Lenin wrote a leaflet for the May Day asking the working class to oppose the war. He wrote "our people are perishing from want and starvation at home, yet they have been dragged into a ruinous and senseless war for alien territories lying thousands of miles away and inhabited by foreign races. Our people are ground down in political slavery yet they have been dragged into a war for the enslavement of other peoples. Our people demand a change of political order at home but it

is sought to divert their attention by the thunder of guns at the other end of the world".

Then Lenin calls on the workers to enter into a decisive battle against the Czar's rule: "Comrade workers, let us then prepare with redoubled energy for the decisive battle that is at hand. Let the ranks of social democratic proletariat close ever firmer. Let their word spread ever further afield. Let campaigning for workers' demands be carried on ever more boldly. Let the celebration of May Day win thousands of new fighters to our cause and swell our forces in the great struggle for the freedom of all the people, for the liberation of all who toil from the yoke of capitalism.

Long live the eight hour day.

Long live International Revolutionary Social Democracy.

Down with the criminal and plundering Czarist autocracy (Page 202, Vol. 7, Lenin Collected Works).

May Day During 1905 Revolution

1905 was the year of revolution and the May Day slogans had to be addressed to the revolutionary situation that was rapidly developing all over the country. The Russo-Japanese war was still continued and it had to be opposed and the working class had to be reminded of the international unity of the socialist movement. Lenin wrote another leaflet for May Day of 1905 and said, "Comrade workers the great holiday of the workers of the world is coming. On the first of May they celebrate their awakening to light and knowledge, their association in one fraternal union for the struggle against all oppression, against all tyranny, against all exploitation, for a socialist system of society. ...

"Down with the enmity between workers of different nationalities and different creeds. This enmity can only benefit the plunderers and tyrants, who live by the ignorance and disunion of the proletariat. Jews and Christians, Armenians and Tatars, Poles and Russians, Finns and Swedes, Letts and Germans, all, all of them march together under the one common banner of socialism. ... On the first of May this union of the workers of all countries, international Social Democracy reviews its forces and gathers its strength for a further unremitting and unswerving struggles for freedom, equality and fraternity.

The leaflet continues "Hundreds of thousands of young lives have been torn away from the people to perish in the Far East. ... And what is the war for? For Manchuria, which our predatory government has seized from China. Russian blood is being shed and our country ruined for the sake of foreign territory.

"Let this year's First of May be for us the cele-

bration of the peoples rising, let us prepare for it and await the signal for the decisive attack on the tyrants. ... Prepare then for the great battle, Comrade workers, stop work in the factories and the mills on the First of May, or take up arms according to the advice of the committees of the Social Democratic Labour Party. ... The St. Petersburg workers proclaimed on the famed 9th of January: Freedom or Death. Workers of all Russia, we will repeat the great battle cry, we will not shrink from any sacrifices; through the uprising we will win freedom; through freedom, socialism.

Long live the First of May. Long Live international Social Democracy. Long live the freedom of the workers and the peasants. Long live the Democratic Republic. Down with the Czarist Republic. Down with the Czarist autocracy" (Lenin Collected Works, PP 348, 350 Vol. 8).

It will be seen that the various struggles were led by the political party of the working class, the Social Democratic Party with Lenin at its head. It was able to keep to the revolutionary traditions of May Day, combining the struggle for partial demands with opposition to predatory war and determination to end the capitalist system. Together with this the Social Democratic party raised political slogans and revolutionary demands which were necessary in the Russian conditions to fulfill the task of the impending democratic revolution and clear the road to socialism. Step by step as the revolutionary situation developed the May Day in Russia began to reflect the immediate revolutionary demands of the entire people and by 1905 Lenin could raise the demand of taking to arms on May Day.

In these years Russia was the storm centre of revolutionary movement. The working class of Russia led by the Bolshevik party and Lenin and following the revolutionary teachings of Marx and Engels was able to recover from the defeat of 1905 and achieve a successful socialist revolution in 1917.

Sliding Back from Revolutionary Tradition

But the situation was quite different in the advanced capitalist countries of Europe, some of which at one time headed the Marxist movement of the working class. The "peaceful" period of capitalism, the development of capitalism into imperialism and the emergence of a privileged labour autocracy in the imperialist countries benefited by the loot from colonial countries and a certain expansion of parliamentary and democratic rights for the workers created illusions about peaceful development towards socialism. A revisionist tendency gradually arose inside the social democratic movement which considered class struggle and revolution as totally unnecessary and therefore began to discard the militant tradition of working class movement, traditions embodied in the celebration of May Day.

The revisionist tendencies and outlook were primarily represented by the trade union leadership. In fact the British trade unions were being conducted on a reformist and collaborationist line for a long time and always rejected celebration of May Day by means of strikes. As early as 1879 Engels observed in relation to the British trade union movement: "for a number of years the English working class movement has been hopelessly describing a narrow circle of strikes for higher wages and shorter hours, not, however, as an expedient or means of propaganda and organisation, but as the ultimate aim. The Trade Unions even bar all political actions on principle and their charters, thereby also ban participation in any general activity of the working class as a class...No attempt should be made to conceal the fact that at present no real labour movement in the continental sense exists here".

This was the situation a decade before the foundation of the Socialist International. The same trend began to develop in the continental parties also which naturally sought to deprive the May Day of its revolutionary content and restrict it to raising few demands for economic reform within the frame work of the capitalist system.

Lenin on Jena Congress

Lenin noted these developments in the German party as early as 1905. In this article, Jena Congress of German Social Democrat Worker's Party he wrote: "Another question that came up for discussion in Jena prior to the question of political strike is also highly instructive for Russia. This was the question of May Day celebrations or to be more exact (to take the gist of the matter and not the item that gave rise to the discussion), the question of the relation of the trade union movement to the Social Democratic Party. Proletary has spoken several times about the profound impression made on German Social Democrats, and not only on them alone, by the Cologne Trade Union Congress. It became more than evident at this congress that even in Germany, where the tradition of Marxism and its influence are strongest, anti-socialist tendencies towards "pure trade unionism", of the British i.e. absolutely bourgeois type are developing in the trade unions, mark you, social democratic trade unions. That is why from the question of May Day demonstration in its literal sense, there inevitably arose at the Jena Congress the question of trade unionism and social democracy, the question of economism to speak the terms of trends within the Russian Social Democratic movement.

"Fisher who delivered the report on the question of May Day, frankly stated that it would be a bad mistake to ignore the fact that in the trade union the socialist spirit is disappearing. Now here, now there. Things had gone so far that, for instance, Bringmann, representative of Carpenters Union had uttered and published sentiments like the following:

"The strike on May Day is like a foreign body in the human body". "In the given circumstances the trade unions are the sole means for improving the conditions of the workers", etc. And these symptoms of disease as Fisher aptly termed them are supplemented by number of others. In Germany, as in Russia, and indeed everywhere, a narrow trade unionism or economism is linking with opportunism (revisionism).

The newspapers published by the same Carpenter's Union wrote about the crumbling foundations of scientific socialism, the erroneousness of the theory of crisis, the theory of collapse etc. The revisionist Calwer did not call on the workers to show discontent or increase their demands but be modest, etc, etc.

"Bebel fully recognised the danger of narrow trade unionism. He went on to say that he knew even worse examples of this craft union apathy. Young trade union leaders go so far as to jeer at the party in general, at socialism in general, at the theory of class struggle." (Page 293 Vol. IX).

While this was the trend which was developing in Western Europe, in Russia, because of the guidance of Lenin and in the midst of the developing revolutionary situation, May Day demonstration began to symbolise the revolutionary activities of the entire people. In June 1912 in his article 'Revolutionary Upswing' Lenin wrote "The great May Day strike of the proletariat of all Russia and accompanying street demonstrations, revolutionary leaflets, revolutionary speeches before gatherings of workers have clearly shown that Russia has entered a period of revolutionary upswing." (Vol. 18, Page 208).

May Day, 1912-1913

Lenin underscored the importance of 1912 May Day when he said that on this day the working class emerged as a leader of the entire people. He wrote "Let our slogans be", the St. Petersburg committee wrote in their leaflet, "a constituent assembly, and eight hour working day, the confiscation of the landed estates. And further on the leaflet launches the call: "down with the Czarist government, down with the autocratic constitution of June 3, Long Live the Democratic Republic Long Live the Socialism."

"Hundreds of thousands of St. Petersburg proletarians followed by workers throughout Russia resorted to strikes and street demonstrations not as one of the separate classes of bourgeois society, not with "their own" merely economic slogans but as the leader raising aloft the banner of revolution for the whole people, *on behalf of* the whole people and *with the aim* of awakening and drawing into the struggle *all* the classes who need freedom and are capable of striving for it."

The number of those who struck work on May

Day in support of revolutionary demands was 300 thousands.

Lenin once more emphasised the leading role of the working class in the political struggle while describing the May Day demonstrations of 1913. "And now comes May Day action by Russian working class, who first held a rehearsal in Riga and then went to resolute action in St. Petersburg on May First.... The tasks of the approaching revolution have come to the fore again in all their grandeur and the forces of the advanced class leading it stand out in bold relief before the hundreds of old revolutionaries, whom persecution by hangmen and desertion by friends have not defeated or broken, and before millions of people of the new generation of democrats and socialists."

Describing the happenings and repression in connection with the May Day Lenin writes, "Weeks before May Day the government has appeared to have lost its wits, while the gentlemen who own factories behaved as if they had never had any wits at all. The arrests and searches seemed to have turned all the workers' districts in the capital upside down. The provinces did not lag behind the centres. The harassed factory owners called conferences and adopted contradictory slogans, now threatening the workers with punishment and lockouts, now making concessions in advance and consenting to stop work, now inciting the government to commit atrocities, now reproaching the government and calling on it to include a May day in the number of official holidays."

"But even though the Gendarmes showed utmost zeal, even though they "purged" in the industrial suburbs, even though they made arrest right and left according to the latest "list of suspects", it was no use. The workers laughed at the impotent rage of Czar's gang and the capitalist class and derided the government's menacing and pitiful "announcements"; they wrote satirical verses and circulated by hand or passed them on by word of mouth. They produced as if from no where fresh batches of small poorly printed "leaflets", short and plain but very instructive calling for strikes and demonstrations and reminding the people of the old uncurtailed revolutionary slogans of the Social Democrats, who in 1905 led the first onslaught of the masses against autocracy and against monarchy".

Under the leadership of the Social Democratic Party and under the guidance of Lenin every May Day became a nightmare for the ruling classes and a source of inspiration and organisation for the people as a whole.

Imperialist War of 1914—Collapse of Reformism

In August 1914 when the first imperialist war broke out the Bolshevik party opposed the Czarist imperialist war and decided to use the war crisis

for the purpose of revolution and capture of political power. Initially it had to face tremendous repression and opposition from the reformist elements in the working class. But keeping to the international traditions of opposing war they finally succeeded in overthrowing the Czar and the rule of the capitalists and establishing the First Socialist State of the world.

Unfortunately the militant traditions of earlier May Day were lost under the pressure of the reformist leaders of trade unions in Britain, Germany, France, the USA and elsewhere. They tried to convert the May Day into a general holiday instead of a day to review the class forces in the battle for vanquishing capitalism and ushering in socialism.

These reformist leaders abandoned strike as a method to observe May Day and often chose only a factory holiday to observe May Day. Besides pursuing their class collaborationist policies they gradually gave up their international outlook and began to take vacillating and reactionary positions on the question of imperialist war. The result was that when the 1st world war broke out, instead of opposing it and protecting international unity of the working class these leaders supported their imperialist rulers in conducting the war. Only the revolutionary wing the Bolshevik Party led by Lenin in Russia, the revolutionary wing of social democracy in Germany led by Rosa Luxemburg stood by internationalism and opposed war. The tradition of militant May Day and its international character was preserved by communists, and revolutionary trade unions. It is because of this that the working class of Russia could organise a successful socialist revolution and ensured the biggest triumph for the common movement.

Reformist Line Continues

After the end of 1st world war the reformists did not change their tactics and they went in for greater and greater collaborations with capitalist governments. They concentrated their attention on certain economic demands and devoted May Day exclusively to the reiteration of immediate demands. It was left to the Communist and militant trade unions to carry forward the tradition of militancy and class struggle and fight the rising fascist forces. The Communist Party of Germany and the militant section of the working class covered themselves with glory in the anti fascist struggle. But the reformist leaders of British and French trade unions would not join collective struggle against Hitler fascism and continued to side with their respective imperialist governments in their dirty international intrigues against the USSR. During this period the labour movement in USA came under the domination of class collaborators and toughs working in league with the management. Year by year the earlier international outlook and militancy was choked out.

The result was that for a long time during the second world war the working class movement of Europe and America could not play its proper role and often lent itself to imperialist intrigue against the Soviet Union. However the banner of working class ideology and socialist revolution had now reached several countries in Asia and elsewhere. In these countries the revolutionary tradition of May Day was kept alive during the anti imperialist struggle and the result was the triumph of one of the biggest revolutions in the world the victory of the Chinese revolution followed by the revolutions in Korea, Vietnam, and the socialist revolutions in Eastern Europe directly under the impact of victories of red armies.

Nothing can surpass the grandeur and historic importance of May Day 1945 observed by the victorious working class and people of the Soviet Union.

The order of the day of the Supreme Commander in Chief, Stalin said: "Working people of the Soviet Union, Today our country is celebrating the first of May, the International festival of the working class.

"This year the peoples of our motherland are celebrating the First of May during the victorious consummation of the Great Patriotic war.

"The stern times when the Red army was fighting back the attacks of enemy troops near Moscow and Leningrad, near Grozny and Stalingrad, are gone, never to return. Today our victorious troops are routing the armed forces of the enemy in the heart of the Germany, far beyond Berlin, on the river Elbe. The collapse of Hitler Germany is a matter of the very near future."

It will be clear that wherever the class tradition of earlier years and international solidarity was maintained the working class advanced rapidly. In other states it was let down by reformist leaders. The hundred years since the Hay Market affair show that notwithstanding massacres, executions and tortures the working class movement had registered unprecedented triumphs with capitalism abolished over one-third of the world. On the centenary day the working class must recall not only the great sacrifices of the earlier martyrs but also the magnificent triumphs of the international working class movement which should speed our efforts to move forward to socialism in our country.

Response to New Situation

Life and class realities are however asserting themselves. Today even the reformist trade unions of Western countries are facing the danger of nuclear war and have to speak against it. Whether they lodge their protest in May Day meetings or not they are unable to ignore the danger of war and have to oppose it at their annual conferences. The leaders of many of these organisations are unwilling

to blame their own imperialist governments and are not unwilling to pass on the blame to the Soviet Union. But the mass of workers has seized the initiative and in many countries despite the opposition of their leaders they have joined the wide peace movement in which millions are involved. A powerful organisation like the British Trade Union Congress had to come out in total opposition to war and the British Labour Party at one of its conferences voted in favour of unilateral nuclear disarmament. Due to the nuclear danger the old spirit of international unity and internationalism is again coming back and the tradition of the earlier May Day to oppose international conflict is again being revived. Of course it is true that the Socialist Parties which have great influence over the working class in these countries even now continue to play their game of reformism and anti-Sovietism and by their behaviour and practice do everything to split the ranks of the working class on the question of war itself.

Mighty Force of Peace

But guarding the international traditions of May Day has arisen a powerful and invincible force — the force of the working class of all socialist countries and the people of these countries, a force which runs into hundreds of millions. Never before was there such a force to guard the international unity of the working class and to oppose the internecine war. Never before international unity of the working class had the advantage of being backed by powerful socialist states.

This mighty force is backed by tens of millions of working class from capitalist and third world countries which are now rallied under the banner of the World Federation of Trade Unions. The World Federation of Trade Unions which includes under its banner the working class of socialist countries has been the most consistent fighter for protecting world peace and international unity, and it is being aided in a powerful manner by the world peace movement.

Such are the powerful forces defending the international unity of the workers. But the danger of war continues and the centenary called on all sections of the working class to redouble its efforts to frustrate the war mongers.

May Day in India

In our country the working class movement has been observing May Day for the last 50 years or more. In fact the demand of eight hour day was made in our country by the Railway workers of Howrah as early as 1862. There was also an effort from Bengal to establish contacts with the First International and a letter was written to that organisation which is noted in one of the minutes International Workingmen's Association. However from the beginning the trade unions of our country could not unitedly adopt or accept the observance of May

Day. In the 20s or 30s except the Communists hardly anybody observed the day. Later on those who decided to observe it from among the non Communists did so under the influence of the reformist IInd International and the reformist trade union movement of Great Britain. Many trade union leaders consider May Day as something foreign and refused to accept it as a common day for international unity of the working class. That is because they had no concept of working class as a class and the necessity of international unity. Today also there are some trade union organisations in our country which consider May Day as an alien intrusion in our movement.

The trade union movement could not observe a common May Day in the spirit of May Day internationalism and its call to end the capitalist system because of the same reason that plagued the western movement. One wing of trade union leadership not only did not want any reference to socialism it did not want any reference to politics in the trade union movement. These leaders were definitely anti-strike and its support was used by the government to befool the British public opinion that Indian labour was supporting the British against the demand for national independence. Their policy of collaboration with the British having been defeated they split the AITUC in 1929. They wanted unity on the basis of rejection of political anti-imperialist struggle, a rejection of all politics by the trade unions and avoidance of strikes.

It is easy to understand therefore that there could not be a common observance of May Day along with these sections.

Bourgeois Nationalism and Internationalism

Things were not easy either with the nationalist section. One section of the nationalists in the trade union movement was opposed to introduction of any independent politics for the working class and in fact was opposed to introduction of any politics inside the trade union movement. Its deeply bourgeois nationalist outlook also prevented it from thinking in terms of internationalism or socialism. In fact it also counterposed internationalism to nationalism and patriotism and charged the communists with dependence on foreign ideology. The radical nationalist wing however was prepared to put the problems of independence and freedom before the working class, give call for anti-imperialist action but was opposed to internationalism. A large number of these radicals, soon developed an anti-Soviet attitude.

It will be seen therefore what in these years observance of May Day based on its basic call was not possible in association with any wing. The Communists therefore were often forced to observe May Day by themselves. Sometimes in the interest of unity they observed May Day in association with radical nationalists, the Congress socialists and called upon the workers to fight for freedom and

independence. But in such meetings the call for international solidarity and unity was very weak.

Communists Stand by Revolutionary Tradition

But the communists and trade unions influenced by them were able to carry the spirit of internationalism and May Day to the sections following them. They were the first to organise the first anti-war strike in Bombay when the IInd World War started. Within a few days of the declaration of war they organised in Bombay on October 2, 1939 an anti-war protest strike in which more than 90 thousand workers participated. This was the first anti-war strike against the 2nd World War in the world labour movement. The resolution unanimously adopted at the mass meeting of the workers proclaimed: "This meeting declares its solidarity with the international working class and the people of the world, who are being dragged into the most destructive war by the imperialist powers. This meeting regards the present war as a challenge to the solidarity of international working class and declares that it is the task of the workers and people of different countries to defeat this imperialist conspiracy against humanity".

The Communists were the first to start resisting the war burdens imposed on the people. They started their resistance with the strike of 1 lakh 75 thousands textile workers for dearness allowance in Bombay in March 1940. The Bombay strike unleashed a wave of strike all over the country.

Opportunist Trend

After independence the trade union wing controlled by the National Congress split away from the AITUC making it clear that it did not want to associate with the communists in the trade union movement. This was an open device to bring the working class under the influence of bourgeoisie, reject internationalism and develop class collaborationist politics inside the working class. The INTUC was founded to achieve this purpose. It was of course difficult to have a common May Day observance with the INTUC which rejected revolutionary politics and international class unity.

However things did not go well either with those who remained in the AITUC. The virus of reformism of collaborating with the bourgeois landlord government soon caught a section of AITUC. The revisionism also invaded a section of the then CPI leadership which finally led to a split in both the organisations. All these finally ended in both the CPI and the AITUC supporting the reactionary emergency rule. It was obviously not possible in those years to have a common May Day expressing the revolutionary content of the earlier May Day.

Struggle for Trade Union Unity

This lack of cohesion and a common revolutionary ideology still dogs the trade union movement. It is

of course essential that the trade union movement should growingly unite as without it the full class force of the working class cannot be felt by the rulers that be. But the existing trade union unity achieved through the National Campaign Committee does not go beyond announcing and acting for certain immediate economic demands.

Till now the committee has been unable to come out with united resolution opposing war and exposing the US imperialist aggressor. It has been unable to explain to the workers the dangers and horrors of nuclear war and the fact that the war is also connected with the US imperialist plans of global domination including the enslavement of India. The National Campaign Committee cannot be said to possess a common international outlook nor has it got a common outlook and the problems of democracy and unity facing India. It is because of this that during all these years a proper May Day paying tributes to the spirit of internationalism and revolution of the earlier May Day could not unitedly be observed in all parts of India.

Things have however changed and things are changing. The challenge of nuclear war is now rousing large sections of our people including those trade unions who till now showed pathetic indifference to it. The challenge of internal divisive forces is also rising making many trade union organisations aware of the responsibility to meet it. However many organisations are still totally unaware of the US imperialist conspiracies against our country and the responsibility of US imperialists for the danger of nuclear war.

The initiative recently taken by the INTUC leadership to call a meeting of several Trade Union Centres to develop common understanding on the question of war, fight against divisive forces and to express protest against apartheid constitutes a sign of growing awareness of the wider problems facing the working class and the trade union movement. It is a welcome step and every effort should be made to create common consciousness and a sense of urgency among the workers regarding these problems.

While welcoming the growing consciousness about war danger the CITU and its unions must regard the May Day centenary as an occasion to fully revive the spirit of earlier May Day in the light of our manifesto. It will be doing a great harm to the militant course of the working class movement if May Day centenary is allowed to be vulgarised into a declaration of some economic demands divested of all revolutionary content.

The centenary slogans must cover the three components of the revolutionary tradition of May Day. One, partial demands carrying revolutionary significance and capable of creating class consciousness to fight the existing order. Two, immediate tasks facing the revolutionary movement in India. Three,

fight against war and protection of international unity of the working class.

The May Day centenary manifesto includes all these components. It says, on May Day the working class must unitedly voice its protest against the economic policy of the government and protest against the freedom given to multinationals to penetrate our economy.

It must demand a halt to attacks on trade union rights and condemn official policy of computerisation. Calling for immediate opening of all closed factories and concerns, it must demand immediate adequate unemployment relief and further demand that the right to work should be embodied in the Constitution as a fundamental right. It must call for immediate and total nationalisation of the cotton textile, jute and sugar industries.

The working class must announce its preparedness and determination to champion the cause of the people and the peasants and agricultural workers. It must demand complete overhauling of agrarian relations, break-up of concentration of land and the distribution of the land to the tillers.

On May Day the working class must proclaim its determination to fight the forces of authoritarianism, defend and expand the democratic rights of the people and work for the state of people's democracy to open the way to socialism.

It must declare its resolve to fight imperialist conspiracies which are undermining the unity of our country, the secessionist and divisive forces which are unleashing forces of disintegration, and communal and obscurantist agencies which disrupt the unity of the toilers.

In view of the constant pressure on our foreign policy of non-alignment and the vacillations and trends already in evidence the working class must keep a vigilant watch on the conduct of our foreign policy and by timely intervention prevent any anti-national compromise. The policy of non-alignment which opposes war and stands for peace and which helps to keep a number of third world countries out of the orbit of imperialist domination is of great help to the working class in fighting the menace of war and discharging its international responsibility. The policy of non-alignment which befriends the Socialist countries enables Indian people and the working class to throw their weight against the war mongers and on the side of peace.

International unity of the working class and opposition to all militarist, imperialist and aggressive wars is an integral part of the revolutionary heritage of May Day struggle. The centenary manifesto correctly observes "Today the entire world is again threatened with the danger of nuclear war. It is not a war between two super powers, but a war that is being organised by the imperialist camp against the Socialist camp which is

the achievement of hundred years of struggle of the world working class.

Why do the imperialists seek to unleash a war against the socialist camp? Because there is no unemployment, no poverty, no economic crisis, and no capitalist exploitation in the socialist countries. Practical achievements of socialism are attracting like a magnet millions of people towards it. The imperialists want to stop this march of progress and reconquer the whole world again for their exploitation.

The USA and its imperialist allies are spending millions of dollars on nuclear and other armaments while more than 30 millions are unemployed and starving in these countries. To be able to attack the Soviet Union they have deployed missiles in Europe and are also increasing their conventional armaments. Reagan's Star War Project is a diabolical device to carry nuclear war into outer space.

The USA imperialists not only seek to destroy socialist system they also seek to reconquer the entire world for imperialistic exploitation. The nuclear war plan is also a plan for global domination, for re-enslavement of third world countries like India.

That is why the USA imperialists and Reagan refuse to accept any limitation on nuclear armament, any limitation on military expenditure and refuse to leave outer space free from nuclear weapons. The USSR has made several proposals for limitation of nuclear strikes. But the American govt. did not respond and refused to pledge that it would not be the first to use the nuclear strike. In fact the star war project is precisely intended for nuclear first strike.

In these circumstances the recent proposals made by Comrade Gorbachov, General Secretary of the CPSU to eliminate nuclear weapons by the end of this century, and to take initial steps towards the aim, serve cause of peace and show a way to save humanity from a most destructive war. The CITU and the entire working class of India must lend their full support to these proposals. Their adoption will protect international unity of the working class and uphold the banner of proletarian internationalism.

The appeal of the All Union Central Council of Trade Unions, Soviet Union, to the Working People and Trade Unions of the World on the statement of Comrade M.S. Gorbachov constitutes an urgent call for international unity and action against the danger of nuclear war.

The appeal coming from the working class which only four decades back had to sacrifice 20 million lives, the flower of the working class, in the struggle against fascism and for the freedom of all people must find adequate and effective response on May Day. It reminds India's working class, as contin-

(Contd. on page 18)

May Day Manifesto, 1986

ON the Centenary of May Day This Year the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) sends its greetings to the working class of the world, to the working class and people of all socialist countries, to the working class and the people of capitalist countries struggling against unemployment and deteriorating economic conditions and to the national liberation fighters all over the world. It sends its greetings to the working class and the people of all third world countries who are struggling against poverty and backwardness and whose independence is being daily threatened by the US imperialists.

The CITU also sends its warm greetings to all honest people, workers, and working people, men and women who are waging a brave and courageous struggle against the danger of nuclear war which the US imperialists threaten to impose on the world.

The Indian Trade Union movement sends its warm greetings to the workers of countries of the sub-continent, the workers of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

The Trade Union movement is confident that imperialist attempts to create tension and conflict between Pakistan and India will be foiled by the joint efforts of the workers of the two countries.

The movement sends its warm greetings to the working class of Sri Lanka, to the left forces and Communist Party of Sri Lanka who are holding aloft the banner of working class unity in the midst of wide-spread chauvinism.

Never before in recent history was there so much international unity, so many millions involved for a common purpose, as is the case with the peace movement of our time.

Every year for the last hundred years workers from all parts of the world have come out on the streets to honour the memory of the Chicago martyrs who had the courage to demand 8 hours day from an owning class which still then refused to accept any limitation on their exploitation of their workers.

Every year they have come on the streets to honour the memory of those who were shot down by the USA police.

Every year they have come out on the streets to honour the memory and courage of the working class leaders of Chicago who were framed for the May Day killings and who walked to the gallows with erect head.

The observance of May Day was originally confined to a few countries of Europe and the USA. But soon voice of working class unity began to

reach all the continents and May Day with its demands for limitation of working hours and other demands began to be celebrated over increasingly large number of countries. Today it is celebrated in all socialist countries, in all the advanced capitalist countries and in all newly liberated countries.

On May Day the working class every year announces that it is a single army determined to put an end to the capitalist system and rescue humanity from the perennial curse of poverty and unemployment.

Within hundred years of the First May Day when the ruling classes would not tolerate even the demand for a reduction of working hours, the working class sided by the people and fighting for their cause has smashed one bastion of exploitation after another and today its triumphant banner waves over one third of the world.

The 1917 Revolution led by Lenin and the Bolshevik party was the first big blow given to the capitalist system. A new type of state was born with the working class leading the state, supported and aided by the vast majority of toilers.

The mighty anti-fascist victory of the Soviet Union in which the working class, the red army and the people of Soviet Union played a glorious role gave another shattering blow to the world imperialist system and another big chunk of the world was torn away from the capitalist system. The victory of the great Chinese revolution, the victories of socialist revolutions in several European countries, the victory of the Cuban and the Korean revolution and the unparalleled victory of the Vietnamese revolution were the direct result of the increased strength of the world working class determined to put an end to the capitalist system.

The smashing victory in the anti-fascist war led by the first working class state, the Soviet Union, disintegrated the imperialist system and enabled the enslaved countries to regain their independence from the yoke of imperialism. It enabled country like India to achieve her independence with comparative ease.

How could this transformation be achieved in such a short time. It was because the revolutionary section of the working class movement continued to abide by the revolutionary traditions of the earlier May Day. The earlier May Day was not only devoted to the defence to immediate interests of the working class, it also inscribed on its banner, the slogan of international unity of working class and of capture of political power for the working class to end the capitalist system and its exploitation.

Those who strayed away from the path and concerned themselves only with the immediate

demands of the working class turning a blind eye to the basic objectives of socialism and working class power and to the need of international unity gradually turned into reformist collaborators of the capitalist governments.

Those who carried forward the revolutionary traditions of the earlier May Day and combined the daily practical struggle of the working class with its basic objective of socialism and never lowered the banner of proletarian internationalism were able to organise successful socialist revolution.

They were also able to place the working class at the head of the people in the national liberation movement, they were also able to build an alliance of the worker and peasants in the national liberation movement for subsequently turning to socialism. Such were the Marxist Leninist parties who led the socialist revolutions.

Hundred years of working class experience calls on the working class of India to review its own actions and struggles and examine whether they are in consonance with the revolutionary traditions of the international movement.

In India though the May Day is being observed for more than half a century, by and large its observance still remains confined to the immediate partial demands.

The May Day centenary calls upon India's working class to break with this tradition of exclusiveness and emerge on the national scene as a leading class seriously tackling the grave issues facing the country and building a formidable force in alliance with the peasantry to combat all reactionary forces and open the path to wider democracy and socialism.

It calls upon the working class to raise the slogans of People's Democracy in place of the existing bourgeois-landlord rule so that the state power controlled by the people can make easy transition to socialism.

Every section of India's working class must fully realise what the May Day fighters hundred years back had already realised that poverty, unemployment and economic crisis cannot be overcome without ending the capitalist system.

The centenary calls upon the working class of India to examine whether the international consciousness of the working class is sufficiently high to discharge its immediate responsibility in regard to international movement. A very big section of the working class under the influence of bourgeois ideology and reformist unions, is devoid of international consciousness and often takes a hostile attitude to the successful socialist revolutions of the world.

The talk of two super powers indulged in by the

ruling party and opposition bourgeois parties which equate the imperialist USA with the socialist Soviet Union is easily accepted by this section. It is necessary to repair this damage.

International unity of the working class and opposition to all militarist, imperialist and aggressive wars is an integral part of the revolutionary heritage of May Day struggle. Today the entire world is again threatened with the danger of nuclear war. It is not a war between two super powers but a war that is being organised by the imperialist camp against the socialist camp which is the achievement of hundred years of struggle of working class.

Why do the imperialists want to unleash a war against the Socialist Camp? Because there is no unemployment, no poverty, no economic crisis, and no capitalist exploitation in the socialist countries. Practical achievements of socialism are attracting like a magnet millions of people towards it. The imperialists want to stop this march of progress, destroy the socialist system and reconquer the whole world again for their exploitation.

The USA and its imperialist allies are spending million of dollars on nuclear and other armament while more than 30 millions are unemployed and starving in these countries. To be able to attack the Soviet Union they have deployed missiles in Europe and are also increasing their conventional armaments. Reagan's Star War Project is a dibolical device to carry nuclear war into outer space.

The nuclear war plan is also a plan for global domination for re-enslavement of countries like India.

That is why the USA imperialists and Reagan refused to accept any limitation on nuclear armament, any limitation on military expenditure and refuse to leave outer space free from nuclear weapons. The USSR has made several proposals for stopping the piling of nuclear armaments, for slowing down the drive towards war. It has made a unilateral declaration that it will not be the first to use nuclear strikes. But the USA Govt. did not respond and refused to pledge that it would not be the first to use nuclear strike. In fact the star war project is precisely intended for nuclear first strike.

In these circumstances the recent proposals made by Comrade Gorbachov, General Secretary of CPSU to eliminate nuclear weapons by the end of this century, and to take initial steps towards the aim serves cause of peace and shows a way to save humanity from a most destructive war. The Trade Union movement and the entire working class of India must lend their full support to these proposals. Their adoption will protect international unity of the working class and uphold the banner of proletarian internationalism.

The cry of Workers of the World Unite loses all its meaning if the working class of India is unable to

fight the menace of an aggressive war against the successful socialist revolutions, an aggressive war for global domination. May Day centenary calls upon all our unions and all its members to devote their utmost energy to propagate against the danger of war and rouse India's working class to join its hands with the world working class in the struggle for peace.

On May Day centenary the working class and trade unions must announce their decision to break with the tradition of confining their activities to partial demands and express their role in meeting the problems facing our country and our people.

By concentrating only on immediate issues the working class and the trade union movement have converted themselves into a narrow force isolated from the large mass of people especially in peasantry and the agricultural workers.

Today every section of Indian people is under attack from the Union Government. The economic policy of the Rajiv Government with its concessions to the demands of World Bank and IMF constitutes a danger to our economic independence.

The Non Aligned foreign policy is also under attack from the USA and other sources. Waverings and vacillations are being already witnessed which may lead to dangerous anti-national compromises.

Simultaneously the working class is being directly attacked. Hundreds of big factories are closed. Thousand of small factories have been rendered sick. Majority of them are declared unviable, that is, they cannot be reopened again.

The number of registered unemployed in the cities has reached the figure of 3 crores. The government with its declared policy of computerisation and automation wants to add a few more millions to the ranks of the jobless.

To implement its policy the Rajiv Government takes several anti-labour measures, restrict the right and freedom of the trade union movement. The Supreme Court judgement in relation to section 311 (2) of the Constitution strengthens its hands to claim arbitrary powers for the dismissal of its employees. The Government takes steps to attack collective bargaining and illegalise strikes.

On May Day the working class must unitedly voice its protest against the economic policy of the government and protest against the freedom given to multinationals to penetrate our economy.

It must demand halt to attack on trade union rights and condemn official policy of computerisation. Calling for immediate opening of all closed factories and concerns, it must demand immediate unemployment relief and further demand that the right to work should be embodied in the Constitution as a fundamental right. It must call for imme-

diated and total nationalisation of the cotton textile, jute and sugar industries.

All sections of Indian people are getting crushed under the burden of high prices and high taxation. The agricultural worker is denied employment and gets only bonded labour's wage. The number of unemployed in rural areas exceeds four crores. The peasant is denied remunerative price for his produce. The landlords continue to fortify the Harijans and Adivasis and murder them with impunity.

On May Day Centenary the trade union movement must break with its traditional outlook of ignoring the peasantry and come out in defence of the rural masses.

The working class must announce its preparedness and determination to champion the people, the peasantry, against oppression, high taxation and high prices. It must demand overhauling of agrarian relations, break up of land concentration and distribution of land to tillers. The working class must realise that without getting a firm support of the peasantry, without a firm alliance with it, its striving for advanced democratic rights and socialism cannot be realised.

On May Day the working class must proclaim its determination to fight the forces of authoritarianism and defend and expand the democratic rights of the people.

It must declare its resolve to fight imperialist conspiracies which are undermining the unity of our country; the secessionist and divisive elements which are unleashing forces of disintegration and communal and obscurantist agencies which are disrupting the unity of the toilers.

On May day the working class must decide to lend its full support to the left forces in the country engaged in fighting authoritarianism and the forces of disunity and division. It must decide to frustrate all conspiracies of the Central Govt. against the Left Front Govt's of West Bengal and Tripura.

The great damage to national and class unity inflicted by these forces can be gauged from the happenings in Punjab and Assam. The CITU congratulates the working class of these two states and the working class of Tamil Nadu for their courageous fight against divisive and regional chauvinist forces.

On May Day the working class must express its determination to protect national unity, to defeat imperialist machinations against our peoples and fight all measures which compromise our economic independence and our foreign policy of non-alignment.

In view of the constant pressure on our foreign policy and the vacillations already evident, the working class must keep a vigilant watch on the conduct of our foreign policy.

On May Day centenary the CITU calls upon the entire working class to build trade union unity, an invincible unity, which will not only put up a successful defence for the immediate interests of the working class but will also keep sight of the objective of socialism, capture of political power and is able to discharge the immediate responsibilities facing the movement on the national plane.

The National Campaign Committee which represents the existing level of trade union unity, deals only immediate issues leaving out the problems facing the country, the people and the international movement. It is not able to speak with one voice on questions of war and peace, on imperialist conspiracies against the people, on defence of national unity, exposure of divisive and communal forces, and defence of peasantry and rural masses. Unless these limitations are removed trade union unity will neither be able to defend the interests of the working class nor will it be a force expressing the aspiration of the toiling people of India.

The CITU calls upon all the unions, other sister organisations and federations to broaden and deepen the scope of trade union unity so that it can really be a weapon of revolutionary change.

The CITU warmly welcomes the initiative taken by INTUC to develop common trade union action on the question of opposition to war, opposition to divisive forces and opposition to apartheid. The united trade union movement must turn in this direction and throw its full weight against war, against national oppression and against the divisive forces in our country.

The United trade union movement must take steps to unleash a massive campaign for peace among the workers so that the voice of the working class is linked with the great movement for world peace in other countries.

The task is comparatively easy in our country because the ruling party and the government led by it follow policy of non-alignment and peace and oppose all war moves. Given the initiative and leadership of the united trade union movement, the peace movement in our country can become an all embracing movement involving all sections of our people. On the centenary of May Day the CITU and the working class raise the banner of proletarian internationalism, the banner of solidarity of the international working class in the fight against war and for end of national oppression, for peace, democracy and socialism.

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gent of the world working class, to take firm and active stand against the developing war danger.

The appeal says, "General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, M.S. Gorbachov made a statement advancing a programme of complete and world wide elimination of nuclear arms before the year 2000 and laying down other major peace actions... Mankind is offered a clear, coherent and thoroughly thought out programme of concrete action whose realisation would allow the 20th century to be completed by marking it with peace and disarmament."

The appeal says "on behalf of 137 million Soviet Trade Union members, the AUCCTU appeals to the working people of all countries, to all trade union organisations, to give their all round support to the Soviet Union's large scale programme for the complete elimination of nuclear arms throughout the world before the end of this century".

It calls "on the working people and trade unions of the world to press for the other powers, primarily, the USA joining in prolonged Soviet unilateral moratorium on any nuclear explosions; to fight for banning completely the developing and production of new types of weapons of mass annihilation including space strike system; to demand a complete destruction of chemical weapons; to help in every possible way to ensure that the process started by the Soviet-US summit in Geneva will result in the realisation of the principled accords arrived at during that meeting, and in concrete agreements to be adopted on the issue of halting the arms race and promoting mutual trust".

The appeal adds, "It is only through concerted efforts that the edifice of lasting peace can be erected. Further development depends to a considerable extent on how much united the battle front will be in fighting against the danger of war... Any delay is intolerable. In order to enter the third millennium without the weapons of mass annihilation it is necessary to act today."

This is a concrete programme for fighting the danger of nuclear war, for frustrating the imperialist plans and for welding together the international working class into a single united army for defending peace. The May Day centenary in our country must fully respond to this appeal, popularise the Soviet proposals for peace and rouse our entire working class to discharge its international obligations. This is one of the most important issues facing the working class all over the world and the May Day Centenary should not find India's working class lagging behind in the struggle for world peace.

28.2.86

Hundred Years of Achievements of the Working Class

Nrisingha Chakrabarty

THE struggle of the Chicago workers in May 1886 for establishing an eight hour work day, the establishment of which would have meant subordinating the political economy of the capital to the political economy of the labour, had opened a new chapter in the forward march of the revolutionary working class. The death defying courage of Parsons, Spies, Fischer and Engel the leaders who after being framed with the evidence of a witness found to have been bribed, mounted the steps of the gallows with revolutionary convictions has no parallel. Their stifled voice found an echo in Germany. The working class of many countries in Europe had by that time organised their own parties, i.e. Social Democratic Parties. The Social Democratic Party of Germany issued an appeal from its Congress held in October, 87 for holding an International Congress of Workers obviously with the idea of internationalising the incident and observing May Day through out the world.

Second International

Friedrich Engels, the indefatigable colleague of Karl Marx, took pains for the success of the Congress which was held in Paris on July 14, 1889. Under his guidance the Congress adopted a programme for economic demands like eight hour work-day, establishment of a mandatory weekly rest with pay, prohibition of child labour etc., while at the same time it gave a clarion call for the working class to organise as a class on international scale in order to win political power for bringing an end to the wage slavery. This Congress internationalised the sacrifice of the Chicago workers and called upon the workers of the world to observe May 1 in 1890 on a global scale for voicing the demand of eight hour work day as well as other demands as finalised by this congress. It also gave a call for peace by disbanding the existing army and arming the people.

Manifestation of Revolutionary Consciousness

The holding of the Congress and its revolutionary call for immediate demands with class relevance, for organising the working class as a class to seize power etc. was the manifestation of revolutionary consciousness of the working class on a world scale. Such consciousness led the Second International to give a call for peace between the nations from the next congress held in Brussels in 1891 and thus hold high the banner of proletarian internationalism.

Thus with the path so charted, the working class had marched from victory to victory. But all the way was not a bed of roses. The working class had to traverse the path, a tortuous path full of ups and downs, with revolutionary upsurge and counter

revolution, with success and suppressions, through tremendous sacrifices.

It should be understood that establishment of trade unions in all countries was important. Freidrich Engels had said that "without the means of resistance provided by the trade unions, the worker could not have obtained ever what was due to him under the laws of the system of wage labour." This we witness even today.

But by the time the Chicago Hay Market mobilisation of the working class was suppressed on the May Day of 1886, the working class had formed their political parties which continued to raise the level of consciousness of the working class. The internationalisation of the May Day brought these parties together which advanced the cause of proletarian internationalism still further.

The Paris Congress of the International held in 1900 condemned the colonial policy of the bourgeoisie and decided "to establish ties among the socialist parties of different colonies."

Intensification of Struggles

Armed with the revolutionary line, the workers of Czarist Russia, started to move ahead. A strike in Putilov armoury in January 1905 later on developed to a political general strike in Moscow on December 7 and armed struggle from December 9 with barricades in the streets. Though this could be suppressed for the time being, this became a dress rehearsal for the successful proletarian revolution later on. During this period workers of other countries lent support.

Collapse of Socialist International

With the outbreak of the First World War, the working class was put to a serious test in upholding the proletarian internationalist line. Though there were substantial sections of workers who followed this line many leaders of the working class movement in different countries had betrayed this line and took up a reformist — revisionist line. With the start of First Balkan War, the difference came into open. This was imperialist war which was aimed at redivision of the colonies generally accompanied with bourgeois propaganda of national chauvinism. Those who succumbed to such propaganda were led astray. But who upheld the proletarian internationalist line however, succeeded in conducting revolution in their country and achieve socialism.

When it was very clear that the bourgeoisie was preparing for a war rousing the working class and

the people on slogans of loyalty to the country, defend the motherland etc., the International Socialist Bureau in its meeting held on July 29 and 30, 1914 pleaded its inability to do anything against this. Lenin wrote "The alliance with the bourgeoisie used to be ideological and secret. It is not public and unseemly." (Col. works. 21, p. 443). William Foster also wrote in his book, Outline History of World Trade Union Movement that by 1913 it was also established that the leaders of AFL in USA received hundreds of thousands of dollars from the National Association of manufacturers and the Republic Party. (p. 208).

Efforts in Zimmerwald Conference (Sept, 5-8, 1915) and Berne Conference (April 24-30, 1916) to receive the spirit of the Socialist International failed and the International virtually collapsed.

Revolution in Russia Against CZAR

From the time of Russo-Japanese war in 1904 a difference had arisen in the working class movement in Russia. The majority who under the leadership of Com. Lenin had been consistently upholding the revolutionary line, were known as Bolsheviks.

Despite the differences in the leadership, the working class has been going ahead with the struggles. On March 8, 1917, a strike started from Putilov works, spread throughout the capital. A company of the Pavlovsky Regiment joined the revolutionaries on March 11 and the Czar Nicholas II abdicated on March 15 the revolution succeeded.

With the successful revolution at the Centre it spread like wild fire and by March 17 it succeeded even in Tashkent and Vladivostok. With it sprang up 513 Soviets of workers and soldiers' Deputies. There was conflict in powers, because Duma was led by revisionist Mensheviks whereas the majority of the Soviets were held by Bolsheviks under the leadership of Lenin, who pursued the revolutionary line based on proletarian internationalism.

Socialist Revolution in Russia

This also led to upsurge and armed struggles in Germany and Austro-Hungary. Struggles were intensified in many countries. The question of peace came to the fore front. In Germany, long drawn struggles forced a change in the authorities and publication of a resolution on Peace. In Austria, the Parliament gave some concessions to the workers. In Hungary the Premier resigned and a coalition was formed. In France, Britain, Italy, Romania, USA etc. the struggle got intensified. May Day rallies held in many countries expressed solidarity with the Soviet revolution. In France the 'Republican Association of War Victims' led by Henri Barbusse, advanced the slogan 'War on War'.

After the February revolution in Russia, the

Kerensky govt. started repression on the Bolshevik Deputies who refused to surrender arms and demanded all power to the Soviets. Lenin had to go underground and conduct yet another revolution. On November 7, the Provisional Govt. of Petrograd was deposed. The uprising in Moscow was started on November 10 and on November 16, the revolutionary forces entered Kremlin breaking down the enemy resistance.

The first act of the Socialist Govt. was to secure peace. Despite annexionist demands of Germany and the Bourgeois Govt. of Finland declaring independence, the Soviet Govt. of Russia had signed an armistice at Brest Litovsk on December 15, 1917 which was formalised in March 18. Thus the first Socialist country was born directly out of correct application of the revolutionary line based on proletarian internationalism. Its firm adherence to the principle of peace between nations has not only demonstrated by the Brest-Litovsk agreement but also on the "Decree of Peace" which was issued after the November Revolution by Lenin. This led to revolt and upsurge by the soldiers in Bulgaria and the navy sailors in Germany. These were however short lived and ruthlessly suppressed.

International Solidarity in Support of Russia

The imperialist countries first physically blocked the main ports of Soviet Russia and encircled the State both militarily and economically. Later on when Kolchak and Dennikin started a counter revolution within the country, they despatched soldiers to various parts of Russia and gave the counter revolutionaries material help, including military help.

This was the period when once again the revolutionary proletarian line based on internationalism was put to test. It was seen that the Social Democrats who were leading the Socialist International known as Second International, met at Berne on February 3, 1919, but refused to support the Soviet Russia or give a call for seizure of power by proletariat when favourable upsurges were taking place. All revolutionaries boycotted this and then established a Communist International. Those who met at Berne had already decided to revive International Federation of Trade Unions (IFTU).

The revolutionaries of different countries organised solidarity support to the Socialist Soviet Russia. Workers refused to send arms to Russia, sailors refused to sail warships. There were political general strikes. It was under pressure of this powerful movement that forced the imperialist powers to lift the blockade and armed intervention. This triumph was the direct achievement of the line of international solidarity of the working class in changing the order of the society. It was only those who followed this line truthfully have succeeded in overthrowing the power of the capitalist exploiters.

Advancing the Struggle in the Colonies

The successful revolution in Russia and its defence both against internal counter revolution or the blockade and attacks by the imperialist powers had not only created a favourable situation in Europe but also in the colonies ruled by those countries. Trade Unions and Communist Parties were formed and the struggles were advanced in India, China, Korea, Japan, Vietnam, Cuba, Argentina, and other countries. Soviet Russia in turn helped the revolutionary movements elsewhere and forces of peace, progress and socialism were strengthened.

In China it started from 1927 after successful resistance to Japanese aggressive war in 1924 and had continued upto 1949 when the revolution became victorious. But before that it had to overcome and trounce the fascism which rose on an international scale.

Rise and Defeat of Fascism

The failure of the bourgeoisie of Germany, Italy, etc to secure favourable terms during Versailles Treaty after the First World War and the growing strength of revolutionary forces at home had given rise to fascism in these countries. They formed parties on the slogan of national socialism but attacked the socialists who were following a revolutionary internationalist line. British and other imperialist powers had been aiding and egging them on to attack Soviet Russia. But the war broke out when Germany attacked Poland in September 1939. The revolutionary proletariat of Russia and mighty Red Army finally vanquished the fascist forces under the leadership of Joseph Stalin. It was under his leadership that the Soviet Russia could build up itself into such a powerful country. Again it was his leadership that provided the military gain over the fascist forces.

The revolutionary internationalist line of the proletariat taught the working class how to forge a formidable unity—unity with hated forces like those of imperialism albeit for a short duration—to isolate the rabid fascist forces. The imperialists delayed opening of Second Front when German fascist forces were making rapid advance within Russia. But that did not deter the Red Army, the proletariat, the working people and particularly the women of Soviet Russia to advance the cause. Churchill in a message in February 1945 said "Future generation will acknowledge their debts to the Red Army".

Harry Truman, the U.S. President had to appreciate "The magnificent contribution made by the mighty Soviet Union to the cause of civilisation and liberty". Charles De Gaulle said that the French people "Know that it was Soviet Russia who played the main role in their liberation". This was one of the biggest achievements of the revolutionary proletarian internationalist line which promotes peace,

defeats fascism, defends socialism and liberates people groaning under foreign rule.

Other Countries Overthrow Capitalist Systems

Such a magnificent victory over the fascist forces who claimed themselves invincible naturally influenced the working class. Being inspired by this victory and with the help of the Red Army, the working class of Romania overthrew the Dictator Antonescu's regime on August 3, 1944. On September 9, 1944, the patriotic Front in Bulgaria led a popular revolt and established a new Govt. It happened in Hungary, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and Poland. Half of Germany was also free. States based on Socialism came into existence in these countries.

Defeat of the Japanese fascists in the Far East led to a massive liberation movement in Burma, Indonesia, Malaya, Korea, Vietnam and Indo-China. Japanese were driven out from all these countries and it was impossible for the old imperialist rulers, Dutch, British and French, to re-establish their enslavement.

In India, the navy rose in revolt and the working class gave them solidarity support much against the wishes of the bourgeois leaders who were hammering out a compromise with British rulers.

The help of the Red Army to the Chinese people to drive out the aggressors was acknowledged by Mao-ze-Dong who wrote "This has never happened in the history of China before. The influence of this event is invaluable". It actually led to the success of revolution in 1949. Acknowledging the great victory, Kim-II-Sung said "the defeat of imperialist Japan by the Soviet army ensured the liberation of our country from prolonged colonial domination".

It was thus proved to the world that the revolutionary line of proletarian internationalism helps the working people to seize power from the capitalist exploiters and establish a form of govt which banishes the exploitation of man by man. It also showed that this line was not a line of annexation of other countries for their rule or keeping it as their market, as the cowardly invasion of Grenada by the U.S. imperialists has shown.

It also showed that this line was advancing peace and not war. Basing on this line, Korea, Cuba, Vietnam, Laos, Kampuchea, etc have become free. Today more than one third of the world is now socialist and the socialist system has become a world system inspiring and attracting others.

The Lessons of History

Lessons of the past hundred years show that the working class, wherever it had pursued this revolutionary line of proletarian internationalism which was laid down in the First International and reiterated once again the Second International in

(Contd. on page 27)

World Conquering March of the Proletariat

Kedarnath Bhattacharjee

ONCE May Day was a day of Spring festival. Festive mood used to pervade the countryside of Europe with the appearance of greenery and hawthorn all around. This is a time when snows begin to melt after the terrible cold spell of the winter and flowers and new leaves cover the trees. With the advent of Spring the whole of Europe used to be in a festive mood. On this day May-Poles were erected and decorated with May flowers and a girl was selected as May-Queen, while others used to sing and dance. This was the festival of May Day.

After the unforgettable events of 1886 in America, May Day assumed a new meaning, a new significance. Today May Day is the world-wide festival of the working class holding processions and demonstrations expressing their indomitable will to bring about a society without exploitation. Now-a-days May Day is nothing but a Labour Day. In terms of season, May First is Spring in some places of this earth and unbearable Summer elsewhere. But to the working people of the world, May Day brings the mood of Spring invariably. That is why in a leaflet entitled "Long Live the First of May" in 1912, Stalin wrote:

"As far back as last century, the workers of all countries resolved to celebrate annually this day, the First of May. That was in 1889, when, at the Paris Congress of the Socialists of all countries, the workers resolved to proclaim, precisely on this day, the First of May, when nature is awakening from her winter sleep, when the woods and hills are donning their green mantles and the fields and meadows are adorning themselves with flowers, when the sun shines more warmly, the joy of revival fills the air and nature gives herself up to dancing and rejoicing—they resolved to proclaim loudly and openly to the whole world, precisely on this day, that the workers are bringing spring to mankind and deliverance from the shackles of capitalism, that it is the mission of the workers to renovate the world on the basis of freedom and socialism.

Every class has its own favourite festivals. The nobility introduced their festivals, and on them they proclaim their "right" to rob the peasants. The bourgeoisie have their festivals and on them they "justify" their "right" to exploit the workers. The clergy, too, have their festivals, and on them they eulogize the existing system under which the toilers die in poverty while the idlers wallow in luxury.

The workers, too, must have their festival, and on it they must proclaim: universal labour, universal freedom, universal equality of all men. That festival is the festival of the First of May.

"That is what the workers resolved as far back as 1889.

"Since then the battle cry of workers' socialism has rung out louder and louder at meetings and demonstrations on the First of May. The ocean of labour movement is expanding more and more, spreading to new countries and states, from Europe and America to Asia, Africa and Australia. In the course of only a few decades the formerly weak international workers' association has grown into a mighty international brotherhood, which holds regular congresses and unites millions of workers in all parts of the world. The sea of proletarian wrath is rising in towering waves, and is more and more menacingly advancing against the tottering citadels of capitalism. The great coal miners' strike which recently flared up in Great Britain, Germany, Belgium, America, etc. a strike which struck fear into the hearts of the exploiters and rulers all over the world, is a clear sign that the socialist revolution is not far off.

"We do not worship the golden calf!" We do not want the kingdom of the bourgeoisie and the oppressors! Damnation and death to capitalism and its horrors of poverty and bloodshed! Long live the kingdom of labour, long live socialism!

"That is what the class-conscious workers of all countries proclaim on this day. And confident of victory, calm and strong, they are marching proudly along the road to the promised land, towards glorious socialism, step by step carrying out Karl Marx's great call: "Workers of all Countries, Unite!"

May Day brings indomitable self-confidence in the mind of the working class and rouses boundless terror in the minds of the exploiters. That was why there was no dearth of efforts to erase the legacy and significance of May Day. Those very efforts were intensified in subsequent periods in America itself.

The aspiration expressed in the resolution adopted at the founding convention of the National Labour Union on August 20, 1866, "to free labour from capitalist slavery", was restated in the resolution presented to the striking workers by the Leaders of the American Federation of Labour in the first May Day demonstration in Union Square, New York, on May 1, 1890: "While struggling for the 8-hour day we will not lose sight of the ultimate aim—the abolition of the (capitalist) wage system".

"In the United States May Day was not abandoned when war was declared in 1917. The proletarian elements in the Socialist Party took seriously the anti-war resolution of the Party adopted at the Emergency St. Louis Convention early in April and utilized May Day to protest against the imperialist war. The demonstration in Cleveland held on May First, 1919, and organised by Charles E. Ruthenberg, the local secretary of the S.P. and

later one of the founders and general secretary of the Communist Party, was particularly militant. Over 20,000 workers paraded the streets to Public Square and were augmented there by many thousands more. The police brutally attacked the meeting, killing one worker and fatally wounding another." (2)

Eugene V. Debs wrote in the May Day edition of the weekly Worker in 1907, "This is the first and only International Labour Day. It belongs to the working class and is dedicated to the revolution."

In the May Day edition of the same paper, Charles E. Ruthenberg wrote in 1923: "May Day—the day which inspires fear in the hearts of the capitalists and hope in the workers—the workers the world over—will find the Communist movement this year stronger in the US than at any time in its history.... The road is clear for greater achievements, and in the United States as elsewhere in the world the future belongs to communism."

It was, therefore, natural for the exploiting rulers to do everything to erase the very spirit of May Day from the minds of the toiling people. That is why the Hoover administration in the USA took a unique method in that direction by proclaiming May 1 as Child Health Day. The leaders of the A.F. of L., who had meanwhile already forsaken their ultimate aim of abolishing capitalism, became an instrument in the hands of the ruling class. This is evident from the following reference to the subject in a report submitted by the Executive Council to the 1928 Convention of the A.F. of L.:" The Communists still maintain May 1 as Labour Day. Hereafter May 1 will be known as Child Health Day, as the President is directed by the resolution passed by Congress to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe May 1 as Child Health Day. The object is to create sentiment for year-round protection of the health of children.

It is a most worthy purpose. *At the same time May 1 no longer will be known as either strike day or Communist Day.* (Emphasis added) (3) Such was the conspiracy to which the A.F. of L. leaders became a party! But in spite of all this, May Day remains not only in its own glory, but also in the hearts of ever-increasing number of toiling millions all over the world. May Day is no more confined within the boundary of the United States, it has now spread in almost every corner of the earth. The manner in which it spread all over the world is full of variety and peculiarities. A few historical instances may here be cited to have an idea of its impact.

Great Britain

The first observance of international May Day started from May 1, 1890. But the first May Day rally of Great Britain was, however held on May 4, 1890, in Hyde Park with the participation of hundreds of thousands of working people. This

rally was organised under the initiative of Eleanor Marx, the daughter of Karl Marx, and her husband, Edward Aveling. The unskilled workers' unions formed under the initiative and leadership of Tom Mann, London Trades Council and the "Old" Unionists too participated. In this connection, Engels wrote:

"The May Day celebration of the proletariat was epoch-making not only in its universal character, which made it the first international *action* of militant working class. It also served to register most gratifying advances in the various countries. Friend and foe agree that *on the whole continent it was Austria, and in Austria it was Vienna, that celebrated the holiday of the proletariat in the most brilliant and dignified manner, and that the Austrian, above all the Viennese, workers thereby won themselves an entirely-different standing in the movement.* Only a few years ago the Austrian movement had declined almost to zero, and the workers of the German and Slav crown territories were split into hostile parties wasting their forces on internecine strife. Whoever had affirmed, a mere three years ago, that on May 1, 1890, Vienna and the whole of Austria would set an example for all others of how a proletarian class holiday should be celebrated, would have been laughed at. We shall do well not to forget this fact when judging those squabbles stemming from internal discord in which the workers of other countries are wearing away their forces even today, as for instance, in France. Who will assert that Paris cannot do what Vienna has done?"

"But on May 4 Vienna was thrown into the shade by London. And I hold it to be the most important and magnificent in the entire May Day celebration that on May 4, 1890, the English proletariat, rousing itself from forty years of slumber, re-joined the movement of its class.

"What the numerous onlooking bourgeois politicians took home with them as overall effect was the certainty that the English proletariat, which for fully forty years had trailed behind the big Liberal Party and served it as voting cattle, had awakened at last to new, independent life and action. There can be no doubt about that: On May 4, 1890, the English working class joined the great international army. And that is an epoch-making fact. The English proletariat has its roots in most advanced industrial development and moreover, possesses the greatest freedom of political movement. Its long slumber—a result, on the one hand, of the failure of the Chartist movement of 1836-50 and on the other hand, of the colossal industrial upswing of 1848-80—is finally broken. The grandchildren of the old Chartists are stopping into the line of battle. For eight years already the wide masses have been stirring now here, now there. Socialist groups have emerged, but none has been able to outgrow the bounds of a sect; agitators and alleged party leaders, including mere speculators and pushers, they have remained officers without soldiers...The powerful movement of the masses will put an end to all these

sects and little groups by absorbing the men and showing the officers their proper places. Those who don't like it may sneak away. It won't come off without friction, but come off it will..."(4)

China

May Day was first observed in China in the year 1924 under the leadership of Dr. Sun Yat Sen But it was, however, banned in the regime of Chiang Kai Shek. With the advent of the People's Republic of China, May Day has become a day of annual festival of the people.

Germany

From the very first year of international May Day, this day has been observed in Germany. During the period of the rise of fascism under the leadership of Hitler, the May Day demonstrations and rallies began to face dastardly armed attacks. But every time the German working class showed its indomitable will to repel all these attacks in defence of May Day.

At last on January 30, 1933, Hitler was made the Chancellor by President Hindenberg. In the next month, i.e. on February 27, the fascists, the worst enemies of mankind, started their criminal activities by putting fire to the Reichstag, the parliament of Germany of those days. In order to weed out the working class organisations and their leadership, the brutal fascist efforts were further intensified. Thousands of leading workers were sent to concentration camps and were subjected to inhuman physical torture. But in spite of all that, the working class movement could not be wiped out.

The hypocrisy and trickery practised by the unscrupulous fascist leaders in order to crush the organised working class movement has been graphically described by William L. Shirer in his book, the Rise and Fall of the Third Reich, thus:

"The free trade unions, which, as we have seen, once had crushed the fascist Kapp putsch by the simple means of declaring a general strike, were disposed of as easily as the political parties and the states — though not until an elaborate piece of trickery had been practised on them. For half a century May Day had been the traditional day of celebration for the German and European worker. To lull the workers and their leaders before it struck, the Nazi Government proclaimed May Day, 1933, as a national holiday, officially named it the 'Day of National Labour' and prepared to celebrate it as it had never been celebrated before. The trade union leaders were taken in by this surprising display of friendliness toward the working class by the Nazis and enthusiastically cooperated with the government and the party in making the day a success. Labour leaders were flown to Berlin from all parts of Germany, thousands of banners were unfurled acclaiming the Nazi regime's solidarity with the worker, and out at

Tempelhof Field Goebbels prepared to stage the greatest mass demonstration Germany had ever seen. Before the massive rally, Hitler himself received the workers' delegates, declaring, 'you will see how untrue and unjust is the statement that the revolution is directed against the German workers. On the contrary.' Later in his speech to more than 100,000 workers at the airfield Hitler pronounced the motto, 'Honour work and respect the worker!' and promised that May Day would be celebrated in honour of German Labour 'throughout the centuries'.

Late that night Goebbels, after describing in his most purple prose the tremendous enthusiasm of the workers for this May Day celebration which he had so brilliantly staged, added a curious sentence in his diary: 'Tomorrow we shall occupy the trade union buildings. There will be little resistance.'

That is what happened. On May 2 the trade-union headquarters throughout the country were occupied, union funds confiscated, the unions dissolved and the leaders arrested. Many were beaten and lodged in concentration camps (5). Mr. Shirer pointed out further:

"A document which came to light at Nuremberg shows that the Nazis had been planning for some time to destroy the trade unions. A secret order dated April 21 and signed by Dr. Ley contained detailed instructions for 'co-ordinating' the unions on May 2. S.A. and S.S. troops were to carry out the 'occupation of trade union properties' and to 'take into protective custody' all union leaders. Union funds were to be seized, The Christian (Catholic) Trade Unions were not molested on May 2. Their end came on June 24."

That was how May Day was celebrated by the fascists in 1933. It may also be mentioned here that a few days later, i.e., on May 10, 1933, the fascist gangsters called 'Black Shirts' burned about 25,000 books which were the valuable collections of the University over a long period, in front of the Berlin University itself under the leadership of Hitler's publicity man, Goebbels, who greeted the action as a patriotic job.

In spite of all these terror tactics, the working class movement could not be crushed in Germany by the fascist beasts. In subsequent years May Day continued to be observed regularly, although secretly, and May Day Manifestos and leaflets were distributed all over the country by adopting various novel means and unthinkable methods without being detected by the fascist intelligence.

Finally, on May 1, 1945, the victorious Soviet Red Army entered Berlin and dug the grave of fascism. On April 29, 1945, General Weidling told the Fuehrer that the enemy would reach the Chancellery by May 1 at latest — in a day or two, that is. Mr. Shirer described one event thus:

"General Krebs set out shortly after mid-night of April 30 — May 1 to see General Chuikov, the Soviet commander of the troops fighting in Berlin. One of the German Officers accompanying him has required the opening of their conversation.

The Russian General demanded the unconditional surrender of everyone in the Fuehrer's bunker as well as of the remaining troops in Berlin."

The May Day celebration of that year was indeed a great festival of working class victory over fascism.

Russia

Under the leadership of Lenin, May Day became a powerful instrument for revolutionary upsurge of the working class. May Day strikes, rallies, demonstrations, leaflets and manifestos everything was applied by Lenin with profound skill in order to develop revolutionary consciousness and organisation.

In 1896, while he was in prison, Lenin wrote a May Day leaflet for the St. Petersburg Union of Struggle for the Liberation of the Working Class, one of the first political groups in Russia. The leaflet was smuggled out of prison and 2,000 copies were distributed among workers in 40 factories. This was how Lenin, from the very early period of his revolutionary activities, tried to acquaint the Russian workers with the implications of May Day as a day of demonstration and struggle. "When a month later the famous textile strikes of 1896 broke out, workers were telling us that the first impetus was given by the little modest May Day leaflet", wrote a contemporary who helped to issue it.

Under the leadership of Lenin, May Day used to be observed with sufficient preparation which at times started even six months earlier. In early November of 1900, Lenin wrote in the preface to pamphlet, May Days in Kharkov, thus: "In another six months, the Russian workers will celebrate the First of May of the first year of the new century, and it is time we set to work organising the celebrations in as large a number of centres as possible, and on a scale as imposing as possible. They must be imposing, not only in the number of participants, but in the organised character and the class-consciousness the participants will display, in their determination to launch a resolute struggle for the political liberation of the Russian people and, consequently, for a free opportunity for the class development of the proletariat and its open struggle for socialism. It is time to prepare for the forthcoming May Day celebrations, and one of the most important preparation measures must consist in learning what the Social-Democratic movement in Russia has already achieved, in examining the shortcomings of our movement in general and of the May Day movement in particular, in devising means to eliminate these shortcomings and achieve better results."

"The demand for an eight-hour day, however, is the demand of the whole proletariat, presented, not to individual employers, but to the state authorities as the representative of the entire present-day social and political system, to the capitalist class as a whole, the owners of all the means of production. The demand for an eight-hour day has assumed special significance. It is a declaration of solidarity with the international socialist movement. We need to make the workers understand this difference, so that they do not reduce the demand for the eight-hour day to the level of demands like free railway tickets, or the dismissal of a watchman. Throughout the year the workers, first in one place and then in another, continuously present a variety of partial demands to their employers and fight for their achievement. In assisting the workers in this struggle, socialists must always explain its connection with the proletarian struggle for emancipation in all countries. And the First of May must be the day on which the workers solemnly declare that they realise this connection and resolutely join in the struggle."(6)

In the very initial writings of Stalin in 1901, we find the indications of the victorious march of May Day:

"The First of May celebrations in Russia laid the road to the political struggle and to political demonstrations. And to the only weapon they possessed in their struggle in the past — the strike — the Russian workers added a new and powerful weapon — the political demonstration, which was tried for the first time during the great Kharkov May Day rally in 1900."

In the Second Congress of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party held in 1903, Lenin himself drafted the resolution on May Day.(8)

In April of 1904, Lenin, in his characteristically simple, directed and penetrating style, wrote the leaflet on May Day giving a clarion call to the toiling deprived millions:

"Comrade workers! May Day is coming, the day when the workers of all lands celebrate their awakening to a class-conscious life, their solidarity in the struggle against all coercion and oppression of man by man, the struggle to free the toiling millions from hunger, poverty, and humiliation. Two worlds stand facing each other in this great struggle: the world of capital and the world of labour, the world of exploitation and slavery and the world of brotherhood and freedom.

"On one side stand the handful of rich blood-suckers. They have seized the factories and mills, the tools and machinery, have turned millions of acres of land and mountains of money into their private property. They have made the government and the army their servants, faithful watchdogs of the wealth they have amassed.

"On the other side stand the millions of the disinherited. They are forced to beg the moneybags for permission to work for them. By their labour they create all wealth; yet all their lives long they have to struggle for a crust of bread, beg for work as for charity, sap their strength and health by back-breaking toil, and starve in hovels in the villages or in the cellars and garrets of the big cities.

"But now these disinherited toilers have declared war on the moneybags and exploiters. The workers of all lands are fighting to free labour from wage slavery, from poverty and want. They are fighting for a system of society where the wealth created by the common labour will go to benefit, not a handful of rich men, but all those who work. They want to make the land and the factories, mills, and machines the common property of all toilers. They want to do away with the division into rich and poor, want the fruits of labour to go to the labourers themselves, and all the achievements of the human mind, all improvements in ways of working, to improve the lot of man who works, and not serve as a means of oppressing him.

"The great struggle of labour against capital has cost the workers of all countries immense sacrifices. They have shed rivers of blood in behalf of their right to a better life and real freedom. Those who fight for the workers' cause are subjected by the governments to untold persecution. But in spite of all persecution the solidarity of the workers of the world is growing and gaining in strength. The workers are uniting more and more closely in socialist parties, the supporters of those parties are mounting into millions and are advancing steadily, step by step, towards complete victory over the class of capitalist exploiters." (9)

Explaining the fundamental principles and describing the objective situation of Russia, Lenin urged the Russian worker to play his worthy role in the days to come.

Then came the historic "Bloody Sunday" on 9th January of 1905 when the blood of thousands of workers was shed on the streets of St. Petersburg. The first Russian Revolution started thereafter. Lenin again wrote the leaflet "The First of May" of April, 1905. As usual, he reiterated the lofty ideals of the toiling people and then narrated the events of the day and urged the workers to rise in revolt:

"Workers of St. Petersburg, about two hundred strong, went to the Tsar on Sunday, the Ninth of January, with the priest Georgi Gapon in order to submit these demands of the people. The Tsar received the workers as enemies. He shot down thousands of unarmed workers in the streets of St. Petersburg. The struggle is now on all over Russia ... Let all the people arm, let a rifle be given to every worker, so that the people themselves, not a handful of plunderers, may decide their own destiny ... The St. Petersburg workers proclaimed

on the famed Ninth of January: Freedom or death Workers of all Russia, we will repeat that great battle-cry, we will not shrink from any sacrifices: through the uprising we will win freedom; through freedom, socialism" (10)

In 1912 the workers had to shed their blood again in the Lena Gold Mines. Protests and strikes began to spread all over the country. On April 4, 1913, the first anniversary of that bloodshed was observed through the widespread and militant demonstrations of workers. 250,000 workers of St. Petersburg joined the strike of May first. In his article 'May Day Action By the Revolutionary Proletariat', Lenin analysed the entire course of events and pointed out the inexorable force of Russian Revolution drawing the necessary lessons thereof:

"Oppression alone, no matter how great, does not always give rise to a revolutionary situation in a country. In most cases it is not enough for revolution that the lower classes should not want to live in the old way. It is also necessary that the upper classes should be unable to rule and govern in the old way. This is what we see in Russia today. A political crisis is maturing before our very eyes". (11)

This very political crisis and the organised might of the working class ultimately led to the Great November Revolution of 1917, which for the first time shook the very foundation of the world capitalist system. In that very year on May 1, Pravda published Stalin's article 'May Day', which declared with unshakable self confidence:

"The Russian revolution is the first to be forcing a breach in the wall that divides the workers from one another. The Russian workers, at this time of universal 'patriotic' frenzy, are the first to proclaim the forgotten slogan: 'Workers of all Countries, Unite.'" (12).

Lenin himself built up that organisation which could unite the workers of all countries. The Third Communist International did indeed spread the ideas of working class solidarity, class struggle and revolution. Every year that International used to give a call to the entire working class of the world and organised militant demonstrations and rallies of the working people in every corner of the earth. That is why May Day is so well-known, so dear to the toiling people all over the world and has become a part and parcel of the working class movement.

Vietnam

Soon after the formation of the Third Communist International, Ho Chi Minh, the first Communist of Vietnam, joined the Congress of the newly organised Communist Party of France and resolutely raised the question of liberation of all colonies including Vietnam and also the question of international solidarity. Subsequently, in 1930 was formed the Indochinese Communist Party which was later transformed into Vietnam Workers Party in 1951. The national liberation movement of

Vietnam under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh created an awe-inspiring consternation all over the world because the liberation of Vietnam became possible after about 45 years of bitter, devastating and direct military confrontations with the three major imperialist powers like France, Japan and the U.S.A. While such an all-pervading battle was continuing, Ho Chi Minh breathed his last on September 3, 1969. But the heroic people of Vietnam held his banner high and scored victory after victory which ultimately led to final liberation of Vietnam.

That May Day became very much dear to the people of Vietnam under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh, was evident in the last stage of the liberation war. The National People's Liberation Army was moving very fast at that time in order to liberate Vietnam before May Day itself. At last on 30th April, 1975, the satellite government of South Vietnam surrendered unconditionally to the Liberation Army. The American war-mongers fled from Vietnam with all their satellite troops. The bloody battle of long 20 years came to an end with the fall of Saigon. Then Saigon assumed the new name of Ho Chi Minh City. Amidst this historic victory celebration, the next day, i.e., May 1, 1975, was observed as the first May Day of liberated Vietnam.

(Contd. from page 21)

which the May Day was internationalised, that it has been able to overthrow the yoke of wage-slavery of capitalism. Wherever it had departed and followed the line of compromise and collaboration it has only increased its own misery. Let us take for example what is happening in Great Britain. In a country in which the people of various races found a place to organise themselves — the Indian ratings of merchant navy had observed May Day in London Hyde Park in May 1925, is now occasionally torn by racial strifes, organised by reactionary forces.

A Sharp Contrast

The past 100 years, rather the past 70 years after the success of the November revolution in Russia in 1917 shows, how the socialist economy grows from strength to strength, how it ensures job for all, how it banishes unemployment, how it goes about providing humanity all what they need, how the life standard including education, health and old age security is looked after in the Socialist States, and above all how these countries desire and preserve peace between all nations.

A sharp contrast is seen in the capitalist world where economic crises are the order of the day. Even before the effects of one crisis is overcome another crisis sets in giving it almost a permanent character. How the unemployment is increasing every day reaching to a new height today after the 1928 crisis, how the services and social security is cut, how the workers are being forced to cut their

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4. May 4 in London—Frederick Engels, Articles on Britain by Marx and Engels, Progress Publishers, Moscow, 1971—Pages 402-3 and 407-8.
5. The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich, William R. L. Shirer—Pan Books Ltd., London, 1969—Pages 252-253.
6. Preface to the pamphlet, May Days in Kharkov—Lenin, Collected Works, Vol. 4, Moscow, 1964—Pages 357, 362.
7. The Russian Social Democratic Party and Its Immediate Tasks—J.V. Stalin Works, Vol. 1, Moscow, 1952—Page 19.
8. Lenin, Collected Works, Vol. 6—Page 473.
9. Ibid, Vol. 7—Pages 199-200.
10. The First of May—Lenin, Collected Works, Vol. 8—Page-348.
11. May Day Action by the Revolutionary Proletariat—Lenin, Collected Works, Vol. 19—Page 218.
12. May Day, J.V. Stalin Works, Vol. 3, Moscow, 1953—Page 39.

wages in order to retain their jobs. The world today also notes how being unable to solve the problem at home, the imperialist countries, led by their gendarme the U.S. imperialists are building up giant industrial-military complex and starting a programme of Star War which is essentially a programme of militarisation of outer space with the option of first nuclear attack — all with the aim to destroy the socialist world and socialism.

Defend Socialism

This perfidious attempt of the U.S. War mongers should not be allowed to succeed. Their design is to destroy the socialist world which is the achievement of the past hundred years' struggle of the revolutionary working class, and establish global domination. This is bound to fail. For over 120 years, the call "workers of all lands Unite" has been inspiring the working class. The internationalisation of the May Day has brought the working class on a common platform for a hundred years. The call for peace between all nations is also as old as this common stand of the working class.

On this day while recapitulating the achievements of the past hundred years, the working class in all lands must realise that the Socialist system which has now developed as a world system has to be guarded and preserved. They must move hand in hand against the nuclear designs of the imperialist powers especially the US imperialists who have started a mad arms race even endangering outer space. The defence of the socialist world and socialist system, is a task which we can ignore only at our peril rather the peril of humanity and civilisation.

Unprecedented Record in Agricultural Development

Relentless efforts of the Left Front Government yield spectacular results

West Bengal's economy is primarily agro based. Keeping this in view the Left Front Government—since it came to power—has continuously been striving to implement programmes for improvement of agriculture as well as agriculturists and development of irrigation. Many and varied schemes like ensuring timely availability of agricultural inputs, agricultural price support schemes, improved marketing facilities, crop insurance, distribution of mini-kit, increased use of pesticide etc. have been drawn up to generate increased agricultural production and employment opportunities. Food grains production has surpassed all records. Emphasis has been laid on converting mono-crop areas into multi-crop ones. During the last eight years seeds of different crops worth about Rs. 210 crores have been imported from other states to meet the demands of local farmers. State Seed Corporation functions to make the state self-reliant in production & distribution of quality seeds. West Bengal is pioneer in introducing the farmers old age pension scheme in the country.

As irrigation is complementary to increased agricultural production the Left Front Government has also taken steps to improve the irrigation facilities. Apart from major irrigation projects a host of medium & minor irrigation schemes have been completed. Irrigation facilities are being extended to one lakh hectares of land every year. Various flood control and bank protection measures have paid dividends. With World Bank Aid a new technique of irrigation system is operative in hill areas.

Bold and dynamic steps to increase agricultural production and irrigation facilities by the Left Front Government has given the farmers a filip and a new dimension to look forward to.

Progress in Agriculture (in lakhs)		
	1976-77	1984-85
Rice	64 Tonne	79.23 Tonne (approx.)
Jute	34.70 bales	43 bales
Potato	16.57 Tonne	31 Tonne

Government of West Bengal

AJ/-2.7.85

May Day and Struggle for Eight Hours' Day in India

M.K. Pandhe

ON May Day this year the working class all over the world will be observing the centenary of the Martyrdom of the Chicago workers who heroically fought for their legitimate demand for introduction of 8 hour day and against exploitation by the capitalist class. The Second International in its 1889 meeting at Paris decided to organise celebrations of May Day as International Labour Day.

In India the message of May Day reached very late. It was observed on a national scale for the first time in 1927 by holding demonstrations and rallies in which along with other working class demands, the demand for 8 hour day was specially highlighted. This observation of the May Day was rightly described by Com. R.P. Dutt as "the Symbol of the opening of a new era of the Indian Labour movement as a conscious part of the International labour movement." (India Today P. 384).

The struggle for achievement of 8 hours day in India was a long and an arduous one. The hours of work were brought down step by step through hard struggles. Com. Sukomal Sen in his book "Working Class in India" reported that as early as in April-May, 1862, 1200 workers of Howrah Railway Station went on strike for some days demanding 8 hours day. However, in general the demand was made for reduction in hours of work because there was no limit on hours of work in early factories and establishments. Working for 14 to 16 hours a day was a normal phenomenon without any weekly off. Even there was no tiffin break permitted in those days when the workers had to take their meals while doing their work.

This excessive and cheap labour in India was adversely affecting the Lancashire millowners in U.K. who found it difficult to compete with textile mills in India. They therefore raised a hue and cry about the shocking conditions in Indian factories. Questions were also raised in British Parliament highlighting the limitless hours of work in Indian factories. The Factory Commission which studied the working conditions in 1884 went into this aspect of working hours. The Bombay Mill-hands Association led by Shri N.M. Lokhande in its memorandum to the factory commission demanded "That work in mills should commence at 6.30 a.m. and close at sunset." It also demanded "That half an hours recess be allowed to them at noon."

The first Factories Act passed in 1881 did not provide anything about limiting the hours of work. It only prohibited employment of children below 7 years of age, but no hours of work were limited for them also.

The factories Act of 1891 was made applicable only to factories employing 50 or more persons. It

raised the minimum age limit for the employment of children from 7 to 9. It however permitted employers to extract 9 hours of work per day from the child labour. The Act limited the hours of work for women workers to 11 per day and banned night shift work for them. This act did not specify limit on hours of work for the male workers, but allowed half an hour tiffin break every day. As a matter of fact, when electric lights came in factories in 1895 attempts were made to increase the hours of work and some strikes were organised against that.

Resistance Against Excessive Hours

Periodic demonstrations of workers against the shocking working conditions, spontaneous stoppage of work, destruction of machinery or beating the jobbers or mukadams were the early forms of resistance to the exploitation in the absence of any organised trade union movement. Several philanthropic persons took up the cause of the workers pressed the need for improvement in the matter.

As a result of these struggles the Factories Act had to be amended once again in 1911 limiting the hours of norm for male adults to 12 hours a day and for children 6 hours. These provisions were not implemented by several factories due to lack of proper inspection machinery and strong penalties for violation of the Act.

Several strike struggles have been reported immediately after the end of the First World War on the question of reduction of hours of work. The intensity and sweep of the strike was described by the official publication: Bulletin of Indian Industries and Labour (No. 43) in the following words:

"Conditions particularly as regards longer working hours which had formerly been accepted as inevitable, were no longer regarded as tolerable; and while trade unions, as they are understood in the west, were still almost unknown, the value of concerted action was rapidly realised. Some strikes of importance occurred in the cold weather of 1918-19 and there was more widespread outbreak of industrial unrest in the following winter. Several of the bigger strikes at this period were directed towards securing a ten hour day and so much success was achieved that the embodiment in 1922 of the sixty hour week in the factories Act presented little more than the enforcement on the industry generally of a principle already accepted by the great majority of employers.

Phased Reduction in Working Hours

The factories Act 1911 was applicable to the textile industry only with regard to the hours of work. But the 1922 Act was made applicable to all

the industries indicating the movement for reduction of hours of work spread to other industries during the period. By amendment to the factories Act 1922 the coverage of the Act was extended to all factories using power and employing 20 or more persons. It reduced hours of work to 11 a day and 60 a week and provided payment for overtime work at the rate of $1\frac{1}{4}$ times the normal wage.

The feelings of the rising militant Working Class of India was reflected in the Action Programme drafted by the emigre Communist Party of India which was circulated to Gaya Congress in 1922. The programme declared inter alia "To secure an eight hour day, minimum wage and better housing for industrial workers". The bourgeois national leadership however did not support the demand for 8 hours working day since it was hitting out the interests of the Indian Bourgeoisie. However it found support among the workers increasingly.

The strike struggles for further reduction in hours of work continued even after attainment of 10 hour day. According to official statistics between 1921 and 1928 there were 64 strikes on the question of leave and reduction in hours of work. Of these strikes 32 were in Bengal, 24 in Bombay Presidency, 5 in Madras Presidency, 2 in Bihar and Orissa while one in U.P.

In the year 1928 when acute recession swept the entire capitalist world its impact was felt in India. The Bombay textile mill owners, with a view to pass on the burden of the recession on the shoulders of the workers planned to increase the hours of work. The strike Committee of Bombay textile workers in April, 1928 demanded that there should be "no increase in working hours" and forced the millowners to withdraw their step."

The demand for eight hours day had been gaining ground in the country and it was raised during several strike struggles. In memoranda submitted to the Royal Commission on Labour this was highlighted by several organisations and the Commission had to take cognisance of this demand. The majority of the Commission however did not agree to concede the demand on the following grounds:

"From the point of view of the industry, the employer is entitled to claim that until the worker is ready to approximate more nearly to western standards of discipline it is undesirable to attempt an 8 hour day, and even $8\frac{1}{2}$ hour day would involve an amount of dislocation that would be serious" (Report page 45).

However three members of the commission, Mr. Cliff, N.M. Joshi and Dewan Chaman Lall voiced the feelings of the Indian workers. The Report says, "They hold the view that the essential requirements of a worker working under Indian conditions, is first a shorter working day and second the provision of suitable rest periods during the working day. In their opinion the institution of an 8 hour

day in factories under present conditions is not only desirable but both practicable and necessary." (Report Page 46).

L.L.O. Convention on Hours of Work

As a result of the pressure from the international labour movement the 8 hour day concept had to be given due importance when the International Labour Organisation was formed in 1919. The first ILO convention relates to limiting the hours of work to eight in a day and forty eight in a week and it was made applicable from the year 1921. The then British Government ratified the Convention which permitted to allow more than 8 hours of work per day for India, The spirit of the Convention was not implemented. The minority members of the Royal Commission on Labour only wanted to ensure the full implementation of the ILO Convention. The Indian capitalists resolutely opposed introductions of 8 hours day and the British Government supported them since British Capital in India was also interested in continuing extra hours of work for the Indian workers.

The Platform of Action of the Communist Party of India which was translated into several Indian languages and widely distributed at the Karachi Congress in March 1931 noted the 5 point main tasks for "the present stage of Indian Revolution" which mentioned, "The adoption of an 8 hour working day and radical improvement of conditions of labour; increase in wages and state maintenance for the unemployed." The Platform was published in the December, 1930 issue of IMPRECOR. This highlights how the demand for 8 hours day was becoming extremely popular among the Indian workers in those days. This demand frequently found its place in the strike struggles in the early thirties.

As a result of the pressure of these struggles the Government of India was forced to further modify the Factories Act in the light of recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour in India. The hours of work were limited to 10 per day and fifty four per week in permanent factories only. Including weekly rest it worked out to be 9 hours of work daily. However for seasonal factories the hours of work continued to be eleven per day and sixty per week. The foreign Government did not even spare the women workers who were forced to work for 10 hours a day in seasonal factories.

However in several industries where three full shift working was introduced the workers could achieve 8 hours day through their struggles. This was further extended to some more factories during the Second World War when continuous full three shift working was introduced.

However, a formal amendment to the Factories Act was brought by the Government of India only in the year 1948 providing for a 48 hours week.

(Contd. on page 39)

First Observance of May Day in India

Sukomal Sen

AFTER three years of the May Day battle of the Chicago workers and their martyrdom for eight hours duty, it was the International Socialistic Congress of workingmen which opened in Paris on July 14, 1889 that urged for united proletarian action on an international scale for carrying forward the battle started by the working class of Chicago.

Engels wrote after witnessing the jubilation and response evoked by the resolution passed by the Congress calling for simultaneous celebration of May 1, 1890, in all countries: 'This was the best of what our congress achieved'.

But in countries like India which remained under colonial rule at that period the situation was altogether different. The process of development of capitalism over the ruins of feudalism as it was in the case of Europe was not to be found in India. Capitalism started generating in India only in the latter half of the last century. So also the Indian working class. The first Construction of the Railways in 1853, the consequent development of some ancilliary industries to sustain the Railways, development of the coal mines, tea plantation and the sprouting of the Jute Mills and textile Mills ushered in a halting and painful course of industrial development in India under British rule. And therefore, the independent action of the proletariat and their international consciousness as was evident in the working class struggles of the western countries could not be expected in India. Although working class resistance to capitalist exploitation started from the day of inception of capitalism in India, formation of modern trade unions took some more time and it started to come into being only in the second decade of the present century. Thus historical reasons much delayed the observance of May Day in India.

However, the Indian working class even at its nascent stage fought for shortening of working hours. The strike of 1200 labourers of Howrah Railway Station in April-May 1862 demanding 8 hours work a day was the first strike action of the Indian workers according to still available sources. This strike of the Railway workers within 9 years of the beginning of the industry for 8 hours work a day occurring in the middle of the last century is surely an event of sufficient historical importance.

Someprakash the Bengali weekly published from a suburb of Calcutta in its issue of 5 May 1862 carried the following news about the strike: 'Recently 1200 workers of Howrah Railway station have struck work. They say that the workers of Locomotive Department work 8 hours a day. But they have to work 10 hours. Work has been stopped for some days. The Railway Company should fulfil

the prayer of the workers, otherwise they won't get any man'.

This strike for eight hours' duty should not, however, be construed as an instance of highly organized and class conscious performance of the Indian working class. Coming as it did, in the absolute infancy of the Indian proletariat, it was associated with the inescapable shortcomings of that period, in respect of both organization and consciousness.

The eight hours' struggle in India was a prolonged and tortuous one. Early sympathisers of the labouring class with philanthropic ideas raised the issue of limiting working hours as back as between 1870 and 1880. The culmination of these attempts was the enactment of the first Factory Act 1891. This Act fixed 9 hours work for child labours between 9 and 14 years, 11 hours work for female labours, daily half-an-hour break for tiffin and one day's compulsory rest in a week. But this Act did not make any limitation of the working hours of the male labours. Moreover, as the Factory Labour Commission said, they could not conceive of any conditions which can ever call for state interference in the matter. Working hours of male labourers were recommended to be limited after long two decades when the Indian Factory Act of 1911 fixed the hours of the Cotton Mill workers to be 12 hours a day.

It would be utter reformist if the May Day observance is looked at from the angle of fixing duty hours only. The Socialist International Congress in 1889 asked the international working class to unitedly observe the day from a revolutionary standpoint. Later Lenin in 1895 raising the demand of May Day for fixing working hours to 8 hours a day highlighted the revolutionary significance of the day. To him May Day symbolised the political struggle for freedom which must be continuous. Further, to him, May Day signified the advance of the proletariat as a class which must culminate in the struggle for and final triumph of socialism. It would be interesting to note that when the first May Day was observed in India, the organisers of the celebration did not altogether forget this revolutionary message of May Day, on the contrary they urged the workers to win freedom and establish their own state-power.

The first May Day was observed in India in 1923 at Madras through the effort of M. Singaravelu Chettiar, one of the earliest believers in Marxism of this country. At that time no Communist Party had been formed in Indian soil. An emigre Communist Party of India was formed at Tashkent in 1920. In India only some Communist groups were

functioning in different parts of the country. Of course, All India Trade Union Congress was formed in 1920. But that Trade Union Congress did not take any official resolution for observance of May Day till 1927.

It all goes to the credit of revolutionary spirit of Singaravelu Chettiar that he first took the initiative of organising May Day rally on Indian soil. Singaravelu was in correspondence with M.N. Roy who was then in charge of the emigre Communist Party and was editing the journal 'Vanguard' from Berlin and was clandestinely sending copies of it to India. Singaravelu formed the Hindustan Labour Kisan Party in 1923 and held May Day meeting in Madras in the same year. He also published the 'Labour Kisan Gazette' a fortnightly in English and 'Thozhitalan' a weekly in Tamil. He was also arrested and was accused in the 'Kanpur Bolshevik Conspiracy Case' in 1924.

The Hindu published from Madras in its issue of 2 May 1923 covered the news of May Day celebration in Madras. According to this newspaper, two May Day meetings were held in Madras — one presided over by Singaravelu Chettiar at the Beach opposite to High Court and the other at Triplicane Beach presided over by S. Krishnaswamy Sarma. The Hindu reported, 'there was an enthusiastic gathering of labourers'. The Hindu summed up Singaravelu's speech of the May Day meeting at Madras sea beach in the following words:

"M. Singaravelu Chettiar in explaining the significance of the day, said that the 1st of May was a sacred day for the workers all over the world. The labourers in India also should celebrate the day in a manner belittling their position and signify their cooperation with their comrades in other parts of the globe, and also lay the foundation stone of a labour office so that in the years to come it might attain its full growth and be a source of strength to the suffering labourers in this country. It should also make them realise that they belonged to one class. With reference to the adverse criticism, that appeared in the 'Madras Mail' in regard to the new party the speaker said that only bonafide labourers were celebrating the day and as such there was no cause of alarm. Further the party aimed at the solidarity of labour for a common end. In the natural process of revolution labour would ultimately wield power after putting forth a great struggle".

While explaining the creed and programme of the new party the recapitulated the history of the labour movement in Madras and the failure of the unions, and told them that the failure was due to the indifference of the National Congress and to the aid given to the capitalists by the State. In an industrial warfare so long as the state was on the side of the capitalist and safeguarded the vested interests no union would flourish or survive. They should aim at Labour Swaraj though it was an anathema for the capitalists. Unless they had that Swaraj their condi-

tion would not be improved ... The general principles and the programme of the party were then explained and in accelerating the progress of the movement, the party would make use of the Congress and its method, the Swaraj Party, of the Trade Unions, of the Governmental Institutions.

'P. Natesa Mudali, a labourer then addressed them, on the need for a party to protect labour.

'The gathering then dispersed'.

While reporting on the speech of Singaravelu on Swaraj, the newspaper, however, added, 'By Labour Swaraj he did not mean to hold out to them the driving away of the Britishers which apart from being a stupendous task was also an impossibility. But in working out this scheme there should be a climbdown on their part and there would be an inclination in them to lessen and mitigate the existing evils'.

About the other May Day meeting at Triplicane Beach, the newspaper reported as below:

'S. Krishnaswamy Sarma presided over the May Day meeting at Triplicane Beach. 'M.P. S. Velayutham read out the main portion of a Tamil Manifesto (by M. Singaravelu) issued to Hindustan Labourers and Kisans for organising a political party of their own.

'Subramaniya Siva and Shankarlal spoke.

'The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair'.

In addition to the above report of the two May Day meetings at Madras on 1 May 1923, the newspaper published another news item also which pointed out Singaravelu's contact with another strong centre of working class movement at that time. It was a message to Calcutta by Singaravelu. The newspaper reported. 'The following press telegram was sent to Calcutta by the Labour and Kisan Party of Hindustan today:

'Labour and Kisan Party inaugurated May Day, Madras. Comrade Singaravelu presided. Demonstration successful. Resolved government to declare Holiday next. President explained Party's non-violent creed. Demanded economic relief. Urged world workers' unity for securing Labour Swaraj. Recommended opposition inside, outside government institution. Traced next stage, in world evolution to egalitarian workers' role. Appealed Indian workers to unite the world labour. Substantial labour representations in the Congress, the New Party in Government absolutely necessary. Chettiar answered 'Mail's frantic attacks Party', Labour Swaraj scheme, nothing new. Announced same at Amritsar Congress. Bolshevik gold-myth exposed. South Madras Labour successful meeting Triplicane Beach. Comrade Velayutham explained Manifesto'.

Singaravelu also strongly raised the demand for 8 hour's working day among other welfare measures

for the workers. The action programme of the Labour and Kisan Party of India of Singaravelu demanded 'Eight Hours' law, 6 hours for minors and nursing women and four hours for children'.

'Vanguard', Vol. 2, No. 9, 15 June 1923, edited by M.N. Roy and published from Berlin also carried the news about the May Day meetings at Madras on 1 May 1923.

'Vanguard' reported:

"First May for Indian workers.

"The First of May was celebrated for the first time in India as a proletarian holiday, when in response to the call of M. Singaravelu Chettiar, Veteran Indian socialist, two mass meetings were held in the open air in the city of Madras, where the grievances of the workers formed the theme of the address and the establishment of a worker' and peasants' party was announced in accordance with the manifesto previously published in the Tamil language. The audience was composed of workers and peasants and speeches were made in the vernacular so that everything was understood by them. The significance of May Day was explained, and the formation of a political party of the working class for the attainment of Labour Swaraj' was urged. Comrade Singaravelu who presided over one of the meetings welcomed the advent of the first of May as a proletarian holiday in India and explained the growth of the class struggle in India as in other countries, of the world. The aim of the workers of India should be Labour Swaraj, he declared. So long as the state was on the side of the capitalists and safeguard the vested interests, labour organisations could accomplish little to change the lot of the expropriated working class. The relation of the Indian labour to the international proletarian movement was also made clear and the necessity of organising a working class party to head the struggle for economic and political power emphasised. It was declared that the new party would work within the Congress. Resolutions were passed declaring for celebration of May First as an annual working class holiday in concert with international labour; demanding economic relief for the Indian working class, urging a united front with the workers of the world to secure Labour Swaraj; recommending opposition to government institutions and declaring for working inside the Congress as a separate working class party. The meetings were largely attended and the demonstration passed off successfully. Telegrams to the press of other provinces were sent by the labour and kisan party urging similar celebrations of May Day throughout India".

Thus Singaravelu Chettiar took the first individual initiative in observing May Day in India in 1923. Thereafter in 1927 at the direction of AITUC, May Day was observed in several labour centres including Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. The General Secretary's report of the Kanpur Session of AITUC in November 1927 mentioned: 'May Day Celebrations

on large scale' in that year where 'thousands of workers took part'. The General Secretary's report expected that 'these celebrations will become an annual feature of the Trade Union Movement at all important labour centres".

From the documents of the Meerut Conspiracy Case it appears that in the May Day meeting at Bombay on May, 1927, the then Labour Leaders Philip Spratt, Thengdi, Mirajkar, Jhabwala, Nimbalkar, Ghate and Joglekar were present.

In the May Day meeting of 1928 in Bombay Nimbalkar, S.A. Dange, Bradley and Joglekar were also present.

On May 1, 1928, May Day was observed in a big way in the City of Calcutta. A big procession converged at Maidan and a meeting was held under the presidentship of Mrinal Kanti Bose. According to Intelligence Branch report kept in the National Archives, New Delhi, along with 1000 strikers, several hundreds of tramwaymen and other workers joined that procession and rally. Intelligence report mentions details about the speech delivered in the meeting by Philip Spratt in English and its Hindi rendering by Bankim Mukherjee. According to that report, Dr. Bhupendra Nath Dutta and other speakers spoke in the meeting and they emphasized the need of achieving freedom. It is reported that among others Muzaffar Ahmad was also present in that meeting.

Although it may appear surprising today, the first May Day observances in India were not a very easy affair. For instance, the Police Commissioner of Calcutta sought to ban the May Day procession in Calcutta on May 1, 1928 by a declaration under Sec. 62 of the 1862 Bengal Act and notice was served on many leaders who led the May Day procession. But the procession and rally were organized despite such prohibitory orders.

When Meerut Conspiracy Case was instituted in 1929, many of the accused were charged that they participated in May Day celebrations in 1927 and 1928. The Committal order passed by R. Milener White charged Spratt, Thengdi, Mirajkar, Jhabwala, Nimbalkar, Ghate, Joglekar, Bradley, Alwe, Dange, Kishorilal Ghosh, Muzaffar Ahmad and others that they were present in May Day meetings. Against Dr. Viswanath Mukherjee, a labour leader of U.P. and an accused in Meerut Conspiracy Case the charge was that he 'celebrated May Day in 1928', his announcement contained the communist slogan "workers of the world unite".

But the Meerut Conspiracy Case proceedings instead of frightening the working class from coming close to communism and observing May Day, produced an opposite result. Communism came to be known in India in a big way and after 1928 May Day started being observed in wider manner in many industrial centres of the country. Today, when the entire world is celebrating the centenary of May Day, these heroic saga of first observance of May Day in India will surely inspire the Indian working class in carrying forward the revolutionary tradition of May Day.

Giving Shape to Mass-Based Education

New Spate of Healthy Culture

The Education and cultural affairs in West Bengal have undergone a radical change during the last eight years' regime of the Left Front Government. This present Government is engaged in the noble task of wide expansion of education, making education realistic and life-oriented and reaching the same to all levels of people. A healthy and normal milieu has emerged in the field of education in place of chaos and despondency. In this State, education upto XII class has been made free. Books are being distributed at the primary schools free of cost. The mother tongue has been given its due status making it the only language for compulsory study at the primary stage. Besides, more than six lakhs of people have been brought under the fold of Adult Education Scheme, now being implemented through 22,000 centres. Under the non-formal Education Scheme, children in urban and rural areas are getting the benefit of education through 16,000 centres. Democratic rights have been established in the Universities, getting them rid of undesirable controls. Recently Vidyasagar University has been set up at Midnapore. Continuous efforts are also being made unimpededly to make higher education research-oriented.

There has also been a new awakening in the cultural precincts of the State. While the age-old traditions are being kept unimpaired, new cultural developments, as a counter to the worn-out decadent culture, have come up during the last eight years through multifarious schemes of the Government. Rajya Sangeet Academy, Folk Culture Institute, Girish Mancha, Modhusudan Mancha, Art Gallery, Art Film Centre and the Colour Film Laboratory now under construction at the Salt Lake City, are but a few manifestations of the Government endeavours. Besides, financial grants to the new and old authors for publication of books and financial assistance to the distressed persons in the fields of drama, yatra, art, painting and sculpture, music and folk culture, bear testimony to the efforts of the present Government. To aid to this, the introduction of Abanindra, Alauddin and Dinabandhu Awards by way of recognition to the distinguished talents for artistic creativity in the fields of art, painting and sculpture, drama and music respectively is an unprecedented achievement of the Left Front Government.

The Left Front Government is pledged to help growing a healthy culture.

Government of West Bengal

k.p.r.

May Day and Proletarian Internationalism

P.K. Ganguly

MAY Day is the symbol of promise to build up the international solidarity of the working class. A hundred years back the working class took this revolutionary promise as the Chicago martyrs laid down their lives fighting against capitalist slavery. The promise took the form of a prairie fire and engulfed the globe denouncing the capitalist exploitation of labour. The demand for eight hour work took the concrete form of a demand to end of the capitalist system itself, the system of wage slavery, and usher in a society where there would be no exploitation of man by man. Led and guided by the leadership of the revolutionary detachments of the working class in all countries, headed by Marx and Engels and then by Lenin, the Hay Market incident thus paved the way for an unremitting revolutionary struggle against capitalism, imperialism, holding high the banner of proletarian internationalism.

The demand for shorter working day was brewing up almost from the beginning of the factory system in the United States. Resentment was growing against the then prevailing working time — from sunrise to sun set. A trial against the leaders of the striking Philadelphia Cordwainers in 1806 revealed that the workers were forced to work for even 19 to 20 hours a day. The strike struggles demanding reduction of working hours to 10-hour a day started from the first quarter of the Nineteenth century itself in United States, Britain, Australia and other places, which sowed the seeds of internationalism of the demand of the working class—a demand of major political significance. The demand for precisely 8 hours' work, 8 hours' rest and 8 hours' recreation was raised by the building industry workers of Australia in 1856 and the demand was reverberated by the workers in the United States, England, France, Germany and other places where capitalism was making a headway. The struggle got a spirit in USA almost immediately after the American Civil War (1861-65) for the emancipation of the black workers. Several labour unions combined on the national level to form the National Labour Union under the leadership of H. Sylvis in August 1866 at Baltimore. The founding Convention of the National Labour Union called for a law to limit the normal working hours to 8 hours a day. It declared that 8 hour day was an indispensable condition for freeing labour from capitalist slavery.

Beginning with 1840s Marx and Engels laid the ground work for the doctrine of scientific communism and the theory of class struggle. They prepared a core of proletarian revolutionaries, formed the Communist League in 1847 and presented the Manifesto of the Communist Party to the working class with the call, "Workers of All Countries, Unite!" Fighting relentlessly to give practical shape

to the call, they formed the first International Workingmen's Association (First International) on September 28, 1864. The workers of Europe and America got the schooling in proletarian internationalism along the path of conscious and organised struggle for their emancipation from the capitalist yoke and for the triumph of the socialist system where there is no exploitation. Marx stated that the trade unions should not confine themselves to "a guerilla war against the effects of the existing system", but should "use their organised forces as a lever for the final emancipation of the working class", i.e., the ultimate abolition of the wage system itself. With this scientific and classic enunciation and guideline to the course of the working class struggle, the Central Council of the First International unanimously adopted on August 21, 1866 that "8 hours be recommended as the standard for daily labour as the preliminary condition without which all further attempts for improvement and emancipation of the working class must prove abortive; it is indeed to restore the health and physical energies of the working class, as well as secure them the possibility of intellectual development, social intercourse and social and political action." The proposal of the Central Council was adopted unanimously at the Geneva Congress of the International in September, 1866.

The revolutionary propagandists of the international were persecuted and excuted. But the struggles of the working class against the capitalist oppression took a widespread and militant form. The persecutions went on ruthlessly and the International was banned in several countries. But the world scientific outlook of international proletarian solidarity, which had struck deep roots among the working class, could not be downed. The idea spread to Denmark, Portugal, Holland, Australia, New Zealand, South America and other countries. The General Council of the International which was compelled to shift its Head Qrs. from London to New York, even at its last stage, paid serious attention to the struggle in USA.

The working class struggle shaped towards a common objective and had transcended the national barriers. As already stated, the Marxian tenet that "emancipation of labour is neither a local nor a national, but a social problem embracing all countries, and depending for its solution on the concurrence, practical and theoretical, of the most advanced countries", and that, "the unity of the bourgeoisie can be shaken only by the unity of the proletariat on a world scale", had struck deep roots among the working class. While referring to the struggle on working day in his first volume of the "Capital", published in 1867, Marx made a telling reference to the Civil War in America and the solidarity of class interests between the Negro

and white workers: "In the United States of America any sort of independent labour movement was paralysed so long as slavery disfigured a part of the Republic. Labour with a white skin cannot emancipate itself where labour with a black skin is branded. But out of the death of slavery a new vigorous life sprang. The first fruit of the Civil War was an agitation for the 8-hour day — a movement which ran with express speed from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from New England to California." Calling attention to how almost simultaneously, i.e., within two weeks of each other the National Labour Union at Baltimore and the Geneva Congress of the First International adopted similar resolutions on 8-hour work, Marx said: "Thus on both sides of the Atlantic did the working class movement — a spontaneous outgrowth of the conditions of production, endorsed the same movement for limitation of the working hours and concretised it in the den and for the 8-hour day."

The significance of the international working class movement in the 1860s and 1870s was that it got the ideological and political leadership of the First International under the guidance of Marx and Engels. Assessing the then growing Franco-German militarism Marx and Engels proceeded to raise the banner of proletarian internationalism to oppose war in the interest of the working class and included the demand for disbandment of the standing armies in the Paris Congress resolution. The First International thus laid the foundation of the politics of the working class against the capitalist system, connecting it from the demand of 8-hour work to opposition of war on an international scale. The understanding of the socialist principles of the society of the future led to intensification of the struggles of the working class. Alongwith the 8-hours work demand, Europe and America witnessed the first mass actions by the workers against the growing militarism by the ruling cliques, under the banner of proletarian internationalism. These actions culminated in the most significant achievement of the 1871 — the Paris Commune where the workers held the red flag for than a couple of months.

In this background of struggle to scientifically expose the horrors of capitalism, the direct struggle for the 8-hour day started in USA in 1884 with its nerve centre at Chicago. It's no wonder that Marx's scientific evaluation of the capitalist character laid itself bare in the Hay Market, spilling the blood of the workers, sparked the anger and hatred of the working class against the capitalist system itself and May 1 was unanimously declared to be observed as the International Day of the working class to reiterate its pledge every year to end the class divided society in each country.

Hay Market turned red with the blood of six workers who fell to police bullets, and Spies, Parsons, Engel and Fisher were hanged after a cooked up trial. But through their death they announced the doom of the capitalist system. The

working class demonstrated its international character by sweeping into militant actions in all countries. Braving the ruthless machinery of the ruling clique the working class in America heightened up the strike struggles. The AFL was compelled to call for observance of May 1, 1890 again with strike struggle in pursuance of the 8-hour work demand. Due to the ground work laid by the First International, the international links of the proletariat continued to expand. After Marx's death, Engels continued to guide the working class with the banner of proletarian internationalism. The joint anti-militarist and anti-colonialist actions of the socialist organisations and the militant strike struggles consolidated the international links. The efforts made by Engels and his revolutionary associates met with success. About 400 delegates from the organised socialist movement from 20 countries met a Paris on July 14, 1889 to form the Second International. Hearing the report from the American delegates, the Paris Congress called upon the working class of all countries to observe May 1 from 1890 and organise demonstrations according to conditions prevailing in each country. The resolution passed in the Congress in this respect reaffirmed that scientific socialism was the ideological foundation of the working class movement. It stated that, "labour and the whole of mankind can only be emancipated by the proletariat organised as a class and on an international scale, which must win political power in order to expropriate capital and convert the means of production into public property." The Congress thus advanced the programme of struggle for the direct, vital needs of the working class and at the same time added to it the programme of struggle for the ultimate goal — the triumph of the socialist social system. As the Congress was being guided by Engels on the Marxian principle of proletarian internationalism, it further elaborated the task of international labour in a resolution on disbandment of standing armies and on arming of the entire people. The resolution emphasised on the direct connection between capitalism and war and stressed that socialism was the best guarantee that there would be no war. This was the essence of proletarian internationalism that was enunciated on the Marxian principles for the May Day. It clashed head-on with the reformists and opportunists, being guided by the bourgeois propagandists, who tried and are still trying at the contemporary period, to squeeze out the revolutionary and internationalist essence of the May Day and limit the demands to some economic and immediate needs only, keeping the capitalist structure intact.

The urge for united international proletarian action was demonstrated by the working class in all countries on May 1, 1890 by massive actions. This simultaneous international proletarian demonstration made deeper inroads into the revolutionary instincts of the working class throughout the world with their large participation every year, despite the reformist trend which started to corrode the Second International itself. The unscientific bourgeois

reformism could not however corrode the science of proletarian revolution. The response of the workers which came from the experience of their own lives was recorded in the 1893 Congress of the Second International at Zurich where Engels was present: "The demonstration on May Day for the 8-hour day must serve at the same time as a demonstration of the determined will of the working class to destroy class distinctions through social change and thus enter on the road leading to peace for all peoples, to international peace."

After the death of Engels, the Second International also met its gradual end. But Lenin was there to pick up the red flag and the May Day got established as the Red Day of the working class demanding peace, democracy and socialism, which the ruling circles in each country abhorred. This was precisely because Lenin advanced the theory of Marx in the era of imperialism and consolidated the principle of proletarian internationalism. He translated the Marxian science into practicality by establishing the first socialist state in the world and announced the Decree of Peace. Proletarian internationalism became an integral part of May Day to denounce imperialist wars, colonial and neo-colonial enslavement and for the struggle for peace.

The end of the Nineteenth and the beginning of the Twentieth century saw a further development of the role of trade unions in class struggle and internationalisation. Because of the economic crisis which heralded the beginning of the Twentieth century, the ruling circles concentrated their attack on the trade union organisations. Pre-monopoly capitalism's evolution into monopoly capitalism and then to imperialism made it imperative for the working class to raise their struggle to political level and internationalisation to meet the challenges of imperialism. Lenin formulated the guidelines in his classic, "What Is to Be Done?" Alongwith the consolidation of national trade union centres, a number of international associations and federations were formed. The characteristic feature of the May Day movements in those years was that a greater significance was put to political demands. In Russia the strikes clearly acquired a political orientation heralding the first revolution (1905-1907). In May, 1901 there was pitched battle between the workers and the Czar's police at St. Petersburg Obukhov factory which followed from the dismissal of a large number of workers due to their participation in the May Day strike. The 3600 workers of the factory struck work demanding freedom to celebrate May Day, reinstatement of the dismissed workers, an 8-hour working day and right to elect workers' representatives. (International Working Class Movement, Vol. 2). General strikes also became frequent in several countries with political demands. Apart from Russia, such strikes occurred in Spain, Italy, Sweden, France, Netherlands, Belgium, USA, etc. on May Days or thereafter. (International Working Class Movement, Vol. 2 & 3). But the particular feature of the May Day and general strikes during the

early Twentieth century was the anti-war demands raised by the workers. In its 1906 May Day appeal the International Socialist Bureau called upon the workers of every country "to use all means in their power to preserve peace among nations, and to defeat the war-like schemes of the capitalistic governments." (International Working Class Movement, Vol. 3). The 1905-1907 revolution in Russia, although defeated, stepped up the activities of the Marxist revolutionaries and hastened the process of the final assault. At the call of Lenin the May Day movement entered the mainstream of the fierce class struggle against imperialism, against war.

During the closing decades of the Nineteenth Century large sections of women workers also joined the mainstream of the movements. Unbridled exploitation, discrimination and denial of political and civil rights to women workers made their problem a burning social question. The two Internationals had consistently championed the demands of the women workers. The appeal of May Day and the process of internationalisation of the working class brought large number of women workers under the vortex of the struggles. Women leaders of the revolutionary movement like Roza Luxemburg, Laura Lafargue (Marx's daughter), etc left no stones unturned to mobilise the women workers. While describing the first May Day celebration in 1890 at London, Engels noted the participation of women workers: "There were dockers there in their rough working clothes, kid gloved, top hatted gentlemen compositors, East End working girls in their feathers and finery." (International Working Class Movement, Vol. 2). The First International Socialist Women's Conference at Stuttgart in 1907 laid the foundation for joint international action for women's suffrage. The Conference established an International Socialist Women's Bureau led by Clara Zetkin. In its second conference at Copenhagen in 1910, Clara Zetkin declared the goal of women as not only a free woman, but a free mankind. The Conference decided to mark an International Women's Day in March. Thereafter massive demonstrations and rallies were held on the day from 1911. Headed by Clara Zetkin, by International Women's Secretariat paid particular attention to women's participation in anti-war struggles. (International Working Class Movement, Vol. 3) In order to protect the working women from being trapped by the bourgeois-feminist movement and draw them into the common channel of the proletarian class struggle, Lenin repeatedly stressed that the task of social emancipation of women was indivisibly linked with the triumph of socialism. The Bolshevik Party under his leadership paid constant attention to this question for the successful completion of the socialist revolution. Speaking at the first All Russian Congress of Working Women on November 19, 1918, Lenin said, "The experience of all liberation movements has shown that the success of a revolution depends on how much the women take part in it" (Collected Works, Vol. 28 p. 181). The prole-

tarian women's movement in Russia was the first to embark on this road. The Amsterdam Congress of the Second International in 1904 recorded this in a resolution: "The Russian Women's movement which awakened simultaneously with the general liberation in that country ... is, by and large, unquestionably shedding the bourgeois character typical of the women's movements in some other European countries". (International Working Class Movement Vol. 2).

The fact that the May Day is being observed by ever larger sections of the proletariat and its international character is ever broadening, reaching every nook and corner of the globe, is because, its essence of proletarian internationalism has been enriched due to the scrupulous attention paid by Lenin on the question. May Day got indivisibly linked with the question of proletarian internationalism because of the general experience of the international working class movement, their experience of struggle in each country and the international interest of the working class.

As Lenin explained, by acting against its own national oppressors and exploiters, the working class erodes the international system of exploitation and oppression, with which its class antagonists are closely linked, and thereby helps the working people of other countries to fight for emancipation. He said that the attainment of the immediate aim of the working class movement of Russia — the overthrow of the Czarist autocracy, which was the most powerful bulwark of European and Asian reaction, would make the Russian proletariat the vanguard of the international revolutionary proletariat. (What is To Be Done?)

Therefore, the revolutionary struggle of the working class in each country is of international significance and helps to develop international proletarian solidarity. The May Day struggle therefore has to be waged in pursuance of the demands of political significance in each country, as well as in pursuance of the demands of the international situation.

Lenin's exposure of the imperialists' character and his programme on war, peace and revolution gradually imbibed the anti-war spirit in the May Day rallies and united the forces of peace that remained loyal to Marxism and proletarian internationalism. In Russia and also in other countries the May Day rallies during the First World War reverberated with the cry against the imperialist war mongers. His programme of turning the imperialist war into a civil revolutionary war against one's own government turned the table against the Czarist war mongers and gave birth to the first socialist state of the world.

For the ruling classes, as Lenin explained, war had become a source of unprecedented profit. "War is a terrible thing, yes. But it is a terrible profitable thing" ("May Day and War"; Collected

Works, Vol. 36, Progress Publishers, Moscow, 1971, P. 325; International Working Class Movement, Vol. 3, p. 571). Combining the great power of the monopolies with that of the state, state monopoly capitalism ensured largest possible profits and direct the policies towards militarisation of the economy and divert the entire production, manpower, raw materials to build up military industrial complexes to suit the interests of the large monopoly conglomerates engaged in war efforts. To check the growth of resistance by the working class they launch economic coercion on the workers accompanied by direct violence. Lenin's elucidation of imperialism's drive against the working class gave a big boost to the trade unions to hold high the banner of proletarian internationalism to fight against the imperialist war designs which increasingly found expression during the May Day rallies, which turned into pitched battles with the Police, particularly in Germany. Led by Liebnicht, about 10,000 people took to the streets in Berlin on May 1, 1916, shouting "Down with War, Down with the Government". Liebnicht, Luxemburg and others were arrested and sentenced. Repression was let loose on the Spartacus members also for organising the anti-war May Day demonstrations. Following the May Day arrest of Liebnicht, a massive political strike was launched by 55,000 Berlin workers, the first anti-war strike during war time. Women workers in large number also took part in the anti-war May Day demonstrations all these years. Demonstrating unique show of international solidarity, the May Day anti-war rallies in different countries expressed solidarity with the revolutionary forces of Russia. The May Day leaflets distributed in Italy and France in 1916-1917 called upon the people to follow the example of Russia. The leaflets read "... If everyone had followed that example, the war would have already ended. ... Follow the example of your Russian Comrades, do not engage in fratricide" (International Working Class Movement, Vol. 3, P. 664).

The Second bourgeois-democratic revolution in Russia exerted positive influence on the entire international working class movement. It was the beginning of the transformation of the imperialist war to civil war—a factor indispensable for the liberation of mankind from wars and poverty. And then, the victory of the October 1917 Socialist revolution opened a period of revolutionary upsurge sweeping over Europe and other continents. The revolutionary preachings of the May Days further advanced the principle of proletarian internationalism. The October revolution demonstrated in reality that the international working class had reached the state of maturity, when it had become capable of taking the fate of society into its own hands from the greedy capitalist-imperialist classes. Proletarian internationalism became not merely a slogan, nor merely theoretical, but a practical principle. Today's social and political gains of the workers in the capitalist countries and the national liberation of the peoples of dependent and colonial countries would have been inconceivable if the socialist state

had not taken birth due to the revolutionary activities of the working class holding high the banner of proletarian internationalism. Thanks to the May Day pledge of the working class. To further the coordination of the revolutionary forces and safeguard the socialist state Lenin went ahead to form the Communist International in 1919. The mass revolutionary upsurge continued, the May Day rallies became more militant and all embracing. Imperialism however did not sit idle. The threat of its doom made it all the more frantic to kill the socialist state. Helped by the social-democratic demagogues, misleading the working class, the fascist Hitler launched its blitzkrieg against the Soviet Union to fulfil his dream of world domination. But the indefatigable revolutionary forces led by CPSU headed by Stalin pierced through the fascist forces to give the death blow to Hitler's fascism. The price paid by the Soviet Union were 20 million lives. Out of the blood of the 20 million Soviet people and another 30 million fighters from other countries against fascism grew the socialist camp taking away one-third of the capitalist world. It was an irony of fate for Hitler, but certainly due to the progress of social development on the lines of Marxism-Leninism that the red flag was hoisted on Hitler's citadel itself on May 1, 1945.

The working class kept the promise of May Day. But it has still to carry on and cover a yet long and more tortuous path. The imperialists have not changed their character. Hitler is dead. But he has given birth to his successors—the American imperialists and their cohorts—the NATO allies, dreaming the dead barbarian's dream—to vanquish the Soviet Union, the Socialist camp, and dominate the world. The plans are more crude and devastating—a nuclear holocaust, star wars, chemical and biological war and everything a mad man can dream in its frenzy to exterminate the humankind itself. But the Soviet Union has accepted the challenge and the responsibility to protect the socialist State—the working class state, the achievements of the sacrifice of several generations of the working class—the promise of the May Day. The dialectics of social development, the unflinching science of Marxism-Leninism has called upon the working class again to stand the fiery test and hold high the banner of proletarian internationalism to protect the achievements of socialism, peace and the mankind and sound the death knell to the imperialist war mongers, the traitors of mankind. And the working class all over the world has responded magnificently projecting itself as the biggest anti-war force mobilising people from different walks of life to save humanity, to save the world from the nuclear holocaust. The forces of peace have increased and expanded. Massive demonstrations are sweeping around the globe denouncing Reagan's war pursuits and star war project. India's working class cannot afford to lag behind the situation, being confronted with imperialist conspiracies. The U.S. imperialists are feverishly arming the Pakistan military ruler. The policy of non-alignment is under pressure from the Reagan administration. The May Day centenary programmes must be set according to the demands

of the situation, the demands of proletarian internationalism. Let the centenary rallies mobilise thousands of the working class, the toiling people to declare unstinted support to the efforts of the Soviet Union to avert war and establish peace. Let the Indian working class respond to the appeal of M.S. Gorbachov, to the concrete programme of the C.P.S.U. for the complete elimination of nuclear arms throughout the world before the end of the century. The CITU has to take the lead. Let us start the fight determinedly, expose the imperialist powers headed by the USA, frustrate their war designs, fulfil Gorbachov's proposal to enter the third millennium without the weapons of mass annihilation.

Hail the Red Flag!
 Long Live May Day!
 Up with Proletarian Internationalism!
 Down with War Mongering Imperialism!
 Long Live Socialism, Peace, Democracy!

(Contd. from page 30)

This enactment first gave legal status to the concept of 8 hour day in India.

Yet some establishments continue to work for more hours even now. In Motor Transport industry workers are working 9 hours a day in several establishments. The Loco-running staff in railways are still forced to work upto 14 hours a day. The Government of India is taking shelter under the modifications provided in the ILO Convention. The trade union movement in our country has not been able to ensure implementation of this concept in all the industries. The agricultural workers and workers in unorganised sector continue to toil from dawn to dusk even now.

While observing this May Day the working class of India while reviewing the glorious achievements of the revolutionary movement of the working class all over the world should also take the pledge to implement 8 hour day to the workers in all the establishments. This will be a fitting homage to the martyrs who shed their blood for 8 hour day and other pressing demands of the workers.

Fight for Further Reduction in Hours of Work

The working class and the T.U. movement all over the world has been raising the demand for further reduction in hours of work. Forty hour week with 2 paid weekly offs has already been implemented in several advanced capitalist countries in the world through united struggles of the working class. In a recent Seminar convened by the National Labour Institute on I.L.O. Conventions this demand was unitedly raised by all the trade union representatives. The demand is reflected in some of the Charter of Demands by the trade unions in the recent past.

On the centenary of May Day the trade Union movement should pledge to fight for socialism and end of the present exploitative social system. The struggle for introduction of 40 hour a week should form a major component of the programme of this struggle.

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May Day and Fight for Peace

Samar Mukherjee

Historical Background

THIS year is the Centenary year of the international May Day. This has provided the occasion to review the hundred years' history of May Day along with the onward march of the world working class. May Day which is observed each year by the working class throughout the world on 1st of May is a day of international solidarity of the working class in action in their struggle against wage slavery and for building a new society.

TO UNDERSTAND the real significance of this international day one should recall the clarion call first voiced by the great teachers of the working class KARL MARX and FREDERICK ENGELS in 1848 through the famous Communist Manifesto authored jointly by them. By scientifically analysing the historical role of the working class in building the future Society where there will be no exploitation, no unemployment, no poverty by abolishing capitalism. Their manifesto gave the call "working men of all countries unite". The manifesto declared that "the proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win".

May Day and the Struggle for Peace

THE FIRST International under the guidance of KARL MARX in its manifesto on Franco-German war called upon the workers to protect peace and extend solidarity. The Second International under the inspiration of Frederick Engels in its Zurich Congress held in 1893 adopted the following resolution on May Day:

"The demonstration on May First for 8-hour day must serve at the same time as a demonstration of the determined will of the working class to destroy class distinctions through social change and thus enter on the road, the only road leading to peace for all peoples, to international peace."

The struggle against war has been combined with the revolutionary struggle for social changes. This has been fully demonstrated through the success of the November Revolution in Russia in 1917 in the midst of the first world war which was an imperialist war. The fight for peace provided tremendous sweep to the revolutionary movement of the working class first to overthrow the Czar and then to overthrow the bourgeois government which were interested to continue the war. The November Revolution brought state power to the hands of the working class through the Soviets. Immediately after coming into power the Soviet Government passed a Decree on Peace.

On the question of war and peace the international working class movement was divided into two camps between the revisionists and the revolutionaries. The revisionists supported the war and rallied behind their own bourgeois governments. They became social chauvinists and the stooge of the bourgeoisie. Such a thing happened in the case

of Mensheviks in Russia. The revolutionaries opposed the war and fought against their own bourgeois government with a view to overthrow their rule in order to end war.

Comrade Lenin on the question of peace and war formulated tasks before the working class. In an article written on June 27, 1917, he himself posed the question "Is there a way to a just peace"? He gave the following reply: "There is: through a workers' revolution against the capitalists of the world. Russia to-day is nearer to the beginning of such a revolution than any other country. Only in Russia can power pass to the Soviets, immediately, peacefully, without an uprising, for the capitalists could not resist the Soviets of Workers, Soldiers and Peasants' Deputies". The power was not peacefully transferred as Lenin visualised then due to the betrayal of the Mensheviks who had till then dominated the Soviets. That is why the working class of Russia took power in their hands through armed insurrection. The revolution was successful on the 7th November and the Decree on Peace was announced on 8th November. The Decree says: "The workers and peasants' government created by the Revolution of October 24-25 (November 7th and 8th) and basing itself on the Soviets of workers, soldiers and peasants' deputies, calls upon all the belligerent peoples and their governments to start immediate negotiations for a just, democratic peace".

THE SUCCESS of the November Revolution and the establishment of a new classless society free from exploitation is the highest achievement of the revolutionary working class imbued with the true spirit of the International May Day. It became the beacon light to toiling people of the world and became a bastion of world revolution. That is why Soviet Union became the main target of attack of the World Imperialism.

Imperialism is the real source of war. The more it is faced with crisis, the more it tries desperately to get out of the crisis through war and militarisation. All inner contradictions within the imperialist camp get intensified along with the growing contradiction between imperialism and socialism. The factors that led to the second world war are directly linked with the great world economic crisis of 1929-34. The emergence of fascism in Germany and some other capitalist countries are also related to this crisis.

THE SECOND world war which started as an imperialist war but later turned into an anti-fascist peoples war has proved the inner vitality and strength of Soviet Union, a State ruled by the working class. Its Red-Army which was the army of class conscious workers and peasants fully devoted to high ideal of making the world completely free from exploitation and oppression has shown its superiority in all respects in courage, sacrifice and military skill by defeating the most powerful bar-

baric fascist forces of Hitler. The defeat of fascism has changed the correlation of forces in favour of socialism and democracy. Though two big imperialist powers America and Britain joined with Soviet Union in defeating Hitler, but imperialism as a whole has been weakened. As a result, on the one hand those East European countries which were under the occupation of Hitler were liberated with the help of Red Army and turned socialists, on the other hand waves of upsurges in the national liberation and freedom movements forced the imperialists to grant independence to many colonies and semi-colonies.

DURING the second world war in its first phase when the character of war was imperialist war May Days were observed as anti-war days. But after the perfidious attack on Soviet Union by the Hitlerite hordes when the character of the war changed into anti-fascist peoples war, May Days have been observed with added determination to help the Soviet government and Red Army with more production of arms and materials in order to defeat the fascist forces.

THE TARGET for defeating Hitler before May Day and hoisting the Red Flag over German Reichstag on the May Day proved how the entire people, the entire army including generals were inspired by the spirit of May Day.

MARSHAL G. ZHUKOV has written in his "Reminiscences and Reflections":

"The battle of Berlin has reached its peak. All of us wished to finish off the Berlin group by May 1st. Although agonised, the enemy continued to fight for every house, for every cellar, for every storey and roof.

"April 30, 1945 will always remain in the memory of the Soviet People and in the history of their struggle against Nazi Germany.

"At 6 P.M. Reichstag was stormed once again.

"Witnessing the historic battle for Reichstag personally the Commander of the Third Shock Army Kuznetsov immediately called me at the command post and reported rejoicingly:

"Red flag is on the Reichstag! Hurrah, Comrade Marshall," (page 385)

Commander G. Zhukov issued the following order on the same evening:

"The hour of the final victory over the enemy is nearing.

The Soviet flag is already flapping over the main building of the Reichstag in the Centre of Berlin."

"At the end of the day on May 1st the Nazis in the Reichstag could no longer withstand the onslaught and surrendered.

"On the 30th I got on the line to Moscow straightaway and called Stalin. In a little while Stalin was on the line. I reported to him about Hitler's suicide and the letter from Goebbels proposing armistice. Stalin answered: Now he has done it, the bastard. Too bad he could have been taken alive. Where is Hitler's body? According to General Krebe Hitler's body was burnt.

"Tell Sokolovsky that there can be no talks — either with Krebs or any other Hitlerites — only unconditional surrender, said the Supreme Commander.

"If nothing special happens don't call me till morning. I want to have a little rest before tomorrow's May Day Parade." (P. 390)

The grand May Day parade was held in Red Square. Comrade Stalin read out the order of the day in which he said: "This year the people of our motherland are celebrating the first of May during the victorious consummation of the Great Patriotic war...The brilliant victories the Soviet troops have achieved in the great patriotic war have revealed the titanic might of the Red Army and its high military skill. In the cause of the war our motherland acquired a first class seasoned Army capable of defending the great Socialist gains of our people and of protecting the State interests of the Soviet Union."

Forty years have passed since the defeat of Fascism. Face of the World has changed since that time. The biggest country in population, China has built Socialism through people's democratic revolution. Now more than one third of the peoples of the World are living under Socialist System. Influence of Socialism is spreading very rapidly throughout the World including Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Threat of Thermonuclear War

The World has reached a stage threatened by Thermonuclear war. Unless checked by a gigantic powerful world wide anti-war peace movement the threat may any time become a reality and destroy the entire human race. Such a huge power of destruction has accumulated in the hands of the war mongers and the constant drive for more sophisticated weapons has created great concern for the future of the human Society.

Threat to World War always come from the imperialist powers. In the present situation it is the American imperialism led by President Reagan which is responsible for the mad pursuit of the policy of gaining military superiority over Soviet Union to crush the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries with a view to contain communism. Reagan has taken initiative to spread the sphere of atomic war into outer-space by the project called Star War.

Against this war drive powerful voices have been raised from various sources and various platforms against star war project and stock piling of huge number of Atom Bombs. The Soviet Union along with other Socialist countries and democratic forces has stood firmly against their policy. The Soviet Union has made unilateral announcement that they will not use atomic weapons first against any country. They requested American Government to make

similar statement but America refused. In order to create an atmosphere for negotiation for the elimination of the threat of atomic war and for disarmament, Soviet Union has declared many proposals such as moratorium on the experiments of new weapons, step by step ridding the earth of nuclear weapons.

THE GRAND proposals announced recently by Mikhail Gorbachov, the General Secretary of the CPSU has created wide response throughout the world though the American Government has not yet changed its attitude, though Mr. Reagan met Comrade Gorbachov in a summit conference in November last. The Soviet proposals have far reaching significance. The essence of the proposals is to make the World completely free from nuclear threat by the end of the 20th Century. The proposals are divided into 3 stages.

In the first stage within next five to eight years both USA and USSR will reduce by one half the nuclear arms that can reach each other's territory. On the remaining delivery vehicles of this kind each side will retain no more than 6000 war-heads. This stage will include the adoption and implementation of the decision on the complete elimination of intermediate-range missiles of the USSR and USA in European zone, both ballistic and cruise missiles as a first step towards ridding the European continent of nuclear weapons.

Second stage should start no later than 1990 and last for five to seven years. Following the completion of the first stage should include the elimination of all tactical nuclear arms namely the weapons having a range of upto 1000 KM.

THE THIRD stage will begin in 1995. At this stage the elimination of all remaining weapons will be completed. By the end of 1999 there will be no nuclear weapons on earth.

This peace initiative taken by the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries is being combined more and more with the demand for development and new economic order. The huge money now spent in the manufacture of weapons of destruction should be diverted for the development of the underdeveloped countries and to save millions of people who are now dying of starvation. The scientific talents which are now engaged to produce dangerous weapons of destruction can be utilised for making this world beautiful by making the world free from threat of war. So the working class should come forward as the champion of peace not only to defend the achievements which they have registered during the hundred years of struggles but also to build a new world of peace and prosperity. All efforts and proposals of the Soviet Union for disarmament should be supported and strengthened by mobilisations of the working masses throughout the country. All conspiracies of imperialism headed by American imperialism should be bitterly opposed.

AMERICAN IMPERIALISM is helping the reactionary forces with arms and money to intervene in internal matters of various countries to establish its domination. It is helping the apartheid regime of South Africa against black people, it is helping Israel to attack and deny the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people for their State in their homeland, it is helping the counterrevolutionary forces of Afghanistan to replace the present revolutionary government by a stooge government, it is arming Pakistan with the most sophisticated arms to endanger the security and Sovereignty of India, Afghanistan and Soviet Union. It is helping the extremists and secessionists in India and encouraging all divisive forces to create de-stabilisation in India. It is encouraging ethnic fight in Sri Lanka to establish naval base in that country.

Now the Seventh fleet of America has been berthed in Karachi causing concern for India and other neighbouring gulf countries. It is openly threatening military intervention in case of Nicaragua and Libya.

Tasks Before Indian Working Class

The Government of India as the head of the non-aligned countries is pursuing a policy of peace, for disarmament and against nuclear war. It is also supporting the liberation movements of the Palestinian and African people. This foreign policy is objectively helping the peace movement so the working class should support this policy but simultaneously make the people conscious about its weaknesses. The government and the ruling party is not mobilising the masses behind the foreign policy. The government is reluctant to identify openly the responsibility of American imperialism for creating war situation. Instead they are advocating the theory of two super powers thereby equating America with Soviet Union.

The more dangerous development is the internal economic policy of the Government of India. They have opened the flood gates of Indian economy to the foreign multinational corporations who are responsible for creating war situation. The acceptance of conditionalities imposed by World Bank and IMF while getting loans from these institutions have threatened our independence and exposed the present foreign policy to pressure from the imperialists. That is why the working class should come forward along with all the toiling masses and democratic forces to fight against the policy of dependence on foreign multinationals and the policy of strengthening capitalism in India.

The Working Class of India should draw lessons from the experience of the hundred years of May Days. In order to achieve real peace the struggle for peace should be combined with the struggle for the change of the capitalist system by new social system.

In India the basic weakness of the working class movement both in relation to peace as well as

change of the Social system is reflected in their struggles mainly remaining confined to partial demands. This is due to dominance of bourgeois and feudal influence over the working class. That is why the working class in India is relatively passive and indifferent regarding peace movement and movement for basic change of the society. These weaknesses must be removed by the sustained efforts of the trade unions particularly by the CITU drawing the lessons from history of November Revolution, achievements of the Socialist countries and new peace offensives of the Soviet Union. Indian working class should emerge as the leading force to change the present policies of the government in alliance with peasantry and other democratic forces.

The UNO has declared this year to be the peace year, so the fight for peace gets added importance this year.

CITU's Message to CGIL

(The following speech was delivered by E. Balanandan, Treasurer, CITU in the XIth Congress of CGIL held at Rome from February 28-March 4.)

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions sends its warm greetings to the 11th Congress of the CGIL and wishes success to its deliberations. It conveys through the Congress its greetings to the entire-working class of Italy, Waging a united and courageous struggle against unemployment and severity of economic conditions, the necessary consequences under capitalism of a growingly computerised society.

The CITU congratulates the CGIL on its success in defending the salaries and living conditions of the workers under very difficult circumstances and on its success in maintaining and strengthening trade union unity.

The CITU is deeply concerned over the threat of war hanging over the world. The deployment of US missiles in Europe has increased the threat of war. The Centre of Indian Trade Unions expresses its solidarity with the working class of Italy whose security is threatened by the increased war danger.

The threat of nuclear war hangs over the entire world threatening its very existence. The CITU stands shoulder to shoulder with the world working class and all the peoples of the world to prevent war and defend peace. It denounces the US imperialists who are organising this inhuman war against the USSR to destroy socialism, the achievements of world working class over a hundred years, and dominate the world. Reagan's Star War Project is not a defence project but a design to carry nuclear

war into outerspace and deserves the condemnation of all sections and working class. Silence will mean complicity in the crime.

The CITU congratulates the peace forces in Italy and Europe for their heroic fight to protect peace and prevent war. The forces of peace and international solidarity are helped by the consistent peace policy of the USSR and other socialist countries. The working class of India highly appreciate the proposals for nuclear disarmament made by Gorbachov, General Secretary of the CPSU and lends its support to them.

The desire for world peace is shared by all sections of the people in our country including the Government of India which pursues a foreign policy based on nonalignment.

The CITU once more wishes success to the 11th Congress and is confident that its deliberations will contribute to strengthening working class unity and the spirit of proletarian internationalism which is so necessary today to fight the imperialist war conspiracies.

The CITU is confident that the centenary year of May Day will see the fighting forces of world working class more united and fully determined to end the challenge of war.

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By B.T. Ranadive

in
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8 Years of Left Front Government in Tripura

Eight years of Left Front Govt in Tripura — an eloquent history of bringing in motion in a stagnant life and creating a possibility.

Wide Extention of Democracy, formation of Zilla Parisad, decentralisation of power of programme implementation up to Panchayat level, ensuring of security of people, animal husbandry, agriculture, pisci culture, from small industry to jute mills, electricity for far and inaccessible places, due respect to mother tongue, protection of constitutional rights of all, widening the horizon of culture.

Much done, yet much more to be done!

Limited power, want of finance — foiling all conspiracies at every step, the people of Tripura from the eight years experience have learnt that Left Front Government is the People's Government.

Government of Tripura

New Hopes for Labour

UNDER LEFT FRONT RULE

In spite of constraints, for the last eight years the Left Front Government has taken various steps to make the industrial climate of the state conducive and favourable for growth in all sectors.

- * Industries have been encouraged to come up in the backward areas, where various facilities are being offered, such as: infrastructural facilities, financial support — like equity participation, long-term loan, guarantees, cash incentives etc.
- * For development of industry, joint-sector ventures with private sector partners have been planned. Haldia Petrochemical Project is a step ahead in this direction.
- * In 1984 approval for 152 industrial units involving investment of Rs. 75.95 crores was received. The West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation has so far assisted 318 units with project cost of Rs. 584 crores. Moreover, to assist the entrepreneurs, Industrial Development Agency (IDA) has been set up.
- * Development of an Electronics Complex in the Salt Lake area has been planned with a provision of Rs. 52 crores.
- * In the Small and Cottage Industry sector the State Government's policies have been fruitful. The number of registered small-scale units set up has been increased to 1,71,000 from 97,000 in 1977.

Through the years, the struggle of the working class received all support from the Left Front Government for improvement of their service conditions, employment security and re-opening of mills and factories which have been locked out or closed out by employers. Under the renewed pledge for the welfare of the working class, the workers have gained confidence — their dignity and self respect restored.

- * Broadbased tripartite bodies were revived and re-constituted and collective bargaining encouraged. As a result, major industry-wise wage settlement could be arrived at and harmonious industrial relations continued in the State.
- * Contract labour practice has been abolished in many places. Minimum wage for the workers has been fixed up.
- * State amendment of important labour laws has provided better relief, protection and benefits to workers.
- * West Bengal Labour Welfare Board has been running 54 welfare centres in industrial and plantation areas of West Bengal. Also two Holiday Homes at Digha and Darjeeling are run by the Board. Three more Holiday Homes at 'Procreabong' at Darjeeling, Haldia and Bakkhali are now under the plan.
- * During the last 8 years 95,347 persons have been appointed through employment exchanges.
- * Over 52 lakhs people are now benefited under ESI scheme. 21 service dispensaries and 3 new hospitals with additional 1000 beds have been installed under this scheme.

Left Front Government facilitates industrial growth and supports the cause of the toiling masses.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

(.....ICA/1985)

(Contd. from page 2)

Men of the Red Army and Red Navy!

The final assault on the Hitler lair is in progress. In the concluding battles set fresh examples of military skill and valour. Strike harder at the enemy, skilfully demolish his defences, pursue and surround the German aggressors, give them no respite until they cease resistance.

While beyond the borders of your native land, be exceptionally vigilant!

Continue to uphold the honour and dignity of the Soviet soldier! Working people of the Soviet Union!

By your preserving and untiring labours increase your all round assistance to the front. Quickly heal the wounds the war has inflicted on our country and enhance still further the might of our Soviet State!

Comrades, Red Armymen and Red Navymen, non commissioned officers and petty officers, officers of the Army and Navy, generals and admirals!

Working people of the Soviet Union!

On behalf of the Soviet Government and of our Bolshevik Party I greet and congratulate you on the occasion of the First of May!

In honour of the Red Army's historic victories at the front and of the great success achieved by the workers, collective farmers and intelligentsia in the rear, and in celebration of the international festival of the working people,

I HEREBY ORDER:

That today, May 1, salute of twenty artillery salvoes be fired in the capitals of our Union republics: Moscow, Kiev, Minsk, Baku, Tbilisi, Erevan, Ashkhabad, Tashkent, Stalinabad, Alma Ata, Frunze, Petrozadodsk, Kishinev, Vilnius, Riga and Tallinn, and also in the hero cities of Leningrad, Staljngrad, Sevastopol and Odessa.

Long live our mighty Soviet Motherland!

Long live the great Soviet people, the victor people!

Long live the victorious Red Army and Navy!

Eternal glory to the heroes who have fallen in the battles for the freedom and independence of our country!

Forward to the final defeat of Hitler Germany!

J. Stalin

*Marshal of the Soviet Union
Supreme Commander in Chief*

The Origins of May Day

By Rosa Luxemburg

The inspired thought of introducing a proletarian holiday as a means of obtaining the eight-hour working day first originated in Australia. As early as the year 1856, the workers there resolved to call for one day of complete work stoppage; the day to be spent in meetings and entertainment instead—as a demonstration of the eight-hour day. The 21st of April was designated as this holiday. In the beginning, the Australian workers thought of instituting such a holiday but once, in the year 1856. But even this first celebration made such a great im-

pression on the proletarian masses of Australia that it was decided to repeat the holiday annually.

As a matter of fact, what else could give the working people greater courage and confidence in their powers than a mass work stoppage of their own volition? What could give greater courage to the eternal slaves of the factories and workshops than the mustering of their own forces? Therefore the idea of the proletarian holiday was accepted very quickly and began to spread from Australia to other countries, until, it conquered the entire proletarian world.

The first to follow the example of the Australian workers were the Americans. They designated the first of May as the day of general work stoppage in the year 1886. On this day, 200,000 of them left work and demanded the eight-hour day. Later, the persecutions of the government prevented the workers for a number of years to repeat this demonstration. However, in the year 1888 they renewed their decision and designated the first of May of 1890 as the next holiday.

In the meantime, the labour movement in Europe had developed greatly and became infused with new vigor. This upsurge found its highest expression in the international labour congress held in the year 1889. The four hundred delegates assembled at this convention resolved to fight of all, for the eight-hour day. The delegate of the French trade unions, the worker Lavigne from Bordeaux, made a motion to give substance to this demand by a universal workers holiday in all countries. Since the delegate of the American workers called attention to the decision of his comrades in respect to the first of May, 1890, the convention designated this date for the international holiday.

Actually, like the workers of Australia thirty years previous, in this case also the demonstration was thought of as occurring but once. The convention resolved that the workers of all countries would demonstrate together on the first of May, 1890 for the demand of the eight-hour day. No one spoke of the repetition of the holiday in the coming years. Of course, no one could foresee how well this proposal was to succeed and how quickly it came to be adopted by the working class. It was sufficient to celebrate May Day once, in the year 1890, in order that everyone understood at once and realized that the May Day celebration should become a permanent, yearly institution.

The First of May proclaims the slogan of the eight-hour day. But even after the attainment of this aim the May Day celebration will not be abolished. As long as the struggle of the workers against the bourgeoisie and against the government will last, as long as all demands are not fulfilled, the May Day holiday will be the annual expression of these demands. But even when better times shall dawn, and the working class will have achieved its emancipation in the entire world, probably even then, in the memory of the battles fought and the sufferings endured, humanity will celebrate the First of May.

Published for the first time in English in International Socialist Review, May 1971, Vo. 32, No. 5.

Speech Delivered by Lenin at Red Square on May 1, 1919

Lenin's appearance among the demonstrators was greeted with a lengthy ovation. After greeting the Moscow and world proletariat, Lenin compared the May Day celebrations of the previous year with the present celebrations. In the course of the year, he said, the political situation had changed considerably in favour of Soviet Power. On May the First the year before they had been threatened by German imperialism, it had been routed and dispersed.

The conditions under which the proletarian festival was being celebrated had changed in other countries as well. The workers in all countries were taking the path of struggle against imperialism. The emancipated working class was triumphantly celebrating its festival freely and openly not only in Soviet Russia, but also in Soviet Hungary, and in Soviet Bavaria.

"And we can say with certainty", continued Lenin, "that not only in Red Moscow, in Red Petrograd and in Budapest, but in all large proletarian centres, the workers who have come out into the streets today not merely to take the air but to demonstrate their strength, are talking about the significance of Soviet Power and of the early triumph of the proletariat".

Going on to deal with the threats of Anglo-French imperialism, Lenin said that considering that Anglo-French imperialists had been compelled to retire from the battle field in the Ukraine, where small units of insurgents were operating, they would certainly be unable to resist the united forms of Soviet Russia, Hungary and Bavaria. Their withdrawal from Odessa and the Crimea had shown that the British and French soldiers did not wish to fight against Soviet Russia, and this was the pledge of Soviet Victory.

Lenin then read a telegramme he had received from Com. Kamenev to the effect that Sevastopol had been entirely cleared of French forces.

"Thus, today," he said, "the Red Flag of the proletariat, which is celebrating its day of liberation from the imperialist gangs, is flying over liberated Sevastopol" (Lengthy ovation, shouts of "Hurrah".)

In conclusion, Lenin expressed his confidence in the final victory of Soviet power all over the world and exclaimed: "Long live the World Soviet Republic! Long live Communism!"

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May 3, 1919.

Collected Works, Vol. 29, P. 328.

May Day Speech of Stalin, 1st May 1917, Against First World War

It is nearly three years since the bourgeois vampires of the belligerent countries plunged the world into a bloody shambles.

For nearly three years now the workers of all countries, who were yesterday kin brothers and are now clad in soldier's uniform, have stood confronting one another as enemies, and are crippling and murdering one another to the joys of the enemies of the proletariat.

Wholesale slaughter of the man power of the nations, wholesale ruin and want, destruction of once flourishing towns and villages, wholesale starvation and lapse into savagery — all in order that a handful of crowned and uncrowned robbers may pillage foreign lands and rake in untold millions — this is where the war is tending.

The world has begun to stifle in the grip of war...

The peoples of Europe can bear it no longer, and are already rising up against the bellicose bourgeoisie,

The Russian revolution is the first to be forcing a breach in the wall that divides the workers from one another. The Russian workers, at this time of universal "patriotic" frenzy, are the first to proclaim the forgotten slogan: "Workers of all Countries, Unite".

Amidst the thunder of the Russian revolution, the workers of the West too are rising from their slumber. The strikes and demonstrations in Germany, the demonstrations in Austria and Bulgaria, the strikes and meetings in neutral countries, the growing unrest in Britain and France, the mass fraternisation in the battle fronts — these are the first harbingers of the socialist revolution that is brewing.

And this holiday we are celebrating today, this May Day, is it not a sign that in the welter of blood new ties of fraternity among the peoples are being forged?

The soil is burning underneath the feet of the capitalist robbers, for the Red Flag of the International is again waving over Europe.

Let then, this First of May, when hundreds of thousands of Petrograd workers extend the hand of fraternity to the workers of the world be an earnest of the birth of a new revolutionary International!

Let the slogan which resounds today in the squares of Petrograd — "Workers of all Countries, Unite" — reverberate through the world and unite the workers of all countries in the fight for socialism!

Over the heads of the Capitalist robbers, over the heads of their predatory Governments we extend a hand to the workers of all countries, and cry:

Hail the First of May ! Hail the Brotherhood of Nations ! Hail the Socialist Revolution!



THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

RED SALUTE TO MAY DAY

On May Day Centenary CITU General Council's Stirring Call

● Carry Forward the Revolutionary Traditions of May Day

With a stirring call to observe the May Day Centenary, the CITU adopted the following resolution in its General Council meeting held at Calcutta from March 31-April 2, 1986:

THE General Council meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31-April 2, 1986 calls upon all State Committees and affiliated unions to observe the Centenary of the May Day this year in a befitting manner. The meeting expresses satisfaction that West Bengal and several other State Committees have already chalked out elaborate plans to observe the centenary. As decided by the Secretariat, a minimum seven days programme should be taken during the last week of April, 1986, culminating on the May Day.

The meeting endorses the joint communique of CITU and the AITUC issued on February 15, 1986 to hold joint celebration of the centenary throughout the country, and as also appealed by the World Federation of Trade Unions, the meeting calls upon the State Committees and the affiliated unions to observe the day unitedly with other trade unions also on the basis of the revolutionary traditions of the May Day.

The day must project the tasks of the working class to fight the new economic policy of the Government, in defence of employment, livelihood, democratic rights and national independence. It must pledge to fight against the divisive forces for

● Uphold the Banner of Proletarian Internationalism, Struggle against War and for Peace

national integrity.

The meeting calls upon the State Committees and the affiliated unions to mark one day during the celebration against unemployment and demand right to work to be incorporated in the Constitution and for unemployment benefit.

This day of international solidarity of the working class must recall the great advance the international working class movement has made during the last hundred years with one third of the world going socialist, the old colonial system smashed and the enslaved countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America emerging as free countries.

It must uphold the banner of proletarian internationalism and call upon the working class to project itself as the biggest anti-war force, expose and denounce the war designs of the US imperialists and their NATO allies and launch relentless struggle to safeguard the socialist camp, for peace, to save the world from a nuclear holocaust.

The celebrations must convey the appeal of the AUCCTU and extend unqualified support to the new proposals made by Com. M. S. Gorbachov to eliminate the nuclear and chemical weapons by 2000 AD and enter the third millennium without any weapons of mass annihilations. The celebrations of the May Day Centenary must be directed towards this end.

WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!

Presidential Address

B.T. Ranadive

Comrades,

At the outset on behalf of all of you I wish to pay homage to the memory of Olof Palme, Prime Minister of Sweden who fell a victim to the assassin's bullets. In his death the world has lost a valiant fighter in the cause of peace, a fighter who made significant contribution to the struggle against war and preservation of peace.

On behalf of all of you I offer my greetings to Nelson Mandela, the courageous fighter against apartheid, fighter for the freedom of the African people. His incarceration in the prison for two decades has not daunted his spirit and from the jail itself he has become a source of inspiration to hundreds of thousands fighting against the racist fascist regime of Botha. His voice has broken through the jail walls and prison bars and rings continuously with the challenge to his oppressors who are now openly and clandestinely supported by the imperialist powers. None is so shameful and outrageous in its support as Reagan's US Government which all of us must denounce with anger and indignation. I also wish to convey our greetings to the courageous wife of Nelson Mandela who carries forward the task of fighting those who enchain her people.

Left-Front Governments — Advanced Outpost of Democracy

Before I turn to other subject let me on your behalf congratulate the Left Front government of West Bengal headed by our Vice President Com. Jyoti Basu on its successful defence of the democratic rights of the people of West Bengal and safeguarding their economic interests in the midst of a very perilous economic situation. For more than 8 years since the installation of the Left Front ministry democratic liberties have been completely protected in the State in contrast to what is taking place in Congress (I) ruled States where lathi charge, firing on striking workers and harijan killings go on uninterrupted. Besides, all Cong (I) ruled States are affected by the virus of communalism and the attack of divisive forces, with the administration standing paralysed before them. But in the left front ruled state of West Bengal the divisive forces are checked by growing unity of the people, and the policies of the left front government protect this unity and strengthen national unity. The two left front ministries of West Bengal and Tripura stand as advanced outposts of democracy protecting the unity of the people, the unity of the country and the vital interests of the workers, peasants, the adivasis, and harijans — all down trodden sections,

throwing their weight against the vested interests, using the administration as an instrument of popular will. In these two states the Governments stand committed to protect the rights of Muslim minority and fight communalism coming from the majority or minority community. The working class and its organisations highly appreciate this policy and lend their full support to the ministries against which the Central Government and Cong (I) ruling party continue to conspire with a view to destabilising them.

Comrades on behalf of all of you I greet our valiant working class of West Bengal, our strongest base. I greet the jute workers who recently waged a successful struggle for their demands and whose union, the Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union is the biggest union affiliated to the CITU. The working class of Bengal has successfully waged many heroic battles in recent months, organised protest actions and has been able to defend its interests in the most adverse circumstances. In all its activities it is helped by the Left Front Government which ensures complete freedom for its movement.

The working class of Bengal led the great protest against the price hike imposed by the Central Government. Its strike of 11th February became a signal for the rest of the country to take up the fight against price rise.

Hail The Peace Proposal

An outstanding event of recent months in the international world is the successfully concluded 27th Congress of the Communist Party of Soviet Union. In the midst of a capitalist world badly affected by unemployment and unable to reap the fruits of industrial technical revolution for the benefit of society, the CPSU Congress announced the complete superiority of the socialist system which is now embarking upon a new plan of accelerated economic development to raise the living standard of the people to still a higher level. This was being accomplished when huge resources had to be diverted for the purpose of defence because of the war situation created by US imperialism and its allies. The Congress expressed firm confidence in achieving its economic goals and at the same time strengthening the defensive capacity of the Soviet Union. Firmly adhering to the laws of development of socialist society the Congress mapped out further successes for its planning and took steps to bring the relations of production in conformity with the huge development of productive forces

achieved under the rapid growth of industrial technical revolution. It meant heightening the efficiency of centralised guidance of the economy, strengthening the role of the centre, in implementing the main goals of the party's economic strategy and in determining the rate and proportions of national economic growth, and its balanced development. At the same time it meant the practice of interfering by the centre in the daily activities of the lower economic links must be overcome.

Uphold Revolutionary Traditions of May Day

Comrades, the May Day centenary will be observed within a few weeks all over the world. This great day of international solidarity must be observed fittingly by all our trade unions, all our state committees honouring the memories of those who fell victims to the Chicago massacre, those who were sent to the gallows by an enraged capitalist class because they dared to demand 8 hour day and called for a curb on the unbridled exploitation of the working class. The day must recall the great advances the international working class movement has made during the last hundred years with one third of the world going socialist with the old colonial system smashed and the enslaved countries of Asia and Africa emerging as free countries, free from foreign domination.

On this day our unions must remember the revolutionary traditions of May Day following which one third of the world marched to socialism and neglect of which kept the workers of advanced countries enchained to capitalist slavery.

Revolutionary content of May Day consists of raising such partial demands on the Day as have (1) revolutionary consequences; (2) expressing firm determination to end the capitalist system, establish working class power and socialism; (3) defence of proletarian internationalism and international unity of the working class. Confining May Day activities only to raising some partial demands and neglecting the other two aspects takes away the revolutionary content of this historic day. The working class on this day cannot neglect the immediate political task facing it, if it wants to achieve socialism. It also cannot forget its international duty and foil all efforts of the capitalist class to split it.

On all occasions the danger to international unity arises from the wars organised by ruling capitalist classes. It has been the tradition of May Day to oppose all such wars and proclaim the unity of the international movement in the battle to end the world capitalist system.

International Solidarity Against War

Today protection of international solidarity and unity of the working class, has assumed supreme importance. The international situation is marked by US imperialist drive for nuclear war against

the socialist Soviet Union. The war that is being planned is the war of imperialism against socialism, against the working class conquests and achievements over the last hundred years. It is also a war for re-establishing the global domination of US imperialism over the newly liberated countries. The ideological and the military strength of the Socialist camp stands as a deterrent to the imperialist plans of domination and therefore US imperialism is attempting to secure military superiority over the Soviet Union to launch a war against it. The Star War Project of Reagan is part of the offensive preparations.

In contrast to these war plans of the USA, the Soviet Union and Comrade Gorbachov have made several proposals to stop the progress towards war and gradually eliminate all nuclear weapons. But the US imperialists refuse to respond.

In these circumstances international unity of the working class demands constant opposition to war and full support to Gorbachov's proposals for peace. On May Day it must be our endeavour to carry the message of peace to the workers and expose US plans for war. The defence of the socialist camp against imperialist war plans constitutes the essence of internationalism.

Respond to AUCCTU Appeal

Comrades the situation is serious as can be seen from the appeal of the AUCCTU to the working people and the trade unions of the world. The appeal which was sent to our organisation also calls for support to the proposals made by Comrade M.S. Gorbachov for advancing a programme of complete and world wide elimination of nuclear arms before the year 2000. It says "on behalf of one hundred & thirty seven (137) million Soviet trade union members the AUCCTU appeals to the working people of all countries to all trade union organisations to give their all round support to the Soviet Union's large scale programme for the complete elimination of nuclear arms."

It says "It is only through concerted efforts that the edifice of lasting peace can be erected. Further development depends to a considerable extent on how much united the battle front will be in fighting against the danger of war. Extensive opportunities for working people to take joint action in defence of peace are offered by the campaign "Trade Unions and Working People for Peace and Jobs" launched at the initiative of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

The appeal further adds "we are sure that the trade unions must put aside all differences and reject all that divides them when it comes to the struggle for safeguarding peace, against the threat of a new war. In this we must be united just in matters relating to common vital interests of those whom the trade unions are called upon to protect. The Soviet trade unions adhere exactly to these view points.

“Any delay is intolerable. In order to enter the third millennium without the weapons of mass annihilation it is necessary to act today. May 1986 designated by the UNO as an international year of peace must become a turning point in resolving the most pressing issue of our times—that of preventing a nuclear holocaust.”

Comrades, we all must fully respond to this appeal for international unity from the people and the working class which only four decades back sacrificed 20 million lives to save humanity from fascist domination. The appeal should spur us to overcome our weaknesses in regard to the peace movement and urge us forward to move the working class and the people against the danger of nuclear war created by the US imperialism and for maintenance of peace.

Welcome Initiative

Comrades the initiative recently taken by the INTUC leadership to call a meeting of several trade union centres to develop common understanding on the question of war, fight against divisive forces and express protest against apartheid constitute a sign of growing awareness of wider and vital problems facing the working class and the trade union movement. It is a welcome step and every effort should be made to create common consciousness and a sense of urgency among the workers regarding these problems.

It is very satisfactory that all the unions attending the meeting called by the INTUC have agreed on a common draft on the key questions mentioned above. This should lead to joint appeal and campaigning on the vital question of world peace and enable us to make joint efforts to rouse the entire working class to discharge its international responsibility.

Denounce Divisive Forces

Comrades, you all are aware that there is a rapid deterioration in the political situation with divisive forces on the offensive, the Cong (I) Government a helpless spectator unable to combat them and often compromising with them and the mass of people unable to intervene and stop the rot. The deterioration of the situation in Punjab is marked by a growing offensive of the secessionist elements, Akali leadership's fear of confrontation and their surrender before these forces and the complete inability of the Cong (I) party which still wields considerable influence on the people of Punjab to intervene on behalf of national unity. In Assam the new ministry pursues separatist and secessionist aims and its followers run a campaign of intimidation and murder of opponents. The ministry is also preparing for steps which may lead to expulsion of thousands of Indian citizens from Assam dubbing them as foreign nationals. The Cong(I) Government at the Centre and in the States compromises with these elements and in its own

selfish interests take steps which help and encourage the communal and divisive forces. The unlocking of the Ram Janma Bhoomi temple in the midst of the present critical situation can be described only as an act of unmitigated provocation to the Muslim masses which is now being fully utilised by fanatical communal leaders. Simultaneously the Cong(I) government to protect its muslim electoral base compromises with the worst section of Muslim communalists, on the question of the right of Muslim divorcee woman to secure maintenance from her husband. The legislative measure which it has placed before the Parliament is a shameful and treacherous piece surrendering the rights of Muslim women to the jackals of obscurantism. No previous Central Govt. had degraded itself so much and prostrated itself in such a manner before religious bigotry and orthodoxy as the Rajiv Government. The explanation offered by the Prime Minister in justification of the measures is on par with that offered by many Shankaracharyas in defence of untouchability.

As a result the divisive forces are on the attack everywhere and the unity of the toiling people and the working class is being directly affected. The trade union movement and the working class must take a common stand to combat these anti national forces and defeat the game of the imperialists who are supporting them from behind. It is the immediate duty of the National Campaign Committee, all Central Trade Unions and all Industrial Federations to enter the battle to defeat the forces of communalism and casteism and assert the class unity for the working class and protect the unity of the country.

As I have already mentioned, the initiative taken by the INTUC should help the trade union movement to unite for this offensive.

Fight Against all Pervading Corruption

The crisis is affecting all aspects of our national life and in state after state, in city after city, law and administration is crumbling down and is openly used in the defence of vested interest. The stench of corruption pervades the entire social life. From Chief Minister of states to ordinary police officers and jail officials are caught in this web of corruption. In Delhi notorious convicts flushed with money are able to run the jail administration, and escape with the direct help of jail officials. Is it any wonder that in this atmosphere bribery and corruption, foreign espionage should thrive in the country and its tentacles spread far and wide. The recent exposure of CIA net work in Delhi must be taken seriously by all patriotic people. It also shows the danger created by the present administration to the security of our country.

This situation itself is the result of the process of the undermining of our economy that has been going on for the last few years.

People's Answer To Price Rise

Comrades, you all know that the Rajiv Government announced last year its New Economic policy which now reveals itself as continuous depredations on the incomes and living standards of the people and growing attacks on their jobs in the name of modernisation of economy. The last budget saw the first phase of this policy. It gave concessions amounting more than 1000 crores of rupees to the private capitalists and businessmen while just before the budget it levied new burdens of more than 1000 crores of rupees on the common people.

This year again a new burden of not less than thousand crores of rupees was imposed through the hike in administered prices of vital commodities and necessities of life. There have been widespread protests and bandhs against this fleecing of the people. The battle must be carried on and the CITU unions must continue to mobilise people's protest against the new imposts. The widespread bandh in many states show that the people are ready to move into action if a call comes from several organisations.

The New Policy however goes much beyond giving concession to big capital and addition of burden on the common man.

It is a retreat from the earlier position which considered the public sector as important and accepted the need of control over private sector. The national planning inspite of its defects and class bias was intended to serve the need of protecting Indian economy against subjugation to foreign capital and western interests.

The postulates of the new policy are removal of controls, freedom for the private sector, denigration and growing disbandment of the public sector, denigration of national planning, and opening the Indian market to the multinationals. In short the entire country is being exposed to the uncontrolled exploitation of the private sector and foreign multinationals with government control day by day removed.

Danger from Multi-Nationals

The free entry of multinationals into the Indian market will not only mean unbridled exploitation of the workers and the people but it will lead to the danger of undermining our economic independence. The multinationals are not satisfied with capturing economic market but conspire to bring down governments and establish their economic and political domination over countries. The restriction that hitherto operated against the entry of multinationals are being removed and the people of our country are being exposed to great political danger.

Stop Denigration of Public Sector

Large sections of workers and many trade unions

have acted in the past as if the way the public sector functioned or what the government did with it was no concern of theirs. But this was a wrong attitude of the working class of a newly liberated country. The public sector in India cannot be compared with the public sector of Britain. For instance, their both the public and private sector are instruments of imperialism and function under state monopoly capitalism.

But in newly liberated countries a well managed public sector based on strategic industry is an instrument of defending the economy against imperialist depredations and dependence on imperialism. It does serve the interests of indigenous capitalism. But it obstructs the penetration of imperialism into the economy. This is why in India when the public sector started its activities in strategic industries it was largely supported by the advanced trade union movement and all progressive forces. In spite of a great deal of mismanagement the public sector contributed to defending the independence of our economy to a great extent. It has been so because in a large number of cases it was directly helped by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. In fact, we would not have been able to build our strategic industries if help from socialist countries were not available.

This aspect of the public sector has not been properly put before the workers by the trade unions. Today it is all the more necessary to do so because under the pressure of the imperialists, the World Bank and the IMF the official policy is denigrating the public sector and giving more encouragement to the private sector. But the matter does not end here. The denigration of the public sector is further intended to invite the foreign multinational companies to help India in her technological advance.

Comrades, the New Policy of Rajiv Gandhi not only contains proposals for the denigration of the public sector. It may also end in placing the public sector undertakings under the technological and managerial control of foreign companies. In fact it seems a process of penetration into the public sector by foreign multinationals is already starting if we are to believe reports appearing in the press. The penetration is taking place in the name of technological agreements with non-residential Indian capital which is often a sign board for foreign multinationals.

Comrades, the officers of the public sector undertakings recently entered a strong protest against the way they were treated by the authorities. They observed an all India protest day on the 13th March voicing following demands: 1. Uniform dearness allowance neutralisation, 2. Amendment of Payment of Bonus Act for abolishing bonus eligibility ceiling limit 3. Implementation of International Labour Organisation Compendium on good practices for professional workers specifically in relation to right to form association and collective bargaining and role in decision making. 4. Pension

scheme for public sector employees in addition to present retirement benefits. 5. Definition of legal status of officers in public sector. 6. White paper on government policies relating to public sector particularly with reference to (1) capacity utilisation of existing investment in technology manufacturing facilities and man power, (2) import liberalisation and (3) participative management.

The CITU supports these demands some of which are not only in the interest of the officers but in the interest of the country as a whole.

Machination of the Multinationals

Guided by the spirit of patriotism the Officer Association exposes the claims of the Government to justify its present policies of denigration of the public sector. They say, "yet another attack on the public sector is that it is not competitive and an exposure to international competition would streamline such enterprises. This policy is merely an attempt to hide the vital truth that several multinationals in the capital goods industry are badly hit by recession and would resort to anything to get the Indian market." They further say, "Is it not amazing that when the Indian shipyards are starved with orders, the government of India under the SAFAUN scheme provides subsidies for the Indian merchant navy to import ships? Similarly, while no country allows the import of electrical equipment if they indigenously manufacture electrical power equipment, the world imports are allowed while BHEL starves. The Chairman of BHEL is reported in the press as having stated, "No country kills its own indigenous industry. We are concerned that if orders went outside, BHEL's capacity utilisation would be reduced. We will fight for the orders".

"It must be clearly understood that there are no short cuts in technological development. Technology imports in a close market are in essence an alternative route for penetration into the market that too on a preferential basis. Indian scientists and technologists are quite capable of meeting a substantial requirement of industrial technology. What is lacking is the political will to ensure self reliance. We the representatives of the public sector officers warn the public that the present policies of down grading the public sector and of liberalising import both of equipment and technology will prove disastrous in the long run."

Our apprehensions about the New Economic Policy are now fully supported by the officer's association. They also realise that under the guise of opening the public sector to competition, penetration of multinationals is bound to take place endangering the interests and economic independence of the nation.

Introduce Democratic Management

Under these conditions it is absolutely essential that the public sector is opened to democratic

management by the full participation on equal terms of workers, officers, and the management. Instead of opening the public sector to foreign competition it should be opened to democratic and participative management to increase its efficiency to serve the interest of the country.

Workers' Participation on Equal Status

Comrades, the CITU is repeatedly demanding workers' participation in management on the basis of full equality and on the basis of representation through a secret ballot of the entire workers of the factory or concern. Both elements, equal status and representation on the basis of ballot, are necessary if the entire mass of workers are to be involved in running the concerns and inspired to make its effective contribution to efficiency to serve the interest of the country. But the government refuses to accept either of these conditions and proposes a farcical form of workers' participation. It does not guarantee or accept status of equality for the workers. It refuses to accept that workers' representatives should be chosen by secret ballot. It does not propose to go beyond the vote of trade union membership and that too based on check off system. This necessarily leaves out of account a major section of the workers who are thus deprived of all interest in promoting the efficiency of production.

One can easily understand the opposition of the Government to the demand for secret ballot. But it appears very strange that some trade union organisations also should side with the government on this issue and decline to support the demand for ballot under this or that specious excuse. It shows utter lack of confidence in the mass of workers and resistance to draw the entire mass of workers into the task of running the concern.

Growing Industrial Sickness

Comrades, notwithstanding the official claims of higher rate of industrial production the number of sick concerns continues to increase. Now more than 500 big industrial units and more than 90 thousand small units are sick. This has imposed untold sufferings on the lakhs of working class families with no sign of relief in the near future.

On the other hand there are indications that conditions are going to be more difficult and more concerns will go sick or be closed as a result of the import liberalisation policy of the government. Many industries are threatened with closure with the liberal import of materials, components and other products. Only certain big industries and monopolists are taking advantage of the situation and their employment capacity is much less because of the import of sophisticated machinery and computers.

Monopolists Thrive

The beneficiaries of the new policy can be clearly identified from a review of Indian economy made

by Shri R.P. Goenka, President-elect of the FICCI appearing in the Economic Times dated March 22. According to Mr. Goenka, "Industry has responded well to the new opportunities...By the end of December 1985 about 1196 registrations had taken place in the 25 broad industry groups delicensed, totalling approximately Rs. 4000 crores...Seventeen MRTP and 27 non MRTP companies have availed of the broad basing facilities. MRTP companies in industries exempted from section 21 and 22 of the MRTP Act also invested more specially in electronic etc., total investment being of the order of Rs. 2889 crores."

Such is the situation facing us and our trade union movement is called upon to resist the effect of the new policy. This calls for greater unity and greater concerted action and not weary calls for symbolic protest or anaemic dharnas.

While Workers are Ruined

The textile and jute workers continue to face a difficult situation. More textile mills are being closed. Recently the NTC ordered four more mills to be closed throwing thousands of workers out of job. We must therefore urgently pursue our demands for the nationalisation of jute and textile industries and create sanction for it. The trade union movement is fully prepared to meet its responsibility in any nationalised concern and discuss all problems including the problem of more efficient production and modernisation of industry in the interest of nation the people and the working class.

Growing Unemployment

Comrades, there is nothing more heart rending, nothing which makes us more indignant than the mounting increase in both urban and rural unemployment. The figure of registered unemployed has now reached 3 crores and this does not reflect the real number, as a large section does not bother to get registered. No one really knows the number of rural unemployed. The figure may vary between four and five crores and even more.

Year by year young men and women full of vigour, youthfull hope and a robust outlook on life enter the labour market from schools, colleges, peasants and working class families only to meet with denial of opportunities to contribute to social wealth. Unable to earn a living they undergo the humiliation of living at the expenses of relatives and others or from a chance job which may come in their way. Crores of India's young citizens see no prospect before them except this degraded existence. Forty years of Congress rule is resulting in the social killing of a whole generation.

The trade union movement of our country, the CITU and its unions must be severely indicted for neglecting this young section of the working class and confining itself to defending the emolument of

those on permanent jobs. In this way the trade union movement becomes a partner of the capitalist class to make the younger generation the scape goat of the crisis of the capitalist path.

Fight for Right to Work

It seems hardly any State Committee can boast of any significant steps to mobilise the unemployed to call their conference and agitate for immediate relief. Barring citing figures of increasing unemployment, the trade union movement has done very little. Hunger marches, raising the direct demands for immediate relief under the guidance of organised trade union movement will rouse this vital section of the working class to fight for its right and strengthen the unity of the class.

The West Bengal Government has provided unemployment relief to the unemployed but the Cong(I) government has done nothing in this direction. Some of them or at least some Cong(I) leaders try to solve the problem by inciting one section of workers against another on the slogan of jobs for the sons of the soil.

In the May Day centenary celebration a special day should be assigned for raising the demands of the unemployed and calling for right to work to be embodied in the Constitution as a fundamental right. The workers must be told that the right work is not just a dream but is concretely embodied in the Constitutions of all Socialist countries. To secure it, political power must be in the hands of working class and the people.

The General Council should direct the State Committees to take effective steps to organise the unemployed, call their conferences, ventilate their grievances and rally the organised workers in defence of their demands.

The organised movement must rouse the entire working class against the steps and plans of the government which are leading to further unemployment. Apart from the computerisation drive the public sector authorities, the Central Government and a number of State Governments have stopped further recruitment and refused to fill vacancies that arise due to natural wastage. Tens of thousands of posts remain vacant. Besides both in public sector and government departments authorities are imposing compulsory or the so called voluntary retirement on a number of employees and workers. In the banks also the same procedure is being adopted. There are open proposals for axeing nearly 20 thousand workers of the Food Corporation of India. And according to press reports the Coal authorities have considered that nearly one lakh workers are surplus in the coal industry.

Give up Feudal Outlook Towards Working Women

In this retrenchment offensive the women employees and women workers are the first victims

and they have to bear the brunt of the offensive. Very few trade unions attach importance to defending the jobs of women workers. The neglect of working women by the trade unions constitutes an intractable disease which will have to be dealt with by uprooting the cause, namely the survival of feudal outlook towards women.

These plans of the Government and the authorities must be fought continuously and a demand must be made to fill in the vacancies created during the last so many years. The CITU unions should lend their full support to the employees' unions and champion their cause. Simultaneously similar plans which are hatched in the private sector have to be fought. A large number of private concerns are replacing permanent labour by casual or contract labour to escape payment of dearness allowance and contribution to ESI and the provident funds. These malpractices must be fought vigorously and unitedly.

Fight Against Arbitrary Powers

Comrades we all must congratulate the State Government employees and their federation on their magnificent strike to protest against sections 310 and 311 (a) (b) of the Constitution. More than 4 million employees participated in this gigantic protest showing extraordinary unity. They had to launch this protest because the two sections, as now interpreted by the Supreme Court, leave arbitrary powers of dismissal in the hands of Government. And the authorities have already taken advantage of this to dismiss a number of locomen who had gone on strike in 1981 to secure implementation of earlier agreement to reduce hours of work.

Organise the Unorganised Workers

Comrades, it is a matter of some satisfaction that at least some of our State Committees like Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and Delhi have made efforts to reach the workers of unorganised sector. Several of these committees have held conventions on the question of revision of minimum wages and other demands of unorganised workers. In Karnataka 30 thousands were arrested when government offices were picketed in August 1985 and there was a strike embracing over 5 lakhs of workers.

The unorganised sector forms a very important militant and most exploited section of the working class and our movement cannot be said to be completely representative movement unless it embraces and inspires this vast section.

Collapse of Labour Legislations

Comrades, we all realise that there is a virtual collapse of all labour legislations including the safety legislations deliberately organised by the authorities to attack and withdraw statutory concessions and rights. The courts also had several

time observed that legislation itself was farcical and its violation could be virtually done with impunity by the employing class. Now recently the crooked ways of the government were exposed by Bajju Ban Riyan, CPI (M) MP in connection with an amendment to the Contract Labour Bill.

What is the purpose of this new amendment? Previously it was provided that the government of the state where the Central unit is functioning shall be the appropriate government for intervening and settling any dispute between the contract labour and the contractor. But now the power is being vested in the Central Government. Why? Com. Bajju Ban Riyan answers why: "Sir over the last one or two years labour dispute developed in certain Central units located in West Bengal like the Burnpur Steel Project, the Durgapur Steel and Fertilizer Corporations, the Metro Railways, etc, where contract labour was working. In these cases the Labour Commissioner of the State Government of West Bengal intervened and resolved these disputes to the satisfaction of the workers. The State Government arranged for the regularisation of the workers and saw to it that their outstanding dues are also paid."

This was of course not to the liking of the Central Govt. They and the Cong(I) State Governments were accustomed to use the police against the contract labourers and suppress their struggle. Bajju Ban Riyan gives instances: "About two years back the contract labour working under the Assam Oil Division agitated for the payment of their dues. They were mercilessly beaten up by the CISF and driven away without paying them their dues." Similar fate overtook the contract workers at the Panipat Fertilizer Project.

This is the secret of the new amendment. The Central Government wants to deal with contract workers directly to beat them up into submission. This is how labour legislation is being improved under the Cong (I) rule.

Undaunted Facing Repression

Comrades, the working class continues to fight its battle in the most adverse circumstances facing it. Every year more than a million workers risk their jobs, their livelihood, their wages, when they take up the fight against the employers' offensive. Since 1982 between January and November, 82 million working days were lost in disputes involving 1.4 million workers. In 1983 the corresponding figures were 40 million days lost involving 1.23 million workers. In 1984 between January and August 45 million man days were lost involving 1.76 million workers. In 1985 during the same period 17 million man days were lost and 2.06 million workers were involved.

In these strikes the workers had not only to undergo privations and sufferings but face police repression and goonda attacks. The workers in

Himachal Pradesh, in Haryana, had to face the most illegal action of the police including kidnapping with the connivance of the police with the hired goondas of the management. But our young units are carrying on the struggle courageously and bravely and consolidating the strength of the CITU. We must all appreciate the courage and devotion of our CITU units in Punjab which have to uphold the working class flag in the midst of a campaign of murder and terror, greet our comrades in Assam who had to face a similar situation and our comrades in Tamilnadu who were conducting the struggle of the working class in the midst of rise of chauvinistic sentiments and feelings.

It is only the working class which with all its faults continues to defend its interest and fights the employers and the government. It is our duty to harness the spirit of resistance for vigorous defence of the interests of the workers.

Fight for the Cause of Peasantry, Agricultural Labour

It is our responsibility to link this resistance with the demands of the peasantry which still continues to be neglected, with the demands of agricultural workers and above all to link it with the demands of democratic struggle against authoritarianism. It is through our intervention that the scattered struggle will create a consciousness which can unitedly fight harijan baiting on the one hand and attacks on Muslim minority on the other. Only a strong working class movement continuously increasing its consciousness and spreading its influence over the rural areas will check the atrocities on harijans and inspire religious minorities to stand united with the working class.

Increase Independent Activities

Taking this responsibility into consideration it has to be admitted that our intervention has not been effective. It has not been effective even in the economic struggle considering the large number of strikes that go untouched or unled by the CITU. It is necessary to overcome this lacuna and be with the workers whenever they are in action. This means the independent activities of the CITU must increase ten times and they must reach the spontaneous struggles breaking out in several places.

Without such increase in independent activities the required trade union unity to meet the economic offensive cannot be built. The habit of waiting on others before moving further in the name of trade union unity is a pernicious habit which leads to slowing the pace of trade union unity. The CITU unions and leaders must realise that the building and strengthening of trade union unity depend on their activities and incessant effort.

Use Strength of United Movement

Comrades, while we certainly appreciate the unity built around the National Campaign Committee it

is necessary to remark that the momentum it earlier gave to united mass action is losing its force. In the midst of a grave economic situation if united activity is unable to go beyond symbolic protest there is something radically wrong with our ways of functioning and it must be located. Trade Union unity cannot be reduced to some kind of routine affair with no increase in the weight of mass action, on the quality of mass protest.

In reality the power of united trade union movement if it is effectively used, is a mighty power which was seen in the anti-price hike bandhs organised in a large number of states. The participation of working class was most enthusiastic in many states and set the pace for mass response. I congratulate our working class and our CITU unions on the massive expression of protest against the price rise.

There is no doubt that inspite of our weaknesses the net of trade union unity is widening and larger and larger section of working class is responding to its call. The participation of INTUC union in West Bengal and Kerala in joint calls on some important issues constitute an important advance for our struggle for unity. On your behalf I have already appreciated the initiative shown by the INTUC on the question of the united stand of all trade unions and in defence of peace.

Fight for World Peace

Let me therefore conclude my speech on the question of world peace vital to the world working class movement and to the people of the world. The working class of our country must realise that the non-alignment policy pursued by the Government is an important factor in strengthening the world balance in favour of peace and facilitate our task to fight against the war mongering plans of US imperialism. Karl Marx had said that the maturity of a working class is seen from the interest it takes in the foreign policy of its government. It cannot be said that our movement has taken much interest in influencing, shaping and strengthening the policy of non-alignment which helps us to fight the imperialist war mongers. Today immense pressures are being exercised to change this policy taking advantage of the serious economic situation in which the Government of India find itself. To exercise vigilance and defeat all attempts to change the foreign policy in the reactionary direction is an integral part of our task to fight war, to protect peace and protect the gains of hundred years of world working class movement.

Let our General Council in this May Day centenary year assure the working class of Soviet Union and other countries that our organisation and our working class will do everything to frustrate imperialist plans of war against the peoples of the world to protect peace and gains of socialism. Let me once again assure the AUCCTU that its appeal will be warmly responded to by our CITU unions and by the workers of India.

23.3.86

Stirring Call to Strengthen Organisation

● **Uphold the Banner of Proletarian Internationalism, Struggle Against War and For Peace.**

THE General Council meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31 to April 2 gave a stirring call to step up the independent activities of the organisation while going all out for united actions to meet the challenges, both national and international. The Presidential address, followed by the General Secretary's report laid the task to the CITU State Committees and the unions so that they could mobilise broadest sections of the working people to project themselves as the biggest force of peace against the imperialist war mongers, as well as against the internal divisive forces backed by the imperialist agencies and maintain the unity and integrity of the country. They must at the same time wage a determined fight against the new economic policy of the government which apart from laying bare the vices of the capitalist path of development one after another by way of ever increasing prices, closures, lockouts and industrial sickness and growing unemployment, had yielded to the pressure of the world Bank and the IMF, denigrated the public sector and had thrown the working class exposed to the full blast of exploitation by the multinationals and the collaborating Indian monopolists. The Presidential address, the General Secretary's report, as well as the resolution on the economic policy drew the pointed attention of the members to the retrograde shift in the economic policy which posed a danger to non-aligned foreign policy of the government and to the independence and freedom of the country and so deserved to be fought with the full strength of the united trade union movement for its reversal. Alongwith all these, the CITU unions were to intensify the efforts for united trade union actions against the growing authoritarianism on the part of the government and safeguard the democratic rights of the people. The situation demanded the activities of the CITU unions to be spread out to meet these multifarious challenges. The meeting also called upon the State Committees and the CITU unions to conduct the May Day Centenary celebration based on the revolutionary traditions of the May Day, focus all these class demands so as to raise the revolutionary consciousness of the workers and to extend them to fulfil the international task of the CITU unions to denounce the war designs of the US imperialists and their NATO allies and defend the Soviet Union, the socialist system and peace under the banner of proletarian internationalism.

● **Fight Against Divisive Forces, Against the Retrograde Economic Policy, Against Closures, Lockouts, Against Authoritarianism, for Democracy.**

The meeting started with the Presidential speech by Com. BTR. Com. Samar Mukherjee then moved the resolutions on Martyrs, on Olof Palme, the assassinated Swedese Prime Minister, on Com. Ramdass and on Condolences.

The meeting then elected the Resolution Subcommittee and the Credential Sub-Committee as follows:

Resolution Sub-Committee: P.K. Ganguly (Convenor), P. Sanzgiri, Sunil Basu Roy, Biren Roy and N. Padmalochanan.

Credential Sub-Committee: P. Satyanarayana (Convenor), A.K. Padmanabhan, Kali Ghosh and Ranjit Basu.

Com.M.K. Pandhe then placed a report on the meeting of the Coordination Committee of Public Sector Unions held at Durgapur on March 28 and 29, which decided to observe May 21 as the Save Public Sector Day.

Com. Samar Mukherjee then placed the General Secretary's report. The report elaborately dealt with the problems as stated above and also reviewed the activities of the CITU for the period between May, 1985 and March, 1986. It also pointed out that many struggles were launched during the period by such organisations which were not affiliated to any central trade unions. He called upon the State Committees and the unions to constantly review their activities, overcome the weaknesses and strengthen the organisation so as to intervene in and lead the struggles. Com. Samar Mukherjee also reported about his visit to Bangladesh to attend the Conference of Jatio Shramik Jote.

27 members representing all states took part in the discussion. While relating their experience about the united struggles which had taken place, they pointed out that there was a strong tendency of some of the constituents of the NCC at the state level to avoid coming together to implement the NCC programmes on one plea or another. It was decided that while persuading them to join common action, CITU's independent activities must continue and reports be sent to the Centre.

Among those who participated in the discussion

were R. Umanath, N. Padmalochalan, C. Nanjundappa, P. Sanzgiri, N. Prasad Rao, Daulat Ram, Chandi Prasad, Mangat Ram, Amal Ghosh Dastidar, S. Kumar, Shivaji Patnaik, Krishna Kant, Mohanlal, Subodh Mehta, S.N. Solanki, Sitaram Manzhrekar, K.N. Ravindranath, Manoranjan Roy, Chitta Brata Majumdar, Dilip Majumdar and V. Cherian.

Com. Samar Mukherjee then replied to the debate giving a ringing call for strengthening the CITU so that it could redeem its responsibility of leading the struggles of various sections of people. The report then was adopted unanimously with the stipulation that such of the suggestions which were found acceptable should be included.

Resolutions were moved on various subjects. Com. Jyoti Basu moved the resolution on "Appeal of AUCCTU" and called upon the members to take the question of peace to broad masses so that the movement against nuclear war could be strengthened further. Com. E. Balanandan, Treasurer, CITU supported the resolution which was adopted unanimously. A resolution on US missiles in Angola and Afghanistan was moved from the chair. Another resolution supporting the strike of news paper employees were moved by the chair and was passed unanimously. Com. M.K. Pandhe moved the resolution on the Retrograde Economic Policy. Com. P.K. Ganguly seconded the resolution. Com. Nrisingha Chakraborty moved the resolution on Srilanka Ethnic Tamils which was seconded by Com. R. Umanath. Com. P.P. Sanzgiri moved the resolution on Divisive Forces which was seconded by Com. Ravi Sinha and Com. Mohd Amin. Com. Vimala Ranadive moved the resolution on Muslim Women's (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Bill which was seconded by Com. D. Janaki Raman. The resolution on Punjab was moved by Com. Mangat Ram Pasla and was seconded by Com. S.N. Solanki. Com. Amal Ghosh Dastidar moved the resolution on Assam which was seconded by Com. Mohd. Amin. A resolution extending full support of CITU to the proposed Coal Workers' strike on 9th April was proposed by Com. S.K. Bakshi and was seconded by Com. Bamapada Mukherjee. Com. Hari Sadhan Mitra moved the resolution on Closures, Lockouts and Industrial Sickness and Com. P.R. Krishnan seconded the same. Com. Mohd. Amin moved the resolution on Nationalisation of Jute, Textile and Sugar Industries which was seconded by Com. Harsahay Singh. Resolution on Unemployment was moved by Com. K.N. Ravindranath which was seconded by Com. Chandi Prasad.

The meeting also discussed the question of holding of 6th Conference of CITU. It was decided to request Kerala State Committee of CITU to hold the Conference during the end of the year. It was decided that the Secretariat would take a final decision after hearing from them.

Com. P. Satyanarayan, Convener, Credential Sub-Committee reported that 114 new unions with a membership of 34,738 had applied for affiliation of which 81 unions having a membership of 27,166 were found alright and were granted affiliation straight away. 33 unions having a membership of 7,572 members whose application were found wanting in some respects were granted affiliation subject to their compliance with the constitutional obligations. The meeting discussed the question of issuing of a Joint Manifesto of May Day with AITUC and authorised the Secretariat to proceed further on the same. If possible other trade unions also may be organised on a common appeal.

Then Com. BTR summed up the discussions. He thanked the West Bengal Committee and the volunteers who made the meeting successful. Referring to the discussion he said that Comrades have now started analysing and presenting the picture of industrial relations in their states. He stated that the Central Office would help the State Committee in this respect but they in the main would have to present proper report and share their experience with others so that all India outlook grows. He also said that the discussion was fruitful. But even then the CITU's leading cadres were not reacting sharply to matters of foreign policy or of national interest like the question of unemployment divisive forces, etc. He also pointed out that the trade unions failed to see the strong point of the non-aligned foreign policy, which was essentially anti-imperialist and urged for full support to it. Similarly they also did not deal with the subject of unemployment properly. There is already a charge against the trade unions that they were only moving for the organised sector and paying no attention to unorganised sector, unemployed and the working women. He called upon the General Council to devote one day out of the week long May Day Centenary celebrations exclusively on the question of unemployment and a big movement on "Right to Work" should be built up. Like 8 hours day, the Right to Work is also a basic right.

He then analysed the experience of united front functioning and said that some felt that such united front was merely tactics. The CITU has been following this as a basic strategy to win over the working class from the reformist line to the revolutionary trade union line. Citing the experience of more than a decade and half, he said that a stage has now been reached when CITU can no longer be ignored by others. The CITU must use this position to mobilise the workers to attack the Govt. policies. He stated that denigration of Public Sector had already evoked protest from all sections who wanted democracy and self-reliance. The situation today was such that increased influence of the multi-nationals had posed a very serious danger when the divisive forces backed by the imperialists were already active in a very big way. The CITU must prepare itself for leading this struggle.

General Council Meeting

Calcutta, March 31—April 2, 1986

Resolutions

On Martyrs

THIS General Council meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31—April 2, 1986 dips its red banner in the memory of those comrades who in the course of their struggle for the emancipation of the working class and the people attained martyrdom, having died at the hands of the goonda hirelings of the managements and by police firing. The meeting pledges to carry forward their task.

On Olof Palme

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31-April 2, 1986 expresses deep sorrow at the passing away of Olof Palme, the Prime Minister of Sweden, who was dastardly assassinated on March 1. Olof Palme was in the forefront in the struggle for peace and opposed the US imperialist's war designs. He was the initiator and a signatory to the six nation's appeal for nuclear disarmament. In his death the world has lost a valiant fighter for the cause of peace. The meeting pays homage to the memory of Olof Palme.

Com. Ramdass

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31-April 2, 1986 expresses profound sorrow at the premature death of Com. Ramdass on November 8, 1985 at Delhi at the age of only 60. Com. Ramdass was the Central Committee member of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the working editor of the People's Democracy. Com. Ramdass enrolled himself as a member of the Communist Party of India in 1942 at an early age of 17. In the height of the freedom struggle, when the ruling classes made the Communist Party of India the target of their attack, Com. Ramdass, even at that age, while lending full contribution to the struggle for independence, fought unremittingly for the cause of proletarian internationalism, popularising the political ideology of the Communist Party that the path of Indian freedom lay in its active participation in the anti-fascist struggle headed by the Soviet Union. He joined the Central Party press in 1947 and became one of the active functionaries in the Cross Road Weekly. Being a devotee and an ardent follower of Marxism-Leninism, Com. Ramdass fought uncompromisingly against both the left and right deviations. Working as a staff of the New Age he consistently fought the growing trend of revisionism in the party. His ideological and organisational work immensely helped in the ultimate formation of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) in 1964.

Almost immediately after the formation of the

CPI (M) countrywide arrests followed and almost the entire leadership of the party were thrown behind the bars. Remaining undeterred in this perilous situation, Com. Ramdass continued his devoted work for the newly born party and started the People's Democracy almost singly handedly. He was elected to the Central Committee in 1968. Shouldering many more responsibilities Com. Ramdass carried forward the revolutionary task of focusing the principles of Marxism-Leninism in the concrete national and international conditions through the People's Democracy. The meeting pays homage to the memory of Com. Ramdass and conveys its heartfelt condolences to Com. Kitty and other members of his family.

On Condolences

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31-April 2, 1986 pays homage to the memory of Com. P. Laxmidas, the General Council Member of CITU, and others who died during the period in the course of their revolutionary struggle for ushering in socialism. The meeting conveys its heartfelt condolences to the members of their bereaved families.

On the Appeal of AUCCTU

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31 to April 2, 1986 warmly welcomes the appeal of the All Union Central Council of Trade Unions, Soviet Union on the statement given by Com. M.S. Gorbachov, the General Secretary of CPSU on January 15, 1986 in which the Soviet Union put forward the proposal for complete elimination of nuclear and chemical weapons and any other threat of annihilation facing mankind, in three stages before the year 2000 AD.

The international situation today is marked by the US imperialist's drive for nuclear war against the Soviet Union and the socialist camp. It is a war to reestablish the global domination of imperialism headed by the USA. The ideological and the military strength of the socialist camp stand as a deterrent to the imperialist's plans of domination. The U.S. imperialist is therefore trying to secure military superiority over the Soviet Union to launch a war against it. While the Soviet Union has made a number of peace proposals, announced unilateral moratorium in nuclear tests and declared that it will not be the first to strike nuclear weapons, the USA has blatantly rejected all the proposals. In fact, its so-called Strategic Defence Initiative, i.e. the star war project is meant precisely for the nuclear first strike.

Under such perilous situation, when the UNO has also declared 1986 as the year of peace, as referred to by AUCCTU, this meeting applauds the proposal of Com. M.S. Gorbachov to enter the third millennium without any weapons of mass annihilation as an outstanding contribution to world peace and lends full support to it.

This meeting assures the AUCCTU and through them, the heroic people of Soviet Union, that the CITU and the Indian working class would do every thing in their power to ensure that our sisters and brethren do not have to relive the horrendous days of the 2nd World War unleashed by the fascists in which 50 million people including 20 millions from the Soviet Union lost their lives. This is our pledge in redeeming our international responsibility, to ensure that the fruits of the hundred years of struggle of the proletariat are not snatched away by the imperialists.

The meeting calls upon all State Committees and the affiliated unions to go all out to campaign and popularise the proposals among all sections of workers, trade unions, other mass organisations and the democratic and peace loving forces as a part of the May Day Centenary programmes, and carry forward the unremitting struggle for peace and frustrate the imperialist war designs. The meeting further appeals to all other trade unions to join the mass struggle for peace to save the human-kind from a nuclear holocaust.

On US Missiles in Afghanistan and Angola

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31-April 2, 1986 denounces the Reagan administration for deciding to send the sophisticated "Stringer" anti-aircraft missiles to help the counter-revolutionaries in Afghanistan and Angola and also against Nicaragua and Cambodia. This action of the USA comes in the wake of its military threat to Libya and sending war vessels to the Libyan coast. These belligerent actions of the Reagan administration amount to blatant moves to establish its stooge dictators' Governments everywhere in pursuit of its plan for world domination and escalate global tension, when the Soviet Union has given a new concrete proposal for world peace.

The meeting demands of the Reagan administration to forthwith withdraw its belligerent move and calls upon the affiliated unions and appeals to all other trade unions and peace loving forces to raise their voice of protest.

On Apartheid in South Africa

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31 — April 2, 1986 denounces the racist government of South Africa for pursuing the barbarous apartheid policy. This despicable policy of the minority white regime has been pronounced in a most savage form, unleashing ruthless repression on the struggling South African people.

Having thrown the indomitable freedom fighter Nelson Mandela behind the bars two decades back, the minority government committed the judicial murder of the young anti-apartheid poet, Benjamin Moloise and hundreds others. Murders, mass arrests and police raids and torture have become the order of the day. The meeting further denounces the US and British imperialists for shamelessly supporting the racist regime defying the world opinion and vetoing the UN resolutions asking for mandatory sanctions against South Africa. The dirty designs of the USA and Great Britain are in pursuance of their colonialist policy dictated by the transnationals to make super profits by plundering the wealth of South Africa. This is actually the policy enunciated in Reagan's so-called Constructive Engagement Pronouncement — a policy to keep over 22 million South Africans outcasts in their own country.

Demanding immediate and unconditional release of Nelson Mandela, the meeting hails the liberation struggle waged by the people of South Africa under the leadership of African National Congress. It calls upon the State Committees and the affiliated unions and appeals to all other trade unions to raise their voice against the apartheid regime and extend all possible help to the fighting people of South Africa.

On the Retrograde Economic Policy

This General Council Meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31 to April 2, 1986 congratulates the working class and the toiling people for the massive demonstration of unity in observing the successful Bharat Bandh on February 26 against the administered price hikes of several essential commodities. The meeting especially congratulates the Left Fronts of West Bengal and Tripura for organising the State Bundhs on February 11 and the opposition parties and trade unions of Delhi for organising the bundh on February 10, which gave the impetus for the Bharat Bandh.

The Bharat Bundh which was the culmination of series of protest actions was an expression of people's anger against the retrograde economic policy of the Govt. of India.

The Govt. has made a major shift in its new economic policy retreating from the earlier policy. The new policy denigrates the public sector, strengthens the private sector and has opened the doors to the multinationals to enter economic life of the country. It seeks to secure an accelerated development through modernisation and computerisation, relying on multinationals and Indian monopolists, allowing them various concessions. Gates have been opened wider to massive imports while exports are dwindling, leading to serious position of trade deficit. These are the very policies for which the World Bank and the IMF have been pressurising the Govt. of India for years.

M.Ps' Memorandum to U.S. President

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31-April 2, 1986 expresses serious concern over the accentuation of the attack on the opposition parties and trade unions in Assam. The CPI(M) and the CITU have been especially the target of such attacks.

The meeting notes that these attacks have come in the wake of the Assam accord which the CITU views as a piece of most undemocratic agreement arrived at by the Government of India submitting to demands of the secessionist agitators backed by imperialist agencies. The fake assurance given by the AGP Government has failed to restore peace and amity and instil confidence among the linguistic minorities and the ethnic groups in the state.

Scores of cases of terroristic attacks, gruesome murders, kidnapping, rape, arson and social boycott of the members and supporters of the opposition parties and trade unions are being reported.

The meeting also notes that the AGP Government has made the Assamese language compulsory in the Secondary Schools including those where tribal language was the medium of instruction since long. Alongwith this the anti-reservation moves have led to protests from the Scheduled Castes and Tribes and other backward communities in the state.

The meeting further notes with concern that the AGP Government is preparing a new Immigration Bill to throw out thousands of minorities from the state by dubbing them as foreign nationals.

All these developments are pointers to the increasingly sinister role played by the divisive forces. This portends a danger to not only the unity of the State, but also the unity and integrity of the country. The claim of the Prime Minister that the Assam accord has restored peace and amity in the state is totally belied by these facts. The meeting denounces these activities and demands of the Central Government and the AGP Government of Assam to take serious steps to stem the divisive and reactionary forces in the State. The meeting congratulates the Assam State Committee of CPI(M) and CITU for carrying forward determined struggle against these forces, which has led to positive results in the re-emergence of the unity of the opposition parties and the trade unions as was evidenced on the 26th February mass actions against the price hikes. The meeting calls upon all the State Committees and affiliated unions to carry forward their task of exposing the secessionists and consolidating the left and democratic and secular forces.

[The rest of the resolutions will be published in the next issue]

FIFTYSEVEN Members of Parliament belonging to the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha sent an appeal on March 6 to the United States Congress on the U.S. Administration's policy towards the Republic of Nicaragua. The memorandum addressed to both the Houses of the U.S. Congress appeals to them not to sanction the request of the Administration for 100 million dollars to aid the mercenary gangs operating from Honduras and Costa Rica who were attacking the peaceful civilian population of Nicaragua. The memorandum requested the U.S. Congress to see to it that the United States Govt. settle all outstanding problems by negotiations and not to countenance any move which would infringe upon the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Nicaragua.

Among the M.Ps who signed the memorandum were Dipen Ghosh and Basudeb Acharya (CPI-M), M.C. Bhandare and Anand Sharma (Cong-I), Indradeep Sinha and Narayan Choubey (CPI), P. Upendra and C. Lakshmanan (Telugu Desam), M.S. Gurupadaswamy and V.S. Krishna Iyer (Janata), Chitta Basu (Forward Block), Piyus Tirkey (RSP), Dinesh Goswami (A.G.P), Balwant Singh Ramocwalia (Akali Dal), Kishore Chandra S. Deo (Con-S), M. Mehfooz Ali Khan (Lok Dal) and Datta Samant (Independent). A delegation of M.Ps visited the U.S. Embassy and handed over a copy of the memorandum for the U.S. President, Mr. Reagan.

Convention Against Communalism

Venue: Mavalankar Hall, Rafi Marg, New Delhi.

Date & Time: May 11, 1986, 11.30 AM to 5.30 PM.

Quota of CITU Delegates: 100.

Delegate Fee: Rs. 5/- per delegate.

- * All States should send delegates as per quota given in Circular No. 26/86 of April 14.
- * All delegates should reach Delhi latest by May 10, morning.
- * All delegates requiring return reservations should remit the required amount and inform about staying arrangement if required.

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American Brinkmanship

B.T. Ranadive

THE unprovoked and dastardly U.S. attack against Libya constitutes an act of criminal aggression unparalleled in recent history. It can be compared only with Musolini's attack on Euthopia or the many treacherous deeds of the late Adolf Hitler of evil memory.

This is the second time that aggression was launched against this small country by a bullying power which has enough nuclear arms at its disposal to destroy the entire world. It is the same power that launched a cowardly aggression against Grenada and is today supplying arms and help to Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries to upset the democratic government of that country. These misdeeds coming one after another are not the product of the mind of an individual but the logical consequence of the policies of the industrial-military complex that rules the U.S. in the name of people. The class character of the representatives of the people elected under the U.S. Constitution was seen when both the Senate and House of Representatives voted for military action against Libya.

The excuse that action was taken because the Libyan Government was supporting terrorist actions against American citizens and institutions cannot be accepted by any sane or honest person. The immediate cause of this aggression is supposed to be the killing of two U.S. personnel in West Germany after a bomb attack. No one except the U.S. agencies consider that the attack was the handiwork of Libyan terrorists. But the U.S. imperialists do not need any proof when they consider aggression necessary in their interests. Neither do they consider the restrictions and norms of international law before attacking the sovereignty of any other nation. Like the British imperialists of the earlier days, they consider themselves to be the overlords of the world and place themselves above all international guarantees, UNO resolutions, or any moral code of behaviour. They consider it perfectly moral and legitimate to kill hundreds of innocent Libyans as a revenge for the loss of two American lives.

Mrs Thatcher's Government by slavishly joining the U.S. imperialists and Reagan in this shameful aggression against Libya has covered itself with utter disgrace. No previous British Prime Minister had sunk so low as to subordinate its foreign policy and its independence to the dictates of a dominating ally and a rival power. Mrs Thatcher not only supported Reagan, she readily obliged him by allowing the use of Britain based U.S. planes to carry out his nefarious design. Except France and Spain no other European country forcefully opposed the U.S. move though some of them pleaded that restraint should be observed. How can Governments which allow U.S. missiles to be deployed in their territories under the pretext of protecting their security against

the USSR, have the courage to dissociate themselves from such aggression. The NATO alliance has worked and U.S. has been allowed to go ahead with certain verbal demarcation from its stand.

However, the people of Europe, the democratic and progressive forces all over the world and the fighters for peace have all unanimously condemned this dastardly action, isolating the U.S. Government and its allies. There is wide spread indignation among the Arabic countries though the Governments of some of these countries are only expressing their opposition verbally and preventing people's anger from taking its full course. The condemnation by the Soviet Union has encouraged the anti-imperialist and democratic forces and increased their confidence to fight U.S. policy. The communique issued by the conference of Non-Aligned Ministers has further helped in exposing the U.S. and isolating it from the people of a large number of Third World countries.

The unmitigated act of aggression has united all secular political parties in India and in Lok Sabha all parties have unanimously condemned the U.S. Government for its armed attack against Libya. The ruling party, its government, the bourgeois-opposition parties and all left parties have voiced the indignation of democratic forces against American invasion and made it clear that those who pursue this policy will ever be opposed by the mass of democratic forces in the country.

This ruthless act of aggression, however, was to be expected from a power which is seriously preparing for a nuclear war and its extension to space. These acts of U.S. imperialism exposed the utter hypocrisy of those who while opposing U.S. acts of aggression, indulged in cheap talks about two super powers. The Reagan administration continues to vitiate the international atmosphere by refusing to agree to any concrete proposal for stopping nuclear tests and step by step eliminating of all weapons of mass destruction as suggested by Com. Gorbachev. The optimistic atmosphere that was created after the Gorbachev-Reagan meeting has been dissipated by Reagan's wild statements and still wilder moves and actions of his administration. As the Soviet Government's statement issued on April 12 states "The nuclear explosion conducted by the United States on April 10, 1986 once again clearly demonstrated what is really concealed behind the words of the United States administration about its devotion to the aims of liquidating nuclear arms. It is intended to further threaten mankind with a nuclear war, to keep the world in the trap of fear of universal annihilation. Once again Washington has placed the egoistic imperialist ambitions of the United States' military industrial complex above the interests of mankind. The American Government's irresponsible actions are an open challenge not only to the Soviet Union but

Go to the people of all continents; to the world as a whole”.

Last summer in order to facilitate peace negotiations the Soviet Union declared an unilateral moratorium on all nuclear tests. It was hoped that the U.S. administration would respond to this offer and take steps to accelerate the drive for peace. It was necessary that the U.S. gave up its Star War project and put an end to all nuclear tests designed in the direction of carrying war to outer space. But the U.S. Administration refused to give up its Star War Project and advertised it as a product for defence only. U.S. experts themselves revealed that the Star War Project can be used only as a weapon of first strike otherwise it has no validity. In spite of opposition to the project by the progressive forces, the American administration went ahead taking steps to complete it and by its nuclear explosion of 10th April it announced that it had no intention of engaging in peace negotiations. The time bound programme proposed by Com. Gorbachev to rid the world of nuclear weapons was rejected. The USSR was now compelled to give up its voluntary moratorium on nuclear tests. Responsibility for this situation entirely lies with the U.S. administration.

The Soviet statement of April 12, at the same time assures: “Soviet Government reiterates its proposals to the Governments of USA and Great Britain on resuming and bringing to completion the tripartite talks, stopped in 1980 with a view to work out a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear weapons tests. The Soviet Union stands for its undelayed beginning of multi-sided talks within the frame work of Geneva conference on disarmament with the same aim. We are also prepared to reach agreement on spreading the terms of 1963 Moscow Treaty banning nuclear weapons test in the atmosphere, in outer space.

Earlier by agreeing to verification on spot the USSR removed the last excuse for U.S. refusal to accept ban on nuclear test.

It is futile to expect that the U.S. administration will respond to the new Soviet offer and make way for meaningful dialogue for peace. The U.S. imperialists are bent on achieving military and arms superiority over the Soviet Union before they launch a destructive war. A power determined to carry out its war designs resorts to aggressive measures against all those who are likely to oppose its war. It does not want any neutrals in the war. It therefore tries to subjugate both neutral and the opponents of the war before it enters upon its major adventure. The Libyan crisis is a product of this policy and constitutes a warning for all democratic and peaceful forces that the U.S. is engaging in brinkmanship and is fervently preparing for a nuclear holocaust.

17.4.86

Worldwide Protest Actions

Spontaneous protest actions burst out all over the world against the USA's barbarous attack on Libya. Trade Union workers, students, youth, women and the peace loving people joined the demonstrations in large numbers. In USA, hundreds of people staged

demonstrations before the Pentagon recruitment centre in New York. Similar demonstrations were held at Chicago, Boston, San Francisco and other cities of America. Over two thousand people demonstrated before Margaret Thatcher's office at 10, Downing Street and at White Hall, London. More than 160 demonstrators were arrested. Another candle light demonstration was organised by the Britain's Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. Demonstrations were also staged before the American Embassy. Everywhere the placards read: “Murderers Out of Britain”, “Margaret Thatcher—Blood in Your Hands”. In Copenhagen, a mass demonstration held before the U.S. Embassy denounced the American policy as a threat to world peace. Another rally was held at Orhus. In Vienna, 22 people were arrested from a mass demonstration held before the U.S. Embassy. In West Germany thousands of protesters rallied before the U.S. Consulate at Hamburg and Stuttgart. In West Berlin over ten thousand protesters fought with the riot police on 16th night. Windows of buildings were smashed, ten were arrested and 17 police men were injured in the course. Hundreds of people staged demonstrations in North and South Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan. The police lined up in Sweden to control the demonstrators. Demonstrations were held in Brazil also. Widespread demonstrations took place in Italy. Marchers paraded in 90 cities of the country. Organised by the Communist Party, thousands of people and students paraded the streets of Rome, shouting: “Yankee Go Home” and “Reagan the Executioner”. Organised by the Spanish Communist Party and anti-NATO groups, thousands of protesters rallied at Madrid, Zaragoza and a dozen other cities in Spain. In the industrial cities of Basque, San Sebastian and Vitoria thousands of demonstrators clashed with the police. Widespread demonstrations were held in Pakistan with burning of American flags and effigies of Reagan. People shouted slogans: “Death to Reagan”, “Pakistanis and Libyans are Brothers”. The Women's International Democratic Federation from Berlin condemned the U.S. attack. Demonstrators from Africa and West Asian countries staged a sit-in demonstration before the American and U.K. Embassies at Beijing.

CITU Denounces U.S. Aggression: B.T. Ranadive, President of CITU in a statement issued on April 16, denounced the naked aggression as a political brigandage by the USA in pursuance of its aim for global domination and pursuit for war. It welcomed the declaration of the non-aligned foreign ministers condemning the U.S. attack. The CITU called upon the State Committees and the unions to protest against the U.S. warmongers and in support of the Libyan people.

The Parliament unanimously condemned the attack and a large number of the M.P.s demonstrated before the U.S. Embassy at Delhi. All the political parties and trade unions similarly condemned the U.S. action. Students, trade union workers, youth and other mass organisations held massive demonstrations at Delhi, Calcutta and other places of the country.

Conference of Water Transport Workers

THE third all India conference of the Water Transport Workers' Federation of India was held at Haldia from March 8 to 10. The conference was inaugurated by Com. B.T. Ranadive, President, CITU.

Com. BTR said that in every capitalist country the deteriorating economic situation made the working class and the common people its hostages. Closures, lockouts, price rise, unemployment, etc. were the inevitable results of capitalist economy, and the working class could not escape these attacks without bringing a change in the social order. As a part of the working class, the water transport workers had also become the victims of the system. As everywhere else the cry in the shipping industry was also for reduction of man power, mechanisation, computerisation, etc. He drew the attention of the workers to the report of the Committee on Transport which stated: "In our view, therefore, it will be sensible not to mix up employment objective with the issue of choosing an efficient transport system". He said that this meant growth of containerisation and mechanisation at a faster rate. He drew attention to the new economic policy of the Government and said that the retreat from the earlier policy had posed a danger to the economic and political freedom of the country. Under pressure from the World Bank and IMF the government was denigrating the Public Sector in favour of the private sector and had thrown the doors wider to the multinationals for high technology. This policy would throw the workers and common people exposed to the unbridled exploitation by the monopolists, both Indian and foreign. He urged upon the delegates to intervene in the policy and the functioning of the public sector demanding equal participation by the workers in the management.

Com. BTR further pointed to the increasing activities of the divisive and secessionist forces which were backed by the imperialists with a view to destabilising the country and enslave it. He said that the bourgeois-landlord government had not only failed to contain these forces but was compromising with them for its electoral gains. He stressed that only the united force of the working class could defeat these imperialist backed forces and maintain the unity and integrity of the country. He further called upon the delegates to build up unremitting struggle for peace against the heightened danger of a nuclear holocaust created by the American imperialists and their cohorts. Among others who greeted the conference were M.K. Pandhe, Satya Gopal Mishra, M.P., Tamilaka Ponda (AIDWA), Jagdish Das (State Govt. employee), etc. Messages of greetings were also received from the transport unions of several foreign countries, national federations and from Com. Jyoti Basu, Chief Minister of W. Bengal.

The conference also gave a call to observe All India Demands Day on April 16. The programme was taken to protest against the non-implemen-

tion of the settlement reached between the Govt of India and the national federations of the Port and Dock workers in April, 1984 following the country-wide indefinite strike. The Conference reelected M.M. Lawrence and K.K. Roy Ganguly as the President and General Secretary respectively.

Successful Observance of April 16: The Demands Day was successfully observed in the country. At Calcutta all the unions staged a day long dharna before the CPT Head Office in Strand Road. Among others the dharna was addressed by Bhola Basu, the CITU leader.

Indian Shippers Forced to Negotiate with FSUI: Despite recognition of the Forward Seamen's Union of India (CITU) by the Government of India, the Indian Shipping companies were refusing to include the representatives of FSUI on the National Maritime Board. The Indian National Shippers Association was negotiating with the representatives of the National Union of Seafarers of India (INTUC) only. The FSUI started agitation and held up the ships in the ports. The Chief Minister, West Bengal, intervened in favour of seamen. Seeing the remarkable unity shown by the seamen in different ports behind FSUI, the INSA was forced to call its representatives for negotiations on 16th April.

Dharna by BEFI

A massive dharna was organised by the Bank Employees Federation of India before the Ministry of Finance at Delhi on April 4. The programme was taken by BEFI to protest against the increasing attacks on the bank employees in the form of massive computerisation, ban on recruitment, premature retirements, victimisations and attack on trade union rights. Over 500 representatives from different states and a large contingent from Delhi participated in the dharna. A team from the All India Regional Rural (Gramin) Bank Employees Association also joined it. The units of the All India Reserve Bank Employees' Association also staged similar dharnas at their Bank offices on the same day at different parts of the country. The dharna was addressed by leaders of several central trade unions, viz, M.K. Pandhe (CITU), Chitta Basu (TUCC), Piyus Tirkey (UTUC), apart from M.P.s, viz, Basudev Acharya, Dipen Ghosh, Ajoy Bishwas of CPI(M). The leaders of the Bank employees from various States including a number of women leaders also addressed the dharna. Basudev Acharya raised the matter in the Lok Sabha later in the day. An 8-member delegation later met the Finance Minister and submitted a memorandum to him. But the Minister said that he had nothing to comment, since the matter was related to the policy of the Government as pronounced by the Prime Minister.

AROUND THE STATES

KARNATAKA

State Committee Meeting: The meeting was held at Bangalore on April 10 under the Presidentship of Suryanarayana Rao. The meeting heard the report of the General Council meeting held at Calcutta from March 31-April 2 and the other industrial meetings. It discussed the plans for celebrating the May Day Centenary and at the outset decided to print the manifesto of CITU and distribute the same to the workers and also to the public. It also decided to hold one symposium at Bangalore on May 21 in observance of the Save Public Sector Day. The meeting also decided to organise District and Taluk level conventions of unemployed workers, followed by a state level convention at Bangalore on May 22. Five thousand copies of a pamphlet "Unemployment Problem" will be brought out before the convention. The meeting further decided to hold a state convention of plantation workers at Chikmagalur on May 17 and 18. It also decided to complete the drought relief collections as early as possible. The meeting directed all unions to pay the affiliation fees and send the annual returns for 1985 before May 1.

ANDHRA PRADESH

State Committee Meeting: The meeting was held at Vijayawada on April 10 and 11 under Presidentship of P. Satyanarayana. The meeting discussed the details of the May Day Centenary programme and decided to observe it alongwith the trade unions on the basis of demands of revolutionary significance. However, the State CITU would observe it independently in the last week of April culminating on the May 1. During the week, one day will be observed highlighting the problem of unemployment, demanding Right to Work to be incorporated in the Constitution and unemployment relief to the unemployed. 12,000 copies of the article by Com. BTR will be sold during the period. The meeting also discussed about the closures and lockouts in the State and demanded reopening of the all the closed units. It demanded of the State Government not to sanction the closure of the Steel Foundry of the AP Steel Corporation and also demanded take over of the Challapalli Sugar Factory. It also demanded withdrawal of the disciplinary action taken against the railway workers for their support given to the Bharat Bundh on February 26, 1986. The meeting also directed the unions to submit the Annual Returns by May 15. The meeting decided to convene the 5th State Conference in the month of October at Kurnool. It also decided to hold conventions of rice mill workers, sugar workers and cement workers in June. The Convention of paper mill

workers will be held on April 15 at Kurnool.

Convention of Public Sector Unions: A State level convention of public sector unions was held at Hyderabad on March 23. The convention was attended by 850 delegates representing the public sector from all over the State. As the issue concerned the officers also, invitation was extended to them also, and about 50 officers from various public sectors attended the convention. Apart from this, about 100 of them attended as delegates representing the officers' associations including K. Ashok Rao, Secretary of their confederation. Besides, Prof. E.A. Ramaswamy of Administrative Staff College, Prof. Laxminarayan of Osmania University, Dr. Vijay Mohan Reddy and others also attended the convention. In a key note address sent to the convention, Com. Joyti Basu, Chief Minister of W. Bengal and Vice-President of CITU made a scathing attack on the shift in the policy of the Central Government regarding the public sector. He said that the assault on the public sector was a part of the package of policy measures in favour of privatisation which the Centre seemed to be implementing along the lines known to be advocated by the IMF and the World Bank. This will exacerbate poverty and unemployment. Speaking as the Chief Guest, N.T. Rama Rao, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh decried the Centre's policy of importing technological know-how when they were readily available with the public sectors in the country. N. Prasad Rao, the State CITU General Secretary delivered the welcome address and M.K. Pandhe, Secretary, CITU inaugurated the convention. 27 delegates participated in the deliberation. Among others who spoke were Raghunath Reddy, the former Union Labour Minister, Prof. Ramaswamy, Prof. Laxminarayan, Vijay Mohan Reddy, Ashok Rao and Sonawalker. Shri Hari, Secretary of the State CITU moved the main resolution. The resolution called upon the working class to struggle against the policy of denigrating the public sector by the government and build up countrywide united movement with a 12 point demands which included withdrawal of all concessions given to the multinationals, step importing of products and equipments which can be produced in the country by the public sectors, stopping of the computerisation drive, improvement of the working and living conditions of the workers, nationalisation of the cotton, jute, sugar, coir, drugs and other industries, as also the Peerless Company, etc.

DELHI

State Conference: The 6th Conference of Delhi State CITU was held at Faridabad on April 13 and 14, being conducted by a Presidium consisting of Shadiram, Bhagvan Prasad and Bhardwaj. 241 delegates attended the conference which was inaugurated by M.K. Pandhe, Secretary, CITU. 34 delegates participated in the discussion on the General Secretary's report placed by Sushil Bhatta-

charya. After reply by S.B. Bhardwaj, the report was adopted unanimously with a few amendments. The conference adopted resolutions on lockouts, closures, price rise, unemployment, divisive forces, on situation in Punjab and Assam, war and peace, May Day Centenary, nationalisation of the Peerless Company, etc. Addressing the delegates session Com. BTR explained the present national and international situation and called upon the delegates to intensify the struggles for peace, against the divisive forces and the economic policy of the Government. He also explained the revolutionary significance of the May Day and called upon the workers to observe the centenary in its revolutionary tradition. The Conference elected a 31 member committee with Shadiram as President and S.B. Bhardwaj as the General Secretary. The open session was addressed by Com. BTR and S.B. Bhardwaj.

MAHARASHTRA

Massive March against Drought: Over 20 thousand people, workers, kishans, agricultural workers and women converged at Bombay on March 20 from all parts of the State to demonstrate their anger against the government's apathy towards the severe drought the state is suffering from. 16 out of 28 districts of the state are in the grip of severe drought affecting over 15 million people who do not have drinking water even. The protest action was organised jointly by the opposition parties, viz, CPI(M), CPI, Cong(S), Janata, BJP, Peasants and Workers Party, Republican Party (Gavai) and Kamgar Aghadi, and supported by the trade unions, viz, CITU, AITUC, HMKP, UTUC, Datta Samant's unions and the Kishan Sabha and the Agricultural Workers' Union, as well as DYFI and SFI. The 15 thousand people from the villages were joined by about 5 thousand urban workers from Bombay. The march started from Azad Maidan and culminated at Sachivalaya where a rally was held. The rally was addressed among others by Ahiliya Ranganekar, Lahanu Kom, P. Sanzgiri CPI(M), Jagannath Yadav, P.K. Patil (Janata), B.S. Dhume (CPI), R.S. Gavai (Republican), Ram Kapse (BJP), and Padam Singh Patel and Sarad Pawar (Cong-S).

Women's Dharna: A large number of women came to Bombay on March 21 from different parts of the state to stage a dharna which was jointly organised by thirty women's organisations. The dharna was staged near the Bombay University building. Among the demands raised were to withdraw the retrograde Muslim Women's Bill, against price rise, jobs for women, against discrimination, etc. Several trade unions, including CITU and other mass organisations came in procession to greet the women's dharna. The dharna was addressed by leaders of several organisations. Later, a delegation consisting of Ahiliya Ranganekar, Saudamini Rao, Leelatai Bhosle, Manju Gandhi, Tara Reddy and Mumtaz Inamdar met the Chief Minister and submitted a memorandum to him.

Meetings Addressed by Samar Mukherjee: Samar Mukherjee, General Secretary, CITU addressed two meetings of CITU workers in Bombay on

March 18 and 19 at Andheri Centre and Janashak Hall, Worli. He explained the national and international situation and called upon the workers to step up the independent activities of the CITU and forge united struggles so as to meet the challenges effectively. In the international scene, he drew the attention to the increasing war manoeuvres by the US imperialists against the Soviet Union for world domination and urged for developing struggle for peace and safeguard the socialist system. In the national scene, he pinpointed to the disastrous economic policy of the government and the rising divisive forces backed by the imperialists and exhorted for building up united struggle against the same. He laid stress for championing the cause of the peasantry, the unemployed, the unorganised sections and the women workers for an effective movement. He congratulated the workers for making the Bharat Bundh successful and urged for consolidating the unity and carry forward the movements.

BIHAR

Rally against Closures: At the call of CITU, a massive day long dharna was staged before the Legislative Assembly at Patna on March 12, demanding nationalisation of Ashok Paper Mill, Phulwarishariff Cotton Mill and opening of Dalmianagar and other factories. Workers from Jamshedpur, Hazaribagh, Dhanbad, Ranchi, Dalmianagar, Dharbhanga, Sahibganj, Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Patna and other places came to join the dharna. A colourful procession started from the State Committee office at Kanbarbagh and culminated near the Assembly. The dharna was addressed among others by Yogeshwar Gope, Chandi Prasad, Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi, Abdul Hakim, K.K. Tripathi, S.K. Sharma, and Subodh Roy, General Secretary of the State Kishan Sabha. A delegation later met the State Labour Minister and handed over a memorandum.

MADHYA PRADESH

Strike in Gwalior Rayon: The workers of the Gwalior Rayon (Grasim) are on indefinite strike at Nagda since March 21 in pursuance of their long standing demands. The strike has been unitedly called by CITU, AITUC and other unions. Despite frantic attempts by the management and the INTUC union the strike has been complete and has seriously affected the stock of viscose staple fibre in other mills also. The Chairman of the Indian Cotton Mills Federation had to admit about the serious situation and express the opinion that the immediate solution was to end the strike. But despite this, the management of the Birla enterprise have remained adamant. 127 workers, mostly of CITU were arrested. Section 144 has been clamped. But the strike has got full support from various trade unions. There was a complete Nagda Bandh on April 12. The striking workers are being addressed by various leaders and MPs, viz, Homi Daji (AITUC), P.K. Moitra (CITU), Masudal Hussain, M.P., CPI-M, etc. Processions and rallies are being held daily.

Glorious Strike of Coal Workers

ALL the Central Trade Unions in the Coal industry united and the work in all the 450 coal mines in India came to a grinding halt when the seven lakh coal workers went on complete strike on April 9 demanding full implementation of the National Coal Wage Agreement—III. Never before such a massive strike was organised in the coal industry. The call of the strike was jointly given by the All India Coal Workers Federation (CITU); Indian National Mine Workers' Federation (INTUC), Indian Mine Workers Federation (AITUC), Hind Khadan Mazdoor Federation (HMS) and Akhil Bharatiya Khadan Mazdoor Sangh (BMS). The 11-point Charter of Demands contained several non-implemented clauses of the agreement, like provision of drinking water, housing, education, medical benefits, violation of safety rules, enhancement of ceiling on gratuity, pension scheme, uniform standing orders, job to dependants, etc.

There was simmering discontent among the coal-workers due to the continued refusal of the CIL management and the Government to fully honour the NCWA-III which was signed in September, 1983 and was to be implemented with retrospective effect from January, 1983. All the federations tried their best patiently all these years for settlement of the demands. But both the CIL management and the Government remained adamant and callous to the problems of the workers. The workers were thus forced to embark upon the path of direct action. The federations called upon their unions to launch independent actions first. The AICWF observed an All India Protest Day on February 5. Then an All India Demands Day was launched on March 3. On March 21 all the federations jointly served the strike notice by holding massive demonstrations in all the mines. The joining of the INTUC reinforced the unity of the workers. The CIL management and the Government called hurried meetings, but only with the motive to disrupt the strike. Since the authorities were in no mood to settle the demands, the federation, were also in no mood to withdraw the strike notice. The Government laid bare its anti-labour character by illegalising the strike. But the workers were undeterred and the strike was complete. Leaders of the federations addressed joint rallies of the striking workers in several collieries. On behalf of CITU, M.K. Pandhe, Ramnika Gupta, Chandni Prasad, Sunil Basu Roy, Bamapada Mukherjee, Basudev Acharya, M.P., and others addressed several rallies.

The CPI(M), CITU and other Central Trade Unions issued statements congratulating the coal workers for their unique show of unity and success of the strike. The CITU and AICWF appealed to all the unions to further strengthen the unity so that the Government and the CIL were forced to settle their demands and the interests of the coal miners effectively protected. They warned the Government of bigger struggles if it continued to refuse implementation of all the clauses of the NCWA-III.

Coal Workers to Fight Back Victimisation

Exasperated by the unprecedented strike of coal miners the CIL management resorted to large scale victimisation measures. Printed show cause notices, charge sheets have been issued against the striking workers. Threats of deduction of 8 days' wages have been given to several workers.

The extended office bearers' meeting of the All India Coal Workers' Federation which met in Calcutta on 18th April under the Presidentship of M.K. Pandhe, strongly condemned these victimisation measures of the managements and warned that if they persist in these vindictive actions, coal workers will be left with no other alternative but to resort to indefinite strike actions in areas where management had been indulging in such penal measures.

The meeting reviewed the recent countrywide strike and noted with satisfaction that never before such a complete strike was witnessed in all the coal mining regions in the country. The AICWF therefore appealed to all the Federations to strengthen the unity built in the strike and prepare for still bigger struggles in order to compel the managements to honour all the commitments given in the last agreement. It also appealed to all the Federations of coal workers to prepare a joint Charter of Demands for the next round of wage negotiations so that the managements are forced to start negotiations without any further delay. The AICWF has already prepared a draft of the Charter of Demands for the coal industry.

The meeting condemned the U.S. imperialists for their cowardly attack on Libya and called upon the coal workers to join solidarity actions against the U.S. pirates. It welcomed the unity achieved among all the Central T.U. organisations against communal and divisive forces, against war danger and the support of the struggle of the people of South Africa. It supported the All India Convention being held at Delhi against communalism and decided to observe 16th June as Anti-Apartheid Day in all the Coal mines in co-operation with other unions. The meeting also called upon all the unions in coal industry to observe 21st May as All India Save Public Sector Day against the derogatory policies of the Central Government.

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"Meet the Challenge to Job Security Unitedly"

—Calcutta Convention

THE joint convention of Railwaymen and all other sections of Central employees held in Calcutta on 10th April '86 in the spacious auditorium of Netaji Subhas Institute ended with a clarion call for all in unity in defence of job security and "rights of Govt. employees, for protecting the employment potential of the country. The declaration adopted by the convention states, "all the Piecemeal and sectoral movements of different sections of Govt. employees will have to be merged into a total united movement to meet the challenge". The declaration described in details how job security and employment potential has been subjected to severe attack through application of Art 310, 311(2) (a) (b) (c) of Constitution, computerisation etc.

The Convention which was organised jointly by Eastern Railwaymen's union, All India Railway Employees' Confederation — E Rly and SE Rly units, E Rly workers union, Metro Railwaymen's Union, units of National Federation of P & T Employees, All India Defence Employee's Federation, Confederation of Central Govt. Employees and other organisations operating in the Eastern Region, were addressed among others by S.K. Vyas S.M. Banerjee, K.M. Mathew, Parvati Krishnan, Sukomal Sen MP, Dipen Ghosh MP.

The Convention decided to hold a Central rally of Central Govt. Employees on 15th May at Calcutta, which would be preceded by observance of Protest Day on 8th May, the day on which the historic Railway strike of 1974 started. Programme of both these days would be observed jointly in districts, divisions and regions as well, the convention decided.

The Eastern Railway unity committee formed earlier comprising of major unions on the Eastern Railway including the AIRF unit played an important role in bringing about this convention reflecting more broadbased unity.

Coal Ash & Transshipment Workers

The Annual Conference of Indian Railways Coal, Ash & Transshipment Handling Mazdoor Union (CITU) held at Adra, West Bengal on March 29-30, 1986 once again reiterated their emphatic demand for alternative job for contractors labour engaged in Coal Ash and Transshipment handling work on Indian Railway who are being redundant as a result of progressive closure of steam Loco sheds as a part of the plan for gradual abolition of steam traction, as also abolition of some yards. The conference expressed serious concern over the fate of several lakhs of contractors labour who are

going to be thrown out of employment in next few years and resolved to carry on extensive campaign throughout the country to mobilise support from all sections of democratic people.

In all 348 delegates attended the Conference which was inaugurated on 29th by S.K. Dhar, Secretary General, AILRSA. Samar Mukherjee General Secretary, CITU addressed the session and Basudev Acharya, welcomed the delegates and guests.

The open session held same evening was attended by over 5 thousand people from all walks of life and was addressed among others by Samar Mukherjee who urged upon workers to build up most broad based unity to meet the challenge of the anti-labour policies of the Government.

Station Masters

The 32nd Biennial General Meeting of the All India Station Masters Association was held at New Jalpaiguri on NF Railway on March 29-31, 1986. The meeting attended by over 600 delegates from all different zones hailing from all parts of the country was inaugurated by CM Singh President, AIREC. Chief Guest Achyut Deka, Convention Joint Council of Trade Unions, Assam released the souvenir. Seminars on effects of automation and on Articles 310 and 311 of Constitution were addressed among others by Subhasis Gupta and Sadhan Gupta. Other permanent trade union leaders also addressed the main session. The resolutions adopted in the meeting demanded immediate publication of 4th Pay Commission Report, opposed the antilabour policies of the Govt., computerisation, ban on recruitment, staff reduction etc and demanded constitutional job guarantee for all besides proper implementation of cadre restructuring, 40 hr week etc. The meeting elected US Singh as President and P Sivan Pillai as Secretary General for the next time.

Against Terrorist Attack

Protest by Railwaymen of Amritsar and other places against the brutal murder of 2 Railwaymen of Golvarvarpal Rly station on Amritsar Taran Taran Section N. Rly led to suspension of Rly operation for five hours. In a joint statement the Divisional Secretary of NRMU (AIRF) demanded firm action by Punjab & Union Govt. against attacks and dividing workers on Religions Communal lines. Mourning Day was observed throughout Ferozpur Division on 4th April.

Working Committee Meeting of SWFI

THE Steel Workers' Federation of India has decided to organise demonstrations in all the Steel centres, captive mines and Central Marketing Organisations on 12th May and submit the Charter of Demands to all the managements for the forthcoming wage negotiations in the country. The SWFI appealed to other unions in steel industry to submit similar charter of demands so that negotiations for the next wage agreement can commence at an early date. The Working Committee of the SWFI which met in Calcutta on 17th April under the Presidentship of M.K. Pandhe, decided to launch a country-wide movement in pursuance of the Charter of Demands.

The meeting reviewed the present crisis in the Steel Industry and decided to launch a campaign in all the plants to explain the situation. A booklet will be published by the SWFI in different languages to popularise the campaign. Demonstrations will be organised in all the steel townships on 21st May, 1986 in observance of All India Save Public Sector Day.

The meeting further decided to popularise the decisions of the Central Trade Unions against communalism, war danger and the white racist regime in South Africa. By a resolution, the meeting also condemned the U.S. aggressive acts against Libya.

Massive Rally Against Muslim Women's Bill

OVER one thousand muslim women from the various states of the country converged at Delhi on April 17 to demand withdrawal of the retrograde Muslim Women's (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Bill introduced by the Government of India. The rally was jointly organised by AIDWA; NFIW; Committee for Protection of Rights of Muslim Women, Delhi; Committee for Protection of Muslim Women, West Bengal, Muslim Satyashodhak Mandal, Pune and Muslim Women's Rights Protection Committee, Calicut. The procession started from Windsor Place and culminated at Boat Club where a day long dharna was staged. Among those who addressed the dharna were Sushila Gopalan, Ahiliya Rangnekar, Kanak Mukherjee, Samar Mukherjee, Saifuddin Chowdhury, etc. The speakers denounced the Rajiv Gandhi Government for introducing the retrograde Bill only to appease the reactionary fundamentalist sections of the muslims and for trying to subvert the Supreme Court judgement on the Shah Bano case. The Bill exonerated the husband and deprived the divorced muslim women of all their rights. It was a direct attack on the weaker section of the society

and blatantly encouraged the divisive forces. They extended full support to the movement and called upon the women to intensify their agitation to compel the Government to withdraw the Bill.

Later, a delegation representing the organisations met the President, the Prime Minister and the Speaker of Lok Sabha and submitted memoranda to them demanding withdrawal of the Bill.

The attitude of the Prime Minister was laid bare when he told the delegation that equal rights for women and maintenance were "Western" concept, and not Indian. When asked whether democracy and Parliament were also Western concept, he had no answer. Similarly he said that "secularism" meant "all religions", and not "no religion". When asked whether the State itself should dabble in religious affairs, he was silent again. The delegation told the Prime Minister that the Bill went against the very grain of secularism and was in clear violation of the tenets of the Constitution. The delegation pointed out to the Prime Minister that the muslim women from all over the country had participated in the rally because of the concern and anguish they felt against the Bill. They demanded for its forthwith withdrawal failing which the organisations were prepared for further heightened struggles.

CITU Hails Successful Bharat Bandh

B. T. RANADIVE, President, CITU issued the following Statement on February 26:

The CITU congratulates the working class of the country for active participation in the call for strike and a bandh today in protest against the huge increase in the prices of rice, wheat, coal and petroleum products which had the effect of increasing prices of all items of daily necessities. The strike and bandh in almost all the states which have not been exempted is reported total and successful.

The CITU also warmly congratulates the State Govt. Employees throughout the country for their successful strike demanding repeal of Art, 310 (1) and 311 (2) (a) (b) & (c) of the Constitution which take away their right to self-defence before being sacked from service.

The CITU warns the Government that failure to give due respect to the expression of resentment by the workers and the Government employees against price-rise and for right to self-defence, would lead to further struggle by them. The CITU appeals to the Working Class to close their ranks and prepare for sustained struggle if the Government does not pay heed to the warning strike today.

On Labour in Parliament

Article 311 : CPI(M) M.P. Ajay Biswas made a special mention for deleting Articles 310 and 311 (2) (a) (b) (c) on February 26, when five million State Govt. employees went on strike on this demand. P. Chidambaram, Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension in a letter dated March 7, informed the M.P. that the Govt. does not consider amendment necessary. Biswas in a press release on March 12 deprecated the undemocratic stand of the Government.

National Tannery : A joint deputation of Badal Kar (CITU) and P. Sen (INTUC), leaders of National Tannery workers alongwith Dipen Ghosh, Basudeb Acharya, Amal Dutta (MPs, CPIM) and D.P. Ray, Cong. (I) M.P., met N.D. Tiwari, P. Shiv Shankar and V.P. Singh, Ministers for Industry, Commerce and Finance for nationalisation of this undertaking as the Public Financial Institutions were holding 80 per cent equity shares. The Commerce Minister assured that STC will co-operate in securing orders.

Titagarh Paper Mills : Ten Members of Parliament (CPIM) led by Basudev Acharya and Somnath Chatterjee in a memorandum to Finance Minister on 20.3.86 made a strong plea for take over of Titagarh Paper Mills. A joint Trade Union delegation of CITU and INTUC led by Dipen Ghosh, Amal Dutta (CPIM) and D.P. Roy Cong (I) also met V. P. Singh the Finance Minister the same day.

Eviction of Nepalese : Basudev Acharya and 9 other MPs of (CPI-M) in a joint letter to Prime Minister on 3.4.86 expressed concern at the forcible eviction of Nepalese of Indian origin from the mine areas of Bapung Khelerihat and Latramboi in Jaintia Hills and urged upon him to intervene. CPI(M) M.Ps submitted another memorandum to the Prime Minister on 15.4.86.

Closure of Burn Standard Units : A Trade Union delegation consisting of Haradhan Roy M.L.A. and Bibek Chowdhury accompanied by Basudeb Acharya, Somnath Chatterjee, Amal Dutta, Saifuddin Chowdhury, Purna Chandra Malik, Bibha Ghosh Goswami (all CPI-M) and Geeta Mukherjee (CPI) met the Industry Ministry N.D. Tiwari on 11th April and demanded withdrawal of closure notice on two refractory units of the Burn Standard Co. Ltd.

Closure of NTC Mills : Twenty M.Ps of (CPIM), in a joint letter to the Prime Minister on April 12 opposed the closing down of eight NTC mills which was announced by Khurshid Alam Khan at Lucknow.

Orient Power Cables : Twelve M.Ps (CPI-M), accompanied by A.A. Khan, President, Kota Distt. CITU submitted a memorandum to the Union Labour Minister on April 17 protesting

against illegal declaration of Orient Power Cables as a Relief Undertaking. Samar Mukherjee, Gen. Secretary, CITU is a statement issued on the same day also condemned the Govt. step.

Swiss Jewels India Ltd. : Basudeb Acharya and 10 other CPI-M MPs in joint letter to Finance Minister on 21.4.86 demanded nationalisation of Swiss Jewels India Ltd., as public financial institutions have provided 72 per cent of its Capital.

Peerless : A delegation consisting of Dipen Ghosh Amal Dutta (both of CPI-M) and D.P. Roy Cong-I met the Union Finance Minister V.P. Singh on March 20 alongwith Jaharlal Mukherjee, Secretary of Peerless Employees Union, and urged for nationalisation of the Peerless General Finance and Investment Co. Ltd., as under the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act the company has been prohibited to conduct business. Later on the day. Sukomal Sen of CPI-(M) in a Special Mention in Rajya Sabha also raised the same demand. On December 11 also a delegation of 25 M.P.s submitted a memorandum to the Finance Minister demanding the company's nationalisation in the interest of 4 lakh field staff, 4 thousand office staff and 2 crores certificate holders. The West Bengal and Tripura Assemblies also unanimously demanded nationalisation of the company. The Peerless Employees Union and the Favourite Small Investment Union (both CITU) held a joint rally at Delhi on April 11, which was addressed by Saifuddin Chowdhury, M.P., CPI(M) and P.K. Ganguly, Secretary, CITU. Massive agitations have been launched by the employees in West Bengal and other parts of the country demanding nationalisation of the two companies. In a statement issued on March 21, B. T. Ranadive, President CITU demanded nationalisation of the company. The CITU General Council also in its meeting held at Calcutta from March 31-April 2 raised the same demand. A massive 25-thousand strong rally was held at Boat Club on April 23 by the field staff association and the employees unions, addressed by M.P.s of all parties. A delegation met the Finance Minister demanding nationalisation.

IISCO : Six Members of Parliament, viz, Basudev Acharya, Ajit Shaha, Dipen Ghosh (all CPI-M) Indrajit Gupta (CPI) and Gopeshwar, Ananda Gopal Mukherjee (Cong-I), accompanied by M. K. Pandhe, Bamapada Mukherjee, S. N. Kar Chowdhury (CITU) and Priyalal Shah, D. K. Brajabasi (AITUC) met the Union Steel Minister, K. C. Pant on April 21 and submitted a memorandum urging to provide sufficient funds to modernise IISCO so that it can be revived in the interest of 24000 employees. They expressed concern over the penetration of a multinational company for running the IISCO and demanded utilisation of Indian technical know-how instead of relying on a Japanese consortium.

National Convention against Communalism and Divisive Forces

AS already reported in the March issue of The Working Class, all the Central Trade Unions, demonstrating an unique show of trade union unity met on February 15 and 17 and on March 22 and adopted unanimous resolutions against Communalism and the Divisive Forces, against Apartheid in South Africa and on Peace and Disarmament. The Central Trade Unions represented were INTUC, CITU, AITUC, HMS, BMS, UTUC, TUCC, UTUC(LS), NLO and NFITU.

The meeting of March 22, which was attended by Samar Mukherjee, General Secretary and M.K. Pandhe, Secretary, on behalf of CITU, decided to hold a National Convention against Communalism and Divisive Forces at Delhi on May 11 and also to observe June 16 as the Anti-Apartheid Day. Later on, a day will also be observed as Peace and Disarmament Day.

A Preparatory Committee was formed to organise the convention against communalism. The Preparatory Committee met on April 11 and 19 and decided to hold the convention at Mavalankar Hall. It also decided that 1000 delegates should participate in the convention — 100 per each Central Trade Union. The Committee chalked out other details also.

The meeting of March 22 unanimously adopted the following two resolutions, viz, on Trade Unions' National Convention against Communalism and on Trade Unions' Action against Apartheid:

Trade Union' National Convention against Communalism.

This meeting of the national centres of trade unions expresses its grave concern over the highly deteriorating communal situation in the country. There have been large scale communal riots in J&K, Punjab, Delhi, U.P. and other states recently.

Communal elements use any pretext to foment riots. Issues like Supreme Court judgement in Shah Bano's case and then Court order in Babri Masjid-Ramjanam Bhumi case were used by the Islamic Fundamentalists and arch Hindu communalists to flame up communal riots. In Punjab and J & K foreign trained infiltrators found acting in a concerted way to foment riots and they have succeeded to create bad blood at last. Similarly, tension is brewing at Mathura, Varanasi and other centres regarding places of worship. These communal elements openly use places of worship, for collecting arms and arsenals and commit crimes.

This meeting notes with regret that industrial centres have been seriously affected due to criminal activities of regional chauvinists and divisive forces. It has also been the experience that in most of the communal riots the Harijans, Adivasis and other weaker sections of the society are generally victims. The conflict between scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and caste Hindus on the question of reservation of jobs has led to several cases of casteist violence in Gujarat and other States which has seriously affected the unity of the working class.

It is therefore urgently needed that the organised working class intervene immediately and effectively in this critical hour to preserve communal amity and bring a sense of oneness in the country in co-operation with all the secular and patriotic forces. It is high time that the organised working class actively opposes all communal, secessionist, parochial, casteist, divisive and obscurantist forces and lead the country to communal harmony, national unity and peace.

With this end in view this meeting as per its declaration on National Integration of 17th February, 1986 resolves to convene a national convention of the Trade Unions in Delhi on 11th May 1986.

This meeting calls upon all working class and secular and patriotic people to extend their hands of cooperation in this noble task and ensure national integration in all its aspects.

Trade Unions' Action Against Apartheid

Acknowledging the urgency for action embedded in our Declaration on Apartheid of 17th February, 1986 and in deference to the overwhelming response to the Declaration amongst the working people and noting the escalation of racist violence in South Africa, the National Centres of trade unions having met in Delhi on Saturday, the 22nd March 1986, resolve that an Anti-Apartheid Day be observed on June 16 to reaffirm the solidarity of Indian working class with the liberation movement in South Africa and Namibia to highlight the atrocities committed by the racist regime, to expose the support and assistance that South African regime receives from certain governments and to demand the immediate unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and other freedom fighters languishing in South African Jails, appeal to the workers to contribute generously to a fund to be known as the Trade Unions' Solidarity Fund for South Africa.

NCC Calls for Countrywide Struggle against Economic Policy of Central Government

THE National Campaign Committee of Trade Unions in its meeting held in North Avenue, M.P.'s Club, Delhi on March 22 called upon the working class of India to resolutely fight Rajiv Gandhi Government's economic policies which hit the working class and the poor people of this country.

Thampan Thomas, M.P., Secretary, Hind Mazdoor Sabha presided over the meeting. 68 representatives belonging to Central Trade Unions and Industrywise Federations participated in it.

The meeting expressed grave concern at the growth of communal, casteist, regional, chauvinist, cessionist forces in the country which are disrupting the unity of the working class. It called upon the working class to oppose these forces so that the unity and integrity of the country is preserved.

The N.C.C. congratulated the working class for observing All India Protest Day on 20th February and Bharat Bundh against price rise on 26th February, 1986 as per its appeal and called upon the workers to continue the struggle against high prices with determination.

The meeting expressed its grave concern at the growing menace of closures, sickness, retrenchment, lock outs etc. all over the country and held the Central Government responsible for the deteriorating economic situation. The reckless drive for modernisation and computerisation has further accentuated the problem leading to large scale unemployment in the country. It demanded Right to Work as a fundamental right to be enshrined in the Constitution of India.

The NCC considered the new policy of the Government to denigrate the public sector as a retrograde one. It condemned the secret report of the committee headed by Dr. Arjun Sen Gupta and the stand of the Government to close down the public sector units making financial losses. The meeting criticised the steps towards privatisation of the public undertakings and increasing use of contract labour to perform the jobs of permanent nature. It opposed the proposal of the Central Government to scuttle the bipartite wage negotiations and impose Wage Boards on the public sector workers and called upon the workers to defeat the machination of the Government through united movement.

The meeting noted the growing attacks on trade union rights of the working class. The new amendments to Industrial Disputes Act will drastically curtail their Trade Union rights. It congratulated over 5 million state Govt. employees all over the country for their glorious strike on 26th February, 1986 demanding deletion of Article 311(2) (a), (b) & (c) from the Constitution of India.

The meeting fully supported the united decision of the Coal Unions to go on one day strike on 9th April 1986 in protest against non-implementation of their national wage agreement signed over 2 years ago. It also expressed its firm solidarity with the decision of the defence employees to go on one day strike on 21st May, 1986 against privatisation in defence industries, victimisation of leading workers and other demands. The NCC condemned the retrenchment of 6500 workers of Food Corporation of India whose jobs were handed over to the unscrupulous contractors.

The NCC will prepare programme of conventions and seminars all over the country to mobilise the workers on common issues. It will hold the Third All India Convention to highlight the most urgent issues of the workers and chalk out phased programme of Direct Action to press for their legitimate demands. The question of public sector employees movement will also be taken on a priority basis.

The N.C.C. will meet shortly and finalise details of the programme.

The meeting was addressed by Samar Mukherjee, Indrajit Gupta, S.M. Banerjee, Sukomal Sen, M.P., B.D. Joshi, N.S. Bhangoon, R. Chakrabarty, Yogeshwar Dutt, S.K. Dhar, Shri Krishna, J.P. Choubey, A.M. Purohit, S.K. Vyas, A.N. Dogra, R. Syal, Nageshwar Rao, B. Pandey, K.N. Pandit and R.K. Bhakt.

CITU Nominations

1. Com. M.M. Lawrence, Secretary, CITU will attend the Congress of General Trade Union Confederation of Romania to be held at Bucharest from April 24-26, 1986. He will also attend the May Day Celebration at Bucharest.

2. Com. K.N. Ravindranath, a member of the Working Committee of CITU and General Secretary of its Kerala State Committee will attend the May Day Celebration at Moscow and also take part in an International Conference on "Trade Union Solidarity, May Day Traditions and Challenges of Today" at Moscow on May 3-4, 1986.

3. The following Comrades have been nominated for a study visit to Moscow for 35 days from June 1 as a part of a joint group of trade unionists invited by the AUCCTU:

Com. K.M. Abraham, Member, Working Committee—Leader of the group

Com. Yeshwant Koli, Member, General Council

Com. Ajit Mukherjee, Member, General Council

Com. M.N. Ugrappa, Member Karnataka State Committee of CITU.

Save Public Sector Day — May 21

THE first meeting of the Co-ordination Committee of Public Sector Unions (CITU) was held at Durgapur on March 28 and 29. The meeting was attended by 43 members and invitees. The meeting discussed about the danger posed to the Public Sector undertakings as a result of the Government's policy to denigrate the public sector and decided to launch a countrywide campaign to mobilise the public sector employees against the Governments' policy. With this view the meeting decided to observe May 21 as All India Save Public Sector Day. The All India Defence Employees Federation has also given a call for a countrywide strike on the same day in protest against the Central Government's decision to privatise the defence production in the country.

The meeting appealed to all the unions in the public sector to observe the day unitedly in a befettering manner in defence of the public sector and against the policy of privatisation and Arjun Sen Gupta committee's report. The General Council meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31 to April 2 endorsed the decision of the meeting.

Apart from the main resolution the Appeal to Save the Public Sector in India, the meeting also adopted resolutions supporting the coal workers' decision to launch an united strike on April 9, and also on the crisis in steel industry, calling upon the steel workers to launch countrywide movement demanding of the Government to stop import of steel and make the country self-reliant in steel production.

The appeal to save the public sector in India is being published hereunder:

Appeal to Save the Public Sector in India

The meeting of the Co-ordination Committee of Public Sector Unions views with grave concern series of steps taken by the Rajiv Gandhi Government during the last one year to scuttle the public Sector which will lead to strengthening the hands of multinational companies and the Indian monopoly capital.

In the name of liberalising import policy the Central Government has permitted import of several items which are being indigenously manufactured by the Public Sector undertakings. While multinational companies are given free reign to penetrate in Indian market at the behest of the World Bank and the IMF, Public Sector units are unable to sell their products. The MAMC, CEL, HMT, ECIL, FCI, IDPL as well as engineering and other units are facing acute marketing difficulties due to this policy. Even in the construction industry multinationals are permitted to compete with public sector companies such as HSCL, NBCC, NPCC, EPI and EIL and several crucial contracts have

been bagged by the multinational companies. The device of hushmoney has been recklessly used by the multinational companies to purchase the bureaucrats and the higher-ups in authority.

Whatever technology has been built by Indian scientists and technicians over a period of years is being allowed to go in drain and ready made technology which has become obsolete in their own country is being dumped in our country. The public sector which was considered as an instrument to develop self-reliance in the national economy is being relegated in the background causing heavy drain of precious foreign exchange resources.

The Rajiv Gandhi Government has gone ahead in jet speed to implement the recommendations of Dr. Arjun Sen Gupta Committee on the public sector undertakings, as a result of which the public sector is being sought to run on the lines of the private sector. The concept of holding company, expediting the process of closure of the units which are making losses consecutively for a period of 5 years without going into the real causes of their incurring losses, giving full freedom to bureaucrats to deal with all aspects of working of the undertaking in the name of introducing autonomy, refusal to take over sick and closed units with a view to nationalising them, privatisation of the work in public sector in a phased manner are in full swing.

Even in the core sector the private capital is permitted to freely compete with the public sector such as steel, heavy engineering, oil exploration, fertiliser etc, putting public sector in competitive disadvantages.

The Government is conniving at massive recruitment of contract labour and off loading of jobs in all the public sector undertakings. This phenomenon has assumed serious proportions after the Central Government's directive to ban recruitment in public sector undertakings.

In the name of high technology software and hardware of computers are freely being imported and computerisation is being introduced on a massive scale. The modernisation drive alongwith this has created huge surplusage in public sector, creating a sense of insecurity among its employees.

The sick units in textile, engineering etc. are facing a serious threat of closure and several units are surviving on borrowed time only. Threat to closure is systematically being used to impose humiliating working conditions on workers.

This meeting considers this situation as a big challenge to the very existence of the public sector. It is therefore the duty of the working class and officials in the public sector to come together and rise to the occasion to protect the very existence of

the public sector. It is only 4 lakh workers and the officials, who are the backbone of the public sector industries, can take effective steps to protect the public sector, despite sabotage by the Govt., and the top heavy administration.

The meeting therefore calls upon all the unions and associations in public sector to educate the working class and the people of this country about the challenging situation faced by the public undertakings so that a country-wide movement is launched to defeat the Central Government's retrograde policies towards public sector.

It therefore decides that an All India Save Public Sector Day should be observed on 21st May, 1986 by holding meetings, rallies, issuing leaflets etc, so that the dangers posed the Government's policies are explained to all those who cherish genuine economic development of the country. On this day the defence employees all over India will also observe one day's strike against privatisation of defence production at the call of All India Defence Employees Federation.

It further calls for holding local, regional, state level and industrywise conventions by involving various trade unions, Officers' Associations, academicians, mass organisations, Members of Parliament and other public personalities so that a powerful voice in defence of public sector is raised all over the country.

While preparing for the forthcoming wage negotiations the trade unions should also raise necessary demands to defend the integrity of the public sector and raise issues about the suicidal policies adopted by the Central Government.

The Co-ordination Committee should meet again after completing this programme so that further agitational measures can be chalked out.

This meeting appeals to the working class and the people of India to give full support to this programme so that the Central Government is prevented from further launching assaults on the public sector in India.

Consumer Price Index Numbers

(Base 1960)

State/Centre	Nov. 1985	Dec. 1985	Jan. 1986								
				Bangalore	684	694	699	Coonoor	672	678	670
				Chikamagalur	631	620	621	Madurai	649	656	654
				Kolar G.F.	624	641	642	U.P.			
Andhra Pradesh				Kerala				Kanpur	627	625	623
Gudur	553	556	556	Alleppey	677	681	698	Saharanpur	628	621	622
Guntur	656	663	669	Alwaye	662	666	670	Varanasi	706	714	709
Hyderabad	634	641	648	Mundakayam	601	603	612	West Bengal			
Assam				Madhya Pradesh				Asansol	632	639	636
Digboi	620	604	608	Balaghat	649	630	630	Calcutta	628	623	612
Doom Dooma	493	493	493	Bhopal	714	711	711	Darjeeling	537	529	528
Labac	483	467	459	Gwalior	646	632	629	Howrah	582	584	579
Mariani	524	521	479	Indore	671	669	674	Jalpaiguri	528	523	503
Rangapara	594	483	472	Maharashtra				Raniganj	584	584	581
Bihar				Bombay	654	658	668	Delhi Territory	658	652	658
Jamshedpur	600	595	587	Nagpur	647	640	632	Other Centres			
Jharia	546	548	539	Sholapur	656	663	672	Berhampur ('49)	916	895	858
Kodarma	628	616	618	Orissa				Cuttack ('49)	858	854	862
Monghyr	640	637	630	Barbil	590	592	592	Jabalpur ('49)	798	804	801
Noamundi	552	557	559	Sambalpur	656	634	639	Beawar ('51-52)	749	743	732
Gujarat				Punjab				Tripura ('61)	564	560	561
Ahmedabad	609	605	607	Amritsar	629	627	620	H.P. ('65)	455	457	457
Bhavanagar	661	676	670	Rajasthan				Goa ('66)	470	467	479
Haryana				Ajmer	639	641	638	Bhilai ('66)	425	423	418
Yamunanagar	639	622	628	Jaipur	665	662	665	Bhilwara ('66)	403	404	407
J. & K.				Tamil Nadu				Chhindwara ('66)	334	338	335
Srinagar	670	648	655	Madras	648	651	653	Kothagudem ('66)	420	424	419
Karnataka				Coimbatore	681	688	689	Rourkela ('66)	439	439	431
Ammathi	641	626	628					All India ('60)	630	630	629

(Figures in bracket indicate base year)

Joint May Day Appeal by CITU and AITUC to the Working Class of India

Subsequent to the joint communique issued by CITU and AITUC on February 15 (published in the March issue) for holding joint celebrations of the May Day throughout the country, the leadership of the two organisations met again and issued the following joint appeal on April 11. The meeting was attended by Comrades Homi Daji, Vice President and T.N. Siddhanta, Secretary of AITUC and M.K. Pandhe, Nrisingha Chakrabarty and P.K. Ganguly, Secretaries of CITU.

ON the historic occasion of the Centenary of May Day, the Centenary of the martyrdom of seven heroic trade unionists we send warm fraternal greetings to workers and trade unions of India and of all the countries throughout the world.

It is one hundred years since the workers of Chicago, voicing the demand of thousands of workers of many countries, held a massive demonstration demanding an end to merciless capitalist exploitation for an eight-hour working day. Brutal police firing resulted in death of seven and injuries to hundreds of others. Four of the leaders were hanged on trumped up charges. The struggle continued, not only in America but in a number of countries. Since 1890 the First of May has been observed, first in America and Europe and gradually throughout the world, as a day of international working class solidarity, as a day of rededication to the relentless struggle against all forms of oppression and exploitation, rededication to the struggle to end forever poverty and unemployment, rededication to the struggle for an end to the exploitative capitalist system and a lasting peace and socialism.

Since May 1886, the working class of all countries have achieved many a victory. In 1917, the working class established the first socialist state in the world. In the short span of less than twenty five years this state, the Soviet Union, became one of the leading powers in the world. In 1945 the Red Army, the army of the working class and of all working people, headed the victory over fascism! This victory ushered in a new era in world-history. Revolutions succeeded in Eastern Europe, China, Vietnam, Cuba and other countries and today in more than one-third of the world, the working class is in power. The victory also ushered in an era of victories of one national liberation movement after another. We, in India, achieved our independence in 1947.

On this May Day, humanity is faced with the grave threat of a nuclear holocaust, US imperialism and its allies are pursuing the disastrous policy of escalating nuclear arms manufacture, rejecting all proposals of the Soviet Union and socialist countries for a programme of disarmament. The Reagan administration has announced its determination to pursue the "star-wars" programme.

The working class of India can see for themselves that the present war danger does not emanate from the mad arms race of two super powers as some contend in our country. It emanates from the policy of US imperialists who with the sole aim of global domination have made the socialist system and particularly the USSR as their target. We call upon the working class to march hand in hand with all peace loving forces to foil the designs of US imperialism and fight for peace.

The constructive peace proposals put forward by M.S. Gorbachov on behalf of the Soviet Union to rid the world of nuclear weapons, to enter the 21st century without nuclear and other mass destruction weapons, to ensure that the resources now spent on manufacture of weapons of death and destruction are diverted instead for developmental purposes, to accelerate all round economic and social development and ensure a higher level of cultural and spiritual life for humanity have found growing support of the working class and trade unions, of all sections of the people, of all countries. The constructive proposals provide a valuable basis for taking this struggle forward to greater and ultimate success. On this May Day we appeal to all workers and trade unions to intensify the campaign for peace and in support of these proposals.

The arming of Pakistan by the US imperialists with increasingly sophisticated weapons, increasing US naval exercises in the Indian Ocean strengthening of Diego Garcia as a nuclear weapons base and machinations in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh — all these constitute attempt to encircle India militarily and the danger of war looms large on the borders of India. It has become more urgent than ever for the working class and trade unions of India to work unitedly and in concert with the working class and trade unions of all countries against these aggressive designs of US imperialism and its allies and participate in ever growing number in the world wide struggle for peace and disarmament.

On this May Day, we call on the workers and trade unions to uphold the banner of proletarian internationalism by expressing their solidarity with all national liberation movements against imperialism, neo-colonialism, racism, and apartheid, to declare their solidarity with the people of South Africa in their struggle against the apartheid regime, to declare their solidarity with the people of Namibia fighting for their independence, to declare their solidarity with the people of Nicaragua defending their country's integrity against the US sponsored armed attacks and economic blockade, to declare their solidarity with the people of Palestine fighting for their homeland, the people of Salvador fighting for their liberation, to declare their solidarity with the people of the subcontinent — Pakistan,

Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka struggling for democratic rights.

On this May Day we call upon the working class of India to address themselves to the problems facing the country. Policy of non-alignment is under severe attack by the US imperialists and internal reactionary forces. The new economic policies of the Government of India portends danger to this policy of non-alignment. The working class must be vigilant against any vacillations and waverings.

India is to day in the grip of a grave economic crisis. The economic policies of the Rajiv Gandhi Government, have undergone a drastic change under pressure of the World Bank and IMF. These policies accentuate budgetary deficits, inflation, skyrocketing prices leading to greater impoverishment of the toiling masses. Instead of curbing monopolies and landed vested interests and mopping up of resources from them, sweeping concessions are given to them. The public sector is being denigrated and a policy of privatisation introduced. Simultaneously an open-door policy to multinationals and indiscriminate import has been started in the name of high technology. Indiscriminate computerisation, automation, etc. will further aggravate the unemployment situation. In the name of modernisation and introduction of high technology, Indian scientists and technicians are ignored and transnational corporations given encouragement to enter the country, opening the way for their infiltration in all spheres of our economy. These concessions constitute a grave threat to our economic independence, to our policy of self-reliance.

These policies have led to increased closure, lock-outs and sick industries resulting in ever increasing unemployment. The number of registered unemployed in the country to day is well nigh three crores while actual unemployment is much more. The number of toiling masses living under the poverty line is steadily increasing.

Today the democratic rights of the people are under attack as the Government had armed itself with draconian powers and the trend of authoritarianism is growing.

The hard won rights of the working class are also under attack. The ESMA and NSA and similar legislations constitute a continuing threat to the working class movement. They have been used to suppress the legitimate struggles of the workers. The recent judgement of the Supreme Court on Article 311 (2) (b) of the Constitution has further strengthened the arbitrary powers to dismiss the government employees without even an inquiry. This cannot be ignored by other sections of the working class, in particular, those in the public sector.

On this May Day we call on all workers and trade unions to forge a greater unity to fight for their rights, to fight for a reversal of the anti-labour,

anti-people policies of the Rajiv Gandhi Government, to fight for nationalisation of Jute, Textile and Sugar industries, to fight in defence of the public sector and against the entry of transnational corporations with their policies of neocolonialism, to fight for the repeal of ESMA, NSA and all such legislations and for amending the Constitution to extend unfettered trade union rights to all government employees, to further strengthen the struggle for the right to work being enshrined in the constitution, to fight for the right to unemployment relief which is denied all these years.

Throughout the last hundred years the world has witnessed the workers in one country after another achieving the right to an eight-hour working day but in many they have achieved the rightful demand of shorter working hours. In India, there are some industrial workers who are yet to secure 8-hour working day. On this May Day the working class demands a reduction in working hours to 40 hours a week. We appeal to all workers to fight unitedly for this just demand.

We call upon the working class to champion the cause of the peasantry and agricultural labour for radical land reforms and distribution of surplus lands, for remunerative prices and adequate wages for agricultural labour, an end to the system of bonded labour, and thus build up worker-peasant alliance.

Our country today is also facing the serious situation of increased activities of divisive communal, religious fundamentalist forces, and casteist forces inspired, instigated and supported by external and internal reactionary forces. The hands of imperialists are clearly seen behind the secessionist and extremist forces who openly raise slogans of dividing the country. By rousing passions between different sections of our people, they seek to subvert our national independence and national integrity. We appeal to all workers to fight unitedly against all these reactionary forces, to close the ranks of the working class and defend our national integrity.

The revolutionary traditions of May Day will lead the working class to realise that the present power structure in our country has failed to register economic progress in the interest of the people or to protect their democratic rights. On this May Day the working class therefore pledges to fight for change in the present social system and for establishment of state power controlled by the democratic forces which would be in a position to facilitate easy transition to socialism.

We call upon the working class to defend the two left front Governments of West Bengal and Tripura as advanced outposts of democracy and foil all conspiracies against them.

To fulfill the tasks before the working class, the
(Contd. on page 31)

WFTU Message of the First of May, 1986

The following message to commemorate the May Day centenary was adopted by the 35th Session of the WFTU Bureau which was held in Prague from 8 to 10 April 1986:

ONE hundred years ago, a strike by 40,000 workers in Chicago on the first of May 1886 challenged Capital and its system of merciless exploitation. On the following days, the volleys capitalist gunfire set workers' blood flowing on the streets of Haymarket. Workers' leaders were executed for demanding an 8-hour day. We pay homage to the heroic fighters and martyrs who led that May Day demonstration in Chicago.

The history of mankind is the history of class struggle. This truth is borne out by the centuries-old struggle by the labour movement. In this long struggle between labour and capital, it is our dynamic era which has awakened the international labour movement and turned it into a force to change the shape of the world. The working class, winning State power in countries covering one-third of the world population, established a new social system based on the principles of social justice, and abolishing capitalist exploitation.

Those workers who stood up to police terror continued to carry their red banner demanding work, bread, freedom, democracy and a life worthy of man. They called for help and their cry resounded over hills and oceans as they said: Help us, fellow workers, our strength is our unity and our solidarity.

For a century now, this cry has been ringing out, to be answered by fraternal unity, the basis of workers' success all over the world.

The century of struggles since May Day 1886 has taught workers and trade unions that their strength lies in unity and solidarity.

Men and women, young and old, intellectual and manual workers, trade unionists of the world, we appeal to you on this centenary of the Chicago bloodbath.

Let us maintain the ideals of May Day, let us promote unity and solidarity between workers, and let us give new strength to all those who struggle under this red banner!

International capital is on the march again, unleashing its massive force upon us. In numerous countries, this danger is threatening our right to work, our human dignity and our freedom, our living conditions and deteriorating and our trade unions are being victimized and restricted.

We cannot give up our rights and we cannot reconcile ourselves to the fact that tens of millions

are without jobs and bread! Our solidarity and our human honesty cry out against the poverty and misery and against exploitation and indebtedness of developing countries that spreads as international capital turns human labour, sweat and tears into gold.

The workers of the world cannot accept the fact that international bourgeoisie is using the arms race as a way out of the crisis. This is a road to destruction! There will be no winners in a third world war. The arms race lies on the road to death.

Fellow Workers!

We must stay true to the idea of May Day and to human values, because civilisation is the fruit of our labour, it is we who created it! It is our right and our duty to protect it and enrich it.

Let us unite! Let us put aside our differences! Let us protect our life and our future together!

(Contd. from page 30)

unity of the trade union movement is one of utmost urgency. In recent years, after the formation of the National Campaign Committee, united actions in many sectors have registered successes. This unity has to be further strengthened and extended to reach the ultimate goal of united trade union movement. On this May Day we appeal to all workers and trade unions to come forward and strive to build a powerful united trade union movement based on the revolutionary traditions of May Day. This can be the only guarantee for ultimate victory in defence of our rights, to achieve our demands, in the struggle to eradicate poverty and unemployment, in defence of our national sovereignty and national integrity, in the march towards ending the capitalist system and for a lasting peace and socialism.

Red Salute to the Martyrs of Chicago!

Workers of the World Unite!

Down with Imperialist Warmongers!

Long live world peace!

All-India Trade Union
Congress

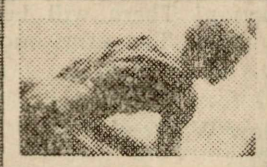
Centre of Indian Trade
Unions

Dated : 11 April, 1986.

Chicago May 1, 1886. A workers' strike for an eight hour working day

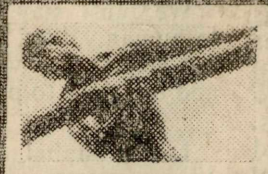


became history

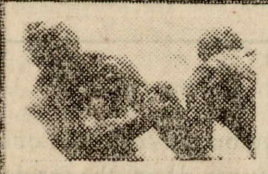


a revolution that created A history written in the sweat

of toiling men A history of an



the world over international workers'



solidarity. the Left Front



Today Government

salutes all persevering mortals.

Let us raise echo the



our voice and words of Karl Marx :

Working men of all countries unite !



Government of West Bengal

Progressive (CA-2/86)

The Left Front Govt's tribute to a hundred years of struggle.

RECEIVED

15 MAY 1986

C.I.T.U.

CITU

522-21

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS
6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI - 110001.

To All Central Trade Unions

Dated: 10th May, 1986.

Dear Friends/Comrades,

Ref:- Appeal to the Working Youth for
International Peace Year.

I am circulating herewith a copy of the communication dated 15th April 1986 received from Confederation Generale Du Travail, France and my reply to the same for your information.

As pointed out to CGT, it would have been better if our organisations could be associated at the stage of formulation of the text. Nevertheless the opportunity for motivating the young workers in the struggle for peace can be used. This would also provide greater interaction between the world working class movement.

I am confident that you would take appropriate step in this regard.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Samar Mukherjee
(Samar Mukherjee)
General Secretary.

Encl: As above.

Copy forwarded to all members of Secretariat and all State Committees of CITU for information and necessary action.

.....
Copy of letter dated 15 th April 1986 from Confederation Generale Du Travail.

Dear Comrades and Friends,

1986 has been declared International Peace Year by the United Nations.

We think that the opportunity exists for trade unions throughout the world to create the conditions and increase efforts so that young workers involve themselves even more in the struggle for peace world-wide.

It is therefore more than symbolic that International Peace Year follows the United Nations International Youth Year of 1985, as it is very much the case that in their daily struggle for the right to live better, young workers place issue of Peace and Disarmament at the centre of their concerns.

We are also convinced that working youth can come together on essential and common issues, regardless of political, philosophical or religious differences.

Trade unions throughout the world have, without doubt, a big role to play in this process.

Without minimising the differences and even divergences of analysis that exist between trade unions, we are convinced that it is possible and even necessary to find common ground and agreement on the questions of Peace and Disarmament. This can only mobilise and increase the popular movement for life and against death.

With this goal in mind, the CGT Confederal Youth Centre initiated a draft Appeal of Young Trade Unionists for Peace, during the World Youth Festival in Moscow.

A first international meeting took place on the 14th February 1986 in Paris in order to amend and bring the original text up to date.

During this meeting ten signatures were put to this appeal, either in their personal capacity or on behalf of the trade union concerned.

As you can see, the range of signatures illustrates the text of the Appeal which we are now submitting to you in the hope that your union will also sign it.

In this connection, we want to emphasize the desire shown by the ten signatories to reach a compromised text which is acceptable to everyone. This reflects the rich nature of the trade union movement.

We are also convinced that the spirit of this Appeal will permit a very broad agreement among the largest number possible of trade unions throughout the world.

That is why we enclose a copy of the Appeal and the names of the ten people who signed, in the hope that you will approve the text and sign it either in the name of the person responsible for Youth if you have one, or another officer of your Confederation.

We would be grateful if you could let us know what decision you take.

We are convinced that Peace is a struggle that concerns men, women and youth throughout the world. Yours fraternally, Sd/- Jean-Dominique SIMONPOLI, General Secretary of the C.G.T., CONFEDERAL YOUTH CENTER.

.....
Appeal to Working Youth for International Peace Year

We, young trade unionists of different international affiliations and backgrounds call upon the youth of the world to make 1986, declared the International Peace Year by the United Nations, an international year of peace and youth.

Today, on the threshold of the year 2000, millions of human beings are doomed to hunger, malnutrition and death and while entire populations are beset by under-development and poverty and therefore cannot meet their most basic needs, man's intelligence and energy are being used by warmongers for death and destruction. The stockpiles of weapons which exist today are great enough to wipe out the human race as well as all life on earth permanently.

The scope of the possible catastrophe is so great it is beyond our imagination.

The billions of dollars sunk into the arms race should be used to fill humanity's needs and for its well being.

Today's struggle is one for life itself. This is the meaning of our call for peace. As of now, we can eliminate the conflicts which exist in the world. We have only one earth and we must safeguard it.

We, young trade unionists call upon young workers throughout the world to take initiatives demanding:

- the total and negotiated elimination of nuclear weapons ;
- the conversion of armements industries to non military production serving peace, cooperation and friendship among peoples ;
- a ban on the militarisation of space including an immediate halt to space weapon development ;
- the verifiable reduction of stocks of weapons of mass destruction (bacteriological, chemical, conventional etc...) on a basis of equality and mutual security ;
- the use of the resources thus freed for eliminating hunger and under-development in the world, creating jobs, meeting the demands of youth and for economic development.

The fight for peace can and must be won.

We, young trade unionists, believe that the proposals aimed at eliminating existing nuclear weapons by the year 2000 must be supported and defended by the millions of young workers of the world. The establishment of an environment of trust and security following the Geneva negotiations, joint actions of working youth and other progressive organizations should help to achieve this aim.

We call upon all young workers to make International Peace Year an important year of actions and struggles of young people for Peace.

Sd/-
Andrea HIRSHMAN
Syndicaliste des Etats Unis

Sd/-
Richard WEALE
Youth Advisory Committee
TASS GRANDE BRETAGNE

Sd/-
Alexandre KEMISOV
Conseil Central des Syndicats
Sovietiques URSS.

Sd/-
Maria Luz NOGUEIRA
CGTP IN PORTUGAL

Sd/-
Rolf SPITZNER
FDGB RDA

Sd/-
Christos NEOCLEOUS
PEO CHYPRE

Sd/-
Lawson OSAGIE
NLC NIGERIA

Sd/-
Cordeiro Brnesto NZAKUNDOMBE
UNTA ANGOLA

Sd/-
Jean Dominique SIMONPOLI
CCJ CGT FRANCE

Sd/-
Antonin MOLAMU
CSC CONGO

.....
Copy of letter dated 10.5.86 addressed to C.G.T.
.....

Dear Comrade,

We have received your letter dated 15th April 1986.

We would have been happy if our organisation also was associated at the time of formulating the text of the appeal. Nevertheless the idea of a signed appeal to the working youth during this International Peace Year is good and it has been decided that our youngest member of the Secretariat Com. P.K. Ganguly, Secretary Centre of Indian Trade Unions will sign the appeal.

We would circulate the appeal to other trade unions centres of our country. We are also giving wide publicity of this appeal through our trade union journals.

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions is firmly of the opinion that today peace between nations is necessary for survival of civilization. We would therefore, do everything that is possible, while moving hand in hand with the International Working Class movement for peace and against nuclear war, With Greetings,

Yours Fraternally, Samar Mukherjee,
General Secretary.

522-26

CITU

02 June 1986

Dear Comrade Pandhe,

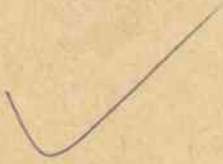
Thanks for the copy of draft memorandum on BHEL of demands for Com. K. G. Srivastava. Page 6 may kindly be sent.

With greetings.

Yours fraternally

(S. K. SANYAL).
Secretary.

Dr. M.K. Pandhe
Secretary CITU
6 Talkatora Road
New Delhi.



CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS, KARNATAKA STATE COMMITTEE

Dated: 7.6.86

The General Secretary,
Centre of Indian Trade Unions
6, Talkatora Road
New Delhi - 110 001.

Dear Comrade,

Sub: Observance of All India Anti-Aparthied Day on 16th June '86.

Ref: Your Circular No. 25/86 dated 14.4.1986

From our State Committee a letter proposing joint observance of All India Anti-Aparthied Day on 16.6.86 was written on 28.5.1986 to State Committee of AITUC, HMS, BMS and INTUC and delivered to the first three on 28.5.1986 i.e., the same day and INTUC on 30.5.86 (INTUC Office was not open on 28th and 29th).

But there is no response from any of these organisation upto this day. Therefore, a circular was issued on 6.6.86 to all CITU unions in the state to approach the affiliates of the said four Central T.Uns locally and observe the day jointly and in the absence of co-operation from others to observe the day independently.

With greetings,

Yours Fraternally,

34/-
(C. Nanjundppa)
General Secretary.

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

President :

B. T. RANADIVE

General Secretary :

SAMAR MUKHERJEE

12th June, 1986

The General Secretaries,
INIUC, AIUC, HMS & BMS
NEW DELHI.



Dear Comrades,

It may please be remembered that observance of Anti-Apartheid Day before collections was decided so as to give wide publicity among the workers. This would have helped to collect a sizeable amount from the workers.

Please find herewith a copy of letter from our Karnataka State Committee who approached your State units for jointly observing Anti-Apartheid Day on 16th June, 1986. It appears that no instruction was issued to your State units on this question for which they had shown no interest to observe the Day collectively.

I shall be thankful if you enquire into this and let us know what had happened to prevent united observance of the Day.

With Greetings,

Yours fraternally,

(Nrisingha Chakrabarty)

Secretary.

522 229
CITU

June 17, 1986.


Dear Comrade M.S. K.,

We have the enclosed letters
from CITU office.

In order that AITUC may be
able to deal with them whenever
raised in a meeting, we shall be thankful
if you will ask comrades concerned to
send us a factual report.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,


(K. G. Sriwastava)
Vice-President

Comrade M.S. Krishnan, M.L.A.
Vice-President, AITUC,
53 Gayathri Devi Park Extension,
Bangalore 560003.

Enclo: as above.

522.30
GRAM "CITUCENT"

PHONE: 384071

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS
6-TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110 001.

Dated 25th June, 1986.

Shri H.P.Das
Director, Govt. of India,
Ministry of Labour,
Shram Shakti Bhawan,
New Delhi-110001.

*India Labour
Conf*

Dear Sir,

Please refer to your communication no. U-13012/1/85-LC dated 20/23rd June '86 which was received by us this afternoon. It is surprising that in general, a very short time i.e. 25th June '86 has been given for giving the names. Secondly it is also surprising that although the name of the Member and Adviser from CITU was communicated to you vide Shri. Samar Mukherjee General Secretary, CITU's letter dated March 22, 1986 in response to your letter of even no. dated 11th Feb. '86, we have once again been asked to furnish the names etc. A copy of Shri. Mukherjee's letter from our file is enclosed.

You would please recall that at the time of the 28th Indian Labour Conference itself, a question was raised to the effect that the workers' representatives should be allowed to suggest the Agenda items. There was no decision in the Conference. The same process should also be started for the meetings of the Standing Labour Committees.

Accepted principles of Tripartism mean that all the sides can suggest Agenda and the same is discussed and accepted during conference. This process encourages tripartism. What is being done is that the Government acquires the role of sole arbiter as to the items which can be voiced in Tripartite forums. This is bad for democratic functioning of tripartite bodies.

We are also surprised to note that only two items out of all those discussed in the 28th Indian Labour Conference have been included for discussion, while most of the important items discussed have been left out of the purview of discussion in the Standing Labour Committee.

The question of industrial sickness, closure and retrenchment is agitating the minds of the workers most. The 28th Indian Labour Conference had made some suggestions. The position would have to be reviewed.

Then we find that several new Labour legislations are being introduced, discussed and enacted by the Parliament without giving any opportunity to the Standing Labour Committee or the Indian Labour Conference to discuss the same even at the draft stage before it is placed in Parliament. This question would have to be discussed.

.....2/-

I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that the manner in which the conclusion of the 28th Indian Labour Conference was drafted and finalised, has brought the question of modalities to be followed in such tripartite gatherings out in the open and should be discussed. The earlier method of recording reservations by any participant would have to be granted as otherwise the element of tripartism would be gone from the entire business.

I would also like to raise certain questions for discussion in the standing Labour Committee apart from all these items stated above which had already been raised with the Government earlier but have not been finalised yet. These are however new items:-

1. Implementation of Supreme Court Judgement on the question of Equal Pay for Equal Work" and regularisation of services in the case of Shri. Surinder Singh & another-Vs-CPWD and others. This is a principle which should be applied in all cases.
2. The question of repeal of Art 310(1) and (a) (b)&(c) to the Second Provision of Art.311(2), which was raised by all Trade Union representatives in the 28th ILC should be discussed.
3. The question of Safety Laws for Building & Construction industry should be discussed. An assurance was given by the then Labour Minister on 26.2.1982 in the Lok Sabha which was not been implemented yet.
4. Revision of Contract Labour (Reg & Abolition) Act etc. should be discussed.
5. The effect of Arjun Sengupta Committee Report on the workers of Public Sector Undertakings.
6. Reserve Bank Guide Lines for sick industrial undertaking (the case of Orient Power Cables Ltd. Kota Rajasthan as an instance).
7. Recognition of Trade Unions on a statutory basis.
8. Provision of maximum limit of duty hours at a stretch for all industrial workers with or without break, as per ratified ILO Conventions No.I.-- The conclusion of the seminar held in October 1984 by the National Labour Institute.
9. Enactment of Safety Laws in terms of ILO, GOI seminar held in March 1986 at New Delhi.
10. Changes in the laws on Migrant Labour as suggested by the Gandhi Labour Institute-G.O.I. seminar held in September 1985.
11. Preparations for the next Indian Labour Conference.

I shall be thankful if these items are included in the Agenda for discussion on the 11th July '86 meeting of the Standing Labour Committee. Please let us know if these suggestions are accepted.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(Nrisingha Chakrabarty)
Secretary.

522.31
Recd on 27/6

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

President :

B. T. RANADIVE

General Secretary :

SAMAR MUKHERJEE

26th June, 1986.

To

The General Secretary.

A. S. T. U. C.

CITU Protest Functioning
of Standing Labour
Committee

Dear Comrade,

I hope, you have received the Ministry of Labour communication dated 20/23rd June, 1986, in connection with the meeting of the Standing Labour Committee.

I am enclosing a copy of my letter dated 25th June, 1986 from which you will find that I have objected to the manner in which the meeting of the Standing Labour Committee has been convened. Because, three essential ingredients of Tripartism have been trampled under foot, namely :- (a) mutual finalisation of the agenda to be discussed, (b) exchange of notes on agenda with ~~an~~ sufficient time and (c) finalisation of the minutes of the discussion with opportunities for expressing reservation if any.

I hope that as you have the experience of functioning in the earlier Indian Labour Conference and also the Standing Labour Committee, you would also uphold the line taken by us.

In any case it would be better if you could meet together sometime before the meeting of the Standing Labour Committee is held. I shall be thankful, if you please let me know your reaction as early as possible.

With Greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Nrisingha Chakrabarty

(Nrisingha Chakrabarty)

Secretary.



THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN

June 22, 1941

IT was on June 22, 1941 when the Nazi Germany suddenly and treacherously attacked the Soviet Union, that the flames of the World War II crossed beyond the bounds of the capitalist system and declared war against the Soviet Union, the first socialist state in the world. For the Soviet Union the war against Nazi Germany and its satellites was a patriotic war of liberation. It assumed a nationwide character and affected all spheres of social life and activity of the state. The Soviet-German front was a scene of life and death struggle between socialism and the most reactionary forces of imperialism—fascism. The entire character of the World War II changed radically. An anti-Hitler coalition took shape which waged a just war of liberation against the fascist block. It reflected an important demand of the time, the rallying together of the working class, of the popular masses and of all the freedom loving forces in the struggle against fascism for peace and social progress. The armed forces of the fascist coalition were routed and the state-political system of fascism as a form of political power of the most reactionary sections of monopoly capital collapsed. The Soviet Union, its people and the red army were a force that exerted a decisive influence on the course and outcome of the entire World War II. The victory of the forces of socialism, peace and democracy against the forces of fascist imperialism opened a new era in the world history. It was the second turning point in the world history after the great October socialist revolution. The old colonial system collapsed, a number of countries liberated themselves from the grip of colonialism, including India and the great socialist camp came to reality with one-third of the world turning to socialism.

Treacherous Munich Deal

Hitler attacked Soviet Union in a blitzkrieg manner along 3500 kilometers front both on the ground and in the air. The fascist barbarian had the plan to destroy the Soviets, to raise Leningrad, the cradle of the October revolution and to eliminate Moscow as the capital of the Bolshevik state. But Hitler could not have gained such barbarous power had he not been egged on by Britain, France and

America to strike against socialism. These imperialist powers who conducted the treacherous Munich Deal rejected all efforts of the Soviet Union for building up a collective security against the fascist Germany and on the contrary were seeking to make Hitler unleash a war against the Soviet Union. The events of the following years clearly showed that those who concluded the deal in Munich not only betrayed the interests of their own people but also committed a monstrous crime against humanity when they turned down the offer of cooperation by the Soviet Union. As the then Soviet Foreign Minister, Andrei Gromyko said in one of his speeches: "In their reckless attempt to hold a feast during the fascist plague, in their desire to be present at the funeral repast of the first, and as they hoped, the last socialist state, these circles betrayed the interests of even their own countries and people, pushed them into the abyss, to the edge of which they wanted to propel above all, the Soviet Union". The anti-Hitler coalition came into being only in late 1941 by which time France had already fallen, many European countries were occupied and Britain found itself in a critical situation. Britain and America at length realised that Germany would not share the world with any body. The imperialist contradictions between the USA and Britain on the one hand and Germany, Japan and Italy on the other had been aggravated to such an extent that coalition between them had become impossible. Objective pre-requisites compelled the USA and Britain to form an anti-fascist coalition.

Sacrifice of the Soviet People

However, this coalition and the formation of the Second Front was delayed and given effect to only in mid 1944 when the Soviet Union had already borne the main brunt of the war and practically ensured the defeat of fascism. The comparative loss of human lives and material loss of the Soviet Union and others can be seen as follows:

Out of a total of 50 million dead in the war, Soviet Union alone sacrificed 20 million lives. Number of dead in Germany were 13.6 millions, Japan—2.5 millions, France—6 lacs, Britain—3.75 lacs and America—3 lacs. The total material loss amounted to 4 Trillion Dollars. Soviet Union lost 33 per cent of its national wealth, France 1.5 per cent Britain 0.8

OBSERVE HIROSHIMA DAY ON AUGUST 6

per cent, but the US Corporations profited by 1,17,000 million dollars.

Invincible Character Socialism

As said above the feat was achieved by the Soviet Union because of the invincible character of socialism. It mobilised the entire people in the great patriotic war. It proved the superiority of Soviet military art and strategy. The labour front quickly became an arsenal, forging weapons for the red army and supplying it with everything it needed. By the end of 1942 the Soviet Union surpassed Germany in the out-put of weapons and in many cases in the quality of the armaments also. This was despite the fact that large US and British Corporations like the General Motors, Ford Motor Company, ITT, Standard Oil, etc, manufactured and supplied everything that Germany needed. The Soviet Union fought for the future of their people, their freedom and freedom of the generations of other countries also against fascism and imperialism. The fact is that, for the Soviet people during the years of the war, the past merged with the present and the future. The image of their unconquerable forebears merged with a social awareness born out of the revolution. In defending their homeland the Soviet people upheld socialism which was born and established in their soil. Workers, peasants and people from all aspects of life put on uniforms and fought heroically for a way of life based on freedom equality, justice, peace and democracy. The Communist Party guided the people's struggle. Guerrillas and under ground fighters co-ordinated their operations with the regular Soviet army units and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. As Stalin said: "The aim of this national war in defence of our country against the fascist oppressors is not only the elimination of the danger hanging over our country, but also to aid all European people groaning under the yoke of German fascism".

Therefore, although the Nazis imposed their inhuman regime on the captive nations and created an atmosphere of terror and intimidation, they failed to crush the people's will to win back freedom and independence. The determined struggle of the Soviet people against Nazi invaders was a powerful catalyst in intensifying the anti-fascist actions of the captive nations.

Lessons of the Past

And now it is only because of the Soviet Union's mighty defence capabilities that there has been no World War during the last 41 years. The lessons of the past are a reminder of what happens when attempts are made to use force in solving the historical dispute between different social systems. The victory in the great patriotic war demonstrated the vitality of the socialist system and proved that socialism possesses, besides military and economic strength, political and military superiority.

During the entire period before the Second World War, particularly since the rise of fascism in Germany, the international situation was marked by a conflict of two policies, the policy of disarmament and peace advocated by the Soviet Union and

the policy of re-arming and war preparations advocated by the imperialist powers. The same situation continues at the present period. Because imperialism cannot change its character. It requires war for its existence. The US imperialists have converted their industries into a military-industrial complex. Reagan is now dreaming the dead barbarian's dream for world domination. The situation is all the more serious because the character of war that the US imperialists and their NATO allies are preparing now is a nuclear holocaust. A total of 70 million people died in the first two World Wars, but the nuclear holocaust will exterminate human life itself. The imperialists want to rewrite history by distorting the past and take the world back to the pre-1917 era. They are hectically trying to confuse the world working class with the myth of Soviet military superiority and talk of two super powers. To "save" the world from communism Reagan has openly declared war against it. He has rejected all the peace proposals of the Soviet Union and is spiralling the arms race extending it to the outer space. Their Star War programme is precisely meant for the nuclear first strike. The U.S. imperialists want to dictate the world and challenge the Soviet Union and the socialist system from the position of power. They had virtually announced their intention by dropping the Atom Bombs in Japan when the war had practically ended. Since then, with each passing day they have confirmed their global intentions and for war. And now, they have treacherously replied to the Soviets and the Warsaw Pact peace proposals by renouncing the SALT-II and going ahead with the nuclear tests.

Intensify Struggle for Peace

History teaches us that the working class and people must fight against war before it begins. Merely shouting for peace or simply a pacifist attitude towards war is not sufficient at the present juncture. The working class must come forward against the imperialist war mongers and in defence of Soviet Union and socialism. Proletarian internationalism demands this partisan attitude. The working class must explode the theory of two super powers, expose the zingoist character of imperialism and stand solidly behind the proposal of M.S. Gorbachov to make the world free of nuclear, chemical and all other weapons of mass annihilation by the turn of the century.

June 22, 1941 must be remembered in this context and especially in this centenary year of the May Day and the International Year of Peace. During the last 41 years the peace forces have increased enormously, uniting the working class with various sections of other people. It is a good development that the Indian working class also under all the central trade unions have united on this question and decided to observe a day for peace and disarmament. The Indian working class must go ahead to step up united struggle and project itself as the greatest anti-war force and merge itself with the international struggle for peace. The CITU has to be in the forefront of the struggle to fulfil its international task.

Central Trade Unions Observe Anti-Apartheid Day

ALL the Central Trade Unions in India unitedly observed the Anti-Apartheid Day at New Delhi on June 16. The day was observed in pursuance of the previous decision of the Central Trade Unions to mark the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, coinciding with the Tenth Anniversary of the Sweto massacre when hundreds of black school children were brutally killed and injured by the racist South African police.

The ten Central Trade Unions which jointly sponsored the meeting at Constitution Club were CITU, AITUC, INTUC, HMS, BMS, UTUC, TUCC, UTUC (LS), NFITU and NLO. The meeting was also attended by A.N. Mulla, the representative in India of the African National Congress which is leading the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, and by the wife of the Ambassador of the South West African People's Organisation (SAWPO), which is spearheading the freedom struggle in Namibia.

The meeting was presided over by S.L. Sharma of INTUC. Samar Mukherjee, General Secretary of CITU moved the resolution (printed below) of the meeting. Speaking on the resolution Samar Mukherjee recalled how the school children at Sweto became martyrs, fighting against the apartheid regime's attempt to impose the African language on the school children. He denounced the imperialist countries, especially the USA and UK for lending support to the barbarous white minority rule and called upon the workers to unitedly demonstrate their solidarity to the struggle of the South African people. Others who spoke were A.N. Mulla of ANC, Y.D. Sharma (AITUC), Prabhakar Ghate (BMS), Brij Mohan Toofan (HMS), Pratul Chowdhury (UTUC) Gyan Singh (UTUC-LS) and N.N. Sharma (NFITU). The resolution called upon the workers to raise a Solidarity Fund in support of the South African people's struggle.

Resolution

This meeting of the ten central trade union organisations held at the Constitution Club, New Delhi on June 16, 1986 in observance of the National Anti-Apartheid Day, as declared in their earlier meeting of February 17, vehemently denounces the continued pursuance of the apartheid policy in its most savage form by the minority white racist Government in South Africa in open defiance of world public opinion.

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the SOWETO uprising, this meeting of the trade union centres pays homage to the thousands of the South African people who became martyrs fighting against the white racist regime.

This meeting also strongly condemns those Governments, who, while professing to be the defenders of freedom and human dignity, continue to extend political, economic and military support to the racist regime and who have been resisting all attempts to impose mandatory sanctions against the present minority Government in South Africa.

This meeting deplores the use of veto by the Governments of the USA and UK against the resolution on mandatory sanctions in the UN Security Council.

Emboldened by such tacit support from some Governments, the racist South African Government had the temerity to bombard the front line countries like Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana in blatant violation of all international laws and norms. Not content with this, the aggressive racist Government carried out a second attack against Angola. Despite these aggressive actions, some western countries continue to oppose the imposition of mandatory sanctions against the racist regime. There are also reports of plans for fresh attacks against the neighbouring countries.

The white minority Government of South Africa is sparing no effort to perpetuate its apartheid policy and has been ceaselessly escalating violence against the South African people. A state of emergency has been declared in a bid to ruthlessly suppress the uprising of the freedom loving South African people. Even paying homage to the martyrs in Churches on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the SOWETO uprising has been banned.

This meeting of the trade union centres congratulates the non-aligned countries and some Commonwealth countries for their unequivocal condemnation of the South African racist Government and calling for mandatory sanctions. Our Prime Minister and Chairman of the Non-aligned movement has not minced words in his denunciation of the white regime and in emphasising the need for mandatory sanctions to bring the apartheid system in South Africa to an end.

This meeting of the trade union centres reiterates the solidarity and commitment of the Indian working class to treat the heroic struggle waged by the South African Liberation Movement as its own and to strengthen the South African Congress of Trade Unions and African National Congress in their determination to wipe out the condemnable apartheid policy.

This meeting also reaffirms the resolve of the Indian working class to participate in all international actions initiated by the fraternity of
(Contd. on page 21)

Central Trade Union Delegation Vists Punjab

A delegation on behalf of Central Trade Unions visited Punjab on 11th, 12th and 13th June 1986 as per decision of Trade Union Convention for National Integration Against Communalism and Divisive Forces held in New Delhi on 11th May, 1986. The delegation consisted of Samar Mukherjee, General Secretary-CITU, Chaturanan Mishra, M.P., President-AITUC, S.L. Sharma, Member of Working Committee of INTUC, R.K. Bhakt, Secretary-BMS, Kamla Sinha, Vice-President-HMS and Gyan Singh, Secretary, UTUC (L.S.). The representatives of UTUC, TUCC, NLO and NFITU could not go in the delegation but they associated with the purpose of the delegation.

The delegation visited Taran Tarn, Jandialaguru, Krishan Nagar in Amritsar on May 11 and met several people from different walks of life. They also met families of victims of terrorism every where who talked to them frankly and expressed that the sense of insecurity could be removed only if firm steps were taken against the terrorists.

The delegation found that a feeling of insecurity prevailed among a section of community due to planned attacks by the terrorists. The law and order machinery in the state was broken down due to failure of the local administration and police officials to prevent the murders of innocent citizens. The delegation was happy to note that by and large the workers and employees firmly and unitedly opposed the extremists, terrorists, separatists and communalists of all types. They also condemned the clandestine help given by the foreign powers to destabilise the situation in India and expressed the need to isolate the terrorists. The delegation felt the necessity for upholding the Punjab accord so that peace was established in the state on its basis.

Massive Peace Marches

The trade unions in Punjab held a massive rally and Peace March in the city of Amritsar on 12th. More than ten thousand participants from workers, teachers, bank employees, electricity workers, etc, participated in the rally and Peace March. Industrial workers came after stopping the work for four hours. The rally was addressed apart from State leaders like Mangat Ram Pasla, CITU; Piara Singh Deosi, AITUC; Balwant Rai Kapoor of INTUC; Khushpal Singh of HMS and R.L. Hawa of BMS, by the central leaders of the trade unions. Samar Mukherjee, General Secretary of CITU emphasised the need of political and ideological campaign against the secessionist extremists supported by imperialism, the task of which had to be taken up by the working class. Other democratic, secular and patriotic forces are also to be taken together for this task. Chaturanan Mishra of AITUC, Kamla Sinha of HMS, R.K. Bhagat of BMS, S.L. Sharma of INTUC and Gian Singh of

the UTUC(LS) also addressed the rally. The Peace March started at 2 P M from Gole Bag and passed through the main centres of the city. The march ended at Hall Gate where the rally was again addressed by Vijaya Mishra of CITU and Balwant Rai Kapoor of INTUC. The peace marchers were greeted by the people and the shopkeepers throughout the routes with great enthusiasm and were served with sweet cold water. A large number of women also participated in the march and the rally.

Another state level rally was held in Company Bag of Jalandhar on June 13. The workers and employees came with their banners and flags from all corners of the state to join the rally. The rally was addressed by the state leaders of the above mentioned unions including Mangat Ram Pasla who stated that the hand of imperialism headed by America was clearly visible behind the communal riots and secessionist extremist activities. He appealed to the people to work ceaselessly for communal harmony and to identify, isolate and to fight back the communalists of all hues.

The rally was also addressed by the central leaders like Samar Mukherjee, Chaturanan Mishra, Kamala Sinha, Gian Singh, S.L. Sharma, and H.N. Bishwas.

Samar Mukherjee cited the example of West Bengal. He explained that while in the Cong(I) administered states the people were called in the streets to attack the people of minority community under the Left Front Govt of West Bengal the workers and people were called in streets for the defence of the people of minority community. He also explained that it was the working class which by the virtue of its social position was in need of unity inspite of difference in their languages, castes and communities and that is why the working class in alliance with other working people can work for unity and it was the only class which could fight the imperialist interventions to the last point and defend the independence of the nation as well. The rally was addressed by other central trade union leaders too. The Peace March was taken out in the main bazars of the city covering more than two kilometers area. A pledge was taken by all participants in both the rallies to work for communal harmony, forming defence committees to defend minority communities and for unity and integrity of the country. The committees will be formed at state level, district level, village level and also in the industrial areas.

A press conference was organised later which was addressed by the visiting central leaders. The central leaders also addressed a press conference at Delhi after their return on June 14 and explained their experience to the press. As per the decision of the 11th May Convention all the Central Trade Unions will observe the National Integration Day on August 9.

OBSERVE NATIONAL INTEGRATION DAY ON AUGUST 9

West Bengal State CITU Conference

THE Fourth State Conference of the West Bengal Committee of CITU was held at Siliguri from 14th to 17th May. The Conference was held at a time when separatist forces in the hill areas of Darjeeling only a few miles away from Siliguri, were posing a serious threat to the unity of the working class and the people. These separatists had called for a 72-hour Bundh in Darjeeling from 12th to 14th May, on the eve of the conference, on the so-called demand for a separate 'Gorkhaland'. Terror and violence were let loose by the separatists with the help of anti-socials and active support of the Cong(I) to force the bundh on the people. However, timely intervention and correct handling of the situation by the State administration and the courageous resistance by the workers led by CITU and democratic people helped in containing the separatists. The Bundh had some impact in Darjeeling and some other towns, but the tea-garden workers led by the CITU heroically resisted the terror and violence and kept most of the gardens working. The challenge of the separatists could not in the least disrupt the preparations for and successful holding of the conference. Over 500 volunteers, both men and women, drawn from workers, peasants and middle class employees, students and youth worked tirelessly all through the four days to make the conference a resounding success. The conference was attended by 1062 delegates including 29 women, representing 1066 unions with a total membership of 8,18,076.

After hoisting of the red flag by Com. Lalsai Kherwar, a veteran leader of Darjeeling Chia Kaman Mazdoor Union and homage to the martyrs, the conference was inaugurated by B.T. Ranadive, President, CITU, in the afternoon of 14th May. Com. BTR called upon the working class to realise the significance the threats posed by the attempts of the imperialists led by US imperialism to unleash the most devastating war in history with the aim of destroying Soviet Union and the Socialist camp and subjugating the world. In the centenary Year of May Day, the working class must strengthen its unity and international solidarity to fight this danger. He also warned the working class of the growing danger of separatism, casteism, communalism and provincialism encouraged by the imperialist and reactionary forces to divide the T.U. and democratic movement. This threat to the unity and integrity of the country and the toiling masses must be fought by the working class with all its strength. Analysing the internal situation he said, faced by the ever-deepening economic crisis the Govt. of Rajiv Gandhi is about to launch fierce attacks on the toiling people through its anti-people policies. He called upon the working class to assume leadership in all spheres of mass movements and political struggle to establish itself as the emancipator of the human society. Criticising the TU movement, he said that nothing was done for the demands of the unemployed youth and workers. Whenever there was a crisis, the capitalists tried to use the unemployed and unorganised

workers against T.U. and democratic movements. These unemployed youth and workers also got easily swayed by separatist and divisive slogans. The T.U. movement cannot advance without championing the cause of the unemployed and unorganised workers. The CITU must shoulder the responsibility of organising the unemployed and unorganised workers and youth and politicalise them through continuous militant struggles. Concluding, he pointed out that the Left Front Govt. in West Bengal was the outcome of fierce class struggle over the last two decades and it was a source of inspiration for the exploited masses all over the country. It was the working class, organised and politically educated, who could play a vital role in defending the L.F. Govt.

Samar Mukherjee, General Secretary CITU and Jyoti Basu, Vice-President CITU also addressed the delegates on 16th May. Samar Mnkherjee stressed on the urgent task of preparing the working class politically for the leadership of all sections of the people for a total confrontation against the anti-people new economic policy of Rajiv Gandhi. Jyoti Basu stressed the need for raising the political consciousness of the workers while carrying on economic struggles. He said, without making the working class conscious about their ultimate goal of ending capitalism and feudalism and building of a new society, the main purpose of the T.U. movement was bound to fail. He urged the delegates to make the working class conscious about the political significance of the Left Front Government in the State as well as its limitations under a bourgeois landlord set-up.

Monoranjan Roy, General Secretary, CITU, West Bengal, placed the report before the delegates. While presenting the report, he warned the delegates about the challenge posed by separatist forces in the State and stressed that only a politically conscious working class could lead the fight against the danger posed by separatist forces. He stressed the need for closer contact with the mass of workers from below in order to explain the present situation and raise their political consciousness. The working class, he said, must also change their attitude towards women workers who have always played an important role in T.U. and democratic movements.

In all 47 delegates including 6 women from all districts and various industries took part in the discussions on the secretary's report. Monoranjan Roy replied to the question raised in the discussions after which the report and accounts were adopted unanimously.

Resolutions were adopted by the conference on the following current and urgent issues: Against war and for peace; Against new economic policy of the Government of India; Sick and closed industries; Mechanisation, Modernisation and New Technology in industry; Against price rise; For worker-peasant alliance; May Day Centenary; Unemployment pro-
(Contd. on page 8)

T.U.s Observe Save Public Sector Day

IN pursuance of the call given by the Convention of public sector unions held at Durgapur on March 28 and 29, the public sector unions observed the Save Public Sector Day all over the country on May 21. At Calcutta the programme was organised jointly by the Bank Employees Federation, Insurance Employees Association, Steel Workers Federation, All India Coal Workers' Federation and others. A leaflet was published jointly by the various unions and gate meetings and demonstrations were held by the employees wearing badges. A protest rally and mass meeting was also held at Dulhouse Square on May 22, as the Congress (I) had motivatedly called a blockade of Writers' Building on May 21. The meeting was presided out by Naresh Pal and addressed by Tapan Sen, Naresh Des, Santi Bhattacharya, Gopinath Dey, etc. The speakers denounced the Arjun Sen Gupta Committee's report and the Government's policy to denigrate the public sector and strengthen the hands of the private monopolists. They further cautioned the workers about the freedom given by the Government to the multi-nationals and called upon them to intensify united struggles to defeat the Government's policy. Conventions and rallies were held at Burdwan and other places of Bengal also on May 20 and 21.

The CITU Coordination Committee at Meerut also observed the day by holding meeting of several unions. The CITU, AITUC and HMS unions in Bharat Aluminium organised meetings at Korba (MP) and distributed leaflets laying bare the Government's derogatory policy in public sector.

The Rajasthan Bank Employees Federation along with other unions held meetings and a symposium on the day. The symposium on the role of public sector was addressed by the representatives of workers, teachers and people of different aspects of life.

The Hyderabad City Council of CITU organised a procession and rally on the day which was participated by workers of almost all the public sector undertakings in the city. Among others the rally was addressed by P. Satyanarayana, the State CITU President. The Koyla Shramik Sangh, Bilaspur also held demonstrations and meetings.

The Karnataka CITU formed a Save Public Sector Committee which organised a symposium at Bangalore, which was attended by representatives of the public sector unions in the city. Inaugurating the symposium, B.T. Ranadive, President of CITU explained the role of public sectors in a third world country like India and the Government's retrograde policy of denigrating it. He also detailed the dangers of allowing private monopolists and multi-nationals into the public sector, the danger of loos-

ing economic independence by the country and called upon the employees to fight this policy tooth and nail.

Similar observations of the day was made by the unions at Tripura, Tamilnadu, Chandigarh and other parts of the country.

Meeting of Advisory Council of Industry

A meeting of the Central Advisory Council of Industry was held at New Delhi on April, 24. The meeting was attended by the representatives of CITU, AITUC, INTUC, and HMS. Biren Roy, Working Committee member of CITU attended the meeting on behalf of CITU. Representatives of various employers' organisations, FICCI, Engineering Association, etc. were also present. N.D. Tiwari, Chairman of the Council and Industry Minister presided over the meeting. Other Central Ministers were also present. The subject matter of discussions was the industrial policy of the Government. However, no agenda papers were submitted to the participants.

Biren Roy assailed the industrial policy of the Government. He pointed out that the postulates of the new policy were removal of controls, freedom to private sector, denigration of the public sector and national planning and opening the Indian market to the multi-nationals. He said that entry of multi-nationals would not only mean unbridled exploitation, but would also lead to the danger of undermining the economic independence of the country. He criticised the new economic policy and the drive for modernisation, which would further give rise to unemployment which had already become three crores. The growing closures and sickness in industries had made the condition of the working people miserable. He said that the workers were prepared to intervene in the management of the industries. The CITU has been demanding since long workers' participation in management on the basis of full equality and their representation through secret ballot. But the scheme has not made any headway in this respect. He demanded change of the policy so as to benefit the working people and not the monopolists.

The representatives of the other trade unions also spoke by and large on the same line. The employers' representatives advocated more relief for them. Referring to Biren Roy's speech, N.D. Tiwari admitted the growing sickness, unemployment, etc. but he defended the Government's policy and modernisation. He denied denigration of the public sector and lessening of controls, but defended joint sector for "development" of the country. Regarding workers' participation in management he assured to call a meeting of the employers and the trade unions at an early date.

Stop Privatisation of Public Sector

B. T. RANADIVE, President, Centre of Indian Trade Unions has issued the following statement on June 2:

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions is very much surprised to learn from Press reports that the Minister for Programme Implementation has already formed a six-member National Advisory Council under the chairmanship of Shri Ratan Tata and other monopolists from Private Sector to "monitor the implementation of Central projects, remove bottlenecks and evolve methods for their completion on schedule". It appears that the Minister has forgotten the fact that it was the private sector which had been resolutely opposing the public sector, it was they who in their greed for resources mobilisation had been creating impediments in the way of smooth completion of the projects and resort to cost escalation. The manner in which this was announced by the minister shows that the Govt has come to the conclusion that the officers in the Public Sector and the workers at large can no longer be trusted to complete the work on schedule. The statement of the minister would also indicate that the stories of bottlenecks arising out of inadequacies in the infrastructure like railways, transport, electricity, cement etc. were only figments of imagination invented in the past to hoodwink the people. If all the past statements are true, the announcement would mean that this is a part of the new policy of privatisation and denigration of the public sector as recommended by the Arjun-Sengupta Committee which the Industry Ministry tried to deny the other day in the meeting of the Central Advisory Council for Industry.

The CITU would also like to point out that setting up of such a committee militates against the policy of tripartite and violates the Govt resolution on Workers' Participation in Management. It would also render the work of the Committee on Public Sector set up under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Labour irrelevant.

The CITU records its strong protest against this policy of privatisation and undermining the role of labour, and appeals to the entire working class of the country and the leaders of all Central Trade Union Organisations to raise their powerful voice against this attempt to allow the private sector particularly the monopolists to increase their grip on the Public Sector.

CITU Denounces Repression on Kerala Teachers

B. T. RANADIVE, President, Centre of Indian Trade Unions has issued the following Statement on June 11:

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions denounces the repression let loose by the Govt. of Kerala on the Kerala teachers, University employees and students who are struggling against the crude attempt at privatisation and commercialisation of education in Kerala. The Government had all on a sudden changed the system prevalent for over two decades and issued orders for setting up separate Boards and evaluation camps as a means to transfer a part of college education to Schools. Barring a handful, all teachers non-teaching employees and the students have unitedly opposed the move. The Govt., of Kerala has not only ignored the universal protest but also has taken recourse to invoking ESMA for declaring the strike illegal and brutal repression by a massive arrest of 50 teachers and employees including some women for their refusal to work in the Valuation Camp.

The CITU demands that the Govt. of Kerala should release all arrested personnel and settle the question through discussion so that the future of more than one lakh students is not jeopardised in such a blatant authoritarian manner.

The CITU appeals to all trade Union Centres and democratic forces and calls upon its State Committees and affiliated unions to raise their powerful voice of protest against this repressive policy to help privatisation of education in Kerala.

CITU Greets the Working Class and People of West Bengal

B. T. RANADIVE, President, Centre of Indian Trade Unions has issued the following statement on June 17:

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions warmly greets the Working Class and the People of West Bengal for their massive support to the left-front candidates in the recent municipal elections in West Bengal. They have correctly decided to support the CPI(M) led left-front as it not only makes a sincere attempt to give immediate relief to the people but also acts as the advance outpost of democracy.

The CITU congratulates Com. Jyoti Basu, the Vice-President and Chief Minister of West Bengal and the leaders of the State Committee of CITU for this notable success in the service of the working class and people of West Bengal.

Editorial Board

P. Ramamurti (*Chairman*)

Manoranjan Roy, Niren Ghosh,

M.M. Lawrence, P.K. Ganguly

M.K. Pandhe

Stop Massacre of Labour Laws and the Workers in Haryana

SAMAR MUKHERJEE, General Secretary, Centre of Indian Trade Unions has issued the following statement on May 28:

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions denounces the Govt. of Haryana who have allowed the authorities in various units and undertakings to ride roughshod over all Labour Laws and trample them under foot at their will. In Haryana Concast, workers have been suspended and removed from services without following the procedure under Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Act and Industrial Disputes Act. When the workers protested against this, an illegal lock-out has been imposed and the workers have been implicated in false police cases. In Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar the just demands of the Safai Workers have not been settled. On the other hand the leaders were subjected to penal transfer. Two Safai workers have already started hunger strike against the suppressive action. The Govt. so far has refused to intervene. The agreement between the workers of Medical College at Rohtak and the management has not been implemented yet and there has also been no Govt. intervention. The demand of nationalisation of Hissar Textile Mill is not being considered by the Government. It appears that in the Hissar Industrial Area, the Minimum Wages Act, Safety Laws and Trade Union Rights are not being implemented.

The CITU had been drawing the attention of the Union Labour Minister in regard to the serious situation developing in Haryana, in which workers are denied the benefits of law by force applied by the managements through hirelings and police duly supported by the state. The situation demands thorough enquiry and corrective measures.

The CITU demands that the Govt. of India should immediately intervene in the matter and protect the workers against the mismanagement and repression by various managements.

CITU Supports the Struggle of Journalists

NRISINGHA CHAKRABARTY, Secretary, Centre of Indian Trade Unions, has issued the following Statement on June 3:

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions extends full support to the struggle of the journalists of Delhi who are demanding continuation of the services of its General Secretary Shri S.K. Pande by the management of the Press Institute of India. It also supports the struggle launched by the Confederation of Newspaper and News Agency Employees' Organisations against the Wage-Board Chairman and Members who have exhibited their pro-media monopolist bias through their belated and meagre Award on Interim Relief.

The CITU demands that the Govt., should concede the demands of the Journalists and newspaper employees without allowing further deterioration in the situation.

CITU Denounces South- African Attack on Angola

D. T. RANADIVE, President, Centre of Indian Trade Unions has issued the following Statement on June 7:

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions denounces the racist Botha Regime of South Africa for their brazen, unprovoked missile attack on Angolan port causing wide spread damage to oil installations and various ships and tanks. This attack is virtually an undeclared war in order to help the mercenaries and rebels who are fighting against the Angolan Govt. in order to subvert the same. All peace loving people should condemn not only the South African regime but also their imperialist and zionist aider and abettors.

The CITU calls upon the entire working class of the country to denounce this dastardly attack and express solidarity with the South African people who are fighting against this racist regime by making the Anti-Apartheid Day on June 16, 1986 a success.

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blem; Against the proposed National Education Policy; Demand for repeal of Article 210 & 311(2) (a) (b) (c) of the Constitution; Support to L.F. Govt.; Centre-State relations, Against separatism and for communal amity; Demand for nationalisation of Jute and Cotton Textile industries; Against the Muslim Women Law; Solidarity with Nicaragua; Against US aggression on Libya; Against Apartheid Policy of South Africa; In support of demands raised by Central Trade Unions in the State; etc.

The Conference unanimously elected a 550-member State Council, a 170-member Working Committee and the following office bearers:

President-Md. Ismail; Vice-Presidents-Joyti Basu, Niren Ghosh, Krishnapada Ghosh, Ratanlal Brahman, Biren Roy, Subodh Sen, Nikhil Mukherjee, Haridas Malakar, Rabin Mukherjee, Subhas Chakravarty; *General Secretary*-Monoranjan Roy; *Secretaries* — Kamal Sarkar, Harisadhan Mitra, Rajdeo Goala, Santi Ghatak, Arati Dasgupta, Kali Ghosh, Bamapada Mukherjee, Prabir Sengupta. Shyamal Chakravarty, Mrinal Das; *Treasurer*-Somen Kundu.

The open session of the Conference was held on 17th May afternoon at the Hindi High School Maidan. Over one lakh people including men and women workers, peasants, middle class employees, students, youth etc. came from far and near in colourful processions to join the rally and meeting. The open session was presided over by Ratanlal Brahman and addressed by Jyoti Basu, Samar Mukherjee, Monoranjan Roy, Ananda Pathak and other leaders.

Secretariat Decisions

THE Secretariat of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions which met at New Delhi on June 20, 1986 under the presidentship of Com. B.T. Rana-dive President — CITU, and was attended by Comrades Samar Mukherjee, E Balanandan, Nri-singha Chakrabarty, and P.K. Ganguly, reviewed the international and national situation.

It condemned the attempt of the Reagan adminis-tration of the USA to renounce the SALT — II agreement on flimsy grounds. It welcomed the fresh proposal of USSR for reduction of strategic arms by about 40 per cent from its existing level while maintaining the balance of forces. It called upon the working class to point to the two different approach of the USA and the USSR, expose the subterfuges of the Reagan administration and intensify the struggle for peace lending its full contribution to the rising international peace struggle which only can force the US imperialists to respond in favour of the fresh proposal of the Soviet Union.

The Secretariat in response to the appeal of the World Trade Union Conference on Social and Economic Aspects of Disarmament held at Dublin, decided to observe 6th August 1986 as Hiroshima Day and 1st September 1986 as Day for Interna-tional Trade Union Action for Peace. In view of the fact that the United Nations has declared this year as International Year for Peace, the Secretariat, called upon its State Committees to take initiative to mobilise all trade unions which would like to join in the programme and observe the days in a most befitting manner by holding peace rallies, demonstrations etc.

The Secretariat heard the report of the visit of Trade Union delegation to Punjab. The huge mobi-lisation of the workers of all communities and castes during the visit of the delegation showed the urge for unity among the working class. The Secretariat therefore called upon all State Committees to organise and observe the National Integration Day on August 9 in a suitable manner. An effort should be made to mobilise the entire working class with the active support of all ten Central Trade Unions which have given the call from the Convention held on May 11 last.

The Secretariat reviewed the situation arising out of the recalcitrant attitude of the DCM and other textile managements in respect of the quantum of interim relief payable to the workers. The Secre-tariat condemned the insistence of the management to link the interim relief to productivities which is unheard of in the conciliation process and their right to victimise the workers. It is this unjust demand of the management which is responsible for the continuing strike. The Secretariat warned the management that they must change their attitude and settle the issue by the next round of discussion

failing which the entire working class of Delhi will take up solidarity action in support of the textile workers as they can no longer remain silent spectators.

The Secretariat reviewed the situation in Kerala. It condemned the Karunakaran Government for creating an impasse in the field of education by its arbitrary action and then attempting to suppress the struggle through brutal repression in an authori-tarian manner. It also continues to harbour those who are guilty of inviting the anti-national Kuwaities and repress those who demand action against them by lathi-charge and mass arrest. The Govern-ment has also shown its incompetence in the field of electric generation. According to a Press report there would have been no necessity of the power cut if the repair work on the tunnel leakage in the 100 crore Edamalayar Hydro-Electric Project was completed in time. The cent per cent power cut imposed by Karunakaran Government resulted in the lay off of 1.81 lakh workers which the Secre-tariat condemned. It expressed solidarity with all sections of people of Kerala who are struggling today against the corrupt and inefficient Karunakaran Government of Kerala.

The Secretariat condemned the anti-labour atti-tude of the I.D.P.L. management which has forced the Medical Representatives to take up struggle to secure their just demands and demanded that the management should negotiate and settle with the FMRAI leadership so that they need not go on strike on August 8, 1986. The Secretariat extended full support to the medical representatives of IDPL in their struggle.

The Secretariat considered the appeal of National Executive Secretariat, Central Sandinista Workers of Nicaragua and directed the State Committees to express solidarity with the Nicaraguan workers on the occasion of the VIIth Anniversary of the popular Sandinista Revolution on July 19 this year.

The Secretariat also adopted a resolution expres-sing solidarity with the workers of Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea during their monthlong struggle against U.S. imperialism and for unification of Korea.

The Secretariat meeting also reviewed the orga-nisational positions and took decisions on the same.

In the earlier meeting held on May 31, the Secretariat heard report about the industrial rela-tion situation.

The Loco Running Staff of South Eastern, Eastern and NF Railways were on hunger strike from 26th May under the leadership of AILRSA on demands like implementation of Ten-hour maxi-mum duty agreement, cancellation of all victimisa-
(Contd. on page 24)

Successful End of LRSA Hunger Strike

INDEFINITE period hunger strike by LRSA units of SE, E, and NF Railways which commenced on 26th, 27th and 28th May respectively ended after 32, 55 and 58 hours when honourable settlement was reached between the respective LRSA units and the railway administration concerned. NE Rly unit of LRSA and the Lucknow Divisional Unit of Northern Rly which staged 48 hour token hunger strike also ended as scheduled. Number of participants in hunger strike was 46 on SE Rly, 65 on E Rly and 103 on NF Rly. While in accordance with organisational decision, only the Zonal Committee members and the victimised took part in hunger strike, a large number of other LRSA members and members of fraternal organisations of railwaymen squatted alongside the hunger strikers as long as the hungerstrike continued. Zonal units of the All India Railwaymen's Federation on SE, E and NF Railways conveyed their support to the cause of the locomen on hunger strike and the units of the All India Railway Employees Confederation of which LRSA is a constituent, organised programmes in demonstration of solidarity with their struggling comrades of LRSA. At Gardenreach, SE Rly, a massive gathering was organised by local AIRF units, i.e., branches No. 182 of SERMU in support of hunger strike and in a resolution urged the SE Rly Administration to immediately settle the demands of locomen. Besides the unions and associations of railwaymen those of other Govt employees, employers in the public sector, industrial federations, etc also came out in support of LRSA struggle.

One of the major factors which made honourable settlement possible in the case of SE and E Rlys was the timely and effective intervention by the Left Front Govt of West Bengal. Basudev Acharya MP also met the General Manager SE Rly to bring about an early settlement. On NF Rly the Joint Council of Trade Unions, Assam, played a unique role in bringing pressure on the NF Rly authorities to reach a settlement with the Locomen.

In fact justness of the demands of railwaymen, massive expression of their anger as well as their unity and determination, support from wide section of non-railway trade unions, intervention by Parliament member and the Left Front Govt of West Bengal together produced such a powerful impact that the railway authorities started taking steps to fulfil some of the demands even before coming to negotiation table about which they were reluctant but which they ultimately agreed under heavy pressure.

According to the settlement, on SE Rly and Danapur Division of E Rly, where payment to the victimised under court order was illegally discontinued inspite of their cases remaining pending, orders have been issued to resume payment. In the cases of E and NF railway further review has been assured on appeal in connection with cases either

covered by the Supreme Court judgement itself or by subsequent High Court judgements, which were earlier rejected by the railway administration. There is no such case on SE Rly. Further, immediate payment of settlement dues, condoning break in service has been ordered for those who retired with break in service. Action has also been assured in respect of some pending demands besides those relating to victimisation. Further discussion has also been assured in some cases.

Victory for CLW Workers

As the first phase of a phased programme of trade union action against victimisation, the CLW Labour Union gave a call to boycott the Railway Week (14-20 April) programme this year. The programme for the next phase consisted of meeting at different places from 11th to 15th May and two days' mass dharna. An open letter addressed to the Chairman, Railway Board (CRB), explaining the grievances of staff and corrupt practices by the General Manager, was widely circulated when the CRB came on a visit on 15th May, the last day of the second phase when the Dharna was still continuing. The CRB invited the Labour unions for the talks on his own initiative. After the talks, order was issued reinstating a victim of Rule 14 (II). It was decided in course of the talks that the union would discuss other demands with the General Manager, and a date was also fixed. It may be mentioned that all negotiations with the union had been stopped since 31st Jan this year and the General Manager issued a message on Bengali New Years Day with slanderous statements about the union. Apparently the Railway Board Chairman realised the situation arising out of the growing resistance organised by the union against high handed actions of the General Manager and made him realise too.

Ludhiana Rly Workers Stop Work

Angered by a serious accident which occurred due to sheer negligence of the DME/Diesel, and in which 2 persons were seriously burnt, one of them having subsequently died, about 1000 workers of Ludhiana Diesel shed, N. Rly, stopped all work from 12 hours on 11.6.86 to 17 hrs of 12.6.86. This was 4th accident of this nature during the current year and 9th since the establishment of the Diesel shed. The Divisional Mechanical Engineer (DME) issued order directing the staff to carry out welding work on filled Diesel Oil tanker strainer. Workers have been protesting against this unsafe working ordered by the authorities, but they remained adamant. Even on the day of this accident workers protested but the authorities forced the workers to carry out welding on the strainer of a Diesel tank of a diesel locomotive having 500 liters of diesel oil
(Contd. on page 11)

United Strike of Delhi Textile Workers

NEARLY 20 thousand workers employed in 5 textile mills in Delhi are on strike since 28th May 1986 to press for the 11 point charter of demands which includes demand for Rs. 100 as interim relief, annual increment of Rs. 10, full neutralisation in the rise in cost of living, house rent allowance, reduction in the workload unilaterally imposed by the managements since 1979, regularisation of casual, temporary and badli workers, abolition of contract labour system increase in leave facilities, reopening of weaving sheds of Birla mills, withdrawal of the notice of closure by the DCM management, withdrawal of new textile policy of the government of India and withdrawal of all victimisation and police cases against workers.

The Textile Unions' Sangharsha Samity which is leading the strike of the workers consists of unions belonging to CITU, INTUC, AITUC, HMS, BMS and Lalit Makhn group. The strike is a complete success and peaceful. Earlier the workers observed one day strike on 4th April which also was a complete success.

The mill management resorted to large scale victimisation of workers which included hundreds of charge sheets, summary dismissal of leading trade union activists and workers on fictitious charges. However, the managements failed to break the unity of the workers.

The Lt. Governor intervened in the dispute and tried to resolve the dispute. However, the mill managements did not agree to the proposals given by the Lt. Governor. They went to the court and obtained orders preventing workers from holding meetings near the gates.

However the Sangharsha Samity carried forward the agitation with determination. They held several demonstrations demanding acceptance of their legitimate demands. The demonstration before the residence of the Prime Minister was attended by a large number of workers while more than 1000 workers courted arrest at Patel Chowk on 12th June 1986.

Seeing the failure of the Delhi Administration to prevail upon the textile mills to accept the workers' demands the Sangharsha Samiti met P.A. Sangma on 17th June and requested him to intervene in the dispute. The Union Labour Minister called a joint meeting of the representatives of the Sangharsha Samiti and the managements of textile mills on 19th June. The Lt. Governor, Labour Secretary, Secretary of Deptt. of Textile, Chief Labour Commissioner attended the meeting. In the meeting Lt. Governor gave a resume of the dispute and pointed out how his efforts to resolve the dispute could not result in success due to the attitude of the management.

The spokesman of the mill managements tried to balm the workers for the state of affairs and stated that the strike was violent. M.K. Pandhe while replying to the charges of the management stated that the Government should come forward to bring pressure on the management so that they accept the demands of the workers. He pointed out how textile workers in Delhi were getting Rs. 250 to Rs. 300 less than Bombay textile workers. The CITU representative suggested that the Chief Labour Commissioner should immediately conduct negotiations with a view to find out a settlement.

However after two days of protracted negotiations Sanghars Samiti gave the following minimum proposals for the settlement of the strike.

1. Payment of Rs. 70 to each worker as interim relief from September 1985.
2. The demands of the workers should be referred to mutually accepted arbitrators who would give the award in 6 months. The Reference to tribunal would not be pursued.
3. The cases of dismissals after 10th April 1986 should be withdrawn. The cases of 21 workers should be referred to arbitration for award within 3 months.
4. Regarding workload and work norm a joint committee should be constituted with two representatives from each side. Unanimous recommendation of the committee should be accepted by both the parties. In case of dispute the matter can be resolved through mediation of the Labour Department.

The management asked for time till 24th June to give their comments and alternate proposals. This long gap of 4 days caused apprehensions among the workers' representatives who protested at this dilatory tactics of the management.

Meanwhile workers are continuing their agitation and joint movement to pressurise the management to accept the reasonable demands of the workers. Extending full support to the struggle B.T. Ranadive President CITU issued a statement demanding of the management to settle the workers' demands.

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which immediately caught fire causing burn injuries to workers. Workers resumed work only after the Senior Divisional Officers Committee started enquiry about unsafe method of working in the shed.

About 500 workers of the steam Loco shed also joined their diesel shed brothers in protest action.

May Day Centenary: May Day Centenary was observed jointly by Eastern Rly Unity Committee and the coordinating committee of Railway workers cultural organisations at the Calcutta offices of E and SE Rlys through a month long programme in May which included mass meetings, seminars and cultural performances.

Unemployment and the Working Class

B.T. Ranadive

THE unemployment situation in the country has become very critical and threatens to create economic instability and impose economic suffering on those who are out of or seeking jobs. Year after year, the problem instead of getting lesser in intensity, gets intensified and every new year adds a few lakhs or more than a million to those who have no jobs. After the announcement of every successful plan, the backlog of unemployment continues to increase despite the repeated promise of the planners that all new entrants will be absorbed and the backlog will be reduced. The full extent of this unemployment is not really seen because the Planning Commission makes fantastic claims about creating new jobs though in reality the creation of new jobs is in no way commensurate with the jobs required. The gravity of the situation can be seen from the fact that between 1975 and 1981 the growth rate of employment in public and private sector was only 2.3 per cent a year. In contrast there was 14 per cent growth in registered unemployment in one year alone from August 1981 to August '82. In that year, the number of unemployed increased from 17.2 million to 19 million. The 6th plan claimed that its schemes for jobs would provide 34 million new jobs and take care of all the new entrants in the labour market. But where are the job-seekers to get jobs from? Not in organised industry, not in modern industry but in the over-crowded occupations from which people are fleeing in thousands. To quote the 6th Plan Commission, "The major employment generating activities are to be found in agriculture, rural development, village and small-scale industries, construction and public administration", i.e., mostly in industries with low paid and sweated labour. So scattered are these industries that no one will know whether any increase has taken place and to what extent.

The claims to provide jobs in these industries are now completely blown up. For the last two or three years, the administrative services have put a ban on recruitment.

Ruin of Small Scale Industries

The years since the Sixth Plan have witnessed ruination of village and small-scale industries and also restriction of construction work by the public administration. Ruination of such industries as coir and cashew-nut industries in Kerala, the havoc that the present ministry has done to job employment in these industries and the restricted employment available are witness to the fact that all traditional industries which employed comparatively larger number of people per unit of capital are facing total ruin.

The planners say that at the present rate of growth the organised sector can provide only 4-5 million regular jobs in the course of the Sixth Five-

Year Plan. This would still leave large numbers for absorption in agriculture, small-scale sector and other unorganised industries, i.e., they must seek employment in agriculture and non-farm activities characterised by a high degree of under-employment.

Educated Unemployed

The same fate is assigned to the educated. The number of educated unemployed, matriculates, graduates and above at the beginning of 1980 was estimated at 3.87 million. Today, of course, the number is much bigger and may exceed even 5 million. To meet the total demand for jobs from this sector during the Sixth Plan, 6 million jobs were required. But who will give them? The Planning Commission says that they must provide jobs for themselves. It says, "The increase in employment in the organised sector from year to year has been 0.8 million. Even if it is assumed that any future increase in the organised sector is wholly taken by educated persons alone, we find that there will not be enough room for the educated persons unless they are diverted either into self-employment or the absorption capacity of the organised industry is increased substantially. The second alternative does not seem to be feasible leaving the option of self-employment as the major mode of employment."

Bankruptcy of Capitalist Planning

The limitations of the capitalist path, its stagnation in industries is spelt out here.

Does the Seventh Plan offer any viable policy to fight unemployment? It offers no new policy. It pursues the same line as advocated in the Sixth Plan, i.e., reliance on finding more employment in the agricultural section, inability to provide jobs in modern industry, reliance on traditional industries, which are getting ruined. Once more the main sources of employment is to be the overcrowded agriculture. This is nothing but cheating the people. It is known that it is necessary to draw large sections from agriculture to industry and the industrial growth must take place at a rapid rate. This is not possible under the plan. The so-called National Rural Employment Programme have hardly done anything to lessen the rigours of rural employment.

The planners claim that they will not only provide jobs to all new entrants to the labour market but also absorb the backlog which they place at 9.2 millions, though the number of registered unemployed in the cities has now reached nearly three crores. The planners claim that they will provide jobs for 38 million new entrants to the labour force and also provide 9 million jobs to absorb backlog

from the 6th Plan. This is based on an anticipated average annual growth rate of 5 per cent GDP for five years, a growth rate which has not been achieved in the past. There is nothing in the promise of the planners except statistical fanaticy.

What about the educated unemployed? The Planning Commission holds out false promises and show its utter inability to tackle the problem. It only talks in terms of not allowing the situation to deteriorate.

According to its conservative estimates, "during 1985-90, addition to the economically active persons of the educated categories would be nearly 10.6 millions. The backlog of educated unemployed at the beginning of 1985 works out at 4.7 million — 3.5 million matrics and higher secondary and 1.2 million graduates and above. The Commission observes, it would imply the need for creation of 9.4 million jobs for the educated over the plan period if the unemployment rate is not to deteriorate". Is there any possibility of achieving this restricted objective? No. For the plan relies on doubtful rounds job creation. The Commission observes "while the job opportunities for the matric, higher secondary pass and engineering diploma holders would emanate both from the organised and unorganised sections, those for the higher categories would be generated primarily in industry, banking, transport, communications and public services". It will be seen that for the educated the collapsing old industries, modernised new industries which restrict jobs by thousands and banking and communications which are adopting computerisation to kill tens of thousands of jobs, will be the main source of employment. They are supposed to create 9 million additional jobs. Besides, the New Education Policy with its informal and long distance education will deny jobs to tens of thousands of teachers.

Today, according to official statistics, the number of these registered in Employment Exchanges in the cities is 3 crores. No one has really calculated the extent of joblessness in the rural areas which may be anywhere between 5 to 7 crores, notwithstanding Government claims of providing jobs through programmes like rural employment guarantee scheme and other fringe measures. Here is a country where the productive capacities of more than 10 crores of people cannot be used for the advancement of the people, for the advancement of the economy and they are thrown out as waste of society, out-casts from a decent and civilised standard of living.

Unemployment Benefit

In advanced Western countries, there is a provision for unemployment benefit which the State is bound to give so long as the unemployed person does not find an alternative job. This right of unemployment relief has been a product of the organised working class movement and partly also it is due to the fact that some of these countries

were placed in a favourable situation to exploit other centres and transfer a small part of their super-profits for the benefit of the unemployed. Though the condition of the unemployed in the USA, Britain, France is certainly miserable, the unemployed are not turned on the streets immediately after loss of jobs. The State has to bear responsibility, give them doles and to a certain extent alleviate their suffering.

But in India, there is absolutely no provision for any unemployment relief. The provisions made by Kerala Government under the Nayanar Ministry and by the West Bengal Left Front Government under the leadership of Jyoti Basu could be only a small beginning and assertion of a principle. The main resources for the relief to the unemployed have to come from the Centre under Central legislation. There is no sign of any such legislation being passed. Apart from the two States already mentioned, some other States also provide some miserable relief to the unemployed in the cities. The State's responsibility for giving relief to the people is not accepted by the present bourgeois-landlord government. It seems while changing technology and adopting modernisation appropriate to the 21st Century, the Congress Government is not unwilling to carry the unemployment load of 20th Century into the next Century.

In India unemployment dogs the rural and urban areas alike, plagues the future of all young people. What is the prospect before a young man entering the labour market from the peasant or worker's family or a matriculate or a graduate hopeful of contributing his share to the progress of the country? Wherever he goes, he is told that the country has no use for his youthful vigour, for his young talent, for his education. He is forced to live a life of humiliation, dependent on the earnings of an aging father or some distant relative and taking only chance job which neither suits his talent nor does justice to his education. There are now cases in hundreds where graduates and undergraduates consider themselves fortunate if they get a municipal sweeper's job or some such menial work. India therefore offers a bleak future for the younger generation which is now swelling the labour market. This creates an explosive situation with the discontent against unemployment being diverted into fratricidal and communal channels. The recent riots in Gujarat on the question of reservation and anti-reservation when two sections of workers fought each other is the outcome of this diversion of the movement from common class struggle into internal fratricidal strife. When the anti-reservation conflict was going on in Ahmedabad, and workers were engaged in conflict, 14 textile mills were closed throwing out both Harijan and non-Harijan workers, but they failed to combine to fight this common offensive and their distress was diverted into internal conflicts. Such is the prospect for the T.U. movement if the unemployment question is not properly tackled and a common understanding

is not given to those who have jobs and to those without jobs.

Two Aspects of Unemployment

The question of unemployment has two aspects. In recent years under the stress of the economic crisis a large number of factories have been closed or have been locked out and hundreds have gone sick. According to official statistics, nearly 500 big concerns and nearly a lakh of small concerns have gone sick, out of the latter more than 70,000 are considered to be non-viable, which means that they will be permanently closed and the thousands working in them will be jobless. Besides these sick industries there are widespread closures and lock-outs all of which have thrown tens of thousands of worker on the streets. Continuing modernisation process in the textile industry for instance, has thrown out nearly 75,000 workers in Bombay city alone. These tens of thousands of workers who have lost their jobs form only a part of the total unemployed in the industrial centres.

But the major part of the unemployed today consists of those who have hardly ever held a permanent job. A substantial part of these have never held any job. They are a floating mass which has never experienced the privilege of a job, the inspiration of a common working class consciousness, never had any ties with any T.U. organisation. They are an exclusive mass which can be easily used by any reactionary agency to fight those who are already employed and direct their ire against the T.U. movement itself. The three crores of registered unemployed in the cities mainly consist of this mass, who live from hand to mouth in the slums, get an occasional job and a small portion of which often indulges in anti-social activities including robbery, dacoity, trafficking in illicit liquor distillation and so on. Poverty is driving a small section of these new entrants to utter degeneration and thereby renders them easy prey to the wiles of the reactionaries and to act on their behalf.

New Economic Policy

How does the Rajiv Gandhi Government and its Planning Commission propose to meet this problem? It is noted, the 7th Plan has no plan to meet the challenge of unemployment. The 7th Plan line and Rajiv Gandhi's new economic policy are going to add further to the rapid growth of unemployment. Rajiv Gandhi's government is opening the full blast of computerisation and modernisation on the economy, when our country requires steady promotion and nurturing its small-scale industries which have got great employment potentiality. Computerisation, modernisation, automation - these are the new slogans of the Rajiv Gandhi Government under the excuse of increasing competitive capacity of Indian industry in the export market. Computerisation will deprive tens of thousands of employees working in the services industry out of their jobs. Computers have been introduced in rail-

ways and railways have stopped recruiting new people. Computers are being introduced in the banks, in the LIC and though in some cases immediate retrenchment is not unleashed, the capacity of these industries to employ people is getting thinner. Once the full offensive of computerisation starts, thousands of people from the Banks, Insurance and the mercantile concerns will be thrown out to add to the number of unemployed. In all Western countries, the service industry has been the biggest victim of computerisation and its working complement has been reduced by 30 or 40 per cent. It is estimated that in the coming two or three years India will be importing computers worth Rs. 10,000 crores. This is a major offensive against the jobs planned by the Rajiv Gandhi Government. It is also estimated that this will also lead at least to the immediate cut-down of jobs of 30 per cent in the banking industry.

Denigration of Public Sector : Freedom to Multinationals

The public sector policy of the Rajiv Gandhi Government promises another offensive against the jobs of the workers and also the officers. Rajiv Gandhi has declared that sick public sector units will be either closed down or handed over to private concerns. The closure of so-called sick units will definitely deprive hundreds of people of their jobs. If these are transferred to the private concerns, then the jobs of public sector workers will be at the mercy of private capitalists who know no other morality than that of profit at the expense of the workers and the common man. However this is not the only danger. The denigration of the public sector, the encouragement to privatisation is further accompanied by freedom given to multinational to enter India. Some foreign companies are being allowed to control management of public sector under the guise of supplying expertise in management. This will tremendously reduce the job potential of industries and again throw large number of people out of work. Firstly, the competition from multinationals will ruin the indigenous concerns, throwing workers out of work. Already voices of protests are coming from Indian industrialists against imports liberalisation and the facilities given to the multinationals. Secondly, the influx of multinationals will result in influx of sophisticated means of production and the job potential under the multi-nationals will be drastically reduced. The policy of disbandment of public sector, of privatisation and encouragement to multinationals to enter the Indian market is fraught with the gravest consequences for the employment situation in the country. They offer a challenge to the T.U. movement which must accept it, if it wants to protect the jobs of those who are already at work.

Weakness of T.U. Movement

In this connection, it must be stated that the T.U. movement on the whole has neglected the question of rising unemployment and left the unemployed to their fate. An organised campaign and fight was neither waged for those who are thrown out of jobs by closure of facto-

ries nor any consideration was given to the new entrants into the labour market. Much less was any consideration given to the grim unemployment situation in the rural areas where lack of jobs is leading to widespread destitution and misery inspite of all government claims to have lifted millions above the poverty line.

The failure to link TUs with the demand for relief and other demands of the unemployed has been a major weakness of our TU movement alienating large section of new entrants to the labour market from the organised movement of the working class. If continued, this policy would have incalculable consequences doing the biggest harm to working class unity and solidarity.

The employers and the government have already started pitting the unemployed against the employed, pointing to the latter as a privileged section. With the slogan of jobs for the sons of soil, they incite the unemployed youths in one State against workers from other States.

Rousing of provincial chauvinism and creating an illusion that by depriving workers from other States of their jobs, the unemployment problem can be solved, is part of the bourgeois tactics and strategy to avoid a joint class action of workers. In the absence of trade union intervention organisations like Shiva Sena in Bombay and similar Senas in other parts succeed in rousing local chauvinistic sentiments against workers from other States shattering both class unity and the concept of Indian unity. It is another form of divisive force attacking the unity of the working class movement and unity of the country and it gets a chance because the T.U. movement does not intervene in time to unite the employed and the unemployed in the common fight against the effects of the capitalist path.

In fact, it has been to some extent the acknowledged policy of the Congress government also to play one section of the people against another. Many Congress governments have issued instructions illegally and unconstitutionally to the Employment Exchange authorities in the State not to register the names of workers from other States on the exchange list. This is nothing but an attack on Indian citizenship and an attempt to meet the unemployment problem by pitting one section of workers against another. The Congress Chief Minister like Gundu Rao of Karnataka at one time threatened to throw out all Tamil workers from his State because they had gone on strike. The T.U. movement must understand that the ruling class and the ruling party are capable of using any chauvinistic weapon to divert the anger of the unemployed against workers from other States and split the unity of the working class.

Champion the Cause of Unemployed

It is high time that the organised T.U. movement undertook to organise the unemployed and prepared

a charter of their demands. The TUs should take the initiative to organise joint conventions of the employed and the unemployed to focuss attention on the problem and pressurise the authorities to grant immediate relief. They should unitedly move to pressurise the Government to embark upon policies to check the growth of unemployment. The TUs should come out with a document outlining the schemes of relief for the industrial and the rural unemployed and championing basic changes in Government's economic policies and measures to check unemployment. It is necessary to expose the claims of the Government that they are seriously fighting unemployment in the rural areas. The anti-poverty programme, the rural employment guarantee schemes and other devices do not touch even a fringe of the problem and are diversionary measures to make people believe that something big is being done in the rural areas. It is noted by many committees that the major part of the funds for these schemes goes into the coffers of corrupt administrators or Congress leaders and ministers and only a very small part reaches those for whom it was meant. Honest officials who really try to administer relief to the people under these schemes are suddenly transferred to some distant place so that the reign of corruption continues undisturbed.

Right to Work

The TUs therefore have to take the question of unemployment and prepare a charter of demands, the immediate aim being to secure adequate unemployment relief for those unemployed. At the same time, the united movement of the unemployed and the employed workers must demand that the right to work should be embodied in the Constitution as a fundamental right and the Government must accept responsibility to provide job or relief for every citizen who is prepared to work. The right to work is in fact the basis of all democratic rights and without this right many democratic rights become just formal decorative rights. It will be worth while considering whether the united T.U. movement and the unemployed together can organise a hunger march from the various State capitals of India to the country's capital proclaiming the demands of the unemployed, the unity of the employed and unemployed workers and demanding the right to work as a basic fundamental right to be embodied in the Constitution.

Without intense struggle and activity on the part of the employed workers, unemployed workers will not have justice done to them and if this is not done in time, this vast mass of workers unrelated to any T.U. organisation, denied of the inspiration coming from common struggle, is capable of being used for reactionary purposes against the working class movement, against the nation's interests. The responsibility will be entirely of the T.U. movement. The T.U. movement can no longer continue as the representative only of those who are having permanent jobs. This narrowing down of the T.U. movement has done the biggest harm to India's working class movement.

Socialist Countries Free From Unemployment

One must give a deeper thought to the question of containing unemployment in the country. Some times the ruling party and its leaders say that it is a worldwide phenomenon and India cannot escape it. But it is not a worldwide phenomenon. One-third of the world where socialist system exists is free from crises, is free from unemployment and at the same time, modernisation and automation and computerisation are not barred in these countries. This phenomena of unemployment exists only in imperialist and capitalist countries where the means of production are owned by private capital. Is unemployment inevitable? Yes, it is inevitable only under capitalism. The law of capitalist society, the law of private accumulation, of profit, in competition with others, directly leads to unemployment in the name of promoting social progress. Capitalist law of accumulation demands that each competing monopolist or capitalist should lessen his cost of production to get higher profits. It demands therefore that each should out-bid the other in introducing new labour saving devices so that with a smaller complement greater production and greater profits can be earned. This means that the larger the capitalist investment in sophisticated means of production, the lesser will be the number of employees per unit of capital. Marx called this the tendency of the increase in constant capital and relative decrease of variable capital which represents the wages of the workers. It is because of this inevitable logic of capitalist society that in spite of tremendous progress in science and industry, a rich country like America has to carry the burden of more than one crore of unemployed. The total number of people unemployed in the Western countries of Europe and America exceeds three crores.

India had the choice of avoiding this capitalist path and turning to a democratic economic order to march towards socialism. But India's leaders chose the capitalist path. Now you find that India is subject not only to the law of increased unemployment, she is also in danger of losing or undermining her economic independence under the pressure of the world multi-nationals. In India the problems are rather complicated because the process of building capitalism demands destruction of old and traditional industries. At the same time, under the capitalist path new industries cannot be built at a rapid rate to absorb all those people who are displaced by the destruction of old industries. What Marx called the process of primary accumulation which meant evicting masses of people from means of production is still going on in India. Traditional industries are still being destroyed but new industries are not absorbing all those displaced. So India experiences two fold destruction, one from the effects of the capitalist law of accumulation and another from the effect of the destruction of old industries which is going on in India.

The only way to escape this misery is to change our economic policies immediately, to the need of fighting unemployment, keeping other things in

view. This demands complete change not only of Rajiv Gandhi's new economic policies but also in the concept of planning and further demands that all planning efforts should be completely democratised so that political parties, people's representatives, mass organisations and Trade Unions should have a say in organising the economic life of the country. Only then we will be in a position to tackle the grim problem of unemployment.

In this connection, the worker and the unemployed must know the truth why there is no unemployment in the socialist countries. When you come to the Socialist countries, you realise the truth that the working class movement is not opposed to modernisation, computerisation and other devices of scientific process. In Socialist society, this is precisely what is happening because the means of production is controlled by the society. They are not anybody's private property. Modernisation, computerisation, etc. leads only to the adjustment of labour and not towards loss of labour. It therefore releases the energy of the people for cultural advance and economy advance and does not lead them to lead a life of denial. Because the entire planning is directed towards increasing production with a view to increasing the standard of living of the people and not with a view to accumulate the profits of a few capitalists. Saving of labour time therefore means lesser hours of work and greater leisure for the development of personality. That is why a social system which can really utilise modern advance of science in the interests of society as a whole, that social system alone can really combine modernisation, computerisation with social progress, progress of the mass of the people as a whole.

Right to Work in Socialism

This is due to the fact that under Socialism there is equality of all in relation to the means of production. After all, the economic activity and the means of production are the main sources of living of the society. If there is no economic equality here, the entire social structure will become completely loaded against on section of society. Socialisation of means of production introduces the equality of every citizen in relation to means of production and thereby deprives a handful of men to impose either economic inequality or political inequality on the people. Not only that, it is only under socialised means of production that a constitutional right is given to a citizen — the right to work. Only the socialist constitutions embody this right and declare that every citizen has a right to work under Socialism, thereby the State cannot evade the responsibility to provide work and because of the social system it is able to provide work. The unemployed and the employed must master this experience of the socialist society and redouble their efforts in the end to see that India makes a big transition, abandoning the capitalist path to the path of socialist transformation so that the question of unemployment, crisis, etc. can be settled and people will no longer suffer either from economic crisis or from the crisis of unemployment.

Capitalism Generates Unemployment !

Unemployment Figures in India

(Urban unemployment registered in Employment Exchanges)

At the end of the First Five Year Plan	—	53 lakhs
” ” Second ” ”	—	71 lakhs
” ” Third ” ”	—	96 lakhs
” ” Fourth ” ”	—	1 crore
” ” Fifth ” ”	—	2 crores
		21 lakhs

(Source: Lok Sabha reply on 4th September, 1981 to a question by Com. Motilal Hansda.)

At the end of the Sixth Five Year Plan	—	2.39 crores
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(Source: Indian Labour Journal, September, 1985 issue)

At the end of December, 1985	—	2.62 crores
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Statewise Unemployment Figures (At the end of May, 1985)

(In thousands, as per Employment Exchanges)
(Source: Hindustan Times, 4.10.85)

Delhi	—	502.6	Assam	—	524.9
Chandigarh	—	98.6	Punjab	—	543.3
Pondicherry	—	68.1	Rajasthan	—	560.0
Goa	—	46.1	Orissa	—	603.0
Mizoram	—	20.9	Gujarat	—	652.8
A & N Islands	—	11.5	Karnataka	—	810.9
Lakshadip	—	6.2	M.P	—	1186.1
Meghalaya	—	13.6	Tamilnadu	—	1795.6
Nagaland	—	14.5	U.P.	—	2089.1
J & K	—	68.7	Maharashtra	—	2102.8
Tripura	—	95.4	A.P.	—	2218.8
Manipur	—	195.7	Kerala	—	2461.1
Himachal	—	279.0	Bihar	—	2650.2
Haryana	—	456.5	W. Bengal	—	4103.5

Registered Unemployment as on 31.12.85

(Men, women unemployment)
(Rajya Sabha question by Com. Sukomal Sen in the last session)

Men	218.22 lakhs
Women	44.57 lakhs

Educated Unemployment as on 30.6.85

Matric and above	132.62 lakhs
Below Matric	112.37 lakhs

Unemployment in Advanced Capitalist Countries

(In percentage of workforce, in actual number, in comparison with their increasing military expenditure and youth unemployment)

(Source: WFTU Journals)

1. In Percentage of Active Population

	1980	1984
USA	7.0	7.3
Canada	7.6	10.9
Great Britain	7.0	13.1
Italy	7.4	12.9
France	6.3	10.3
FRG	3.0	9.4
Japan	2.0	2.4

2. Unemployment in EEC Countries (In thousands)

	Dec. 1984	% in Dec. 1984	% increase from Nov. 1984
FRG	2325.2	8.6	0.3
France	2524.9	11.1	13.1
Italy	3053.9	13.5	9.1
Holland	796.5	14.3	2.7
Belgium	605.4	14.7	0.9
Luxemburg	2.7	1.7	8.8
U.K.	3219.4	12.2	3.7
Ireland	225.4	17.6	11.2
Denmark	263.0	9.9	—
Greece	107.9	2.9	—

3. Increasing Military Expenditure Resulting in Increasing Unemployment in NATO Countries

	Military expenditure			Number of unemployed (millions)		
	1973	1979	1983	1973	1979	1983
United States (\$ billions)	78.3	122.2	225.3	4.3	6.14	8.54
Great Britain (£ billions)	3.5	9.0	16.0	0.62	1.39	3.31
FRG (DM billions)	31.9	45.4	57.1	0.27	0.88	2.28
Italy (Trillions Lira)	2.9	6.4	14.7	1.39	1.7	2.4
France (billions FF)	42.2	95.4	164.2	0.39	1.35	2.31

4. Youth Unemployment in Western Europe

(Unemployed young people under 25 yrs of age as percentage of total unemployment)

FRG	23.4%
France	39.5%
Italy	47.4%
Holland	38.2%
Belgium	36.0%
Luxemburg	43.2%
Great Britain	37.6%
Ireland	29.9%
Denmark	29.0%

(Contd. on page 19)

Resolutions of the General Council

[The following resolutions which came in the General Council meeting of Calcutta held from March 31 to April 2, have been passed by the Secretariat.]

On Nationalisation of Peerless Co.

THIS General Council meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31-April 2, 1986 expresses serious concern over the fate of 4 lakhs field forces, 4000 office staff and over 2 crores of certificate holders of the Peerless General Finance and Investment Co. Ltd., as under the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act of 1978, the company has been asked not to conduct any business. The meeting considers that take over and nationalization of the company by the Government of India is the only solution in the interest of all concerned. The meeting notes that several representations have been made to the Finance Minister by the Peerless Employees Union, which is affiliated to the CITU and also by the organisation of the field staff, demanding nationalisation of the company. A large number of the Members of the Parliament of both the Houses have also made similar representations to the Finance Minister. But the Govt. has not taken any steps in this regard as yet. Extending full support to the struggle of the Peerless employees, the meeting calls upon all the State Committees and the affiliated unions to raise their voice of demand for nationalisation of the company.

On the Situation in Bharat Gold Mines

The General Council Meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31-April 2, 1986 expresses serious concern over the deteriorating situation in Bharat Gold Mines in the Kolar Gold Fields. The management is threatening the closure of the Bharat Gold Mines within five years time on the plea of losses and that the mines are not workable. This will affect the employment of over 12,000 workers. Already under the direction of the Govt. of India, the management has closed down certain sections of mining operations affecting about 2,000 workers.

The meeting condemns the Government for acting upon the report of Dr. Arjun Sengupta, whereas the one man Committee of Shri K. S. R. Chari appointed by the Govt of India to look into the working of K. G. F. opined that the mines would work for another 15 years. The plea of loss is also not tenable, because of the irrational policy of the pricing of the gold. In the Kolar Gold Fields the practice of fixing the price of gold at the international rate, as was done during the British regime, still continues. This is much lower than that of the Indian market which is prevailing in other gold mines.

The meeting therefore demands of the Govt to

accept the Chari Committee's report and start operations in the mining sections which have been closed down and take back all the workers. It also demands for an uniform pricing policy at the rate of the Indian market to avert unnecessary loss to the KGF. The meeting extends full support to the struggle led by the KGF Employees' Union with the above demands.

On Accident in Godavari Khani

The meeting of the General Council of the CITU held at Calcutta from March 31-April 2, 1986 strongly condemns the Singareni Collieries management for the utter neglect of safety in the mines which led to the death of eight coal miners due to Methane gas in Godavari Khani on 27th March 1986. Despite repeated recommendations of the safety conferences on Mines the coal companies have not yet introduced even methonometers in all the gassy mines.

The meeting demands of the Govt of India to take stringent action against those responsible for this accident and further ensure that all appropriate safety measures are adopted in the collieries to avert any future accident. It conveys heartfelt condolences to the bereaved members of the families of workers who lost their lives.

On Struggle of Titagarh Paper Mill Workers

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31-April 2, 1986 condemns the management of the Titagarh Paper Mills for having stopped the manufacturing process in the Kankinara Unit II from October 17, 1985 and also having locked out the Unit-I from November 3, 1985. The Left Front Government of W. Bengal rejected the management's plea for closure. But despite this the management suspended the manufacturing process and stopped payment of wages to the workers from December, 1985. The closure and the lock-out affected the livelihood of about 8000 workers. Apart from this, the Bengal Paper Mill, Raniganj and the Eastern Paper Mill, Bansberia are also closed since the last four years and 3 months respectively. All these closures have affected over 17,000 workers and their families. The closures have also resulted in the loss of more than 200 tons of daily production of paper which has led to the shortage in the supply of paper for the educational institutions also.

The meeting extends full support to the struggle of the workers and demands immediate opening of the closed and locked out mills and take over of the managements in the interest of the workers and the industry.

On Struggle of U.P. Cement Workers

This General Council Meeting of CITU held at

Calcutta from March 31-April 2, 1986 denounces the Govt of U.P. and the management of U.P. Cement Corporation for letting loose a reign of terror on the cement workers of Dala Mirzapur. The workers have been on struggle demanding abolition of contract system in the factory. All the trade unions except INTUC launched strike actions also with this demand. But the management with its goonda hirelings and helped by the U.P. police is terrorising the workers.

A number workers have been involved in false cases and put into jails. The Secretary and the Joint Secretary of the CITU union along with four other union functionaries have been dismissed from service. To curb protest actions, the Government has imposed section 144 in the factory area.

This meeting demands of the U.P. Government to immediately release all the arrested workers, lift Section 144 and prevail upon the management to reinstate all the dismissed workers. The meeting extends full support to the undeterred struggle of the workers with the demand for abolition of the contract system and demands of the management to arrive at a negotiated settlement with the unions.

On the Proposed Strike by Defence Employees

This General Council meeting of CITU held in Calcutta on 31st March to 2nd April 1986 congratulates the All India Defence Employees Federation for its decision to go on one day strike on 21st May, 1986 in protest against privatisation of the defence industry, victimisation of T.U. activists and other immediate demands.

The CITU calls upon its unions to express solidarity with the defence employees so that their just struggle is strengthened.

BHEL Voluntary Retirement Scheme Kept in Abeyance

In a BHEL Joint Committee meeting held on 27th and 28th May, 1986 at Bangalore, all the Central Trade Unions criticised the Voluntary Retirement Scheme prepared by the BHEL management which provides for premature retirement of the workers at the age of 50 years or above if found surplus by the management. The management offered 50 per cent of the total earnings as compensation, for the rest of the period of employment. The Central Trade Unions criticised the management for unilaterally introducing the scheme without even discussing in the Joint Committee. The decision of the Board of Directors taken on 2nd April, 1986 was unilaterally announced by the management without even sending a copy of it to the members of the Joint Committee. The management representative tried to argue that the scheme was purely voluntary but the workers' representatives

refused to accept the contention of the management. They demanded that the whole scheme should be discussed in the next meeting of the Joint Committee pending which the scheme should be kept in abeyance. After a long discussion the management had to agree to keep the scheme in abeyance till the next meeting.

(from page 17)

Rise in Part-Time Employment in Capitalist Countries

According to recent ILO figures, more than 35 million workers in industrialised capitalist countries earn their living from part-time work. The following gives this as percentage of the workforce.

Norway	: 24.3 per cent
Netherlands	: 21.0 per cent
Great Britain	: 18.5 per cent
Japan	: 15.8 per cent
Canada	: 15.3 per cent
*United States	: 14.1 per cent
Austria	: 10.0 per cent
France	: 10.0 per cent
Switzerland	: 10.0 per cent

*The Labour Research Association, however, estimates that part-time employment in the United States is now at 20 per cent.

The increases in part-time and in full-time employment between 1973 and 1983 was as follows:

	Full-time	Part-time
Canada	18.4%	52.3%
France	0.2%	100.0%
Japan	6.2%	26.6%
United States	14.8%	19.7%
FRG	negative	65.4%
Netherlands	negative	453.6%
Sweden	negative	37.2%
Great Britain	negative	21.9%

Part-time employment has become an increasingly integral part of capitalist society recently, to the detriment of the workers, who are the victims of reduced income and reduced chances of finding full-time employment, with the accompanying social contradictions.

Part-time employment, says the ILO information, is generally a matter of unqualified work, low wages and no prospects. Many part-time workers have to work either very early or very late hours, over weekends and holidays, without the recompenses which full-time workers usually have. They can be sacked easily and have no right to extra pay for changes of hours or overtime, nor to wage increases for seniority. They often have no health insurance, and social security benefits are limited or they are non-existent.

CITU Denounces Government's Plan to Close Down Textile Mills

B. T. RANADIVE, President Centre of Indian Trade Unions has issued the following statement on June 3:

The CITU condemns the government's move to close down a number of textile mills in the country, both in the private and the public sector, which will throw thousands of workers out of employment. A press report appearing on June 1 says that a large number of non viable textile mills, both in the Public and Private sector will be closed down and the workers "will be taken care of" by a "rehabilitation fund". They will get 75 per cent of their wages in the first year, 50 per cent in the second year and 25 per cent in the third year and then will be thrown into the wilderness "to pick up alternative lines of livelihood".

It is to be noted that the CITU and all other trade unions had condemned the new textile policy of the government, the results of which are now coming up. The Secretary, Department of Textile, Ministry of Commerce had called a meeting of the Central Trade Unions on September 27, 1985 to discuss about this "rehabilitation Fund". The Secretary, Shri S.S. Verma had to come out with

the government's plan to close down five mills on an average every year without any plan to open any new unit. All the Central Trade Unions had rejected the idea of the so-called rehabilitation fund which could not be viewed in isolation from the textile policy as a whole which the trade unions had rejected. But the government has not given the least consideration to the concern expressed by the trade unions and going ahead with its disastrous policy of mass closures and mass retrenchment only at the dictates of a few mill magnets and at the anti-worker recommendations of the Arjun Sen Gupta Committee on Public Sectors. When about one hundred mills are already closed affecting over one lakh workers, the government instead of making any efforts to open the mills and rehabilitate the workers, is going ahead with further attack on them and aggravate the unemployment situation in the country. This will also make the Committee on Public sector set up by the govt. irrelevant.

The CITU demands of the government to withhold its decision and calls upon its State Committees and the affiliated unions and appeals to all other Central Trade Unions to raise their voice of protest.

Consumer Price Index Numbers

(Base 1960)

State/Centre	Jan. 1986	Feb. 1986	Mar. 1986								
				Bangalore	699	714	713	Coonoor	670	675	680
				Chikamagalur	621	627	625	Madurai	654	658	658
				Kolar G.F.	642	645	638	U.P.			
Andhra Pradesh				Kerala				Kanpur	623	632	648
Gudur	556	559	569	Alleppey	698	698	690	Sabaranpur	622	627	649
Guntur	669	670	669	Alwaye	670	688	682	Varanasi	709	701	724
Hyderabad	648	653	647	Mundakayam	612	629	627	West Bengal			
Assam				Madhya Pradesh				Asansol	636	635	637
Digboi	608	621	634	Balaghat	630	633	639	Calcutta	612	616	622
Doom Dooma	493	493	498	Bhopal	711	717	723	Darjeeling	528	529	544
Labac	459	457	473	Gwalior	629	633	652	Howrah	579	585	591
Mariani	479	485	495	Indore	674	688	701	Jalpaiguri	503	500	508
Rangapara	472	465	484	Maharashtra				Raniganj	581	576	574
Bihar				Bombay	668	672	678	Delhi Territory	658	664	679
Jamshedpur	587	591	603	Nagpur	632	635	648	Other Centres			
Jharia	539	537	539	Sholapur	672	677	674	Berhampur ('49)	858	869	861
Kodarma	618	619	625	Orissa				Cuttack ('49)	862	837	831
Monghyr	630	635	630	Barbil	592	582	579	Jabalpur ('49)	801	813	826
Noamundi	559	554	550	Sambalpur	639	642	649	Beawar ('51-52)	732	737	738
Gujarat				Punjab				Tripura ('61)	561	565	577
Ahmedabad	607	608	609	Amritsar	620	617	636	H.P. ('65)	457	462	467
Bhavanagar	670	669	678	Rajasthan				Goa ('66)	479	490	492
Haryana				Ajmer	638	640	633	Bhilai ('66)	418	413	414
Yamunanagar	628	633	643	Jaipur	665	662	659	Bhilwara ('66)	407	411	413
J. & K.				Tamil Nadu				Chhindwara ('66)	335	337	338
Srinagar	655	657	694	Madras	653	656	649	Kothagudem ('66)	419	425	423
Karnataka				Coimbatore	689	688	687	Rourkela ('66)	431	428	429
Ammathi	628	621	635					All India ('60)	629	633	638

(Figures in bracket indicate base year)

Port & Dock Strike Withheld

THE All India strike of the Port & Dock workers which was scheduled to commence from June 16 demanding settlement of the charter of demands and full implementation of the previous settlement of 11.4.84, was withheld in a meeting of three Central Trade Unions, viz, INTUC, AITUC, and HMS, as the Ministry of Transport called a meeting on June 12.

In a statement issued on June 2, K.K. Roy Ganguly, General Secretary of the Water Transport Workers Federation of India stated as follows:

"We came to know through the press that the proposed indefinite strike of the Port and Dock workers all over India to commence from 16 June, 1986 has been withheld in a meeting held by the three Federations belonging to HMS, INTUC and AITUC.

Our Federation was signatory to the decision for the strike. We should have been consulted before taking any decision in the matter. We are sorry to note that we were not consulted on this question at any stage. We are also deeply grieved to note that a meeting of the four federations was not called even with prior intimation on the specific matter.

Water Transport Workers' Federation of India stands for unity of all the four Federations and we will do everything to strengthen this unity for the overall interest of the port and dock workers of the country. However, such decisions weaken the fabric of unity that the port and dock workers have built over a period of years.

In view of the decision taken by the other three federations, we also call upon our affiliates not to serve the strike notice as decided earlier.

We also appeal to the Port and Dock workers to preserve as well as to strengthen the unity and await for the outcome of the meeting convened by the Department of Surface Transport, Government of India at New Delhi on the 12th June, 1986".

The proposed meeting between the Government of India, Department of Surface Transport, Ministry of Transport and the representatives of the four major federations of the Port and Dock workers was held on 12.6.86 at New Delhi. Following the discussions held in the meeting the Chairmen of the major ports were advised to negotiate and finalise the issue of liberalisation of promotional opportunities of the Port and dock workers within a period of two months. Following the minor relaxation brought in the ban order issued in Jan. '84, they have been directed to fill up the promotional posts and resultant vacancy arising out of promotion,

retirement and death on examining the possibilities of redeployment of surplus staff, if any, and put up the proposals where new posts are to be created before the Ministry which the Ministry have assured to be decided early. A decision has been taken to pay the Port and dock workers 8.33 per cent of Ex-gratia with the limitation of 1600 and 2500 as was in existence in the last year. To formulate a scheme for payment of bonus linking with performances in addition to the payment of 8.33 per cent of Ex-gratia, the Ministry will place a guideline before the Federations within two months for discussion and finalisation. On the accepted guideline the port Chairmen will be authorised to formulate the scheme in consultation with the labour unions and such schemes will be discussed at the national level before it is implemented. The dock workers and clearing the forwarding workers at Madras under MSA shall be brought under the Madras Dock Labour Board through a registered scheme. The Madras Port Chairman has been given the responsibility of publishing the scheme. The next meeting for further discussions has been fixed on 8th July, 1986.

The Water Transport Workers Federation of India in a meeting held on 12.6.86 reviewed the discussions and opined that though the achievements which have emerged in the meeting on 12.6.86 were the outcome of the united pressure of the Federations, the port and dock workers should take note that the mere minor relaxation of the ban order will not help to resolve the grievances of the port and dock workers in regard to the issue of liberalisation of promotional opportunities and filling up of vacancies, and as such, the unity should be strengthened further for a determined struggle.

(Contd. from page 3)

working class and aimed at securing the release of all those freedom fighters, including the trade union leaders and activists, who together with the legendary Nelson Mandela are languishing in the racist prisons.

This meeting reiterates the support of the Indian working class to the struggle for the independence of Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO.

This meeting of the trade union centres calls upon all the workers to contribute generously to a fund that is to be instituted under the name of the Trade Unions' Solidarity Fund for South Africa.

New Delhi,
16th June, 1986

May Day Celebrations Abroad

United States

Thousands of workers in several cities of USA celebrated the international labour day. At Chicago, the city's Mayor, H. Washington signed a declaration proclaiming May, as the "Month of History of Chicago Unions", reminding the workers of the Hay Market events which became the origin of the international day of workers' solidarity and pledge. A massive rally was held at Union Square, New York where the demonstrators assailed the Reagan administration for its adventurist policy. The rally stressed the urgency of unifying all peace forces to struggle to avert a nuclear war and for nuclear disarmament.

Great Britain

Thousands of workers assembled near Tower Hill at London and marched through the streets demanding right to work for the nearly 4 million unemployed people in Britain. They demanded immediate reinstatement of about 6000 workers sacked by a press baron. The demonstrators also called for disarmament and disbandment of the US nuclear bases in Britain. Similar demonstrations took place in several other cities and continued till May 3.

W. Germany

In several W. German cities workers organised massive rallies calling upon the working class to unite and struggle against the danger of a nuclear war. They demanded right to work for everyone and denounced all attacks on trade union rights and social achievements. In the industrial centres of the Ruhr valley like Dortmund, Essen, Dusseldorf and other places the workers brandished banners depicting the number of jobs which were cut down in recent years. The rallies warned the FRG government not to become a party to the US star war programme and not to place the FRG territory at the disposal of the USA's first-strike nuclear weapons.

France

At the call of CGT, a massive demonstration was held at Place de la Bastille, Paris which is symbolic of the social struggles of workers in France. The workers marched through the large Paris boulevards. The rally expressed the determination of the workers to fight against the danger of war and for peace, and to uphold the trade union rights. The CGT General Secretary, Henri Krasucki addressed the rally.

Middle East

Thousands of people observed the day in all parts of Syria. In a massive central rally at Luttakija, a large port in the country, the Vice President of

Syria, Mohammad Zuahir Macharka severely assailed the US armed aggression against Libya and denounced it as state terrorism.

In West Beirut an impressive demonstration was held which continued for the whole day. The demonstration was addressed by Elias El Habre, President of FENASOL and Vice President of WFTU.

Despite a ban imposed by the Israeli authorities on all demonstrations and marches, a number of rallies were held at Tev Aviv, Haifa and other Israeli cities in pursuance of an appeal issued by Jewish and Arab progressive organisations. Demonstrations were also held in the eastern part of Jerusalem and in the occupied territories. Palestinian trade unions organised several meetings in their offices.

Chile

May Day demonstrations in Santiago were marked by brutal repression by the Pinochet police who arrested over 1000 people. Many workers and students demonstrating outside the Presidential palace were injured. Police also raided the workers' quarters and terrorised the family members.

Belgium

Impressive demonstrations were held at Brussels and other Belgian cities calling for world peace and against the policy of the right wing government which over the last five years had "saved" 1000 billion France (20 billion dollars) at the expense of the workers. The most massive demonstration was held at Hasselt where the miners in the Nimburg region have been on strike since several weeks in protest against the government's plan to close down the last coal mines.

Japan

Over four million workers participated in the May Day celebrations in a number of Japanese cities. At Tokyo the demonstrators marched with banners demanding a ban on nuclear tests and condemning the adventurist policy of the Reagan administration.

South Africa

Despite wide spread repression to restore "order" by the armed police and soldiers of the racist regime which does not recognise the May Day, four million African workers struck work on May 1. They observed the May Day through a general strike. Winnie Mandela addressed a rally at Durban, which was attended by over 20,000 people. Brutal police actions on the strikers caused more than five deaths in the night of the

May Day. The racist police hounded the Africans in the township of Balfour and Germiston near Johannesburg and in Mauking in the Orange Province. The police opened fire on street demonstrators. Rallies were held in 23 different places throughout the country.

Philippines

Demonstrations in the Philippines were held despite provocations by the followers of the former dictator, Marcos. During a huge demonstration at Manila, which was addressed by the President Corazon Aquino, the police intervened brutally. One person was killed and several others injured.

Uruguay

Over 150,000 people gathered at Montivideo to celebrate May Day which was organised by the PIT-CNT Trade Union Centre. The rally severely criticised the government's policy which brought a difficult economic situation in the country and demanded negotiation with the trade unions by the government.

Paraguay

Restoration of democracy was the main demand of the workers in a May Day rally at Asuncion. Despite brutal intervention by the dictatorial government's police, several thousand people marched throughout the streets of the Paraguayan capital.

Nigeria

In several places at Lagos and other parts of the country the Nigerian workers held demonstrations, marches and rallies. They called for peace, for the right to work and for social justice.

Angola

The huge May Day rally held at Luanda was attended by workers, soldiers of the Peoples' Army and representatives of all sections of the Angolan society. The rally designated 1986 as the year of defence of the people's revolution and demanded of the USA to stop interfering in the internal affairs of Angola.

Zimbabwe

In the rally organised at the capital, Harare, people raised the slogan, "Accelerate economic and social progress, strengthen national unity and create a solid basis for the transition to socialist edification". The rally was addressed by the Prime Minister, Robert Mugabe, who stressed that the government will consistently make efforts to build a new society on the principles of scientific socialism.

Ethiopia

Thousands of workers and people participated in a rally at Addis Ababa. Addressing the rally, Mengistu Haile Mariam, General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia stressed to make Ethiopia a country where all powers will belong to the workers and the Peoples' Democratic Republic

of Ethiopia will be proclaimed following the broadest possible discussions on the draft constitution and after the general elections.

Vietnam

A big worker's rally was held in Hanoi to mark the centenary of the Chicago blood bath. Speaking on the occasion, Vice Premier Toy Huu recalled the great revolutionary transformations which characterised the world situation over the last hundred years.

Laos

In Vientiane, the May Day rally was addressed by Prime Minister Kavasone Phomvihane. He recalled the struggle of the people of the country in keeping with the revolutionary traditions of May Day and their resolve to achieve significant results in the economic and social sphere.

Kampuchea

A large May Day rally was held at Phnom Penh. Chea Sim, President of the National Assembly stressed that the revolutionary power in the Republic of Kampuchea was being consolidated and the working class, although still young, was taking increasingly important part in the national economy.

Cuba

Nearly 600,000 workers took part in the May Day celebrations at Cuba. The General Secretary of the Cuban Worker's Centre, Roberto Veiga drew attention of the workers that Cuba was one of the first countries in the American continent to celebrate May Day. He stressed that the active involvement of the workers in achieving the country's economic plans was the sign of the continuity of the Cuban revolution. May Day celebrations this year were held both in towns and in the countryside of Cuba.

Hungary

Addressing a huge rally at Budapest, the General Secretary of the Hungarian Workers' Socialist Party, Janos Kadar called for uniting all peace loving and democratic forces to safeguard peace against war. He called upon the workers to build a developed Socialist Society. He greeted all progressive forces in the world struggling for independence, freedom and for social progress.

G.D.R.

Berlin was the scene of a huge rally on May Day, which was participated by hundreds of thousands of workers. The rally was also attended by leaders of the Party and the State and many foreign guests. Addressing the rally, the FDGB President, Harry Tisch appreciated the tremendous efforts made by the workers to strengthen the nation and the socialist community. He reaffirmed the need to consolidate peace and promote a world without war. He appreciated the initiatives taken by the Soviet Union in this respect.

Poland

The main May Day rally was held at Grybowski Square, Warsaw which was attended by tens of thousands of people. Addressing the rally, the President of the Council of State and First Secretary of the United Workers' Party, Jarzelski said that the bourgeoisie today were using the same practices as they did a hundred years ago during the tragic Chicago events. The USA and its allies were replying to the peace initiatives of the Soviet Union by spiralling the arms race. He pointed out that despite the past difficult years and certain negative consequences, the country had the strength and determination to go forward and overcome them. He declared that the heated appeals of the enemy radios such as "Free Europe", calling for organising marches and rallies against the Socialist State, had failed once again. The May Day celebrations in Poland bore witness to the workers' determination to take active part in the developing world wide struggle for peace and also to take responsible part in advancing the socialist Government of the country.

Czechoslovakia

Hundreds of thousands of people participated in the May Day rallies all over the country. The President of the Republic alongwith other leaders attended the rally at Prague. The rallies reaffirmed the workers resolve to carry forward the struggle for peace and the tremendous development already achieved in industry, agriculture and other spheres of social life. The workers stressed their solidarity with the workers of other countries who were struggling against imperialism, for peace and social progress. Representatives of over fifty foreign trade unions were also present in the rally.

Soviet Union

Millions of workers participated in impressive rallies throughout the Soviet Union. The largest march was in Red Square at Moscow which was attended by the top leaders of the party and the state. It was also watched by foreign trade union delegations from 118 countries. The workers in the rally reaffirmed their determination to carry forward the struggle to safeguard peace and for peaceful cooperation with all peoples in the world. They also reaffirmed their determination to accomplish the important tasks in the economic and social field in the country's development, despite being compelled to divert substantial sums to military defence to safeguard the achievements of socialism from the war challenges by the imperialists led by the USA. The May Day celebrations were followed by an international trade union conference on peace on May 3 and 4. Addressing the conference, Stephen Shalayev, the President of the All Union Central Council of Trade Unions (AUCCTU), USSR appealed to the trade unions in all countries to mobilise and unite their efforts to further step up

the international struggle for peace and development. The year 1986 which has been designated as the International Year of Peace, should be devoted to unite all workers of the world in both the socialist and capitalist countries, and prove to be a turning point in the struggle against the looming danger of a nuclear war. Shalayev said that the persistence of the senseless arms race aggravated the problem of unemployment and led to price increases, higher taxes and restrictions on social spending. It also aggravated the already complex problems of the developing countries where over 500 million people were out of work currently. He condemned the policy and actions of the United States, which was going ahead to further aggravate the international situation pushing the mankind into a climate of mutual mistrust, terror and fear and threatening the world with a nuclear devastation.

(Contd. from page 9)

tion, payment of wages in terms of Court order to a large section of staff which has been arbitrarily stopped for nearly one year. The Secretariat Condemned the Govt. of India for not settling these demands which has forced them to resort to hunger strike and demanded immediate settlement of the just demands.

In respect of the strike in Delhi Textile Mills, the Secretariat condemned the intransigent attitude of the Mill owners, which has brought about the strike and demanded that the Mills be nationalised and the workers demands be settled through negotiation.

The Secretariat extended support to the strike by the cabin-crew of Indian Air lines and demanded that the Govt of India should intervene for a negotiated settlement of the issues.

The Secretariat denounced the action of the Racist South African Govt who besides mounting repression in the country had attacked the front line States on the specious plea that they have been helping the struggling people of South Africa. The reactionary Reagan Administration of U.S.A. and Margaret Thatcher Govt of Great Britain have shamelessly supported this act of terrorism by the state. The Secretariat called upon the entire working class of the country to raise their voice of protest by observing Anti-Apartheid Day on June 16, unitedly and make the programme adopted by 10 Central Trade Union Organisations a success.

The Secretariat responding to the appeal of WFTU extended support to the struggle of workers of BATA in South Africa.

The Secretariat also discussed various organisational matters and nominations. It heard the report about the meeting called by CLC (c) on verification on May 22 last which had again postponed taking a decision till the next meeting to be held in July '86. The Secretariat felt that a decision should be expedited.



THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

Make the National Integration Day a Success

B.T. Ranadive

ON 9th August all trade union centres will unitedly observe a common day to warn the people against the attack of the divisive forces and call on the workers to take the challenge to defend national unity and defeat its disruptors.

The initiative taken by the trade union movement is born out of its patriotic fervour of trade union organisation and its determination to throw the organised strength of the working class in the battle against the forces of disunity.

The initiative should have come much earlier because of the challenge and its brazen facedness was growing every day. The fact that all the Trade Unions including the INTUC have now taken a common decision to fight these forces is of great importance to the cause of Indian unity and freedom. The tens of lakhs mobilised under the banner of the Trade Union Centres, the Industrial Federations, the Railway Federations, the Confederation of Central Govt Employees, the State Govt. Employees Federation and Mercantile and Bank Federations constitute a mighty force which unitedly can rebuff the divisive offensive.

The working class composed of all communities—Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Harijans and Adivasis has repeatedly demonstrated its unbreakable class unity in the prolonged strike struggles. The workers have withstood together privations and hunger for months without wavering. Considerations of community or caste did not influence any section to break this solidarity in the class struggle.

If the working class plunges into the struggle for defending the nation's unity armed by this consciousness and backed by its organised strength, it will inspire all other sections to wage a determined battle to protect the integrity of the country.

The seriousness of the challenge is not yet seen by large sections of the working class and its trade unions. This is not an ordinary challenge of a few communal riots bursting out on this or that issue,

over hurt religious feeling of this or that community. Nor can the situation be compared with the earlier years after independence when there were large popular movement for the formation of linguistic states. Today it is a pre-planned attempt to destabilise the country, to cut it into several parts so that it can be easily converted into a dependency. Behind this all pervading conspiracy stands the hand of US imperialist which is out for dismembering the country.

The ruling Cong (I) Party and its Government are now forced to talk about the foreign hand behind the forces of destabilisation. It is now emphatically stated that the Khalistani terrorists in Punjab are trained on the soil of Pakistan and financed from there. Behind Pakistan stands the financial purse of the US and its expertise in organising terrorism and destabilisation in other countries.

The daily murder of innocent persons in Punjab is the handiwork of USA financed elements. The death toll of hundreds of people, the forcible migration of the minority from the state, untold miseries and sufferings inflicted on the innocent people constitute the instrument of the nation's enemies to create permanent discord in Punjab and detach it from the rest of the country. The unscrupulous enemy does not stop at anything in pursuit of its aims of dismembering India.

Earlier it made a similar assault in Assam. Its project Operation Bramaputra Valley was a blue print of a secessionist movement to cut off Assam and the North-Eastern region from the rest of India. Those who are now in the Ministry in Assam are still not free from separatist outlook and ambitions, and the secessionist danger in Assam is not yet over.

The British and US imperialists and Canadian Govt. have been openly helping and financing the Khalistani terrorists. UK refuses to send back to India terrorists wanted for murders and robberies. In the USA agencies have been training terrorists for sabotage. When its patronage for the terrorists got ex-

OBSERVE PEACE DAY ON SEPTEMBER 1

posed the US authorities made a show of taking some steps against them. In Australia and Canada the local Sikh terrorists are allowed to plan murders and assault Indian diplomats and or visiting dignitaries from the country. The imperialists and their stooges have left nothing undone to show their partiality for the secessionist terrorist movement.

Why is it so? Because a free India which refuses to join the U. S. bandwagon in international affairs weakens and obstructs imperialist plans for war and global domination. A free India is also an obstruction to unbridled imperialist exploitation of the country. The US imperialists therefore must attack the united strength of the country to reduce it to the status of their satellite. They would like India to be as much dependent on them as Zia's Pakistan.

The secessionist movement, challenges like Khalistan and Gorkha Land are to be fought by the people unitedly as a common struggle to defend the unity of the country. To consider them as a battle of one community against other is to play the game of imperialism. It is the enemies of the country that count on Sikh-Hindu conflicts and riots as a result of the Punjab situation. Some Hindu communal organisations in Delhi and elsewhere are helping imperialist machineries by rousing Hindu communal feelings over the happenings in Punjab. The situation cannot be met either by organising only the minority community in Punjab for defence as the Shiv Sena is doing there now.

The working class and trade union movement must uphold the banner of Hindu-Sikh unity. The working class of Punjab responded splendidly last month to the visit of the trade union delegation representing all Central Trade Unions and reaffirmed its faith in national unity. Every help is to be given to the trade unions in Punjab to carry on their fight in face of the determined challenge of the disruptive forces. The working class in other states especially in cities which has a sizeable Sikh population must guarantee that the minority is well protected and has no cause for concern from rabid Hindu communal or mercenary agencies of divisive forces.

The working class must also demand from Rajiv Govt. that the Punjab Accord must be immediately and fully implemented, and the transfer of the Chandigarh should not be delayed. This is no time for haggling over few acres of land when the nation is faced with a big challenge from imperialism. What is necessary is to rally the entire Sikh-Hindu mass in Punjab to fight the terrorists. The task will be immensely helped by the immediate implementation of the Accord. Delay is being exploited by the terrorists and unscrupulous leaders like Badal to torpedo the accord and create a new crisis.

It is equally necessary to assure full protection to the minority in Punjab which are the main target of the terrorists. It has to be noted however that a large number from the Sikh community also have

been killed by the same elements. The protection to minority has to be guaranteed by the united people and by the Government. Guarantee of such steps will foil the designs of the enemies of the nation to destabilise the state and end the dream of a separate Khalistan.

There is no doubt that the Barnala Government has shown a lot of vacillation in the past and has been unable to fulfill many obligations. It has mixed religion with politics and weakened itself. Nonetheless it has stood by the accord and announced its determination to fight the secessionists, whom it has denounced as elements financed and trained from abroad. Everything should be done to strengthen this resolve of the Barnala Government.

Difficult also is the situation in Kashmir and Assam which again calls for popular unity to defeat the forces of disruption. People do not feel assured either over the Mizoram Accord which has installed in power a person and a party known for their secessionist views and their links with organisations unfriendly to India.

The CITU trade unions in Assam and the working class led by them have been waging a determined struggle against the secessionists in the riots risking their limbs and lives. The entire working class of the country must support this valiant struggle of the workers of Assam and inspire the people all over the country to forge popular unity against the forces of dismemberment.

Equally dangerous is the challenge delivered through communal disruption, communal appeal, riots and sabotage. The communal reactionaries are now well supplied with arms to wreck vengeance on each other. Never before India was subject to so much internal discord as in the last four five years. What is the reason? communal reactionaries financed, encouraged, and patronised by the foreign resources are out to destroy the unity of the people and create permanent barriers between them. They preach hatred towards other communities in the name of religion to destroy all sense of national unity among the people. This is to paralyse and emasculate the people when the final attack for destabilisation is launched by the imperialist forces.

Muslim fundamentalists appeal to the Muslims as a separate people having nothing in common with the rest of the country. To keep them away from the common democratic struggle, they seek to enslave them to reactionary customs, anti-democratic practices and anti-national outlook in the name of religion. They recently demanded enslavement of Muslim women in the name of religion and opposed maintenance for a divorced Muslim wife as running contrary to the tenets of Islam.

What chance has secularism and national unity before this outlook? The entire appeal to religion is a device to destroy all secular and democratic values which bind the people together.

In opposition to the minority fundamentalism Hindu fundamentalists regard Muslims as virtual aliens and disrupt all sense of national unity. The Christian and the Sikh fundamentalists and others are all busy burying national unity and gathering their community as the separatist force with no obligation to the people and the country as a whole.

The unity that was built through years of struggle and sacrifice and through the blood of Indian people, the unity that chased the British after a heroic struggle is being attacked and buried by handful of mercenaries and reactionaries. Will the working class allow it? Will it tolerate the Indian people to be divided and enslaved again? The working class which has forged unity embracing members of all communities in its struggles must defeat this challenge and gather its forces to fight it. Its trade unions must embrace all sections and show in practice how all of them can unite to defend the integrity of the country. The working class cannot remain a mute spectator during com-

munal riots. Its united strength must be thrown against the rioters to defend the minority and the unity of the people. The unity of the people is not a law and order problem, not an administrative responsibility. It is the political responsibility of the entire working class.

The trade unions and working class must realise that the reactionary forces are often able to activate large sections of people by distorting and exploiting the economic mass discontent generated by the capitalist path. The stronger the economic struggle against the inequities of capitalist path, the more unitedly it is carried, the more effective blow would be delivered to the divisive forces.

The working class must also note that the Muslim mass which is susceptible to religious appeal, not only suffers from the common economic grievance along with rest of the people but also suffers from discrimination against the minority community. While fighting the appeal of minority communalism the working class must unitedly protect the Muslim

Comrade Le Duan

The Secretariat of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions, meeting at New Delhi on July 15, 1986 expresses profound grief at the passing away of Comrade Le Duan, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam at Hanoi on July 10, at the age of 79.

Comrade Le Duan, a close comrade-in-arms of Comrade Ho Chi Minh, was an outstanding leader of the working class and of the Vietnamese revolution, which was of international significance. Comrade Le Duan came from a working class family with tradition of patriotism and was conscious of the revolution at an early age. He was one the greatest Marxist-Leninist of the present era and as the leader of the Workers' Party and later the Communist Party of Vietnam, led the people arduously through the path of scientific socialism as propounded by Marx and Engels, based on proletarian internationalism. It was with this steadfast allegiance to the tenets of Marxism-Leninism that he worked under the leadership of Comrade Ho Chi Minh in the protracted struggle of the Vietnamese working class and the people in defeating the French and Japanese imperialists and then had to take up the reins to vanquish the mightiest imperialist power of the world — the USA. During the course of this protracted life or death battle of the Vietnamese people against the imperialists, Comrade Le Duan had to undergo imprisonment for a period of about 30 years and was deported twice to the Poulor Condor Islands. But even from the prisons

he alongwith other comrades led the struggle against the imperialists and organised political classes to build up workers for the liberation of the country. Within fifteen years as the First Secretary of the Party, Comrade Le Duan successfully led the Vietnamese people in dealing a crushing blow to the U.S. aggressors, liberating the South and reunifying the country, taking the whole nation towards socialism. The Communist Party of Vietnam under his leadership also worked for the liberation of Kampuchea and Laos and discharged its task of upholding the banner of proletarian internationalism to defend the revolution in Kampuchea when it was endangered by the despotic Pol Pot clique.

As a leader of the war ravaged country, Comrade Le Duan greatly valued international peace and did his best to preserve and promote it, welcoming all proposals of the Soviet Union and the Socialist block for genuine peace. He never yielded to the imperialist threats, blackmail and machinations, and throughout his revolutionary life made it clear that real and lasting peace cannot be established unless imperialism is rooted out.

The CITU dips its red banner in honour of the great departed leader and conveys its heartfelt condolences to the Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions, the working class and the people of Vietnam and to the bereaved members of his family.

mass against discrimination and emerge as powerful champion of the rights of minority community. This will be another blow to the fundamentalist appeals.

The working class and its trade unions cannot but criticise and sharply attack the opportunist policies of the Cong (I) and the Central Government run by it. The Cong (I) and the Central Government compromise with the forces of destabilisation and communalism to protect their electoral following. Under Hindu communal pressure Cong (I) Govt in UP offered unmitigated provocation to the Muslim mass when it decided to open the Babri Masjid/Ram Janam Bhoomi Temple. This has led to communal tension all over the country. The Central Government prostrated itself before the Muslim fundamentalists when it sponsored the notorious Muslim Women's (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Bill in the Parliament. This followed its debacle in the Assam elections due to loss of Muslim vote. The Cong(I) Party does not fight the divisive forces politically. It either relies on administrative measures or capitulates under their pressure.

The record of opposition bourgeois parties is also deplorable. They do not see the imperialist designs behind the divisive forces. They are prepared to use them for electoral gains. A leader of one of the opposition parties in Haryana is now openly denouncing the Punjab Accord and helping the game of the terrorists.

In contrast stands the record of the left parties and the united trade union movement of West Bengal. Defeat of Cong (I) in the recent municipal elections in the State was not only a rebuff to the Cong (I) party but also a rebuff to the divisive and communal forces and assertion of national and class unity. This is the model the working class and trade union movement have to follow.

The 9th August day should be widely observed. Every effort should be made to secure the mass participation of the workers and participation of their organisations. Let not any organisation of trade union remain outside the programme.

It is obvious that the constituents of the programme of the National Integration Day against divisive forces will represent view points which may not completely agree with each other. However, there is a keen desire to isolate the forces of disruption and assert the sense of national unity. All speeches and activities of the programme should be based on this common desire to wage a battle against the enemies of national unity.

Let the 9th August programme be the beginning of a massive and relentless battle against US plans to dismember the country, a battle to defend national unity. Let the disruptors know that the working class and its organisations will have the last word. Experience of modern times shows that

only the working class and its organisations can save the unity and integrity of the country overcoming all other sectional and sectarian considerations. It is the responsibility of India's working class and the trade union movement to discharge this historic task.

CPI(M) M.P.s Demand India's Withdrawal from Commonwealth Games

BASUDEB ACHARYA, M.P., Leader CPI(M), Lok Sabha and Dipen Ghosh, M.P., Leader, CPI(M), Rajya Sabha issued the following statement to the Press on July 15:

We note with concern that the Central Govt. is still dragging its feet to take a firm decision about withdrawal of India's participation in the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games, though certain African countries have already taken such a decision. We consider that India should also take a stand not to take part in the said Games, in the background of the aggressive offensives by the apartheid regime of South Africa on the people of South Africa, Namibia and their neighbouring countries and the British Govt's refusal to enforce sanctions against the racist South African regime. This stand, we feel, will be in conformity with the expressing of our country's solidarity with the people of South Africa, Namibia and other African countries against the apartheid regime in South Africa.

We, therefore, demand of the Central Govt. not to send Indian contingent for participation in the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games.

CITU Delegation to China

On the invitation of All China Federation of Trade Unions, a good will delegation of CITU will leave for China on August 5 for a three week visit to the country. The delegation consists of Jamini Saha, W.C. Member; Rajdeo Goala, General Council member (both from W. Bengal); C. Nanjundappa, G.C. member and General Secretary of the Karnataka State Committee of CITU and Ranjit Basu from the Central Office. The delegation will visit several places in China and is expected to return by August 30.

Central Govt Employees And the Fourth Pay Commission

Nrisingha Chakrabarty

THE Fourth Pay Commission has submitted on June 30 last the four-volume first part of their report dealing with Pay and Allowances of Central Govt Employees. It draws satisfaction that it has recommended such pay scales and allowances which would "enable a government employee to lead a clean, honest and respectable life at a standard compatible with what he likes to obtain or accept as reasonable at his level of living."

But the consternation and concern among the government employees for denial of parity in wages with public sector is universal and even the most ardent supporter of the Govt among the Central employees organisations in the JCM who initially were ready to welcome the report, have, on a study decided unanimously to observe a Protest Day on August 12. It is not that there are nothing to welcome in the report. There are some aspects, but on the main question of parity in emoluments with the Public Sector, the report has not done justice to the Govt employees.

Widening Gap in Emoluments

The Second Pay Commission while formulating the Pay Scales of Central Govt Employees had adopted a fair comparison formula and recommended pay scales not unfavourably compared with those prevailing in Banks, LIC for common posts like Peons, Clerks, Stenographers, Typists etc.

But what is the position today? The Pay Commission notes that "If the salaries of central govt employees at the lowest level are to be revised to bring them at par with those paid by public undertakings it would amount to an increase of about Rs. 320/- per month over the present emoluments". This is without HRA etc. A public sector employee of the lowest level gets a House Rent Allowance of Rs. 55/- in any unclassified cities (10 per cent of their basic pay) and Rs. 165/- in 'A' class city at the minimum (30 per cent of the basic pay).

Can there be any doubt that the recommendations of the Pay Commission of an increase of 20 per cent of their old basic pay which is 6 per cent or less of their present emoluments and works out such a small sum that an over-all minimum of Rs. 50/- had to be put in, would be considered unsatisfactory? Surely not and the Central Govt employees have articulated their protest through various means.

Back Ground of the Parity Demand

Before examining the arguments put forward by the 4th Pay Commission to deny parity in wages, it

is necessary to trace the wage fixation of Central Govt employees. During the Second World War, 'Rau Court of Enquiry' was set up to determine the minimum wage and they had recommended Rs. 25/- as the minimum in 1939 prices. The First Pay Commission fixed wages on a slightly lower scale which resulted in a dissent note by the labour representatives in the Commission. The Principle of automatic linking of D. A. to neutralise increase in prices was first propounded by the 1st Pay Commission. The Govt accepted this in principle but did not implement it. But such automatic linking has now become common for both public and private sector. The 1st Pay Commission hoped that as a "National" Govt is taking over the governance of the country, the employees will be given a 'fair wage' shortly. The Govt had also set up a "Committee on Fair Wages" (CFW) which stated that between need-based minimum which is a must for every industry/undertaking and a "living wage", fair wage should be determined on the basis of capacity of the industry to pay. It also said that those who are not able to pay the need-based minimum has no right to conduct business. The 15th Indian Labour Conference had unanimously recommended the norms for need-based minimum wage. As the Conference was Chaired by the Union Labour Minister, high hopes were roused that the Govt would accept the recommendation.

It was at this stage the Second Pay Commission came out with the "favourable comparison" formula, drawing its sustenance from the concept of "Equal Pay for Equal Work" and had chosen some common categories of office-employees. The Central Govt employees struck work for 6 days but were ruthlessly suppressed.

Another point of interest is that the wages in Public Sector undertakings established upto the year 1960 had more or less comparable scales of pay with Central Govt employees. In fact in 67 public sector undertaking including the Hindustan Steel Construction Ltd., the Central Govt pattern of scales of pay and D.A. formula are still in vogue.

The Public Sector employees had been able to make a break through in 1970s which was discernible in 1973 itself and now has gone to such a length. The Third Pay Commission admitted justifiability of the argument in favour of parity in wages. But did not grant parity on monetary consideration. They urged upon the Govt to restrain wage rise in Public Sector.

Gains Despite Wage Freeze

It is not that the Govt of India did not try to choke the wages of the public sector employees. In

1973-74 a general wage freeze was sought to be imposed. Since then the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) had tried to impose restriction of wages to 10 per cent, then to 12.5 per cent and then to link wages with increase in productivity and so on. But the Public Sector employees through united and determined struggle could secure these gains.

Nevertheless it must be noted that the Public Sector employees have not been able to secure need-based minimum wage as yet which as worked out by them comes to Rs. 1500/- on 600 points of C.P.I. which they have now demanded during the next phase of wage negotiation.

What the Pay Commission has Recommended

Before going into the tenability of the arguments offered by the 4th Pay Commission to deny parity in wage, it has to be put on record as to what has been recommended by the Commission.

On the question of Pay they have fixed the pay-scale on 608 points of C.P.I. (1960-100) with effect from 1.4.1986. The total emoluments of the Central Govt. employee, as was being drawn by him would be combined together and refixed in the new pay scales with a 20 per cent increase over the old basic pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 50/-. This increase constitutes 6 to 7 per cent of the total emoluments on 1.4.86.

On the question of Dearness Allowance, the Commission has recommended that it should be refixed twice in a year in September and March taking into account the yearly average as existing in the six months from January to June and then from July to December. The D.A. should be given as percentage of pay equivalent to percentage increase over 608 points ignoring fractions of points and amount both. The rate of neutralisation should be cent per cent for those drawing Rs. 3500/- as basic pay, 75 per cent for those drawing between Rs. 3501/- and Rs. 5000/- and 65 per cent for above.

On the question of House Rent Allowance (HRA) the earlier system of payment according to percentage of pay has been reversed. It has recommended that HRA should be paid to all who are not provided with Govt accommodation, including unclassified cities. The quantum of HRA has been fixed according to pay ranges and the eligibility of different types of accommodation. The cities belonging to A, B-1 and B-2, have been grouped together and given the same amount of HRA, i.e., Rs. 150/- as against Rs. 30/- or Rs. 20/- which they were in receipt of earlier, thus giving a nett increase of 120/- to Rs. 130/-. For 'C' class cities it has been revised to Rs. 70/- at the minimum while they were in receipt of Rs. 15/- only. This constitutes less than 10 per cent. For those in unclassified cities would get Rs. 30/- as minimum constituting only 4 per cent of revised pay.

Only those employed in A, B-1 and B-2 were

eligible for getting City Compensatory Allowance. The commission had maintained the same. Earlier it was 6 to 6.5 per cent for those in A cities. Now while the minimum amount has been raised by Rs. 18/-, the maximum has been increased by Rs. 25/- only. In terms of percentage however it has been reduced to 1.1 to 4.5 per cent.

There are some other fringe benefits like Traveling Allowance, Daily Allowance etc. which are in the nature of compensation for special jobs done and hence may be ignored. The quantum of Education Allowance has been increased but not commensurate with the rise in prices.

In the background of the unjust denials to the bulk of the C & D employees, the benefits given to A & B appear to be generous giving a elitist touch to the entire report. It has also to be admitted that since the First Pay Commission this section had suffered erosion in their real wages.

Attitude to Working Women

The Commission while recommending that the working women could take leave upto one year after delivery of the child on half pay or extraordinary leave without pay at the end of normal six week period of maternity benefit, restricted it to only two children. Even Education Allowance, Hotel Fees, Stipends etc, all have been sought to be limited to two children only. It has also gone one step further and stated that the maternity benefit of 3 months leave should be restricted to two children. It escapes one's imagination as to how a Commission under a sitting judge could make such a recommendation which is illegal in terms of the Maternity Benefit Act. This shows how the campaign for family planning has influenced rational thinking.

An Analysis

The Central Govt employees particularly the railwaymen are to a great extent angry. Because after the historic strike in 1974, more than 12 years have passed. Erosion of real wage during all this period was unabated. Apart from the irregularities in compilation of Consumer Price Index Numbers, the system of yearly average and rise upto 8 points for being eligible for one instalment of D.A. remained a single big source for erosion in real wages. For example on 1st April '86, when the yearly average had come to 608, the real number was at 643. So the Central Govt. employees are not getting any D.A. for 35 points. Every month such gap had been continuing for all these 12 years. It is well known that the Rath Committee had admitted as far back as in 1978 that there are irregularities in the C.P.I. numbers at least to 7 points. Hence the employees have been receiving much less than what they would have received if their D.A. entitlement was linked to points and not to yearly averages.

The new system which has recommended cent

per cent neutralisation for those drawing upto Rs. 3500/- (a welcome feature no doubt) would continue to keep the D.A. depressed on two counts, viz (i) Due to six monthly revision on yearly averages and (ii) Ignoring of fractions both in rise in C.P.I. numbers and also in D.A. The instances cited vide Annex-13. 1 (Para 1320) show that for a 4.76 per cent increase in prices, compensation would be only for 4 per cent. Similarly if the amount works out to Rs. 12.99p, the employee would get only Rs. 12.0 only. It is not understood as to why the accepted international norm of rounding off to the higher figure if the fraction is more than .5 and ignoring the same if it is less than .5 was not recommended. Equally it is not understood as to why the basic pay was not related to 600 points of C.P.I. which would have made all calculations easy. Perhaps it was done to ensure that fraction remains at all stages, which would be ignored. Besides the workers would not get any arrears of pay as compensation for the loss of real wage suffered by them.

The increased House Rent Allowance is no doubt an economic relief, though it is less than the public sector employees.

On the question of rate of increment also the workers at the lowest level are deprived. Earlier with a basic pay of Rs. 200/- at 200 points of CPI it was Rs. 3/- per year or 1.5 per cent of pay. With a basic pay of Rs. 750/- at 608 points the increment has been fixed at Rs. 8/- or 1.06 per cent of pay.

In essence it boils down to the fact that there would be a gross addition to the emoluments of the C.G. employees of Rs. 80/- or above. But the take home pay packet will be decreased by Rs. 44.25 per month on account of increased contribution to P.F., CGHS and Group Insurance Scheme etc. Thus the nett increase in hand would be Rs. 35.75 minimum while they would get less D.A. for about 35 points or above.

For those who are provided with Govt. accommodation, the gross increase is Rs. 50/- while they may have to pay an increased Quarter rent of Rs. 33/- or may get Rs. 17/- as nett increase. Taking into account the P.F. and other deductions of Rs. 44.25, their take-home pay packet will be Rs. 26.75 less.

Specious Arguments

What is most atrocious is that the Pay Commission tries the justify denial of wage parity. What are the argument? Firstly the public undertakings are not comparable because they were created for specific purposes — an argument which has no relation with policy of wage fixing which has been described in detail. Second is that there are differences in the packet of total benefits and emoluments of these two sections, which again is not true. Because after the Supreme Court judgement on Tulsiram Patel's case was delivered on 23.7.85,

the govt. employees are worse placed than the public sector employees. The third argument which they have offered is that "the job content of even a Peon or Messenger in the Central Govt. may not be similar in all respects with that in the public sector undertakings for a variety of reasons". This is not only contrary to fact, but also contradicts the considered opinion of the Second Pay Commission. Besides what should be the difference between the emoluments? Rs. 320/- as is existing now which comes to more than 40 per cent while the wage differential between an unskilled and highly skilled or a Peon and an UDC are near about that. What happens to the concept of horizontal relativity? To cap all the Commission argues that "there is no evidence of movement of any category of employees from the Govt. to the Public Sector." As if jobs are there for the asking and the Govt. servants declined to accept even if an opening was there. The fact is that while in the initial stages the public sector management wanted workers from railways and other departments, they stopped taking further people once their requirement was over.

The leaders of the J.C.M. had given the Pay Commission virtually an Olive Branch by demanding Rs. 950/- for 600 points while all others like AIREC, AILRSA etc. had asked for Rs. 1000/- or 1050/- for 500 points. This was lower than what was prevailing in the Public Sector by about Rs. 100/- or so and they are now demanding Rs. 1500/- at 600 points of CPI (1960=100). The Commission could have disarmed the C.G. employees movement if they had accepted this. The wailing that the total burden of the Pay Commission's recommendation would be Rs. 1280 crores or so is a bunkum, as more than 20 per cent posts are vacant.

Build up United Struggle

Despite some good recommendations about confirmation etc. the Pay Commission had not been able to do justice to the question of wages of Govt. employees. For over 12 years they were forced to live a life of privation. The Commission failed to bring an end to this. The State Govt employees who also want similar wages like the public sector and the Central Govt. employees have decided to observe August 21 as Demands Day. The AIREC, AILRSA and others have decided to hold a mass Dharna before the Prime Minister's residence on August 4. So far all have demanded that the Govt. modify the recommendation in favour of the workers. In case the Govt refused to do the same, the central govt employees are bound to overcome the present disunity and start a mighty movement to win their just demands. Let all forces who are interested about a common wage policy as was decided by the Committee on Fair wages and the 15th I.L.C. come together and fight for a proper wage policy.

CPI(M) M.P.s Visit Riot Affected Ahmedabad

SUKOMAL SEN and **Amal Datta**, CPI (M) Members of Parliament visited the riot affected areas of Ahmedabad and met the Union Minister of State, **Sri Chidambaram** and the Chief Minister of Gujarat on 16.7.86.

They visited some camps where the affected people have been sheltered and talked to the affected people and heard their harrowing tales. They also visited some of the worst affected localities of the city and gathered direct experience of what happened and how things happened from the local people. Besides, they talked to cross section of other people also.

During this visit they gathered the impression that the riot was the handiwork of an organised conspiracy by the arch communal forces operating in the state. Hell was let loose in the city and suburbs starting from the evening of 9th July, 1986 the day of Rath Yatra, by these communal force, combined with the rowdy and anti-social elements.

The Bundh of 12th July, 1986 organised by the Hindu Raksha Samity and other hard core communal organisations was calculated to further aggravate the situation.

The administration and the police remained almost paralysed and there was practically a free for all for the first three or four days till the deployment of para-military forces. The confidence of the minority community on the Govt. for their safety and security was shaken after their harrowing experiences during the days of arson, looting and killing. It also appeared that some forces were very much active in creating a sharp communal division between the two communities.

The callous and casual attitude of the Govt. became further clear from the fact that although the State Govt. appointed a Judicial Commission to enquire into the last year's riot, the Commission is yet to start functioning while another riot has flared up in the State. In fact, the State Govt. instead of fighting the communal forces in a determined manner and sternly dealing with the situation is pampering the communal forces as a vote catching device.

The CPI (M) MPs requested the Chief Minister to deal with the situation firmly without any compromise and take adequate measures to restore normalcy in the State and bringing back confidence among the people.

They also appealed to the citizens to assert themselves and come out courageously for restoring amity and peace between the two communities.

Newspaper Employees Plan Demonstration

THE National Confederation of Newspaper and News Agency Employees' organisations in an emergency meeting held at Delhi on July 2, under the presidency of **S.Y. Kolhatkar**, Vice-President of **CITU**, decided to organise demonstrations in front of the Parliament and the State Legislatures, demanding immediate implementation of the interim relief award. The meeting also strongly condemned the one day closure of newspaper establishments on July 1 by the employers because the Government doubled the interim relief awarded by the Wage Board. The meeting further condemned the rabid anti-labour attitude of the employers and the newspaper barons like **Bennett Coleman & Co.**, who had gone to the **Bombay High Court** for a stay order against implementation of the 15 per cent interim relief award but failed. The meeting also congratulated the employees for their persistent struggle which only compelled the government to enhance the paltry award granted by the Wage Board. The meeting also demanded removal of the present Chairman of the Wage Board for being guided by the interests of the employers. It demanded of the Government to take stern action against the employers who refuse to implement the award and called upon employees to make the demonstrations a success and prepare for further prolonged agitation.

CITU Demands Release of Nelson Mandela

Responding to the appeal made by **WFTU** within the framework of international solidarity action for the immediate release of **Nelson Mandela**, the **CITU** Secretariat in its meeting held on July 15 decided to send a postcard sent by **WFTU** to **P.W. Botha**, President of the South African racist regime, demanding the following:

- * Unconditional release of **Nelson Mandela** and the political prisoners and detainees in South African jails;
- * An immediate end to the abhorrent system of apartheid;
- * Majority rule Now in a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa;
- * Immediate withdrawal of murderous soliders and police from townships;
- * Unbanning of legitimate people's organisations including the African National Congress of South Africa.

The post card with the above demands was signed by **P.K. Ganguly**, Secretary.

Jute Strike On August 7

THE Jute Workers of West Bengal will observe one days' strike on August 7. Simultaneously, at the call of the Left Kisan organisations, there will be rural Bengal bandh on the same day. The decision of the strike was unanimously taken by all the seven Central Trade Unions in a meeting held on July 14 at the office of West Bengal State Committee of CITU, following the rejection of their demands of nationalisation of the jute industry, monopoly procurement of raw jute directly from the growers by the JCI etc. by the Government of India. An all party delegation had already met the Union Ministers and the trade unions had also submitted memorandum to the Prime Minister in this respect. The meeting was attended by Niren Ghosh, Kamal Sarkar, Mohd. Amin (CITU), Subrata Mukherjee, Lal Bahadur Singh (INTUC); Tarun Moitra (AITUC); Saral Deb (TUCC); Matish Roy (UTUC); Bibhas Ghosh (HMS) and Fatik Ghosh (UTUC-LS). The meeting of the Kisan Organisations was held on July 15 and attended by Paritosh Chatterjee (State Kisan Sabha); Kamal Guha (Aragami Kishan Sabha); Manoranjan Sur (W.B. State Kishan Sabha); Ashok Chowdhury (Joint Kishan Sabha) and Paritosh Sarkar (Kishan and Agricultural Workers' Sangha). The 8-point demands raised include nationalisation of the jute industry; monopoly purchase of raw jute directly from the growers by the J.C.I.; procurement price of Rs. 600/- per quintal for W-5 raw jute and Rs. 400/- per quintal for Mesta; ban on import of raw materials for synthetic bags; full implementation of the 1984 tripartite agreement; inclusion of 50 per cent of workers' representatives in the Board of Directors; fixation of the prices of jute products by the State Govt.; etc. The meeting of the trade unions was presided over by Subrata Mukherjee of INTUC, who stated in a statement that although the meeting did not decide about a general industrial strike in Bengal, but another meeting to be held shortly in INTUC office will discuss about this point.

The Left Front of W. Bengal in its meeting on July 15 supported the Jute strike and the rural Bengal bandh on August 7. In a statement, Saroj Mukherjee, Chairman of the Left Front said that the rural Bengal Bandh will cover all villages, schools, colleges, offices, courts, districts, markets, etc. It will however not cover greater Calcutta, the industrial areas of Howrah, Barackpore, Asansol, Durgapur, Kharagpur etc., the tea gardens and the railways. The Congress (I) has, however, opposed the rural bandh and will actively oppose it. Saroj Mukherjee said that the State had raised a number of demands to the Central Government which are vital for the working class and the people. If the Centre does not concede the demands, there may be a state wide general industrial strike.

On July 22, Dipen Ghosh (CPI-M) raised a calling attention motion at Rajya Sabha. On refused of the Govt to nationalise jute industry and monopoly purchase of jute from the growers by the JCI, the entire opposition walked out.

Delhi Textile Strike Continues

THE united strike of the Delhi textile workers has now continued for nearly two months due to the adamant and anti-labour stance taken by the mill owners and the incalculant attitude of the Delhi Administration and the Central Government. The indefinite strike started on May 28 in pursuance of 11-point demands (reported in the last issue). Several negotiations were conducted during the period but the mill owners remained adamant not to concede the workers' demands. On the contrary, they are insisting for a productivity linked interim wage. The pro-monopoly and anti-labour attitude of the Central Government was laid bare when even the Prime Minister stated in the Parliament that he will not allow the trade union leaders to hold the country to ransom. Such attitude of the Government and irresponsible utterances by the Prime Minister gave a filip to the mill magnates.

The 20,000 workers, however, have remained undeterred, drawing support from various other trade unions and mass organisations. Having already courted arrest on June 12, and despite hundreds of charge-sheets, dismissal of trade union functionaries and involvement in false charges, the strike has taken more militant form during the period with a series of actions.

The CPI(M) initiated a meeting of the opposition parties which staged a dharna before the Prime Minister's residence on June 13. On July 8, thousands of workers demonstrated before the Parliament at Parliament Street and courted arrest. Then on July 10, the Central Trade Unions organised dharnas before the various Labour Offices under Delhi Administration at Rajpur Road, Karampura, Shahdra and Kalkaji. On July 16 again, the opposition parties organised a mass meeting at Parliament Street and also courted arrest. Basudev Acharya, the leaders of the CPI(M) group in Lok Sabha addressed the meeting among others. On July 18, the Central Trade Unions organised a massive procession from Ferozeshah Kotla Ground to Boat Club, where a rally took place, which was addressed by Hannan Mollah, MP, CPI(M) and others. Later, the workers courted arrest there. The same day, hundreds of women volunteers of the Janwadi Mahila Samiti demonstrated before the main gate of Parliament and blocked the passage for more than two hour and then courted arrest. Sukomal Sen, MP, CPI(M) raised the question in Rajya Sabha and Saifuddin Chowdhury in Lok Sabha on July 22. The State Committee of the Central Trade Unions have decided to call for a general industrial strike in Delhi on July 28 in support of the textile workers' struggle.

Late News : On July 24, the management of Ajodhya Textile Mills, an NTC mill, arrived at an agreement with the Unions agreeing to pay Rs. 70/- p.m. as interim relief, not to victimise the workers for the strike, etc. The strike was withdrawn in this mill, but continues in the other private owned mills. Welcoming the settlement, the CITU has demanded nationalisation of the private mills.

Protest Action by Railwaymen

RECOMMENDATIONS on pay, dearness allowance and other related matters made by the Fourth Central Pay Commission which has submitted its report to the Government of India on 30th June had not just disappointed the railwaymen and other central govt employees all over the country, it evoked serious resentment among the railwaymen, leading to protest demonstrations being held in front of the Divisional Railway Managers' offices throughout India on July 14. Call for the demonstration was given by the All India Railway Employee's Confederation (AIREC). The working committee of AIREC meeting at Samastipur on May 17-18, decided to hold protest demonstrations in case the Pay Commission is found to deny wages based on principle of parity with public sector undertakings, complete, neutralisation of price rise through automatic increase in DA, when its report comes out. Already there was sufficient indication in the press of rejection of the parity principle by the Commission.

LRSA: S.K. Dhar, Secretary General of ALRSA which is a constituent of the AIREC and joint convenor of National Campaign Committee for Railwaymen assailed the recommendations of the Pay Commission in a statement issued immediately after publication of its report. He accused that like all other pay commission, this commission has also cheated the workers fixing Rs. 750 as minimum wage at 608 points of consumer price index, denying the most legitimate demand of the central govt employees for wage parity with public sector undertakings like the ONGC at Rs. 1030 at 500 point CPI. He pointed out that the pay scales recommended for the running staff also are far from satisfactory though the commission claimed that a better deal had been extended to them. He commented that even the demand for a minimum pay of Rs. 800 at 500 point of CPI and Rs. 950 at 600 point CPIs submitted by the JCM organisations, a demand which was itself below a truly parity wage, has been denied by the commission. At least after this experience he said the JCM organisations should understand reality and come forward to build up a powerful united struggle to achieve real parity in wages. Dhar called upon all organisations of railwaymen and other Central Government employees to launch immediate protest against the injustice done by the pay commission.

AIRCCA: In a similar statement B.P. Chowdhury, General Secretary. All India Railway Commercial Clerks' Association denounced the retrograde recommendations of the Fourth Central Pay Commission and has given a call for building up united movement of all trade unions.

Eastern Railway: At the call of the AIREC demonstrations in protest against the retrograde recommendations of the Pay Commission were held on 14th July in all the Divisions of Eastern Railway in front of respective DRMs. In Sealdah Division over one thousand railwaymen assembled before the DRM's Office and demonstrated their resentment for some hours by shouting slogans and through speeches. The demonstration in Dhanbad division also was participated by about a thousand workers. Large demonstrations were also held in other divisions of the railway.

South Eastern Railway: In Bilaspur division, several hundred workers marched in a procession to the DRM Office and held the demonstration. Hundreds of workers demonstrated in front of the DRM Office at Chakradharpur. Similar demonstration were held in other divisions also. Demonstrators at the South Eastern Railway Headquarters were addressed by S.K. Dhar, Secretary General, LRSA. In Khurda Division a deputation met the Divisional authorities.

North Frontier Railway: In Alipurduar the demonstration was preceded by a week long explanatory campaign during which gate meetings, workers' meetings etc were held. Similar campaign was carried out in New Bongaigaon also. Demonstration was held in Tinsukia for the first time since the Assam agitation started. The demonstrators on all Railways submitted to the respective DRM's memorandum voicing the workers' protest against retrograde Pay Commission recommendation as well as the demands of railwaymen.

Dharna on 4th August: The AIREC Central Office Bearers meeting held in Delhi on 20-7-86 expressed its serious discontentment after detailed examination of the Pay Commission report, which has given a further of life to the colonial character of the existing wage structure of Central Government employees, and decided to expose and so called "better deal" towards Government employees. The meeting ratified the NCCR decision for holding a protest Dharna on 4th August in front of Prime Minister's residence and decided to consider further course of action in the full Working Committee meeting to be held on 4th August. The meeting appealed to all Central Government Employees' Organisations for united struggle.

Protest Day on 12th August: The Working Committee of AIRF held on July 14-15 at Delhi decided to observe Protest Day on 12th August unitedly with other JCM organisations. The meeting also discussed the question of a National Convention
(Continued on page 11)

Bank Employee's Struggle

ORGANISED under the Bank Employees Federation of India, the bank employees all over India staged dharna on July 15. The dharna was staged demanding withdrawal of ban on recruitment, filling up all vacancies, against automation and computerisation, against premature retirements and against the mass transfer policy.

The BEFI had repeatedly brought to the notice of the managements, the Govt and the public that the customer services would create problems, despite all sincerity of the employees, unless the necessary complement of staff commensurate with the increasing volume of work are provided with. The growing volume of work necessitated an annual average increase in the staff strength to about 25,000 to 30,000. But for the last three years the Government's dictum to ban recruitment had its natural impact on services, when the transactions have gone up enormously. Resultantly, the in-house work gets accumulated, for which the employees and the ordinary officers are held responsible. Apart from ban on recruitment, premature retirements have further complicated smooth functioning in the banks. In such circumstances, the Government's propaganda that the banks are over-staffed is nothing but a canard, and is only to justify its policy of automation and computerisation to retrench personnel at an unwarranted colossal cost of Rs. 500/- crores. The monstrous scheme of computerisation will result in rendering 50,000 to 1,00,000 bank staff redundant within a short time.

As since its inception BEFI is agitating on these burning problems affecting the employment security of the bank employees, its cadres have been particularly the target of attack and victimisations. However, despite the repressive measures, BEFI is continuously advancing agitational programmes including strike actions. After countrywide demonstrations on June 26 and rallies on July 8, the July 15 programme was another successful protest action against the anti-labour policies of the Government and the managements.

Dharna by Gramin Bank Employees: The Regional Rural Bank employees (Gramin Banks) similarly are also victims of the Government's anti-labour policies. The employees, totalling about 65,000 all over India, suffer from destabilities inherent in the RRB Act itself. Their wages vary from state to state and are much lower than the Commercial banks. Led by the All India Regional Rural Bank Employees Association, the employees are on agitation demanding equal pay for equal work and uniformity in wage structure all over India; regularisation of messengers (sub-staff) who are treated as casual labour; recognition of negotiating forum; pay scale for area managers, etc. At the call of the AIRRBEA, the employees will converge at Boat Club on July 29 from all over India to stage a

dharna in pursuance of the demands. The BEFI has extended full support to their movement and called upon all its units to demonstrate solidarity and champion their demands also alongwith the BEFI demands.

CPI(M) M.P.s Visit Kansara Village

SATYAGOPAL MISHRA and M.A. Baby, CPI(M) Members of Parliament visited on 17.7.1986 Kansara Village under Karti Police Station of Bihar where 8 persons belonging to agricultural labourers family of Kahar community have been killed in a combined attack of the landlord, upper castes and their goondas on 8.7.1986 following a dispute over the right for fishing in a pond. Among the 8 persons who were killed were six women. Two children were missing. Police had arrested only one culprit. People belonging to Kahar community of Kansara have already left the village. The Chief Minister of Bihar visited the place on 15.7.1986. On the tenth day of the incident the victims received only 7 days' nominal relief. Relief works are not adequate. More than 250 people with all their belongings are put into a small school building having only 8 rooms. No monetary support to construct their houses have been given so far. In the relief camp there is no medical unit. The Members of Parliament demanded: Immediate arrest of the culprits; immediate rehabilitation of the victims and total relief to the victims for one year.

The MPs also expressed their serious concern over the connivance of the administration with the criminals. Bihar State administration including police openly supports upper caste landlords and goondas when they commit atrocities of inhuman nature on Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other oppressed sections of the people, who are mainly agricultural labourers.

(Continued from page 10)

and huge rally in the capital. The United Committee of Railway, Defence, P&T other Central Government Employees in the eastern region will meet in Calcutta on 24th July to consider observance of the "Protest Day" on 12th August unitedly by both JCM and non JCM organisations.

Railwaymen abroad

Turky Locomen Resist Excess Time Work: In the latest of what the authorities are calling acts of "resistance" engine drivers in Ankara, Turkey, refused to take trains out between 3 pm and 5 pm claiming that they are being forced to work overtime against their will. — *Transport Review, NUR, UK.*

Airline Employees' Agitation

THE Air Corporation Employees' Union, Bombay Region, had submitted a 34-point Charter of Demands to the management on June 12. On repeated representation made by the union for opening discussions on the demands, the management had assured the union leadership that 12 points out of the 34-point demands will be discussed by the Regional Director on July 3, which included withdrawal of suspension order from several employees who were made victims of a false enquiry report. But the attitude meted out by the Regional Director was extremely dictatorial and autocratic from the very beginning. Hardly 3 points were discussed, when the Regional Director put an end to the discussions stating that he cannot discuss for more than one hour. The meeting thus ended abruptly without any progress at all. Reacting to the rabidly anti-labour and arrogant attitude of the Regional Director the union held an emergent meeting and decided to launch a protest walk out and demonstration on July 4. The union has also planned to hold a series of meetings in all places to explain to the members the attitude of the management and prepare them for further struggle to achieve the settlement of the demands.

Meeting of NJCS

A meeting of the National Joint Committee of Steel Industry was held at Delhi on July 4 and 5. The meeting was attended by Mrinal Banerjee, V.K. Mohanty, P.K. Mukherjee, N. Mishra, A. Roy, R. Singaravelu, C.S. Tewari and D. Bhattacharya from the SWFI. Although the meeting was supposed to discuss the new charter of demands, but it was not discussed as the INTUC had not submitted any charter of demands. The management therefore utilised the meeting in highlighting and showing slides about the cost of labour, drop in productivity, rise in workers' wages etc, aimed at defeating the workers' claim for higher wages. The CITU and most of the other unions protested against the management's attitude. Besides, the management also shamelessly propagated the demand of INTUC to include its minority union at Salem in the NJCS to side tract the demand for inclusion of the CMOs. The Salem INTUC union recently lost all Centeen Committee seats to the CITU union. In verification also the CITU's majority has been established. Due to protests by CITU, the management however, assured to discuss the Charter of Demands in the next meeting to be held on August 12 and 13,

Consumer Price Index Numbers

(Base 1960)

State/Centre	Mar. 1986	April 1986	May 1986									
				Bangalore	713	715	732	Coonoor	680	686	690	
				Chikamagalur	625	632	632	Madurai	658	660	672	
				Kolar G.F.	638	647	658	U.P.				
Andhra Pradesh				Kerala				Kanpur	648	647	648	
Gudur	569	566	552	Alleppey	690	692	714	Saharanpur	649	651	642	
Guntur	669	668	670	Alwaye	682	668	692	Varanasi	724	723	729	
Hyderabad	647	651	669	Mundakayam	627	624	636	West Bengal				
Assam				Madhya Pradesh				Asansol	637	642	642	
Digboi	634	644	654	Balaghat	639	659	663	Calcutta	622	628	639	
Doom Dooma	498	507	526	Bhopal	723	731	744	Darjeeling	544	543	556	
Labac	473	477	481	Gwalior	652	641	644	Howrah	591	598	601	
Mariani	495	503	506	Indore	701	704	712	Jalpaiguri	508	520	536	
Rangapara	484	503	512	Maharashtra				Raniganj	574	583	590	
Bihar				Bombay	678	692	701	Delhi Territory	679	690	683	
Jamshedpur	603	611	628	Nagpur	648	654	656	Other Centres				
Jharia	539	547	553	Sholapur	674	662	665	Berhampur ('49)	861	859	886	
Kodarma	625	637	640	Orissa				Cuttack ('49)	831	843	854	
Monghyr	630	631	652	Barbil	579	582	683	Jabalpur ('49)	826	836	848	
Noamundi	550	553	555	Sambalpur	649	656	676	Beawar ('51-52)	738	723	725	
Gujarat				Punjab				Tripura ('61)	577	602	612	
Ahmedabad	609	620	632	Amritsar	636	648	643	H.P. ('65)	467	470	475	
Bhavanagar	678	699	703	Rajasthan				Goa ('66)	492	492	505	
Haryana				Ajmer	633	640	648	Bhilai ('66)	414	419	423	
Yamunanagar	643	645	634	Jaipur	659	637	650	Bhilwara ('66)	413	413	410	
J. & K.				Tamil Nadu				Chhindwara ('66)	338	340	342	
Srinagar	694	703	760	Madras	649	644	647	Kothagudem ('66)	423	421	431	
Karnataka				Coimbatore	687	691	693	Rourkela ('66)	429	437	440	
Ammathi	635	630	656					All India ('60)	638	643	651	

(Figures in bracket indicate base year)

AROUND THE STATES

BIHAR

May Day Centenary Celebrations: The Bihar State Committee of CITU organised May Day Centenary celebrations in all districts of the State from May 1 to 7. The State centre printed 45,000 badges and 10,000 posters and distributed the same to all industrial centres.

The Patna a massive procession was taken out on May 1, jointly with AITUC, which culminated in a rally in front of the Reserve Bank. The rally was addressed by Srikant Sharma of CITU and K.K. Gopalan of AITUC apart from leaders of various other trade unions. Another rally was held in front of BATA shoe factory on May 2, which was addressed by Yogeshwar Gope, the State CITU President. The CITU unions at Ranchi and Hatia organised rally and public meeting on May 1. On May 4, the Coordination Committee organised a Seminar at Hatia, which was addressed by Yogeshwar Gope. At Lohardaga, the CITU unions organised rallies, public meetings and seminars from May 1 to 6. At Jamshedpur, a big public meeting was jointly organised by CITU and AITUC, which was addressed by Yogeshwar Gope and Chaturanan Mishra, the President of AITUC. The CITU unions continued the celebration organising seminars, etc. At Hazaribagh, the May Day Centenary Committee alongwith the Colliery Labour Union decorated the entire town and the colliery areas with red flags. Thousands of leaflets were distributed. Several rallies were addressed by Chandni Prasad, State General Secretary, Ramnika Gupta and Nand Kishore. The Giridih District Committee of CITU observed the centenary, from May 1 to 7 in all the industrial centres with rallies, public meetings and cultural shows. At Dhanbad, Jharua and Nirsua the CITU unions held celebrations for several days. A big rally was held at Children's Park on May 1. A seminar was held on Imperialism. The DVC Shramik Union organised seminars on May 11 and 12 at Panchet and on May 23 at Maithon. At Motihari, the celebrations were organised under the banner of the Centenary Committee. The rally was addressed by leaders of CITU, AITUC and other organisations. The rally demanded holiday on May 1 and trade union right to the Government employees. CITU distributed 1000 copies of its Manifesto in the rally. Similar rallies were held at Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Deogbur, Sahibganj and Dumka. At Begusari, CITU organised rallies in the village areas also participated by fertiliser and beedi workers in large numbers. At Bettiah a public meeting was organised by CITU.

Joint Movement in Fertilizer Plant: The workers of the Hindustan Fertilisers Corporation, a Central Public Sector undertaking at Barnuni are on struggle demanding recruitment of contract workers as regular employees in 173 vacancies advertised by the management. It was the long standing demand

of the contract workers who were engaged in perennial jobs for absorption as regular employees. The management also agreed with the Joint Action Committee consisting of the Mazdoor Ekta Kendra and the Urvarak Karkhana Shramik Sangh that recruitment would be given from the contract workers. But violating this agreement, the management in conjunction with the so-called recognised union and INTUC started recruitment from other sources. When the workers went on agitation, the management deployed hoodlums to beat up the union activists. On June 2, the hoodlums entered the factory and beat up several workers. The workers launched protest actions and hunger strike from June 3. On June 16, M.A. Baby, M.P., CPI (M), met the Union Minister of State for Fertiliser alongwith the representatives of the unions and submitted a memorandum to him. The Minister assured to take suitable measures on the issue.

KARNATAKA

May Day Centenary Celebrations: As a part of the May Day celebrations, the CITU State Committee distributed 2000 copies of the CITU Manifesto in Kannada language. It also brought out 3000 special number copies of CITU Sandesha, 800 copies of May Day and the Tasks of the Working Class by V.J.K. Nair, in Kannada and 5000 copies of a pamphlet on unemployment in Kannada by C. Nanjundappa.

CITU flags were hoisted over the quarters of the workers from May 1 to 31 at Kolar Gold Fields, Gulbarga, Dandeli, in coffee plantations and other places. A state convention on unemployment was held on May 22 at Bangalore, which was inaugurated by B.T. Ranadive, President, CITU (*report published below*). Seminars were also organised for three days on Trade Unions and Social Changes at Harihar in the first week of May. At Bangalore on May 1 a massive procession of about 25,000 workers was jointly organised by CITU, AITUC and several other organisations of Central Government Employees, BEFI, AIIEA, HAEA, etc. The procession culminated in a mass rally at National High School ground, which was addressed among others by Suryanarayana Rao (CITU), M S Krishnan (AITUC), Keshav Murthy (State Govt Employees), etc. As a preparation of the rally, about one lakh leaflets were distributed, 5000 posters pasted, 50,000 badges and joint manifesto distributed and CITU conducted week long street corner meetings and processions. At Managlore, CITU and AITUC jointly organised a public meeting on May 1. At Coondapara, the CITU unions organised rallies and public meetings. At Udipi, CITU and AITUC jointly organised a rally and public meeting. At Hassan also joint rallies were held. CITU distributed 2000 leaflets. At Mysore, the celebration was jointly conducted on May 1 by CITU, AITUC, various other trade unions, SFI, DYFI and the Iranian and Palestinian Students' associations. As a part of the anti-war programme, a big procession was taken out and an effigy of the war monger Reagan was burnt. Picture exhibitions of the two

world wars were held and on 7th, dramas and movies entitled, "Down with Imperialism" and "Return to Life" were exhibited. In a similar programme another effigy of Reagan was burnt at Vamanjoor. At Bhadravati, a big joint procession of various trade unions and a public meeting was held. The CITU unions also organised rallies and meetings at Belthangadi, Kustagi, Akkialoor, Sirsi, Shimoga, Tiptoor, Hunsoor, Chamraj Nagar, Kuppevadavu, Surathkal, Kadur and other places.

Convention of Plantation Workers: The Karnataka State Convention of Plantation Workers was held at Chikmagalur on May 17 and 18. 145 delegates and observers including 16 women from the three plantation districts of Chikmagalur, Hassan and Kodagu attended the convention. C. Nanjundappa, while welcoming the delegates condemned planters who attempted to pull down the red flags hoisted by the plantation workers at their quarters as a part of the May Day Centenary celebrations. A number of delegates had to stay back at their places to defend the red flag. Inaugurating the convention, Vimala Ranadive, General Secretary of the All India Plantation Workers' Federation deplored the indifferent attitude of the Government towards the manifold problems of the plantation workers, lakhs of whom were kept as temporary, casual and contract workers and were deprived of the statutory benefits. She called upon the workers to intensify the struggle demanding nationalisation of the plantations owned by Indian and foreign monopoly capital without compensation. N.K. Upadhyaya released a book written by C. Nanjundappa on thirty years of plantation Workers' Movement. The convention was greeted by Bimal Singh, Vice-President of the Federation and Deputy Speaker of the Tripura Legislative Assembly; T.S. Māni, M.L.A.; M.M. Rajamma, Convener of the State Working Women's Co-ordination Committee and V. Sukumar. Nanjundappa placed a report on the conditions of the State plantation workers. Fifteen delegates including one woman participated in the discussion on the report. After discussions the convention decided to observe June 16 as the All India Demands Day; to conduct two weeks post card movement demanding of the State Government to notify rules under Plantation Labour (Amendment) Act, 1981; for upward revision of minimum wage to 5 paise per point and observe an All India Week in September to demand implementation of the welfare provisions of Plantation Labour Act and its amendment. The convention also adopted resolutions in support of the 4-month long strike of the Muruga Estate workers and the struggle of Jenkolli Estate workers. It elected a 12-member Co-ordination Committee with C. Nanjundappa as the Convener to co-ordinate the struggles of the plantation workers in the state.

Meeting of Co-ordination Committee: The first meeting of the Co-ordination Committee was held at Hassan on June 25. The meeting heard reports of observance of June 16. The workers in Bhagya Estate in Hassan District and the Mylemoney and Sulimane Estates in Chikmagalur district went on strike on the day and staged dharnas. The workers

also took out processions and then demonstrated before the District Planters' Associations. In Kodagu district no demonstration could be organised due to incessant rains.

TRIPURA

Strike by Plantation Workers: The plantation workers all over the state went on strike on June 16 in observance of the All India Day as decided by the conference of the All India Plantation Worker's Federation. The strike was hundred per cent successful. All the tea gardens, coffee plantations and the rubber plantations were completely paralysed by the strike. Organised under the CITU, about 8000 tea plantation workers 5000 rubber plantation workers 1000 and coffee plantation workers joined the strike. To mobilise the workers, a state level convention was held at Agartala on June 9, which was attended by over 150 delegates from all the plantations.

Following the convention, division-wise and gardenwise conventions, rallies, demonstrations and campaigns were organised in which apart from the plantation workers, workers from other trade unions, kishans, agricultural workers and students participated. The strike was opposed by the State INTUC with their full strength. The plantation owners also deployed anti-socials and goondas to intimidate the workers. But the workers unitedly faced the disruptionists and made the strike a complete success.

UTTAR PRADESH

Indefinite Strike by Electricity Workers: The electricity workers of U.P. are on indefinite strike since July 11 in pursuance of their long standing 11 point of demands, which include removal of wage disparities, rent free residential quarters, Rs. 1000/- as minimum salary, at least three promotional opportunities, cent per cent neutralisation of Dearness Allowance, etc. The workers went on a day's token strike on June 11. But the authorities remaining still adamant, the workers were left with no alternative than to go in for indefinite strike. The Government in pursuance of its rapid anti-labour policies have unleashed repressive measures on the workers, dismissing a number of them from services and getting the leaders arrested. But despite the repressive measures the strike has remained successful. In statements issued on July 11 and 15, the CITU and AITUC condemned the attitude of the government and demanded immediate negotiated settlement. *(The strike has been withdrawn from July 22 after an agreement).*

Indefinite Strike by Spinning Mill Workers: Organised under CITU, about 4000 workers of the State Cooperative Spinning Mills of Amroha, Nagina, Kashipur, Etawah, etc, are on indefinite strike since June 13 and 16 respectively, demanding implementation of labour laws, regularisation of temporary workers, etc. Before launching the indefinite strike the workers had to go through long drawn agitations which included relay hunger strike

from May 29 and one day's token strike on June 3. But the managements remained adamant and the state government intensified its repressive machinery to beat up the workers and arrest hundreds of them. In a statement on July 12, Daulat Ram, the General Secretary of the UP State Committee denounced the government's anti-labour actions and demanded immediate settlement of the workers' demands. Later on July 15, a delegation of the CITU consisting of Harsahay Singh, Daulat Ram, Ravi Sinha, Albel Singh, Kamalapati Tripathi and Munna Prasad met the State Labour Secretary and the Joint Secretary and informed them that unless the government takes measures to settle the workers' demands, the textile workers from all over the state would stage a dharna at the residence of the State Labour Minister.

Strike of Engineering Workers: Jointly led by the CITU and AITUC, the workers of the engineering industry and the engineering foundry workers have decided to go in for one day's token strike on August 11 in pursuance of their 21 point demands. The decision was taken in a joint meeting at Lucknow on July 5. The engineering workers of UP are extremely low-paid. They have demanded emoluments and DA at par with that prevailing in West Bengal. In case the employers remain adamant to resolve the demands, the second phase of the movement will include conventions, rallies, dharnas and demonstrations. In a joint statement issued on July 18, CITU and AITUC have warned the government that the workers may be compelled to go in for an indefinite strike if the demands are not settled.

Demonstrations by Kishans: The UP State Kishan Sabha in its meeting held on June 9 decided to organise demonstrations before the District Magistrates on July 2 and submission of memoranda containing the demands formulated by the Golden Jubilee Kishan Conference held at Patna. Accordingly, demonstrations were held before the different District Magistrates. As per reports so far, in 15 districts, thousands of kishans and agricultural workers participated in the demonstrations and submitted the demand memoranda. More than 40,000 leaflets were printed by the State Kishan Sabha for the campaign.

W. BENGAL

Conference of DVC Shramik Union: The Third central Conference of DVC Shramik Union was held at Durgapur Thermal Power Station Township from April 11 to 13. The conference was inaugurated by Prabir Sengupta, Minister of Power, W. Bengal and greeted by P.C. Malik, M.P., Dilip Mujumdar, MLA, Tarun Bhattejee, MLA and others. It also received messages of greetings from Jyoti Basu and Samar Mukherjee. About 450 delegates from all the DVC formation and substations attended the conference. The General Secretary's report was placed by K.H. Batabyal, which was discussed by 40 delegates and adopted. The conference took a resolution affiliating the union with CITU, which was applauded by the delegates shouting slogans and blasting crackers. After the conference, a massive procession and rally was held on

13th which was addressed by various leaders. The conference elected a Central Committee with Sushil Chakravarty and K.M. Batabyal as President and General Secretary respectively.

Conference of WBMSRU: The First Annual Conference of W. Bengal Medical and Sales Representatives Union (CITU) was held at Calcutta on July 5 and 6. The conference was attended by about 800 delegates. The conference was inaugurated by Lakshmi Sen, the State CITU leader. Among those who addressed the conference were Gobindo Guha, General Secretary of W. Bengal Branch of AICAPEF; Dr. Gouripada Dutta; Paritosh Chatterjee, the State Kishan Sabha Leader; J.S. Majumdar, General Secretary, George Verghese, President and C.S. Sharma, Secretary of FMRAI, and P.K. Ganguly, Secretary of CITU. The proceedings were conducted by a presidium consisting of Niranjan Mukherjee, Sukhendu Ghosh and Jyotish Dutta. Giridhari Goswami placed the General Secretary's report which was discussed by about 50 delegates and adopted. The conference also adopted a number of resolutions; viz on danger of war and struggle for peace; on Nicaragua; on the new economic policy of the Central Government; on deletion of Act 311(2) of the Constitution; on new drug policy; on nationalisation of multinationals and Indian monopoly houses in drug industry; on struggle in Raptakos Brett, etc. The conference elected Niranjan Mukherjee as President, Giridhari Goswami as General Secretary and Samir Roy as Joint General Secretary.

Convention of ECL Workers: Jointly organised by CITU, AITUC, INTUC, HMS, and UTUC a convention of the Eastern Coalfield workers was held at Asansol on July 6. More than 500 delegates participated in the convention. A presidium consisting of one from each central trade unions conducted the proceedings of the convention. The convention adopted a resolution condemning the ECL, CIL and the Government of India for not fully implementing the NCWA-III, for which the problems faced by the coal workers had aggravated. There was shortage of drinking water, shortage of power, lack of medical facilities, education and lack of safety measures. There was no rehabilitation of villagers affected due to opening of open cast mines. The villagers around Raniganj and Barakar faced danger of collapse. The convention congratulated all the coal workers for the successful strike on April 9 and also greeted the two thousand miners of HISCO's Ram Nagar Colliery for their successful 72 hours strike from July 3 to 5. The convention decided to hold area level conventions, organise dharnas before the General Managers of the companies, demonstrate before the CMD's office, sanctoria and other places and to prepare for higher stages of struggle.

KERALA

Conference of NGO's: The 23rd Annual Conference of the Kerala NGO Union was held at Trichur from May 10-12, which was inaugurated by K.A. Keshavamurthy, Chairman of the All India Federa-

tion. The Conference was addressed by V.R. Krishna Iyer, the former Justice of the Supreme Court, who called for amendment of Art 311 of the Constitution and urged for united struggle of the workers championing the cause of the toiling masses of the country. Greeting the conference, Sukomal Sen, General Secretary of the State Government Employees' Federation congratulated the employees for the successful strike of February 26 demanding amendment of Act 311. The Conference also organised a symposium on Corruption in Civil Services which was inaugurated by V.M. Sudheeran, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and presided over by P. Subramanian Potty, the former Justice of the Supreme Court. Among those who addressed the symposium were E. Padmanabhan of CITU and K.V. Surendranath of AITUC. The Conference was also addressed by K.R. Gouri Amma, who stressed for mobilising the women employees in the trade union movement. The General Secretary's report by T.K. Balan dealt with the international and national situation and the policies of the State Government and laid the tasks of the employees to face then unitedly. The report was discussed in details and adopted unanimously. The conference ended with a big procession and rally participated by thousands of employees. The rally was addressed by E. Balanandan and leaders of other political parties. The conference elected K.V. Rajendran and T.K. Balan as President and General Secretary respectively.

ORISSA

Activities of State Committee: A joint convention on power crisis was organised at Bhubaneswar on May 29 by CITU, AITUC, HMS, BMS, UTUC(LS) and other mass organisations. The Save Public Sector Day was observed by the CITU unions and various other trade unions in the public sector on May 21. The workers went in a big procession and submitted a memorandum to the Private Secretary of the Governor. On the initiative of CITU, a state level federation of textile workers was formed, which was joined by the unions of AITUC, UTUC, BMS also alongwith several independent unions. Lambodar Naik, Pradip Das and R. Sarangi, the CITU State Council members were elected President, Vice President and Secretary of the federation. The federation chalked out a charter of demands to mobilise the textile workers. In the meantime a number of textile unions comprising of about 5000 membership have got affiliated with CITU. In the Bhaskar Textile Mills also despite hooliganism and intimidation by the INTUC and a local Congress(I) MLA, the membership of the CITU unions have raised. CITU organised a gate meeting on June 22, when 1300 workers out of 2000 in the mill paid subscription to CITU. To resist the growing goonda and police attacks on the CITU unions the All Orissa Mining and Mineral Transport Co-ordination Committee has decided to observe a Protest Day on July 23. The State Council of CITU has decided to hold the next State Conference at Barbil in October-November.

HARYANA

Convention on Communal Harmony: A joint convention on Communal harmony was organised at Panipat on June 15 by CITU, AITUC, HMS and BMS, which was participated by 300 delegates. Among those who addressed were Prithwi Singh (CITU), Darshan Singh (AITUC), Ajit Khurana (BMS) and R.K. Saigal of HMS. The resolution called upon the workers to fight the divisive forces to maintain the unity of the country. It decided to observe August 9 as the National Integration Day as per the call of the Central Trade Unions. Another resolution was adopted supporting the struggle of the South African people against the racist regime of P.W. Botha.

Karnataka Convention Against Unemployment

The Convention was held at Bangalore on May 22 as a part of the May Day Centenary Celebration. Over 600 delegates, including 400 unemployed workers attended the convention. Inaugurating the convention, B.T. Ranadive, President, CITU, highlighted the problem of growing unemployment and the attempt of the Government to put the unemployed against the employed. He said that the trade union movement cannot remain a preserve for the employed workers only and explained the necessity of championing the cause of the unemployed, demand the right to work to be recognised as a fundamental right in the Constitution and mobilising the unemployed work force in the mainstream of the working class struggle. He called for organising a march of the unemployed workers from every state to the capital to present a memorandum to the Parliament demanding the right to work.

C. Nanjundappa, General Secretary of the State Committee moved a resolution calling for a census of the unemployed in the state and hold conventions of the unemployed in the districts and taluks prior to massive dharnas before the Employment Exchanges throughout the state on August 8. The resolution demanded reversal of the policies of the Government which caused unemployment in the country; incorporation of the right to work as a fundamental right in the Constitution; unemployment relief; opposition to the policy of job killing automation and computerisation; to open the closed factories and lift ban on recruitment imposed by the Government. Among these who spoke on the resolution were V.J.K. Nair, S.M. Basha, K. Purushottama, Nityananda, C.R. Bhatt, S.T. Shivashankar, Vasanthakumar, Prabhu Rao, etc.

As a part of the preparation for the convention, the State Committee also organised local conventions on unemployment at Dandeli, Dharwar, Harihar, Mysore and Mangalore. Apart from the pamphlet, 5000 posters and 5000 leaflets were published to draw attention to the convention and make it success.

Another convention on unemployment was also held at Kolar on July 10, which was addressed among others by T.S. Mani, MLA; R. Venkataramaiah, MLA; S. Savaridoss and A. Jayaram.

Conference of CSIR Employees' Federation

THE 13th Annual Conference of the All India Federation of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Employees' & Workers' Unions & Associations was held at Roorkee from May 22 to 24. Delegates from all over the country representing National Laboratories and Institutions of CSIR attended the conference.

The Conference assailed the new economic policy of the Government of bringing in imported technology, which will only help the multinationals and satisfy the imperialist agencies like the IMF and the World Bank. The policy will seriously hamper the work of the scientific institutions like the CSIR and nip the task of making the country self-sufficient in the field of science and technology in the bud. The conference demanded a better science policy in consonance with India's socio-economic needs. It denounced the policy of computerisation which will further increase unemployment in the country. The conference warned the Government against any attempt to dismember the CSIR and demanded that the Review Panel set up by the Prime Minister must consult the scientists and workers of CSIR before giving its final recommendations.

The conference also expressed serious concern over the growing victimisation of the trade union functionaries and that even after 44 years of the existence of CSIR, there was no security of the services of the scientists, technologists and other employees. It demanded an Act of the Parliament to ensure security of services of the employees. The other demands raised by the conference included recognition of the Federation and the Scientific Workers Associations; vacation of all victimisations; uniform promotion and retirement policy for all categories of staff including administrative staff and Class IV non-technical staff; implementation of Supreme Court judgement and extension of the benefits of the Labour Laws to the CSIR workers; implementation of Supreme Court judgement and regularisation of the daily wage employees who have put in more than six months of service; and better service conditions and parity in wages with the public sector employees.

The conference adopted resolutions denouncing the divisive and secessionist forces, demanding scrapping of NSA, ESMA, etc. It reelected Hari Mohan and B.K. Roy as the President and General Secretary respectively.

Convention of South Regional Construction Workers

THE second South Regional Construction Workers' Convention was held at Ernakulam on June 2 and 3. 120 delegates from Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamilnadu attended the

convention, which was conducted by a presidium consisting of T.M. Mohammad, H.K. Pisharady, P.K.N. Moorthy and M.T. Kuriakose. M.M. Lawrence, Secretary, CITU hoisted the red flag. Inaugurating the conference, M.K. Pandhe, Secretary, CITU critically explained the new economic and industrial policy of the Government of India and how the multinationals were entering the construction industry. He held the Government's policy responsible for the present deplorable conditions of the construction workers and the threatened closure of the HSCL and EPI and urged for united struggle against the Government's policies. T.H.K. Warriar placed the work report which was discussed and adopted. Debanjan Chakrabarty, Convenor of the All India Co-ordination Committee in his address urged for co-ordinated struggle on an all India level. On the first day there was a symposium on Women's Liberation which was presided over by M.M. Lawrence and addressed among others by P. Govinda Pillai, Abdul Salam, Shamim Aliar, Soni Kamath, Shamsuddin, Josephine, etc. The conference also appealed for contribution towards the Nicaraguan fund and an amount of Rs. 152 was collected on the spot. To conference also adopted several resolutions on national and international issues. On the second day afternoon a mass procession and public meeting was held which was participated by over 5000 workers including a large number of women.

Conference of NPCC Workers

THE 9th Annual General Conference of National Projects Construction Corporation Workers' Union (CITU) was held on May 11 at Shramik Bhawan, the W. Bengal State Committee building at Calcutta. A presidium consisting of Nirmal Roy, K.C. Ghosh, Ajoy Roy and A.P. Prasad conducted the proceedings. Inaugurating the conference Ajoy Roy briefed the international situation threatened by nuclear war preparations by the USA and called upon the delegates to intensify the struggle for peace extending full support to the Soviet peace proposals. He also assailed the domestic policies of the Central Govt. and called for united struggle against these policies. The conference was then greeted by fraternal delegates from NPCC Barrage & National Workers' Union, Godavari (AP) and the Coordination Committee of Construction Unions (W.B.).

Binoy Mukherjee, the General Secretary placed the annual report and Atul Chandra Giri, the Treasurer placed the accounts. 16 delegates participated in the General Secretary's report narrating their experiences of organising united struggles. The report and the accounts were adopted after the replies. The conference adopted a number of resolutions which included the demand for a law on construction workers, on sick units, against war, etc. The conference also decided to send a delegation to meet the management at the Registered

(Continued on page 20)

Book Review

THE STORY OF THE PAST:
How we Became Communists in Jails
English Version of
ATEETER KATHA:
KARAGARE COMMUNIST HABAR
KAHINI — Bengali)
Author: Sudhansu Das Gupta.
Translated by
Leela Sundarayya
Price: Rs. 15/-
Available at: Nishan Prakashan,
Calcutta 700009.

IT is a pleasant surprise to note that Comrade I Sudhansu Das Gupta, who is noted for his journalistic contribution based on Marxist ideology had the experience of a trade union worker. This had been the practice of the old guards who believed that theory must be put into practice, one must work in the class organisation of the working class in order to get a class orientation in the thought process which would help him to get declassed if he comes from any other class origin.

The book is a lucid portrayal of the hurdles which the communists had to cross in the old days for arming themselves with Marxist-Leninist ideology. Only a few books were available in India. The British imperialists did not allow these books to come to the country freely. On the other hand, they struck at the communists in the early stages once in Kanpur conspiracy case in 1924 and then in Meerut conspiracy case in 1929 in order to stifle the growth of the ideology. But the communists turned the court into an instrument of propagating the communist views.

The book covers an important period of freedom movement when on one hand, there was peaceful non-co-operation movement and on the other, the death defying struggle of the early revolutionaries who were engaged in armed struggle, was sweeping the length and breadth of the country. The early communists thrown to the jails between both these sections of freedom fighters worked patiently to show them correct scientific analysis of the development of society, the economic laws of exploitative systems and the necessity to arm oneself with the correct Marxist-Leninist ideology to build up a political party which could work for ushering in socialism in our country.

Incarceration generally weighs down the fiery spirits. Despondency takes over, if the political prisoners do not utilise the time to develop themselves theoretically. Serving long sentences in the far away cellular jails of the Andaman Islands, the communists had won over finest sons of our country to the communist movement. The story would help all to understand how patiently the communist movement in India was built up. This is a commendable

book for all those who would like to know the past.

As far as the translation of the book is concerned, the author has correctly complemented Com. Leela Sundarayya for her depth of understanding Bengali language and rendering the same to English.

—Nrisingha Chakrabarty.

Mass Dharna by Electricity Workers

THE Working Committee of the Electricity Employees Federation of India, meeting at New Delhi on July 7 under the Presidentship of E. Balanandan decided to stage a mass dharna and rally at Boat Club on August 12 when the Parliament will be in session. The meeting fixed the statewide quota of each affiliated union, and it is expected that about 5000 workers from all over the country will converge at the Boat Club.

The programme was taken in pursuance of the decision of the meeting held at Calcutta on March 26 to press the Government of India for resolution of the Charter of Demands formulated by the EEFI at its foundation conference at Trivandrum. As part of the preparation and campaign to make the rally successful, the meeting decided to print posters and leaflets in English, Hindi and other regional languages for distribution among workers.

The meeting also took stock of the activities of the affiliated unions in various states. H.S. Minhas from Punjab stated that the secessionist extremists entered the office of the State Electricity Board on more than one occasion and killed 16 workers brutally, including one junior engineer belonging to the union. A joint protest action was launched by the union and Rs. 20,000/- was paid to the bereaved family of the engineer from the union's Benefit Fund for which a mass function was organised. The union was mobilising workers for joint peace movement. Amarnath from Haryana reported that under the banner of CITU they were also carrying on peace movement in the state. Krishnakant Verma from Rajasthan explained the efforts to bring in the electricity unions under the fold of CITU and EEFI in the state. K. R. Unnithan from Kerala reported about the united struggle being carried forward and further consolidation of the CITU unions in the State. D. Janakiraman, the General Secretary, reported that in Tamilnadu, the CITU union was the main force of the electricity workers and they were carrying forward the united struggle despite repressive measures by the managements particularly against CITU.

The meeting also discussed organisational matters and steps to be taken to strengthen the EEFI in several other states like Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, etc. The next meeting was decided to be held at Delhi on August 12 after the rally to assess the success of the programme and take further decisions.

West Bengal All Party Delegation Meets Union Ministers

AN all-party delegation of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly met the Union Minister of Industry, N.D. Tiwari on 25th June, 1986 and the Union Minister of State for Textiles, Khurshid Alam Khan on 27th June, 1986 at New Delhi.

The delegation was led by Nirmal Bose, Minister for Commerce & Industries of the State Government, and it consisted of Santi Chatak, Minister of State in charge for Labour, Patit Paban Pathak, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, and Kamal Sarkar, Dinesh Chandra Dakua and Sadhan Chattopdhyay (CPI (M)); Ambika Banerjee and Asok Ghosh (Congress); Saral Deb and Rabindra Ghosh (Forward Bloc); Amalendra Roy and Debsaran Ghosh (R.S.P.); Kamakshya Ghosh (C.P.I.); Probodh Chandra Sinha (D.S.P.); Debasprasad Sarkar (S.U.C.); Bankim Behari Maity (W.B.S.P.) and Umakanta Roy (R.C.P.I.), all M.L.A.s. Indrajit Gupta and Pijush Tirkey, M.P.s, were present during the discussion.

Paper Industry

In the memorandum submitted to the Union Minister for Industry, the delegation brought to his notice the serious crisis the paper industry in West Bengal was passing through. The paper industry of the State which is more than hundred years old is suffering mainly because of shortage of raw materials, like bamboo and hard wood the main source of which were the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa and also M.P. and Andhra Pradesh. The delegation urged upon the Minister to ensure supply of these raw materials at the same price for the paper industry everywhere. The delegation emphasised that raw materials for industrial processing should be freely available throughout the country and urged that in the national interest the Government of India should devise an appropriate mechanism in consultation with the concerned states whereby the old and expired forest basis of these units in other states can be revived and leases granted so that non-availability of raw materials should not cripple the paper industry in West Bengal. The Minister was also requested to ensure the supply of funds for modernisation of paper industry. The particular problems of the Bengal Paper Mills (Raniganj), the Titagarh Paper Mills and the Paper Pulp (Naihati), mainly in relation to Bank finance, were also discussed. In case of Bengal Paper Mills, the delegation urged that the agreed package of assistance should be implemented by the concerned banks, so that the unit can reopen without further delay. In case of Titagarh Paper Mills the delegation pointed out that

the Unit 1 of the mill has been under closure since September, 1985 and Unit 2 of the mill is also under notice of closure. In view of the financial and management problems of the mill, the delegation demanded that the mill should be nationalised. Regarding the India Paper and Pulp to the Minister's attention was brought to the fact that due to an appeal filed by the United Bank of India contesting the reserve price at which the Government of West Bengal had purchased the company through auction in 1981 and due to the Union Finance Ministry's approval of this step, the company was unable to secure any help from the Financial Institutions by hypothecation, as by the High Court's ruling no asset of the company could be hypothecated pending the disposal of the appeal. The memorandum urged upon the Government of India, Ministry of Finance to take up the matter with the UBI so that it withdraws the case enabling the company to take help of institutional finance and modernise it and make it viable.

The Minister assured the delegation that he would take up the issue of supply of adequate quantity of raw materials at reasonable prices with the Chief Ministers of Assam, Bihar and Orissa very soon. He assured the delegation that his ministry would take up with the appropriate banks the problems of three big paper mills in the State.

Jute Industry

In the memorandum submitted to the Union Minister of State for Textiles, the delegation brought to his notice the imminent danger of the collapse of entire jute industry, earning about Rs. 300 crores of foreign exchange annually, and affecting the lives of 2.5 lakh workers and 25 lakh jute growers in West Bengal. The delegation discussed at length the crisis faced by the jute industry because of the competition from synthetic goods. It also criticised the policy of the Union Government for substituting jute bags by gradually increasing the use of synthetic bags by Union Public Sector undertakings and the insistence of the Railways that for carrying salt by the Railways, only polythene bags and not jute bags would be used. The delegation urged upon the Minister to take immediate steps to ban the import of synthetic goods to save jute industry. It also demanded that the jute industry should be nationalised without any further delay. By pointing out the pitiable condition of jute growers for not getting a reasonable price for raw jute, the delegation demanded that the Centre should ensure a reasonable price for raw jute and

arrange for monopoly procurement of jute by the J.C.I.

Textile Industry

The delegation also brought to the notice of the Minister the problems of Cotton Textile Industry in the State. Referring to the recent order of the Union Government that the composite textile mills and powerlooms would not be allowed to produce dhoties and sarees any more, and the production of these items would be reserved for handlooms only the delegation stated that, the policy should be rationalised in such a manner that no existing mill is closed and there is no retrenchment. The Minister was requested to streamline the management of N.T.C. Mills in West Bengal, and to ensure regular supply of finance and cotton for these mills. While demanding again for the phasing out of freight equalisation policy, the delegation demanded that cotton should be made available for the textile units in West Bengal at the same price it is now available for units in other cotton growing States. The attention of the Minister was also drawn to the unsatisfactory role of the I.R.B.I. in making efforts for reviving the sick units like Mayurakshi Cotton Mills and Sri Durga Cotton Mills.

Khurshid Alam Khan told the delegation very categorically that it would not be possible for the Centre to nationalise jute industry. He however, agreed that the import of synthetics was creating problem for the jute industry, and as such they had already taken steps to control this import. But it appeared that a total ban on import of synthetics would not be possible. He also ruled out the possibility of monopoly procurement of jute by the J.C.I. He said that the Union Government had already declared the support prices for different varieties of jute for the current year. But the delegation told him that these prices would not be sufficient at all. In relation to the recent order for ban of production of dhoties and sarees by the composite mills and powerlooms, the Minister said that a clarification of the earlier order had been issued, according to which the existing mills and powerlooms could produce dhoties and sarees without putting extra wharf or border on them. He also assured the delegation that necessary steps were being taken to strengthen the management of N.T.C. mills, and he would also take up with the Finance Ministry the issue of the IRBI in relation to its performance in reviving sick textile units in the State.

Apart from the memorandum submitted to the two aforesaid Ministers, Santi Ghatak, Minister of State for Labour, West Bengal also met the Union Labour, Minister, P.A. Sangma and submitted a note to him drawing his attention to the following urgent tasks:

Beedi Workers: Construction of hospitals for beedi workers at Dhulian and Aurangabad and issuing of identity cards to them for which he urged

upon the Government of India to issue notification authorising the Panchayats and the Municipal Corporation to issue the identity cards instead of the employers.

Contract Labour: (a) Abolition of Contract Labour engaged in perennial nature of jobs for years together in Durgapur Steel, Alloy Steel Project, Fertiliser factories at Durgapur and Haldia and other Central Government units in the state. (b) Alternative employment to Coal and Ash handling workers who have lost their jobs due to dieselisation of railway engines, though technically they were engaged by contractors. (c) The extension of the jurisdiction of the Central Government in matters of industrial relations to the Central Government units, Undertakings and Corporations particularly on the question of contract labour, has created serious problems in maintaining smooth industrial relations. Delay in resolving industrial disputes is creating law and order problems. As such the Government of India must take immediate steps to revert the industrial relations and other allied issues to the State Government.

On Sick Units

Santi Ghatak also submitted a list of some sick units to the Union Labour Minister urging upon the Central Government to take immediate steps for their reviva! or nationalisation. The list included National Tannery, India Rubber, Bengal National Textile, Motor Machinery, etc.

A similar joint memorandum was submitted to the Prime Minister at Calcutta on July 1 by CITU, AITUC, UTUC and TUCC.

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Office at Delhi in June and submit a Charter of Demands. It elected a 19 member Executive Committee with Nirmal Roy, Benoy Mukherjee and Dilip Bhattacharya as the President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Memorandum Submitted: As per decision of the conference, a delegation from different units of the union met two Directors of NPCC Ltd at New Delhi on June 27 under the leadership of M.K. Pandhe, Secretary, CITU, and submitted a Charter of Demands for 1987-1990 and a memorandum containing various other problems and grievances of the workers.

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M.K. Pandhe

Secretariat Decisions

THE Secretariat of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions met at New Delhi on July 15, 1986 under the Presidentship of Com. B. T. Ranadive. The meeting was attended by Comrades Samar Mukherjee, E. Balanandan, Sushila Gopalan, Nrisingha Chakrabarty and P. K. Ganguly. At the outset the meeting adopted a condolence resolution paying homage to Com. Le Duan, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam who died at Hanoi on July 10.

Delhi Textile Workers' Strike: The Secretariat condemned the Govt of India for remaining transfixed before the textile tycoons and refusing to intervene in the struggle of Delhi Textile Workers thus lending support to the unreasonable proposals of the management. It welcomed the coming together of all opposition parties in support of the struggling textile workers, as this was likely to facilitate the working class at Delhi to unite and come into a massive solidarity action, preferably a strike action.

Strike of U.P. Electricity Workers: The meeting extended full support to the U.P. Electricity workers who have been forced to resort to strike in order to win their just demands. The Secretariat condemned the Govt of U.P. for bringing in military engineers in labour dispute instead of settling the issues through negotiation. It also expressed support to the electricity workers' struggle under EEFU, who have decided to stage a dharna at Boat Club on August 12 to demand a national wage structure for the electricity employees.

Struggle of Bank Employees: The Secretariat extended full support to the bank employees all over the country who under the leadership of BEFI unitedly observed Dharna on 15th July against ban on recruitment and the policy of indiscriminate computerisation, squeezing employment potential. The meeting also extended support to the struggle of the Gramin Bank Employees who have decided to stage a demonstration at Boat Club on July 29.

Highhandedness of IDPL Management: The Secretariat condemned the IDPL authorities who instead of solving the justified demands of the medical representatives about promotional policy and other demands had taken recourse to unfair labour practice of calling for an interview for promotion to disrupt the struggle of the medical representatives in pursuance of the demands. In order to terrorise the medical representatives who are fighting against this policy under FMRAI, they have instituted false cases against a number of the trade union functionaries with the help of police.

HSCL Employee's Struggle: The Hindustan Steel Construction employees and workers will hold a Dharna at the Boat Club on 11th August '86 against the conspiracy of closing down the HSCL Ltd. The Secretariat extended full support to their struggle.

Peerless Employee's Struggle: The meeting heard the report of the struggle of Peerless employees all over India demanding nationalisation of the company. It extended full support to the struggle and

welcomed their decision to hold an All India Convention at Delhi on August 7 in order to further step up the struggle. The meeting decided that Com. Samar Mukherjee would inaugurate the convention.

Unfair Labour Practice by Managements: The Secretariat heard reports that the owners of Orient Power Cables of Cablenagar Kota, Rajasthan are not functioning the factory for the last six months and the workers are not being paid their wages. In the Sri Sajjan Textile Mill, Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh the owners have defalcated crores of rupees and decamped abandoning the factory. In Haryana a state owned factory, Haryana Concast Ltd has stopped production from 19.5.86 without either declaring a closure or a lock-out and the workers are not being paid their wages. All these are unlawful and illegal, which indicate that the Government machinery has virtually broken down. The Secretariat condemned the Govt to its failure to protect the workers. The Secretariat called upon all State Committees to issue protest letters and telegrams to the Union Labour Minister requesting him to intervene in the matter.

Verification: The Secretariat noted that the Central Trade Unions have come to the conclusion that the next verification of membership should be conducted on 1985 membership and called upon the State Committees to ensure submission of annual returns of 1985 by the affiliated unions.

Standing Labour Committee: Nrisingha Chakrabarty reported that the Government had called the meeting of Standing Labour Committee on July 11 without consulting the trade unions on the agenda. The CITU had opposed it and AITUC and INTUC had also expressed similar views. The Government now postponed the meeting and asked for suggesting the agenda items. The Secretariat discussed the agenda items, which should be sent to the Government.

On Unemployment: In the light of the discussions held in the Calcutta General Council meeting, the Secretariat discussed the necessity of organising the unemployed workforce and directed all the State Committees to draw up programmes for the unemployed and hold conventions and send reports to the Central office.

Sugar Industry: P. K. Ganguly reported that the Wage Board in Sugar Industry had sent a questionnaire regarding wage structure and suggested to convene a meeting of the Co-ordination Committee to finalise the reply and also to finalise the Charter Demands formulated by the Calcutta meeting of the Co-ordination Committee. It was decided to hold the meeting at Delhi on August 10 and 11.

Working Committee Meeting: The Secretariat decided to hold the Working Committee meeting of CITU at Delhi in September.

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Demand For Decasualisation of Cargo Workers

IN a meeting between the Secretary, Department of Surface Transport and the four National Federations of the Port and Dock Workers held at New Delhi on 8.7.86, the Water Transport Workers' Federation of India (CITU) strongly urged upon the Government of India for decasualisation of the Cargo handling workers at Tuticorin, New Mangalore, Paradip and Haldia under the respective Port Trusts.

The Federation argued that the Cargo handling workers in the Major Ports having Dock Labour Boards are already under the direct employment of either Port Trusts or Dock Labour Boards and following the terms of settlement dated 14.7.77, the Chairmen of the respective Ports were supposed to ensure the benefits of the settlements reached at the National level to those Cargo handling workers also, who have not yet been brought under the control of the Port Trust Dock Labour Boards. The concerned Cargo handling workers in other ports are already under the control of either Port Trust and Dock Labour Boards. Different committees and commissions appointed by the Government of India have condemned the system of private stevedoring and recommended for uniform Cargo handling agencies. Hence the proper institutions for decasualisation of these workers should be the Port Trusts.

The Federation strongly criticised the recommendation of the Abraham Committee which proposed to reduce the strength of the workers before bringing them under the Port Trusts on the pretext of under-employment. While strongly protesting the move taken by the authority of the Tuticorin port trust resulting retrenchment of 195 Coal handling workers, the Federation argued that the level of employment can be raised by undertaking all sorts of Cargo handling operation within the port and inland container depot under Port Trust.

The proposal for reduction of strength was opposed by all the Federations. The All India Port & Dock Workers Federation, the Indian National Federation of Port and Dock workers, and Port, Dock and Waterfront Workers Federation of India demanded for installation of Dock Labour Boards in these ports for decasualisation of the Cargo handling workers. But when asked for their preference between the Dock Labour Board and Port Trust as an institution for decasualisation of these workers, the Indian National Federation of Port and Dock workers and the Port, Dock and Water Front Workers Federation of India preferred Port Trust to Dock Labour Board. The Govt of India has been urged to take a decision in the matter before the next meeting to be held on 26.7.86.

Meeting of Women Workers in Coffee Curing

A meeting of women workers in Coffee Curing Works and Plantations was held at Raitha Bhavan, Hassan (Karnataka) on 19.5.86. Com. Saroja, member of Karnataka State Committee of CITU presided over the meeting. About 300 women workers from Planters Coffee Curing Works, Hassan Coffee Curing Works, Bharathi Coffee Curing Works and some Coffee Plantations (Meena Estate and Biccodu Estate) attended the meeting. Vimala Ranadive, Working Committee member of CITU, Secretary of the All India Coordination Committee of Working Women and General Secretary of All India Plantation Workers Federation addressed the meeting. In her speech, she dealt at length with heroic fights put up by thousands of women workers in beedi, coir, tobacco and coal mines in various parts of the country for equal wages and other benefits, against police atrocities. She expressed solidarity with the struggle of women workers in coffee curing establishments and advised them to continue their struggle for higher wages, job security and statutory benefits. She explained the anti-workers policies of the government with respect to computerisation, automations and mechanisations which would render thousands of workers jobless. She called upon the workers to wage powerful movements to demand right to work to be enshrined as a fundamental right in the constitution.

V. Sukumar, General Secretary of Coffee Curing Saw Mills and General Worker's Union and Karnataka State Committee member of CITU, in his address expressed serious concern over the threat of hundreds women workers losing their jobs as a result of introduction of electronic sorters in coffee curing works. Vijaya from Bharathi Coffee Works, Ahalya and Indira from Hassan Coffee Works and Saroja from Planters Coffee Curing Works also spoke in the meeting narrating their experience in the coffee curing works.

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CITU Nominations: The Secretariat nominated P. Sanzgiri to attend the Seminar on "Indian Textile Futures — Towards an Inter-Sectoral Perspective" to be held at Ahmedabad from August 1-3. It nominated Nrisingha Chakrabarty to attend the Inter-Regional Seminar by ILO on "Work Related Welfare Facilities and Services" to be held at Baku, USSR from September 30 to October 10. It also nominated A. K. Padmanabhan to attend a seminar on "Fundamentals of Political Economy, Relations between State, Political Parties and Trade Unions," to be held at Moscow from November 15 to December 15.

CITU's Fraternal Bond with Nicaraguan Workers

CITU has received fraternal greetings from the National Executive Secretariat of the Central Sandinista Workers, Nicaragua. The letter and CITU's reply are being published below.

Managua, Free Nicaragua
June 5th, 1986

1986: 25 years...All Arms Against Aggression

Dear Comrades,

Receive fraternal greetings from all the workers of Nicaragua organised under the banner of Central Sandinista Workers.

Very cordially we hope that our communication finds your leadership in the best of health and spirits.

Our Central Sandinista has great interest in opening and deepening relations with your Trade Union Centre in a framework of friendship and fraternity amongst our workers and yours.

We would like to state that it is of interest to us to know the problems and advance of workers as also know better your reality for the sake of fuller information. We, on our part, also want to let you know the situation of Nicaraguan workers.

Without more to mention and awaiting your reply to the present letter, we reiterate our greetings.

Fraternally,
Judith Silva Jaenz
Incharge of Asia and Africa.

CITU's Reply

14th July, 1986

Dear Comrade,

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions thanks the National Executive Secretariat, Central Sandinista Workers for the message of fraternal greetings sent through your letter dated June 5th, 1986.

The CITU is happy to know the keen interest of Central Sandinista workers in opening and deepening fraternal relations with us. We reciprocate the desire in true spirit of proletarian internationalism.

The CITU is aware of the travails and sacrifice which the Sandinista people have suffered in securing freedom and what struggles they have to forge every day to fight back the contras who are openly and shamelessly being armed and funded by the U.S. imperialism. We express our firm solidarity with the Central Sandinista Workers.

We agree with your proposal of exchange of information about the problems, the struggles and advances of the workers of our two countries. We would be sending you our monthly journal, "The Working Class" which will help in explaining the situation. We are sure that the bonds of friendship between our two organisations and the peoples would continue to be strengthened every passing day.

With warm greetings,
Nrisingha Chakrabarty
Secretary

CITU's Solidarity with Sandinista Workers

On June 19, the Central Office of CITU received an open letter to the workers of the world, released by the National Executive Secretariat of the Central Sandinista Workers on May 23, requesting for solidarity with Nicaragua and for peace in Central America, in the struggle of the Sandinista Workers against the aggression by the U.S. imperialists. The CITU Secretariat in its meeting held on June 20 directed the State Committees and the affiliated unions to send message of solidarity to the Sandinista workers through the Nicaraguan Embassy at New Delhi.

Till July 24, the CITU Central Office has received copies of such messages from 64 unions in Tamilnadu and 13 unions in Karnataka. Apart from the messages of solidarity, Tamilnadu State Committee of CITU has contributed Rs. 10,000/-, besides Rs. 30/- by one union, and 36 unions; from Kerala have contributed Rs. 1978/- towards the Nicaraguan Struggle Fund. The above contributions have been received by the Central Office till July 24.

CITU's Support to BATA Workers Acknowledged

[The CITU Secretariat in its meeting of May 31, responding to the appeal of WFTU extended support to the struggle of BATA workers in South Africa. The Coordinating Committee of BATA trade unions in Africa has sent the following letter of acknowledgement].

Coordinating Committee of BATA Trade Unions in Africa

The Secretary, CITU
6 Talkatora Road
New Delhi, India

Harare (Zimbabwe)
26th June, 1986

Dear Comrades,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dt. 6th June, 1986, concerning our 4th day of Action for Bata workers in Africa.

I would like to thank you very much for the message of solidarity which will go a long way towards motivating Bata workers in Africa in their just struggle for better working conditions and living standards. We are determined to fight until Bata himself agrees to negotiate with the respective national union representatives.

We therefore appeal to your centre to continue supporting us and the struggling masses of South Africa who are under the rule of apartheid, but nothing on this planet earth shall stop the progressive forces from overthrowing exploitation of man by man. Wishing you all the best.

Yours fraternally,
I.M. Zindoga
Secretary for Co-ordinating Committee of
Bata Workers In Africa

August 6, The Hiroshima Day

IT was on August 6, 1945 that the USA dropped the Uranium Bomb ("Little Boy") on Hiroshima. Again, three days later, on August 9 it dropped the Plutonium Bomb ("Fat Man") on Nagasaki. In a matter of seconds the two cities were turned into hot ash in the 300,000 degree celsius flames. Everything in the epicentre of the explosions was atomised. Even stones and concrete melted and got fused. There remained only some ferro-concrete skeletons of a few buildings. Within 0.2 to 3 seconds of the two blasts, two lakh people were killed instantaneously. Another one lakh people died in the subsequent years due to radiation and people are still dying in Japan at the rate of about 2000 a year. About five millions were maimed and many thousands suffered serious physical and psychological damage permanently. The injuries have not been healed even today after 41 years. The injuries include large number of Leukemia cases and various type of cancer and many went blind slowly. Keloid scars in the burned areas spread over the entire body have become permanent. Severe psychological shock has led to incurable psycho-somatic diseases. The psychological damage gave rise to conditions which have been termed "Keloid of the heart" and "Leukemia of the spirit". The genetic damages caused are still lasting and may last indefinitely.

Data on the Atom Bomb damage in Japan however remained incomplete due to restrictions imposed by the occupying American forces. On September 19, 1945 pre-censorship was imposed on all branches of media. The GHQ however welcomed articles publishing the power of the bombs. A group of American reporters who visited Hiroshima on September 3 expressed satisfaction with the complete destruction of the city. In the press conference, W.H. Lawrence, the New York Times reporter extolled the qualities of the bomb. He was accorded the Pulitzer prize for the coverage of the bomb devastations.

Prologue to New War

Today 41 years after the Atom Bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the burning question still stands out as to what was the real reason behind the bombing at a time when the war had virtually ended. The fascist Hitlerite force had already surrendered in May and the main force of the militarist Japan, the Kwangtung Army had also capitulated after its rout by the Soviet Union. The Potsdam conference from July 17 to August 2 had also finalised the post war settlements. Takeshi Ito, a Japanese historian and publicist had rightly stated the reason that, "with regard to the question of the use of the Atom Bombs, the United States proceeded from what was most important — its post war policy towards the Soviet Union. The Atom Bomb was the most effective means of pressurising the Soviet Union". The atomic bombing was a prologue for preparing a new war and a declaration to the Soviet Union

and other countries — either accept US diktat, agree to its global ambitions or burn in atomic hell! Documents from the Pentagon which have since been made public bear witness to the US plan to attack the Soviet Union — to drop Atom bombs on twenty industrial centres of the USSR and on the Trans-Siberian Railway. The US plans underlined its main military doctrine — reliance on a first strike. But America had to retrace from its path, because the Soviet Union took appropriate measures to defend itself. It had also produced its own Atom bombs. But in its militarist fever, the USA went on developing more and more nuclear weapons of mass destruction. Only the prompt counter measures taken by the Soviet Union to build up its defence capabilities to match the American offensive have now stood up as a deterrent to a nuclear war. The spiralling of the arms race by the USA is now threatening the world with a nuclear holocaust. Today, the combined explosive power of the nuclear weapons in the world exceeds the equivalence of two millions of the bomb dropped at Hiroshima. The United States is now embarking on the most dangerous stage in the arms race — the militarisation of the space, the Star Wars.

Revival of Japanese Militarism

But the Hiroshima Day which is now being observed by the trade unions in the world has also to point out the most paradoxical fact that Japan, which has known the horrors of the Atom bomb, has become completely drawn into the USA's strategy of preparing for a nuclear war. It is the result of the alliance of the imperialist-militarist ruling cliques. The US-Japanese Security Treaty, which was concluded in 1960, and still remains valid, obliges Japan to participate in the implementation of US military strategy in the region, including in Star War programmes, and reviving Japanese militarism. There are more than hundred US military bases in Japan. The USA has also taken the move to build a space communication centre at the Iwo Jima volcanic island, considered by the Pentagon as vital in the event of a star war.

The Hiroshima Day must remind the trade unions, the working class and the people the horrors perpetrated by the imperialists — the USA at the head, and its further plans of nuclear devastations. At the same time it must lend unequalled support to the peace efforts by the Soviet Union and the Socialist countries. The town clock at Hiroshima strikes the warning bell everyday in the morning at 8.15 AM when the bomb was dropped. A memorial to the victims bears the inscription, "Rest in peace, the mistake will not be repeated". But the bombing was not a mistake. It was a deliberate crime, and crimes must be opposed. The forces of peace must win over the imperialist forces of war and destruction. The working class must take the lead in the struggle.



THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

Central Trade Unions Observe National Integration Day

IN pursuance of the Call given by the All India Convention against Communalism held at Delhi on 11th May, the Central Trade Unions observed National Integration Day all over India on August 9, 1986 by holding rallies, processions, etc, which were joined by thousands of workers and employees of all sections from various trade unions. Following are the reports:

Delhi: At Delhi, as the Administration did not give permission to the trade unions to take out a procession, a mass meeting was held at Feroz Shah Kotla Ground, being jointly sponsored by AITUC, BMS, CITU, HMS, INTUC, NFITU, TUCC, UTUC (LS) and UTUC.

Over 5,000 workers including large number of women attended the meeting. The deliberation of the meeting was conducted by a Presidium consisting of K.G. Srivastava (AITUC), Veerendra Bhatnagar (BMS), M.K. Pandhe (CITU), S.P. Singh (HMS), D.D. Shastri (TUCC), O.P. Khullar (UTUC-LS) and Pratul Crowdhury (UIUC). The meeting was addressed by Indrajit Gupta, General Secretary of AITUC; Prabhakar Ghate, General Secretary of BMS; Samar Mukherjee, General Secretary of CITU; Veereshwar Tyagi, Secretary of HMS; D.D. Shastri, Secretary of TUCC; Gyan Singh, Secretary of UTUC (LS) and Sushil Bhattacharya, Vice President of UTUC.

The speakers condemned the administration for not giving permission to the trade unions to take out the procession campaigning for communal harmony and for national unity and integrity, while they allowed the religious fundamentalists to take out processions on the issue of Babri Masjid-Ramjanam Bhumi issue. A resolution was unanimously adopted calling upon all sections of the working people and the trade unions to take the lead and unitedly intervene affectively against the Divisive, Communal, Secessionist, Chauvinist, Casteist and anti-national forces, which are being backed by the internal reactionaries and external agencies intended to dismember the country, and safeguard the unity and integrity of the country. The resolution declared that a programme for sustained movement will be worked out to this end and implemented from joint platforms and in joint actions throughout the country.

Although the programme to fight the divisive forces unitedly was originally taken by the ten Central Trade Unions, yet the NLO remained

absent for the 11th May Convention itself. In the mass meeting at the Feroz Shah Kotla ground, the INTUC and NFITU also could not send any representative. The INTUC however sent their flag which was hoisted in the ground alongwith the seven flags of the other trade unions.

Samar Mukherjee's Speech

Samar Mukherjee drew pointed attention of the workers to the black hand of the imperialists behind the divisive forces of all sorts. He called upon the workers to take serious note of the conspiracy of the imperialists to dismember the country by jacking up these forces taking advantage of the deplorable socio-economic condition of the country. He lucidly brought home the fact that the ever depressing socio-economic condition and the uneven development of the country was the result of the capitalist path of development and the feudal and semi-feudal forces sharing power in the government. With this social set up, and the government depending on the imperialist agencies for the development of capitalism, the situation had become a breeding ground for imperialism for their destabilisation plans to balkanise the country. The government of India, on the other hand, instead of exposing and fighting the sinister role of imperialism and the divisive forces, were compromising with the divisive forces for its electoral gains. He said that the bourgeois-land-lord government cannot protect the unity and integrity of the country. It is the working class which have to take up the reins. It is true, he said, that the working class have been waging united militant struggles for their economic demands. But that has yet not instilled the class consciousness among the workers. This has been proved by the fact that they also get involved in communal passions and turn into Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians or upper castes and lower castes whenever there is a divisive flare up. The Gujarat caste battle was a classic example of this low class consciousness of the workers. He called upon the mass of the workers to intervene into the situation unitedly to stop such divisive flare up. Giving example of W. Bengal, he said that the divisive forces backed by imperialism were trying to raise their ugly heads in that State too. But the moment there arises any such move, the working class immediately come out on the streets to unitedly thwart their evil designs. He cited the current determined struggle of the

working class against the G.N.L.F. While congratulating the trade unions for their first united demonstration against the divisive forces, he exhorted on them to consolidate and further strengthen the unity for the national cause.

(Resolution of the Delhi mass meeting printed after the report.)

W. Bengal: Jointly sponsored by nine Central Trade Unions, a convention was held at Muslim Institute Hall, which was conducted by a presidium consisting of one representative from each trade union. Manoranjan Roy, General Secretary of the State CITU placed the resolution against the divisive and secessionist forces. Others who spoke were Subrata Mukherjee, President of the State Unit of INTUC; Kamalapati Roy of the State Unit of AITUC; Anil Das Choudhury of UTUC; Arabindo Ghosal of TUCC; Debesh Sanyal of BMS, etc. Manoranjan Roy explained the secessionist move of the so-called Gorkha National Liberation Front for a Gorkha Land and condemned the role of the Government of India for not clearly defining its stand on the issues. He drew the attention of the audience to the militant and united resistance given by the tea garden workers at Darjeeling braving the violent attack on them. He called upon all the secular and patriotic forces to foil the conspiracies of the imperialists and maintain the unity of the people and the country.

Tripura: The State CITU alongwith other trade unions organised a convention at Town Hall, Agartala. Moving the main resolution, Biren Datta, the State General Secretary said that for a change in the social system the working class must forge its impregnable unity as a class which cannot be disrupted by the divisive forces and while fighting the opportunist policies of the government of India, it must at the same time direct its struggle against imperialism which is backing the secessionist forces to destabilise the country. Initiating the discussions, Baidyanath Majumdar, the State CITU President said that under the bourgeois-landlord rule, on the eve of the 40th Independence Day we are faced with a situation to decide whether we can maintain the unity and integrity of the country or allow it to be torn to pieces under the imperialist designs. He said, to reach its final goal, the working class has to lead the struggle to maintain the unity of the country and mobilise all sections of the toiling people with it, especially the weaker and minority sections who are worst affected by the communal flare up and are particularly utilised by the ruling classes and the imperialist agencies. Among others who spoke were Sunil Das (AITUC), Sudharshan Bhattacharya (UTUC), Bijoy Krishna Roy (TUCC), Ajay Bishwas, M.P. (CPI-M) and leaders of various other trade unions.

Gujarat: A massive State level convention was held at Ahmedabad which was attended by about 2000 delegates from various parts of the State. The convention was jointly convened by CITU, AITUC, INTUC, HMS, HMKP, TLA, etc. The resolution of the convention was moved by Har Kishan Shah, the State CITU Secretary. Among those who spoke were G K Parmar (CITU); Masudal Hassain, MP

CPI(M); Homi Daji (AITUC); Ratilal Shah (INTUC); Ajit Khanderia (HMS); Suryakant Patil (HMPK); Manilal Parmar (TLA) and also the Chief Minister of Gujarat. The convention decided to hold a Peace March on August 15 and thereafter to hold district level conventions all over the State.

Assam: To observe 9th August as the National Integration Day successfully, a State level convention was organised jointly by CITU, AITUC, HMS and UTUC (LS) on August 3 at Guwahati. The convention was attended by hundreds of workers from various industries and government employees from different trade unions. The convention resolved to carry forward united struggle by all sections of the working people against the imperialist backed divisive forces of all sorts to maintain the unity of the people and the country. Among those who addressed the convention were Amal Ghosh Dastidar, the State CITU General Secretary; Renuka Devi Barkotoky (INUC); Bhogeshwar Datta (AITUC) and Heman Das, MLA, CPI(M).

Bihar: A hall meeting was jointly organised by CITU, AITUC and HMS. The meeting was addressed by Yogeshwar Gope and Chandni Prasad (President and General Secretary of the State CITU); Kamla Singh (HMS); Ram Avatar Sashtri (AITUC) and leaders of various other trade unions. Similar meetings were also held in the industrial centres like Bokaro, Dhanbad, Ranchi, Hazaribagh, Jamshedpur, etc.

Haryana: A convention was organised by the Trade Union Council of Karnal, consisting of CITU, AITUC, INTUC, BMS, and other trade unions of different workers and employees. About 15 leaders of different organisations spoke on the resolution against the divisive forces, denouncing the imperialist conspiracies and assailing the government of India for its opportunistic policies. After the convention a massive procession was taken out which culminated before the Deputy Commissioner's residence into a public meeting. After the demonstration, a memorandum with the resolution was handed over to the Deputy Commissioner.

Madhya Pradesh: The Joint Trade Union Council of Indore consisting of CITU, INTUC, AITUC, BMS and other trade unions observed a National Integration Week from August 9 to 13. Gate meetings were held at the industrial centres and establishments from August 9 to 11. On August 13, a convention was organised. The convention adopted the resolution taken by the ten Central Trade Unions in the 11th May Convention held at Delhi. The convention decided to take out a Peace March for communal harmony on September 1 at Indore. The Koyla Shramik Singh (CITU) organised a mass meeting at Banki on August 9, which was attended by different other trade unions and the colliery workers.

Uttar Pradesh: At Bareilly, a district convention was jointly organised by CITU, AITUC, INTUC, HMS and BMS. The Meerut District CITU also organised a meeting and issued a statement. A joint convention was held at Bulandshar and a massive rally at Shaharanpur.

Karnataka: The National Integration Day was organised at different centres of the State by C.I(M), CITU, SFI, DYFI and Prant Raita Sangh. At Bangalore, a Preparatory Committee consisting of CITU, AITUC, HMS, BMS, INTUC and different other trade unions convened a convention at Town Hall on August 2. The Convention was addressed among others by S. Suryanarayan Rao, T.S. Anantram, R. Srinivas (CITU); Babu Mathew, M.S. Krishnan, M.C. Narsimhan (AITUC); Sheshadri (BMS); Ramdev (HMS); Adantaya (INTUC), etc. The convention decided to hold a big rally against the divisive forces on October 2 at Bangalore and then organise districtwise conventions throughout the State. Conventions, meetings, rallies and processions were also held at Bijapur, Bagalkot, Udipi, Mangalore, Mysore and in several places in Dharwar district. Various trade unions and people from different walks of life participated in the programmes. 2000 copies of Com. BTR's article on National Integration were sold on the day. Lakhs of leaflets were also distributed and posters pasted throughout the state.

ATTACK ON WORKERS OBSERVING NATIONAL INTEGRATION DAY

The involvement and collusion of the administration with the divisive forces and the anti-socials was laid bare at Barsua (Orissa) and Bokaro (Bihar) when the workers were holding the National Integration Day. At Barsua when about 300 CITU workers, who came by train, were proceeding to attend the public meeting at about 2 P.M., a big number of anti-socials led by some hirelings of the SAIL management and one gangster of village Bonai, attacked the workers with lethal weapons. A large number of workers including female labourers were seriously injured and hospitalised. The CITU had obtained the permission for the meeting and the whole incident lasting for about two hours occurred in presence of the full police force led by the DSP and the SDO. But they remained simply onlookers. The meeting had to be abandoned. The hoodlums went on threatening the workers in the entire area moving in open jeeps and motor cycles till late night. When at about 10.30 P.M. Ananta Rout and Lambodar Nayak, the CITU leaders went to see the DSP, he refused to intervene into the incident on the plea that it had occurred inside the railway station, while in fact, it occurred outside the station and the bazar road. The CITU has lodged a protest to the Chief Minister of Orissa and to the Union Home Minister.

Bokaro: At Bokaro the attack was launched by the CISF when the workers were holding a joint demonstration in front of the Administrative Gate of the Bokaro Steel Plant. About 150 workers were seriously injured including some leaders of both AITUC and CITU. The attack was so reckless that even some journalists were also beaten up. A joint rally was held on August 16 by CITU, AITUC, TUCC and HMS to protest against the highhandedness of the CISF. The rally was addressed among others by M.K. Pandhe (CITU) and Indrajit

Gupta (AITUC). The 40,000 workers have decided to down their tools on August 30 in protest. The unions lodged joint protest during the meeting of the Joint Committee of Steel Industry at Delhi on August 12 and 13 and met the Chairman of SAIL and demanded immediate action against the DIG of CISF who ordered the attack. The CITU Secretariat also issued a statement on August 16 demanding action against the culprits.

Resolution Adopted by the Central Trade Unions

National Integration Day — 9th August, 1986

This mass meeting for communal harmony and national integration organised on 9th August, 1986 at Delhi, jointly by nine Central Trade Unions, viz, AITUC, BMS, CITU, HMS, INTUC, NFITU, TUCC, UTUC(LS) expresses grave concern over the highly deteriorating communal situation in the country. Divisive forces like communalism, secessionism, casteism and regional chauvinism aided and abetted by internal reactionaries and external agencies have made damaging inroads into our national unity. In the wake of the secessionist movement by the extremists in Punjab, the demand for a separate Gorkha land by the so-called Gorkha National Liberation Front constitute another anti-national move intended to dismember the country. These inroads find expression in such intensity and in such diverse form that in the result, mass movements and organisations are paying heavy toll. There have been large scale communal riots in J & K, Punjab, Delhi, U.P., Gujarat and other places recently.

The communal elements use any pretext to foment riots. Issues like the Supreme Court Judgment in Shah Bano case and then the Court Order in Babri Masjid-Ramjanam Bhumi case were used by the religious fundamentalists to flame up communal riots. These communal elements openly use places of worship for collecting arms and arsenals to commit crimes.

All the nine Central Trade Unions note with regret that the industrial centres have also been seriously affected due to the criminal activities of these divisive forces. It has also been the experience that in most of the communal riots the working class, particularly the weaker sections are the victims. The conflict between the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on one hand and the Caste Hindus on the other on the question of reservation of jobs led to casteist violence in Gujarat and other States, which has seriously affected the unity of the working class.

It is therefore urgently needed that the organised working class intervene immediately and effectively in this critical hour to preserve communal amity and bring a sense of oneness in the country in co-operation with all secular and patriotic forces. Arising out of a very close knit relationship of common interests and common threats, the working people constitute a significant section of the population who are ideally placed to combat all these

(Contd. on page 10)

N.C.C. Decides to Fight the Government's Policy on Public Sector

THE National Campaign Committee of Trade Unions in its meeting held on July 29 at Delhi assailed the Government's policy of privatisation of the public sector and unanimously decided to fight the policy demanding its reversal. The meeting discussed in depth the retrograde shift in the policy and was of the unanimous opinion that it was one of denigration of the public sector not only in favour of the Indian private monopolists, but also the multinationals. The public sector is being made to compete with the multinationals. The meeting was of the opinion that the Government had surrendered to the demands of the World Bank. The disbandment of the public sector, allowing free entry to the multinationals, would endanger the economic independence of the country and set at nought the objective of self-sufficiency and indigenisation and also retard industrial growth. The meeting also expressed serious indignation at the Govt's attempt to bypass bipartism and stall the forthcoming wage negotiations which are scheduled to start.

To discuss the issues, particularly related to the policy on public sector, the meeting decided to convene an extended meeting of the national federations and the public sector unions at Delhi on August 14 and then to hold an All India Convention of workers and employees of the public sector at Delhi in October to chalk-out programmes of action.

The meeting also noted with satisfaction that the INTUC's policy also is to defend the public sector against privatisation. It welcomed the suggestion to approach INTUC also to join the movement so that all the Central Trade Unions could unitedly put the force of the entire working class to intervene into the dangerous policy of the Government and the functioning of the public sector.

The meeting also condemned the Fourth Pay Commission's report for not conceding the main demand of the Central Government employees of parity in pay with public sector employees. It extended full support to the agitations launched by the different sections of the employees and was confident that all the Central Government employees would launch united struggle to achieve their demand.

The meeting was presided over by Umraomal Purohit of HMS and attended by Samar Mukherjee, Nrisingha Chakrabarty, P.K. Ganguly (CITU) Indrajit Gupta, K.G. Srivastava, T.N. Siddhanta, Homi Daji (AITUC); Veereshwar Tyagi, S.P. Singh

(HMS); O.P. Aghi, R.K. Bhakt (BMS); J.S. Dara (ITUC-Dara); D.D. Shastri (TUCC); Pratul Chowdhury (UTUC) and Pritish Chanda (UTUC-LS).

Meeting with the Federations

The meeting with the federations on August 14, was attended by 60 representatives of the various national federations, including the constituent Central Trade Unions of the NCC. Com. K.G. Srivastava of AITUC presided over the meeting. Initiating the proceeding he briefed about the proposal of NCC taken in its meeting on 29.7.86 to hold a convention on public sector at Delhi in October. The NCC decided to convene the convention to discuss the pros and cons regarding recent retrograde policy of government to denigrate the public sector, go in for privatisation and further inviting the multinationals. He said that since many non-NCC unions, including INTUC unions were also prepared to join, the convention should involve as many trade unions as possible so that a broad based struggle could be built up in defence of the public sector.

The following 20 representatives including the leadership of the Central Trade Unions spoke in the meeting: Dongra (Defence Employees), Purna Chandra Rao (Convenor, Coordination Committee of Public Sector Unions, Hyderabad), B.D. Panch (BHEL, Delhi), R.K. Bhakt (BMS), Mittal (AIRF), Harish Sharma (BEFI), N.C. Sharma (Fertilizer Workers' Federation), N.P. Upadhyaya (GIC), Brij Mohan Toofan (HMS), Suresh Panwar (IDPL), Jagmohan Lal Sharma (P&T), Roop Singh (University and College Teacher's Federation), S.K. Vyas (Confederation of Central Govt. Employees), Y.D. Sharma (AITUC), J.S. Dara (ITUC), Samar Mukherjee (CITU), Sri Krishna (Central Govt. Employees), Gyan Singh (UTUC-LS), Bhangu (AIREC) and S.K. Sanyal (AITUC).

All the speakers expressed serious concern over the policy of the government to privatise the public sector and over the recommendations of the Arjun Sengupta Committee. They further expressed serious opposition to the government's policy of invitation to the multinationals and also the move to scuttle down the forthcoming wage negotiations. They also suggested for a two day convention and welcomed the suggestion to make the convention a broad based one. The representatives of the Central Government employees also stressed on the report of the 4th Pay Commission and opined for inclusion of the demand for parity in wages with the public sector employees and also for amendment of Article 311 of the Constitution. Gyan Singh
(Contd. on page 13)

Public Sector Convention at Mavalankar Hall, New Delhi on October 20 and 21.

Secretariat Decisions

THE Secretariat of CITU met at Delhi on August 15, under the Presidentship of B.T. Ranadive. Samar Mukherjee, E. Balanandan, M.K. Pandhe, Nrisingha Chakrabarty and P.K. Ganguly attended the meeting. The secretariat discussed the following issues:

W.C. Meeting: Preparations for the Working Committee meeting to be held at Delhi from September 24-26 were discussed, apart from preparation of the report. The meeting decided to incorporate in the report a review of the implementation of the earlier decisions of the General Council by the State Committees and the unions and the activities keeping in view the tasks on the trade union movement with the developing situations. This would include the achievement in the struggle for united actions; May Day celebration, etc, with emphasis on the struggle in the public sector. The meeting also decided to adopt resolutions on public sector, 4th Pay Commission report, withdrawal of maternity benefit, continuance of EDA system, on language issue, Punjab, Sri Lanka, on the Gorkhahand issue, Indo-Pak relation, the proposed Child Labour Act, etc in the Working Committee meeting.

Lathi Charge by CISF: M.K. Pandhe reported that there was a brutal lathi charge by the CISF on the workers at Bokaro on August 9 when the trade unions were observing the National Integration Day. It was reported that the CISF was wrecking vengeance on the trade unions for having raised the charge of corrupt practices by the CISF. The Secretariat condemned the lathi charge and demanded an impartial enquiry into the misdeeds of the CISF. It also demanded compensation to all those who were injured by the lathi charge.

Electricity Workers' Demonstration: E. Balanandan reported about the electricity workers' demonstration at Boat Club on August 12 in demand for a national wage policy. About 5000 workers from all over India joined the demonstration and a large number courted arrest led by E. Balanandan. The meeting extended full support to the struggle of the electricity workers.

Peerless Employee's Convention: P.K. Ganguly reported about the all India Convention of Peerless employees which was held at Delhi on August 7, demanding nationalisation of the company. The meeting extended full support to the struggle and reiterated its demand for nationalisation in the interest of the lakhs of employees and involvement of millions of people in the business of the company.

Convention on Public Sector: M.K. Pandhe reported about the meeting of the National Campaign Committee with the federations, which was called

at Delhi on August 14 to decide about holding a convention against the government's policy of privatisation of the public sector. The Secretariat endorsed the decision of the meeting to form a broad based Preparatory Committee with those public sector unions also which are not in the NCC including the INTUC unions which are prepared to join the convention and fight against the retrograde policy of the government. It also endorsed the decision to hold a two day convention in October instead of one day as earlier decided.

On Railway Accidents: The Secretariat viewed with serious concern the recent railway accidents which killed a large number of people. It condemned the Ministry of Railways for having diluted the safety rules by withdrawing the provisions of guard and brake van, by suspending issues of vacuum certificates and not notifying the stations when a particular train was running without brake van or guard. The attempt of the authorities to run long distance trains without following these elementary safety precautions coupled with the failure to replace the over aged rolling stock, bridges, railway tracks, etc and forcing the loco running staff to work for more than 10 hours at a stretch in violation of the agreement arrived at in 1973, had created the serious situation in which so many accidents had taken place taking a toll of more than a hundred lives this year. The Secretariat demanded a thorough review of the situation so as to ensure safe travel in the railways.

CITU Discriminated in Assam: Nrisingha Chakrabarty reported about exclusion of CITU from all tripartite bodies in Assam by the State authorities. The membership of CITU was arbitrarily reduced by the State government excluding it from such bodies. The meeting strongly condemned the discriminatory action of the State government which violated the principle of tripartism and was against the ILO recommendation on the subject. The CITU has already lodged a protest. The meeting demanded an immediate rectification of this discriminatory treatment.

Delhi Textile Strike: M.K. Pandhe reported about the settlement in the long drawn strike in the Birla Textile Mills, Delhi. In view of the strike in DCM still continuing and the management remaining adamant despite settlement in Ayodhya and Birla Mills, the Secretariat demanded of the Government to intervene immediately to compel the management to settle the dispute, failing which, to take over the management.

Meeting of Sugar Coordination Committee: P.K. Ganguly reported about the meeting of the Coordination Committee in Sugar Industry, which was called at Delhi on August 10 and 11 to finalise the reply to the questionnaire sent by the Wage Board. However, only four State Committees viz, Tamil

nadu, U.P., Haryana and Rajasthan sent representatives, who were not prepared with the replies. As suggested by the meeting, the Secretariat decided to ask the Wage Board for extension of the time for submission of the replies to October 31. It called upon all the State Committees to whom the questionnaire has been sent to expedite the replies.

Visit of COSATU Delegates: M.K. Pandhe reported about the visit of CTUC representatives to CITU office on August 11 and the proposed visit of a delegation from the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) in India to meet the trade unions. They will visit Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Dhanbad and Durgapur. The Secretariat decided to organise joint meetings to greet the COSATU delegation and also receive them at the Central Office of CITU at Delhi on September 8. M.K. Pandhe also reported about his recent visit to England and contacts made with the British TUC.

Minimum Wage: P.K. Ganguly reported about the recent proposals sent by the Government revising the minimum wages of workers in various mines. The wages proposed even after revision were below the poverty line. He also reported that despite repeated representations, the government had not yet decided upon any criteria to determine the minimum wage which resulted in utter chaos in the field. After the 1983 strike and signature campaign there was no movement on the issue. He suggested an all India movement to press upon the Government to decide on the issue. The Secretariat decided to discuss the issue in the Working Committee meeting.

Verification: P.K. Ganguly reported about the meeting on verification held with the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) on July 31, in which the main point that yet remained to be decided was on the question of spot verification of the agricultural/rural workers. The trade unions were also supposed to send their suggestions regarding classifications of the industries. The Government had also sent their comments on the twelve agreed points. To decide on all these points the Central Trade Unions had decided to meet on September 2 and then intimate to the CLC for calling a meeting to finalise these issues. Regarding the question of spot verification of the unorganised agricultural/rural workers, the Secretariat opined that there cannot be any spot verification of such workers.

Disaffiliation of Union: The Secretariat discussed the question of disaffiliation of the Hindustan Lever Contractor's Labour Union which was referred to by the General Council. Nrisingha Chakrabarty placed the relevant papers regarding the activities of the union. The meeting found evidences that the union was acting against the policies of CITU and therefore disaffiliated it from the CITU.

CITU Nominations: The Secretariat made the following nominations: E. Balanandan was nominated to attend the 11th Congress of WFTU to be

held at Berlin from September 16-22. Mangat Ram Pasla was nominated to the Regional P.F. Committee in Punjab. P.K. Ganguly was nominated to attend the workshop on Worker's Participation in Management organised by the National Productivity Council at Delhi on September 11 and 12.

Working Committee Meeting

NOTICE

It is hereby notified that a meeting of the Working Committee of CITU will be held at New Delhi from 24th September 1986 to 26th September 1986, to discuss the following Agenda:

1. President's Address
2. Condolence
3. Confirmation of the minutes of the last working committee meeting held at Calcutta on 31st March, 1986.
4. General Secretary's Report.
5. Review of re-orientation in our work.
6. Review of Struggle for Trade Union Unity.
7. United Trade Union struggle against Divisive Forces.
8. Problem of Unemployment.
9. Public Sector Employees struggle.
10. Fourth Pay Commission Report.
11. Verification of membership of Central Trade Unions.
12. Other subjects with the permission of the Chair.

All State Committees are requested to send their reports covering items 5, 6, 7 of the Agenda by 31st of August '86. All members are requested to reach New Delhi one day ahead of the meeting so that they could study the report. The meeting shall commence from 9.30 A.M. on 24th September, 1986.

General Secretary, Delhi State Committee of CITU, 3-Vithalbhai Patel House, New Delhi-110001 is requested to form a Reception Committee for the purpose.

Those who require return reservation may please inform the Reception Committee with particulars of their expected date of return sending money in advance. All Members are requested to attend the meeting.

Samar Mukherjee
General Secretary

Successful Jute Strike and Rural Bengal Bundh

2.5 lakh Jute workers and entire rural West Bengal observed complete general strike on 7th August 1986 on 8 point demands which included (1) Immediate nationalisation of Jute Industry and Jute Trade, (2) Monopoly procurement of raw jute direct from the growers at remunerative price (3) Complete ban on the import of PVC Grannules, the raw materials for manufacturing synthetic bags, (4) Closed and locked-out mills be opened immediately, etc.

Jute industry has a vital role in the economy of the country, but due to ruthless exploitation, deliberate neglect and mismanagement by Jute barons the industry is facing a serious crisis jeopardising the livelihood of 2.5 lakh jute workers and 40 lakh jute growers. This has been further aggravated by the recent policy of the Govt of India to allow free imports of synthetic grannules for the manufacture of synthetic bags and the Railway ministry's circular indicating that henceforth materials like salt, cement etc., will be carried only in synthetic bags. The jute cultivators are also facing serious situation where they are being deprived of a remunerative price in the absence of monopoly procurement of raw jute by the J.C.I.

Considering all these factors, all the trade unions functioning in Jute industry including CITU, AITUC, etc., met on 14th July 1986 and jointly gave a call for observing 24 hours strikes in Jute industry on 7th August '86. This was followed by a joint call given by the Left Kisan Sabhas to observe 24 hours general strike in rural West Bengal. Both the calls were supported by the Left Front. Greater Calcutta's industrial areas' jute mills, Assansol, Durgapur, Raniganj, industrial areas of 24 Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly, Haldia, Kharagpur, Tea Gardens of North Bengal and Railways were exempted from the Bundh.

In support of this strike and Bundh a mass campaign was organised throughout the states and in industrial areas by organising meetings, street corner meetings, gate meetings, etc., which continued for three weeks. The strike and Bundh was a complete success. All transport excepting railways which was excluded from the strike, came to a stand still on the day. All offices, shops, schools and colleges were closed. Agricultural workers and peasants did not work in the rural areas. In the industrial areas demonstrations were organised in support of the strike. This strike set a glorious example of united struggle of the working class and the peasantry.

On the day of the strike a huge rally of workers and employees were held at Calcutta at Sidhu-Kanhu-Dahar. This rally was jointly organised by CITU, AITUC, UTUC, TUCC, HMS, 12 July Committee, Bank Employees' Federation and Mercantile Federation. Monoranjan Roy, General Secretary, West Bengal State Committee of CITU presided over the meeting. A resolution congratulating the working class and the peasantry for the

successful observance of the strike was passed. The resolution reiterated the demands and called upon the working class and people of West Bengal irrespective of their political opinion to continue the campaign. Niren Ghose of CITU and leaders of other organisations spoke in the meeting.

Meeting of Study Group for Construction Workers

The Tripartite Study Group for the Building and Construction industry which had split itself in three groups (when the CITU representative could not attend the meeting due to being abroad) considered different aspects of the problem. During the course of indepth study, a demand for Contract Labour Board in pattern of Dock Labour Board was raised very forcefully. The study revealed that in Bombay, such Labour Boards are already in existence for Mathadis various schedules of employment. These Board even fix up wages of the workers through tripartite discussion.

On August 8, when the Study Group met in plenary Session to discuss the reports of all groups, it was noticed that all these groups, too had projected the necessity for having such Boards. At this stage, the representative from the Builders' Association of India circulated a draft Bill for the Building and Construction Industry workers (Conditions of Employment, Service, Safety, Social Security, Regulation of Relation and Welfare) Act 1986. While introducing the voluminous 82 page document, the representative explained the basic parameters of the proposed Act which indicated that the industrialists want the Board to do their clerical labour while they would recruit the people and fix up their wages etc. As it was not possible to examine the Bill in a meeting it was decided that all members should go through the Bill and make clause wise suggestions by 31st August '86 so that the issue could be finalised after obtaining the opinion of the Builders' Association of India. The next date of the meeting was fixed on 19th September 1986.

On August 9, 1986, CITU office received a packet of documents from the Convenor, Co-ordination Committee of Construction Workers' Unions, Calcutta, which also contained another draft of a Bill titled "The Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Bill 1986. CITU's representative in the Study Group, Nrisingha Chakrabarty, had immediately sent two copies of the same to the authorities so that they could simultaneously examine the same. Copies of the Bill proposed by the Builders' Association of India have been sent to the Convenor of the Co-ordination Committee and Santi Ghatak for a similar evaluation of both the Bills. All concerned have been asked to send their comments by August 25, so that a suitable document could be presented to the study group.

Meeting of Study Group on Leather Workers

THE fourth meeting of the Tripartite Study Group on the living and working conditions of the leather workers both in the organised and decentralised sectors was held on July 30 at Delhi. The Additional Secretary in the Labour Ministry presided over the meeting. The draft report circulated by the Labour Ministry on the basis of the discussions held at the meeting on May 19 was discussed. S. Chandrashekar represented CITU in the meeting.

The study group had before it two reports by two study teams, one from Tamilnadu and the other from U.P., entrusted with the task of conducting field surveys in the respective states. The Tamilnadu study team had visited various centres in Tamilnadu, like Dindigal, Erode, Vaniyambadi, Ambur, Ranipet and Madras and prepared a comprehensive report detailing the horrible working and living conditions of the leather workers in the organised sector. How the tanners were evading all labour legislations by successfully evading their registration under the Factories Act, had been brought out by this report. Excepting a few tanneries, others were not providing the welfare measures contemplated in the various Acts. Strict enforcement of the labour legislation by the Factory Inspectorate, notifying all the Tanneries under Section 85 (i) of the Factories Act, so that workers employed in all Tanneries are assured of safety and welfare amenities provided under the Act, ensuring treatment of effluents, not granting license where tanners do not provide for effluent treatment, safety measures in the Tannery, constitution of a Welfare Fund for leather workers by levying a suitable cess on the leather industry, etc were some of the major recommendations of the Tamilnadu study team. The Tamilnadu study team drew special attention to the fact that the Central Govt agency—the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), was not paying Bonus to workers, nor were the workers covered under the ESI. It suggested that the KVIC should ensure these benefits to workers.

While many of these recommendations were accepted by the Study Group, differences arose over constituting the Welfare Fund and covering the workers in the self-employed sector. The labour representatives pointed out that the terms of reference of the Study Group, clearly stated that the living and working conditions of the self employed should be studied. Further the Industrial Committee on leather and footwear industry had already decided that a pilot study of the living conditions of the self employed should be conducted. It was decided that a pilot study would be conducted and that the agency which should conduct the study would be decided soon.

Regarding constitution of a Welfare Fund for leather workers, it was decided to collect the follow-

ing data before coming to a conclusion:

(a) Minimum wages fixed for the tannery workers by various State Govts, and this should be compared with the minimum wages fixed for Beedi, Mica etc workers for whom Welfare Funds already exist; (b) Functioning of the Welfare Fund in the various states, the income, expenditure, the welfare measures carried out, etc.

The labour representatives pointed out that the leather industry had made rapid strides in the country and has become a major source for earning foreign exchange. Machines have been introduced, production has gone up and the tanners have made enormous profits. But there is a reduction in number of workers and their working and living conditions remained horrible. The organised section of workers and the self-employed are entitled to get a portion of wealth created by them to be earmarked for improving their living conditions, medical facilities, and for providing scholarship for Technical Education etc by the creation of welfare fund and implementing it through the State Government.

Electricity Workers Court Arrest

AS per the call of Electricity Employees Federation of India, a demonstration was held by the electricity workers of India in New Delhi on August 12. Even with special request the police did not allow the procession to proceed from Sivaji Park. Not only that, six buses were stopped by the Haryana police while they were coming to join the demonstration. Many workers were also arrested while walking on the roads. In spite of all this several thousand workers assembled at the Windsor Place and a huge procession was taken to the Boat Club which was led by E. Balanandan, President EEFI; D. Janakiraman, Secretary EEFI; and the state leaders who came to participate in the demonstration. Mainly workers from Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar, UP and from other Hindi speaking states joined the procession in a big way. From Kerala, West Bengal, Tamilnadu, the representation was token. 22 unions took part in the demonstration from 14 states. At the Boat Club the rally was held in which Com. B.T. Ranadive, M.K. Pandhe, Janakiraman, E. Balanandan and other leaders of the Electricity workers spoke. The slogans raised by the workers for communal harmony and peace attracted the people's attention. The demand to have a national wage for Electricity workers and for that the appointment of a tripartite body by the Government of India together with other 9 demands were submitted to energy Minister by the union leaders. He promised quick action on the demands. Before the close of the meeting the police arrested several hundred workers including President E. Balanandan and Secretary Janakiraman. Later in the evening they were released by the police.

Movement Against Unemployment

The CITU General Council Meeting held at Calcutta from March 31 to April 2 called upon the State Committees to organise movements against the growing unemployment and champion the cause of the unemployed demanding Right to Work to be incorporated in the Constitution as a fundamental right and unemployment relief to the unemployed. In pursuance of the call some of the State Committees organised conventions, etc on the question of unemployment. Following are the reports. The State Committees of W. Bengal, Tripura and Orissa have also observed anti-unemployment day as a part of the May Day Centenary programme as per the call of the General Council.

Kerala: First time in the history of the trade union movement in Kerala, the organised working class took the initiative of organising a State level convention at Ernakulam on the 3rd of August to champion the cause of the unemployed and bring them into the fold of the movements demanding the right to work as a fundamental right to be incorporated in the Constitution. This was in pursuance of the historic call given by the General Council of CITU which met at Calcutta during last March-April. The massive convention jointly organised by the Kerala State Committee of CITU, Federation of State Government Employees and Teachers Organisations (FSETO), Confederation of Central Government Employees' Organisations, Organisations of other Central and State public sector employees, DYFI, Kisan Sabha, Agricultural Workers' Union and Democratic Women's Association was attended by over 2100 delegates from all parts of the State. The spacious town hall was jampacked and large number of workers had to wait outside the hall in spite of inclement weather, to listen to the speeches of the leaders.

A presidium consisting of Comrades O J Joseph (CITU), K V Devadas (FSETO), P P Balakrishnan (Confederation), S Sarma (DYFI), K M Sudhakaran (Agricultural Workers Union), Devarajan (Kishan Sabha) conducted the deliberations of the convention. Com. V G Bhaskaran Nair welcomed the delegates and workers. The convention was inaugurated by Com E Balanandan. Com K N Ravindranath, Gen. Secretary, CITU Kerala State Committee moved the resolution demanding the right to work as a fundamental right to be incorporated in the Constitution and failing to provide employment, the government must provide unemployment relief of at least Rs. 100/- per month to the unemployed. Com K K Chellappan presented the detailed programme of campaign and agitation which was unanimously accepted with thunderous applause by the delegates. Com M M Lawrence, Secretary, CITU addressed the gathering. Others who addressed the convention included Comrades K V Rajendran (FSETO), P S Ramankutty (Confederation), K Chandran Pillai (DYFI), K M Sudhakaran, S S Potti (AIIEA) T. M. Methian (Kishan Sabha) and Sukumaran Nair (BEFI).

The convention after deliberations unanimously

decided to unleash a campaign for full employment by organising regional conventions and marches during the month of October embracing the masses, employed and unemployed at all levels in every nook and corner of the State. The four major jathas will culminate at Trichur on 26th of October where a big procession and rally will be held. The convention also decided to embark upon a continuous strike action for two or three days before Nov. 15 to press the demands of the unemployed. The convention also decided to strive to enlist the support and participation of all other trade union movements in the State.

Com. E. Balanandan in his erudite exposition of the class content of the anti-people policies of the ruling classes of our country exhorted the leaders and delegates assembled that they should explicitly realise the importance of the imperative responsibility of the employed in taking up the campaign and leading effectively the agitations for the cause of unemployed whose number is increasing day by day. Organised working class has to see the emerging problems in its total national and international perspective. He said that the problem of unemployment is a social problem and the working class and their trade unions have to organise powerful movements alongwith other toiling masses in this issue. The trade unions should not confine their activities to the betterment of the employed alone in the respective industries or institutions. Vehemently criticising the new economic policy of Rajiv Gandhi, he warned that the growing dependence on foreign finance capital and high technology for our development and allowing unchecked penetration of the multinationals into our economy are fraught with dangerous potents. Economic dependence will inevitably lead to political interference with the sovereignty, integrity and independence of our country. In his one hour speech he also drew the attention of the delegates to the countinuously growing pauperisation of middle and small peasants and agriculturists and consequent shrinking of the internal market which in turn impeded the progress of industrial development. They also swell the number of unemployed and their migration to urban areas and created social problems.

Karnataka: The Karnataka State Committee of CITU had held a State level convention on Unemployment on 22nd May which was inaugurated by Com. B.T. Ranadive, President of CITU. That convention had given a call to observe unemployment day on August 8 throughout the State by organising Dharnas in front of Employment Exchanges by unemployed youths. Accordingly the Day was observed in Bangalore, Bijapur, Kundapur and other places. In Bangalore two processions were taken out and Dharnas were held in front of two Employment Exchanges led by S. Suryanarayan Rao, T.S. Anantram, R. Srinivas, P.K. Subramanya, Jhon Vincent and K.S. Subramanya. In Bijapur V.M. Sonnad led the demonstration and Dharana. In

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Protest Against Pay Panel Award

THE massive dharna in protest against the Pay Commission's report which was scheduled to be held on 4th August in front of The Prime Minister's residence had to be abandoned at the last minute because the period for which section 144 was promulgated in the capital was extended with consequent withdrawal of the permission for the Dharna. In spite of this however, over five hundred workers from all over the country arrived at Delhi on 3rd and 4th who were diverted to Laxmi Narayan Dharmasala, where the meeting of the National Campaign Committee of Railwaymen finalised the memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister and submitted to the Prime Minister's Secretariat on 4th August. The memorandum reiterated the justification of parity in wages of Central Government employees with those of the Public Sector undertakings, in refutation of unfounded arguments put forward by the Commission, against the concept of "Comparable Wage" based on the principle of "equal pay for equal work", which was upheld by Second Pay Commission and the justification of which could not be denied by the Third Pay Commission also. The memorandum showed how the recommended D.A. system would act as a double action built-in depressor of real wage. The memorandum pointed out various other anomalies in the report which hit the employees. It demanded modification of the recommendations suggesting various points.

Meeting of AIREC

The extended meeting of the Working Committee of the All India Railway Employees Confederation and the National Campaign Committee of Railwaymen held on 4th & 5th August expressed satisfaction that all Central Government Employees' Organisations including those belonging to JCM had voiced protest against the unjust recommendations of the Pay Commission and appealed to them to come forward for united struggle and not to fall prey to Government manoeuvres to settle the matter with the present meager, concessions. The meeting also decided to implement the following programme:

20th August to be observed as 3rd Anniversary of National Campaign Committee of Railwaymen through meetings and sustained poster campaign; 1st September '86 to be observed as Peace Day; Campaign Week will be observed from 2nd to 8th September; Conventions at the local levels within 2nd to 5th September; Conventions at the divisional level within 6th to 10th September and demonstrations at the Zonal level on 30th September. To take stock of the situation and to decide future course of action the next meeting will be held in the first week of October.

In the meanwhile dharnas and demonstrations were held by the railway employees in all the railways all over India on August 12 against the Pay Commission's report. Thousands of railwaymen participated in the demonstrations.

AILRSA on Railway Accidents

Accompanied by Comrade Basudev Acharya, M.P., Leader of the CPI(M) group, Com. S.K. Dhar, Secretary General, All India Loco Running Staff Association met Mohsina Kidwai, Minister for Transport on August 14 and submitted a memorandum on the recent railway accidents. While explaining the salient points of the memorandum, Com. Acharya and Com. Dhar stressed mainly two points. One is unsafe working conditions in train operations and movement, for which one after another train accidents occurred and within this year eight such accidents had taken hundreds of lives. Almost all the accidents were due to violation of safe working conditions in train operation. The accidents were mainly due to excess hours of work of the Loco Running Staff; non provision of Guards and Brake vans; non maintenance of proper repair of the engines and other rolling stock; non checking of trains and its brake power properly; non issuing of proper Vaccum Certificate; due to failure of Railway equipments and revised Railway functioning; introducing contract workers in track renewals, deep screening, packing and rail changing, who are most inexperienced and incompetent; failure of deadman's handle or due to single man driving in the EMU coaches. Accidents on mechanical failure are increasing day by day. The accident on 21st July occurred due to the excess hours of work of the driver (total 17 hours duty at a stretch). The recent accident at Garhwa Road on 6th August was not simply due to mechanical failure, but also due to non provision of Guard. So almost all the accidents occurred due to the adamant attitude and callousness the Railway administration.

The second point was heavy victimisations of the Loco Running staff and other railwaymen. Due to the 1981 agitation which was launched against all those unsafe working conditions in train operation, 662 persons have been removed/dismissed and thousands were retired and awarded with other penal measures including break-in-service, without extending any opportunity of self defence. Due to the Supreme Court's Judgement of 12th September, '85, the appeals are being rejected without holding enquiries.

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pernicious divisive forces.

With this mass meeting therefore, the nine Central Trade Unions take the pledge that they will mobilise all sections of workers to build up one solid mass opinion and unitedly and actively oppose and isolate all communal, secessionist, parochial, casteist, divisive, obscurantist and anti-national forces and lead the country to communal harmony, national unity and peace. We further declare that the programme for sustained movement to this and will be worked out and implemented from joint platforms and in joint actions throughout the country.

Rural Bank Employee's Struggle

AT the call of All India Regional Rural Bank Employees Association (AIRRBEA), 4000 Gramin Bank employees from almost every district in the country assembled at New Delhi on July 29 for staging dharna at Boat Club. But as police permission was not given, the venue was shifted to Mahasabha Hall on Mandir Marg. A deputation from AIRRBEA later met Viswanath Pratap Singh, Finance Minister and submitted a memorandum to him on the following pressing demands:

Equal pay for equal work and all India uniformity in wage structure on the lines in various industries like commercial banks, LIC, NABARD, etc; removal of disparities in wages amenities between one State and another (difference being upto Rs. 700/- at present); absorption of existing daily wage casual messengers/sweepers as regular employees and creation of full time posts in all branches; higher pay scales for Area Managers/Senior posts and promotional avenues which are totally absent; restoration of earlier higher pay-scales and status for Field Supervisors; Negotiation forums at the national and State levels and normal other amenities like LTC, leave encashment, emergency loan, etc. like other banks.

Wages in Gramin Banks, despite being nationalised scheduled banks and performing similar jobs are nowhere near the commercial banks as they are tagged with State Govt. staff emoluments. This has been done in the name of low cost banking for rural areas. For improving profits, 20 per cent to 25 per cent of loans should be earmarked for higher interest earning advances to local industries and undertakings in rural areas. This will make these banks viable, more effective to serve cheap credit needs of rural poor and at the same time help improve the employees' economic conditions. To facilitate better functioning, NABARD should be the overall administrative apex institution as against a three-tier control from Sponsoring Bank, NABARD and Central Government. In this context, the delegation informed the Finance Minister that AIRRBEA will support any form of re-structuring, reorganisation, merger with sponsoring commercial banks or one centralised bank for each State as proposed by AIRRBEA provided, the employees' demand for equal pay for equal job on all-India basis is ensured and they are not subjected to a continued depressed wage structure on plea of low cost banking.

The extended Central Committee meeting of AIRRBEA held on 30th July, decided that unless there be any positive response from the Government, the Gramin Bank employees will be left with no choice but to build up various forms of agitation all over the country including strike on 26 September. Members of Parliament belonging to various parties raised the issue of Gramin Bank employees in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 29 July and submitted a joint memorandum to the Finance Minister. Among them, Sukomal Sen, Masudal Hussain, Sudhir Roy, etc and Subinoy Roy from BEFI addressed the employees on dharna.

Bilateral Relations between CITU and TUC

DURING his recent visit to UK in July, M.K. Pandhe, Secretary, CITU had discussions with TUC leaders which further developed relations between the CITU and TUC.

Pandhe visited TUC National Education Centre at London on 15th July and had discussion with Stephan Faulkner regarding training programmes arranged by the TUC. Faulkner took him round the centre and explained its working. He attended two classes to see how the training was imparted to trade union officials.

Dr. Karl Wright, Director, Commonwealth Trade Union Council had a discussion with Pandhe regarding the activities of the CTUC. They also discussed the need for strengthening the solidarity with the working class of South Africa in their struggle against Apartheid. They visited the grave of Karl Marx at Highgate Cemetry and paid homage to his memory.

On 17th July Pandhe had discussions with Barry Bennett of the TUC International Department in the TUC Central headquarters at Great Russel street. Bennett explained about the struggle launched by the UK working class against the policy of Thatcher Government regarding privatisation of the economy. He also pointed out how the workers in UK are also fighting for disarmament. Pandhe explained the growing united movement of the Indian working class against Apartheid in South Africa, against communal and divisive forces and for national unity, against danger of war and for world peace. He also reported the developments in public sector employees' movement and how united movements were emerging in the country. The development of more contacts between CITU and TUC were also discussed.

Through the TUC, appointment was also fixed with Phil Heaton, Research Officer, National Union of Seamen for a discussion on the problem of Indian seamen. However he had to go out due to certain urgent assignment and hence Pandhe had a discussion with J. Kinahan, Special Services Officer of National Union of Seamen. He enquired about the reports in the British press regarding accumulation of millions of sterling pounds in UK banks, the amount of unpaid wages of Indian Seamen arising out of the difference between the ILO standard of wages and the actual wages paid to Indian workers. Kinahan explained that the UK Ship owners were prepared to pay the difference to Indian Seamen provided they are permitted to do so directly. The Government of India however proposed that the amount of difference in wages should be deposited with the Govt. created special fund from which the amount would be spent for the welfare of the Indian Seamen. Since UK Shipowners did not agree to this, the amount was lost by the Indian Seamen. It is learnt that the leadership of National Union of Seamen of India did not take any step in the matter. Pandhe requested Kinahan that Forward Seamens Union of India (CITU) would like to have regular

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M.P.s on Problems of Workers

Burn Standard: Basudev Acharya, Amal Datta, Satya Gopal Mishra, R P Das, Motilal Hansda, Saifuddin Chowdhury, Bibha Goswami, P C Malik, Ananda Pathak and Ajit Saha (all CPI-M) made a representation to the Minister of State for Public Enterprises, K K Tiwary, urging upon him to take necessary steps for providing funds for the modernisation of Burn Standard, a Central Undertaking which is on the verge of closure due to lack of modernisation. Two refractory units of the company have already been closed. The MPs demanded withdrawal of the closure notices.

NCWA-III: The MPs also addressed a letter to Vasant Sathe, Minister for Energy demanding full implementation of the National Coal Wage Agreement-III. They drew attention of the Minister to the victimisations resorted to by the management on the workers for demanding implementation of the agreement. They also pointed to indiscriminate and illegal mining by the ECL which has caused ecological problems and subsidence of the Raniganj town and demanded immediate stoppage of such mining.

National Tannery: Representatives of CITU, INTUC, AITUC & HMS led by Indrajit Gupta, Amal Datta, Gita Mukherjee, Basudev Acharya and Purna Malik met UN Tiwari, Minister for Industries, on July 30 and demanded nationalisation of M/s National Tannery, Calcutta, since 81 per cent of the shares of the company is held by Government of India and since its management was vested upon IRBI by the Govt. of India. Due to improper management, this very potential concern is gradually turning to red and despite its possibility to achieve viability, it is facing a crisis due to lack of working capital.

Bengal Potteries: The delegation further urged upon the Minister to nationalise Bengal Potteries Ltd also. The Minister informed that the Government had received a report from the Tata Economic Consultancy appointed by IRBI, which also concluded that the company was viable. He assured the delegation that he would consider the question of nationalisation. The delegation later met the Finance Minister also and discussed about the question of nationalisation of the two companies.

Sri Durga Cotton Mills: Demanding withdrawal the denotification order on Sri Durga Cotton Spg. & Wvg Mills Ltd, situated at Konnagore, W. Bengal and paving the way for its nationalisation, a team of MPs consisting of Basudev Acharya, Leader CPI(M) Lok Sabha, Bimal Kanti Ghosh of Cong(I), Indrajit Gupta (CPI) and Somnath Chatterjee, Amal Datta, Anil Basu of CPI(M) accompanied by Santasri Chatterjee, MLA, Ajit Bag Ex-MP and other trade union leaders of CITU, AITUC, INTUC and UTUC met Khurshid Alam Khan, Minister of Textiles on August 12 and impressed upon him to reconsider the decision of the Union Govt and make

an enquiry into the working of the mill to make it viable by streamlining the functioning of the IRBI. The team also met the Union Finance Minister V P Singh and sought his intervention in the matter so that the mill be saved from disaster. He assured the delegation that after examining the papers he will inform them of the latest position and shall do everything as is possible for him. Earlier a convention held at Konnagar on August 3, demanded nationalisation of the company.

Tyre Corpn. of India: Basudev Acharya and Amal Datta, alongwith a delegation of Joint Convention Committee of Tyre Corporation of India Ltd met N D Tiwari, on 13th August with a memorandum regarding the affairs of Tyre Corporation of India Ltd. They demanded for immediate remedial measures, to be taken for revamping the Corporation. The Minister assured that the selection of the Managing Director for the Corporation has been done and the appointment of other key posts are under process. He also assured adequate flow of raw material for steady production. For this purpose he said he would convene a meeting with financial institutions concerned as soon as possible.

Srikrishna Rubber Works: A joint delegation of CITU and INTUC unions of Sree Krishna Rubber Works Ltd alongwith Basudev Acharya, leader, CPI(M), Lok Sabha and Amal Datta, Chief Whip, CPI(M), Lok Sabha met the Minister of State for Finance on August 14 and submitted a memorandum signed by 30 Members of Parliament to the Minister and discussed with him the future of the unit. The delegation demanded the order issued by U.B.I. to stop its operation be withdrawn forthwith to save the unit from closure. The Minister assured the delegation that he would take necessary steps to restore the operation of Bank.

Paper Mills: A team of MPs consisting of Basudev Acharya, Amal Datta, and Sudhir Roy met N D Tiwari, Minister of Industries on August 14 alongwith Sitaram Gupta, MLA, and Achinta Mukherjee of Bengal Kagazkal Mazdoor Union (CITU) representing the workmen of Titagarh Paper Mills Co. Ltd and Bikash Choudhury, MLA of Bengal Paper Mill Mazdoor Union (CITU) representing the workmen of Bengal Paper Mill, Raniganj. The delegation submitted a memorandum signed by Somnath Chatterjee, Dipen Ghosh, CPI(M), D.P. Roy (Cong-I), Gurudas Gupta (CPI) and 20 other Members of Parliament for immediate take over of the management of Titagarh Paper Mill Co. and Bengal Paper Mill. The Minister assured the delegation that the matter is being looked into in right earnest by taking up the matter with all the financial institutions and commercial banks and expressed hope that a positive step would be taken by middle of September for reopening of the closed mills. The delegation submitted another memorandum to the Finance Minister, V P Singh and demanded immediate takeover of both the mills.

Protest Against Closure Threat of HSCL

IN pursuance of the call by CITU and the Coordination Committee of HSCL Unions, the unions under the Coordination Committee of Public Sector Unions (CITU) have launched sending protest letters to the Minister of Steel and Chairman of the HSCL against the conspiracy of the government to close down HSCL, which will affect about 24,000 direct and 25,000 indirect workers. Based on the report of Arjun Sengupta Committee which has recommended that "non-core sector undertakings could hardly justify their existence by eating into the government resources", the government has taken a move which threatens closure of the HSCL. The Chairman-Cum-Managing Director of HSCL has issued a circular on June 4 proposing a "golden handshake" with the employees. This is a voluntary retirement scheme with the objective to off-load the so-called surplus workers. Apprehending the move of the government, the Joint Committee of HSCL Unions comprising of CITU, INTUC, Officer's Association and the Engineer's Association, prepared a viability report and submitted it to the Union Minister of Steel. A large number of MPs of various political parties also submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister urging upon him to desist from the move to save the public sector and the livelihood of nearly 50 thousand workers. The government of India thereafter constituted a "One Man Committee" to

examine the viability report. On the basis of the interim report by this one man committee, the CMD of HSCL has proposed this "golden handshake" with the employees. The Minister of Steel, K.C. Pant however, in a letter to Basudev Acharya, leader of CPI(M) group in Lok Sabha on July 31, has stated that at present there is no move to close down the HSCL. He repeated the same assurance to P.C. Malik (CPI-M) in the Consultative Committee meeting on August 14. The HSCL employees however and the public sector workers all over India are preparing to meet the challenge.

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of UTUC (LS) however wanted it to be within the bounds of the NCC units only, as in his opinion, bringing in other trade unions would dilute the NCC.

Summing up the deliberation, Com M K Pandhe (CITU) welcomed the common opinion to oppose the government's policy on public sector and the Arjun Sengupta Committee's report. He said that in the previous two conventions, only the Central public sector employees were involved. But now the government's policy will also hit the state public sectors, departmental undertakings, Electricity Boards, etc. In the previous conventions many other unions including the INTUC unions also came. There are so many public sectors in Bangalore and Hyderabad where all the unions are jointly fighting. The Public Sector Officer's Association is also fighting against the government's policy. INTUC has also expressed their willingness to oppose the policy and NCC in its meeting of 29th July had welcomed it. He also referred to the 67 public sectors where the industrial D.A. is sought to be imposed on the workers. Under the new situation therefore, he proposed to bring in all those who want to wage an united struggle to save the public sector. This will not dilute the NCC, but on the contrary broaden and strengthen the base of struggle. He gave the following proposals:

- (1) To invite all the unions, including INTUC unions and others who are not in NCC, the unions in the State Sector, Departmental Undertakings, State Electricity Boards, the Public Sector Officer's Association, etc in the Convention.
- (2) To make a Preparatory Committee with the public sector unions to organise the convention.
- (3) To hold the convention at Delhi for two days in October.
- (4) To make a Reception Committee with the Delhi Public Sector unions.
- (5) To call a meeting of the Preparatory Committee at Delhi to fix up the dates and other details.

Com. K.G. Srivastava, the President of the meeting asked for opinion on the proposals by raising hands. The proposals were passed unanimously. There was no one against, nor any abstention.

Visit of COSATU Delegation Cancelled

The proposed visit of the delegation from the Congress of South African Trade Unions to India has been cancelled. The CITU Centre received a telegramme on August 22, followed by a letter on August 25 from Stirling Smith, the Project Co-ordinator of the Commonwealth Trade Union Council, that the scheduled visit of the COSATU delegates have been cancelled because of harrassment by the South African Government. The CTUC had organised the programme of the COSATU to make a study visit to India from August 31 to September 20. Carl Wright, the Director of CTUC and Sterling Smith came down to India to arrange the programmes with different Central Trade Unions. The COSATU delegates were supposed to visit Bombay, Delhi, Dhanbad, Bnrnpur, Durgapur, Bokaro and Calcutta. The CTUC representatives visited the CITU Central Office on August 11 and finalised the programme with CITU in these places. All the programmes arranged by CITU therefore stand cancelled. The COSATU has very much regreted for being compelled to cancel the programme. According to Sterling Smith, they hope that conditions in South Africa will permit them to visit India in 1987. The CTUC has also regreted the inconvenience caused to CITU.

AROUND THE STATES

ANDHRA PRADESH

Conference of Hyderabad City CITU: The 4th Conference of the Hyderabad City unit of CITU was held on August 10, which was attended by 750 delegates representing about 20,000 workers from 41 industries. The conference was inaugurated by P. Satyanarayana and addressed by N. Prasad Rao. They stressed the role to be played by CITU in bringing the trade unions and the working class on a common platform to fight against the policy of the Central government and also the need to fight for the defence of national integrity and against the danger of war. 78 delegates participated in the discussion on the General Secretary's report placed by M. Purna Chandra Rao. The conference adopted several resolutions concerning the problems faced by the working class in the State and on national situation. It also demanded negotiations in the public sector undertakings. The conference unanimously elected S. Narasimha Reddy and D.G. Narasimha Rao as the President and General Secretary respectively.

HARYANA

Formation of Joint T.U. Council: The development of united struggle in Haryana took a forward step with the formation of a Joint Trade Union Council at Karnal. The T.U. Council consisted of the CITU, AITUC, BMS, INTUC and various other trade unions of government employees, bank, insurance and other industries. The central trade unions and 27 other unions held a convention on July 27 and formed the council. Many other trade unions have also expressed their willingness to join the council. The convention adopted a declaration resolving to develop united struggles to protect the interests of the workers against the growing attacks of the employers and the government. The convention elected twelve office bearers of the Council with O.P. Agnihotri as President and O.P. Bakshi as the General Secretary.

KARNATAKA

Indefinite Strike in RCC-Babcock: Led by CITU, the workers of RCC-Babcock, Shahabad, Karnataka have decided to go in for indefinite strike from September 1 in pursuance of their long standing Charter of Demands. The RCC-Babcock General Worker's Union had served fresh charter of demands on 23.7.85, prior of the expiry of the previous agreement on 31.7.85. But the management adopted a delaying tactics and ultimately called a negotiation after nearly one year on 21.6.86. The next negotiation was called on 11.8.86. But the management abruptly broke off the negotiation and showed a total negative attitude towards any settlement, compelling the unions to issue the strike notice.

Demonstration Before Police Commissioner:

Led by CITU over 500 workers took out a procession from Mysore Bank Circle and marched to the office of the Police Commissioner of Bangalore on July 24, demanding a halt to police interference in the workers' struggles. At the United Breweries after the prohibition of a lock out, the management had suspended 30 union functionaries and dismissed 3 of them. When the workers were observing a peaceful dharna in front of the factory, the police under instruction of the management attacked the workers and demolished the tent under which they were staging the dharna. In Hotel International also when the workers were peacefully demonstrating in protest against dismissal of 24 workers, the police intervened and attacked the workers. Similarly in Krishna Fibres and Rajiv Enterprises where the workers were agitating since the last 5 months against illegal lockouts, the police came and arrested over 50 workers. The police harassment on the auto rickshaw drivers are also on the increase. A delegation led by Narayana Rao Bhanu, T S Anantharam, R.Srinivas and K S Subramanya met the Deputy Commissioner of Police and handed over a memorandum demanding a stop to the police intervention in the workers' struggle.

MAHARASHTRA

Morcha against Price Rise: CITU affiliated unions in Bombay organised processions of industrial workers from different centres on Friday the 14th July and staged a massive demonstration near the University Campus demanding halt to price rise, relief to draught stricken people in districts, withdrawal of additional taxes imposed by the State Government, reduction of prices of essential commodities and distribution of that same through fair price shops, withdrawal of diesel and petrol price rise, reopening of closed textile mills and industrial units. The CITU mobilised a 5,000 strong morcha of industrial workers for the demonstration. Holding high their red flags and banners and raising slogans against monopolists and crying halt to I.M.F. and world Bank loan, workers from the city and far off suburbs came in large numbers to assemble at Azad Maidan. There, they were joined by employees from Banks, Insurance, mercantile establishments, etc. A good number of SFI, DYFI, Mahila Sramik Sangh activists joined by quite a few number of college teachers and professors and members and sympathisers of CPI(M) added enthusiasm and vigour to the procession. A memorandum submitted to the government briefly listed the horrible conditions prevailing in Maharashtra. To mention a few, the continuing draught situation in more than 36000 villages and yet no relief by the government inspite of tall talks. The increase in industrial production and yet drastic fall of work force. Two thousand factory workers for every one lakh population in 1981 having now reduced to 1650, mounting rise and the army of registered unemployed reaching 26 lakhs in the state, 50 per cent of them being educated. More than 14 textile mills are still closed. The memorandum further pointed out

that on the basis of government's own estimates, there has been a 10 per cent increase in the prices last year itself, and since then the prices of fuel, rice, wheat, dal, vegetable, oil, potato, mutton, fish and a host of other items of daily use have sky rocketed. Demonstrators who were stopped near the University Campus were addressed among others by S Y Kolhatkar, President, Ahilya Ragnekar, Vice President, Prabhakar. Sanzgiri, General Secretary and K L Bajaj, Secretary of the Maharashtra State CITU.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Successful Struggle by School Employees: In the Bishop Cotton School, Class IV workers formed their union called Bishop Cotton School Workers Union and affiliated it to CITU. D N Kapoor was elected General Secretary of the Union. The authoritarian administration of the school alongwith the local Congress (I) leaders tried its best to break the unity of the union and get it disaffiliated from the CITU. In spite of heavy pressure, the union led by CITU served a strike notice to the management with the demands like enhancement of salaries, to grant winter allowance and for recognition of the union. After witnessing the hundred per cent strike of all 90 workers, including the women workers, the management declared the school closed for a month and adopted the method of terror. President of the union Ram Nath was served with termination notice alongwith other four leading activists of the union. A huge police force was deployed in the school but the union continued its struggle heroically. The Dy. Commissioner of Simla, who is known as the hench man of Cong. (I) came openly against the striking workers. He openly pressurised the workers of B.C. School to join INTUC and when the workers refused to join and decided to remain in CITU, he threatened them with dire consequences. The workers gheraoed the DC's office for a whole day. At the instance of DC the management of the school recruited 12 workers from outside, but due to the persuasion of the union no recruit joined the duties. After 20 days' forceful strike the management conceded the demands of the workers. The whole striking period of 20 days was conceded as duty period, termination notices were withdrawn, workers got Rs. 60 per month enhancement, winter allowance and the recognition of the union was also achieved. During the struggle of the B.C. workers another union called Auckland School Workers Union affiliated to CITU achieved their demands after serving the demand notice.

GOA

Conference of Goa Mine Workers: Goa Mine Workers' Union Conference was held on 10th August, 1986 at Sonquelim. About 100 delegates attended the conference. The conference was inaugurated by Com. Prabhakar Donde. He briefed the national and international situation and made special emphasis on anti-war and peace activities and on the question of national integration and on the new economic policy of the govt. The report and the

accounts were placed before the conference by Com. Luisa Pereira. The report was discussed by the delegates and unanimously adopted. The conference was addressed by Com. Sitaram Mazrekar, General Secretary of the State CITU and other fraternal delegates.

ASSAM

Struggle by Mineral Oil Workers: Organised under CITU, the mineral oil workers of Digboi, Assam have launched agitation in pursuance of their long pending 9 point demands. The workers who are working under the contractors of IOC (AOD) are every time treated callously on the question of their demands. The principal employer, IOC (AOD) refuse to take any responsibility as the principal employer, the State and Central governments do not intervene effectively and the contractors refuse to negotiate or implement agreements. Over and above, they are faced with the onslaught of the secessionists. Even under such challenging circumstances the workers resorted to strike actions to compel the contractors to make the last settlement, which is yet to be fully implemented. This time also the workers observed two days Demand Day on May 12 and 13. But the contractors, the principal employers and the State government still remaining nonchalant, the union in its general body meeting held on August 12 decided to stage two day's hunger strike on August 25 and 26. The resolution adopted in the meeting in this regard has been sent to all the employing contractors, the principle employer and the State and Central governments. The CITU and Basudeb Acharya, MP, CPI(M) have taken up the matter with the Ministries.

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Kundapur another big Dharana was held which was led by Ibrahim Karkada.

Gujarat: The Gujarat State CITU has organised an "Anti Unemployment Satyagraha Week" from August 24 to 31. During this period a civil disobedience satyagraha will take place at Ahmedabad, Bhavanagar, Baroda, Kheda-Anand-Nadiad, Junagad-Rajkot-Probandar and Kandla. It has been planned that about 2000 to 3000 workers will court arrest in these places demanding right to work to be incorporated in the Constitution as a fundamental right and unemployment relief to the unemployed.

Orissa: A State level convention on unemployment was held at Bhubaneshwar on August 24 which was attended by 145 delegates from different parts of the State from various trade unions, Kishan and Khet mazdoor organisation, youth, students and women. Inaugurating the convention, Nrisingha Chakrabarty, Secretary, CITU called upon the trade unions to rise up against the growing unemployment and under-employment and champion the cause of the unemployed. Ajeya Rout, General Secretary of the State CITU moved the main resolution against unemployment, on which about 25 comrades spoke. The convention decided to observe November 12 as anti-unemployment day throughout the State.

Industrial Strike in Haryana

THE CITU and other trade unions in Haryana have jointly called for a one day industrial strike in the State on August 20 protesting against the anti-labour policies of the State government. The trade unions held a convention at Panipat on June 15 and discussed the various problems faced by the workers. Representatives of the various trade unions attended the convention from different parts of the State. The convention discussed above all, the question of minimum wages, the repressive measures adopted by the employers and the government to suppress the workers' demands, attack on trade union rights, callous attitude of the State Labour Department towards implementation of the labour laws, security of services, closures and lock-outs, privatisation of the State public sector undertakings, etc. The convention condemned the anti-labour and pro-monopolist attitude of the State government and unanimously decided to observe an industrial strike in the State on August 20 to press the government and the employers to concede the following demands:

(1) Rs. 1200/- as minimum wage and inclusion of all industries and establishments in the minimum wage scheme (2) Extension and implementation of the Factory Act and Labour Laws in all the factories and establishments and protection of trade union right and the wages of the workers; (3) Ban on closures, lockouts and retrenchment and reopening of Hissar Textile Mill; (4) Reinstatement of all the dismissed workers of Haryana Concast, implementation of the agreements and withdrawal of the lockout and reimbursement of the workers' wages; (5) Implementation of the agreement in Hansi Spinning Mill and gurantee of trade union rights; (6) Confirmation of all the government farm and departmental employees and recognition of the P.W.D., Irrigation and Co-operative employees as industrial employees; (7) Abolition of the Contract System; (8) Deletion of Article 311 (2) (B) of the Constitution.

In the meantime, the management of Haryana Concast arrived at an agreement with the trade unions on July 23 and lifted the lockout without any pre-condition. They also agreed to take back all the 19 dismissed leaders of the unions. The management also transferred the Administrative Director of the company, which was one of the demands of the workers. However, the trade unions did not retrace from their decision

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contacts with the National Union of Seamen so that exchange of information of activities can be arranged.

Attempts were made to contact Arther Scargill, British Coal Miners' leader so that an appointment could be fixed. However Scargill was on leave and hence no meeting with him was possible. However representatives of the National Union of Miners agreed to develop fraternal relations with All India Coal Workers' Federation.

of strike. As per the joint decision, notices of the strike have been served on the different employer and the government, particularly pinpointing on the demand of minimum wage.

Nagasaki Day at Udaipur

UDAIPUR in Tripura observed the Nagasaki Day on August 9 in a massive way. The day was observed as a part of the year long celebration of the May Day Centenary. About 10,000 people joined the huge peace March, which started from the K.B.I. Maidan and after passing through various routes, culminated at the Town Hall. The special feature of the Peace March was the participation of a large number of school children with a number of tableau depicting the war manoeuvres of the US imperialism, the struggle for peace, against weapons and for job, the struggle of the South African people against the racist regime, etc.

The procession started with the releasing of white doves by the Agriculture Minister of the Left Front Government, Badal Chowdhury. With a jeep carrying a big white flag, the procession was led by sixty students, boys and girls with white flags and in white dress, carrying a huge banner with the inscription, "No more Hiroshima, no more Nagasaki." They were followed by nurses, doctors, fire brigade workers, etc. Then followed a long procession of girls and women of various institutions with tableaus against war and for peace. This was followed by students of various technical institutions who presented a tableau on the anti-war declaration adopted by the World Science Congress. This was followed by a row of men and women wearing the dresses of the different States of India projecting the multinational character of the country and the unity and integrity of the nation. Lastly followed the vast section of the workers and members of CITU, DYFI, SFI, AIDWA and different trade unions. The Peace March had started after a brief address by Badal Chowdhury, the Minister of Agriculture and others. Badal Choudhury said that the hundred year of May Day were hundred years of class struggle. Through revolutionary struggles the workers implemented the pledge taken hundred years ago and successfully established socialist states uprooting capitalism from one third part of the world. Imperialism knows that their doom is nearing. Therefore they want to devastate the world with a nuclear holocaust. He called upon the working class to carry forward their task as the leader of the struggle and fulfil their historic revolutionary mission to save mankind from the ravages of imperialism and war to usher in a society of peace, development and prosperity. The procession was led by Badal Choudhury, Keshav Majumdar, the Regional President of the May Day Centenary Committee, the S.D.O., and others.

Although the Hiroshima Day on 6th August was observed more widely all over the State with innumerable processions, the Udaipur procession was the largest by far in recent times. Preparations for the Peace March continued for quite some time through series of campaigns and meetings.

T.U.s Agree on Verification Procedure

AFTER a protracted struggle for improvement of the procedure of verification of membership, there was an agreement among all the ten Central Trade Unions on a modified procedure. The agreement was reached in a meeting of the trade unions on July 30. The twelve points of agreement were submitted to the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) in a meeting at the Shram Shakti Bhavan on July 31. The four points on which there was no prior agreement, were further discussed on July 31 and submitted to the CLC(C). P.K. Ganguly, Secretary, represented CITU in the meeting. The CLC(C) thereafter sent the Government's comments on all the points.

In case of agricultural/rural workers it was agreed that the same procedure cannot be applied, particularly there cannot be any spot verification in this case. The UTUC(LS) was the only trade union which insisted that the same procedure should be adopted for agricultural/rural workers. It was decided that on the question of the agricultural/rural workers, regarding separate procedure or otherwise, the trade unions will meet on September 2 and thereafter the CLC(C) will call another meeting to decide upon it. The trade unions are also required to send their suggestions regarding the classification of the industries. It was unanimously agreed that the next verification should be undertaken for the year ending 31st December, 1985. The trade unions represented were CITU, AITUC, INTUC, HMS, BMS, UTUC, TUCC, UTUC (LS), NFITU and NLO. The points of agreement and the Government's comments are published hereunder.

The CITU and AITUC, while agreeing to the improved procedure for verification, however made it clear that in principle they were for secret ballot. However, for the sake of trade union unity they alongwith the other non-INTUC trade unions comprising the National Campaign Committee demanded improvement of the earlier procedure and so agreed on the improved procedure. But the INTUC, while hailing the verification procedure in its journal, The Indian Worker of the August 4 issue, has trumpeted it as if it has won a total victory over CITU and AITUC. Being compelled under pressure of the majority of the trade unions, the INTUC seems to have forgotten its erstwhile slogan of "nothing short of Check off", from which it came down to "anything short of secret ballot". Being a toer of the Government's line, it has in fact supported the Government's arbitrary reduction of the membership of the CITU and AITUC when these two trade unions boycotted the previous spurious procedure of verification. It has also forgotten the result of the Government's arbitrary action to exclude CITU and AITUC from the Indian Labour Conference on the basis of its own arbitrary determination of their membership. It resulted in massive protests from the trade union

movement and the Government was ridiculed by the even the bourgeois press and forced to reverse its decision. The INTUC has been fruitlessly repeating its soliloquy against secret ballot because it knows that the secret ballot will end its reign as the so-called "largest trade union centre of India". In its scare for the secret ballot, it has failed to see the reality that the demand for secret ballot is progressively increasing. It is afraid that secret ballot will politicise the workers and damage the "production atmosphere". The INTUC actually is speaking as the spokesman of the capitalist employers and the Government, who use all their ideological armaments and the repressive machinery to keep the workers out of politics and under their suppressive boots force workloads to increase productivity, only to boost the profits of the monopolists. The INTUC is obviously afraid of politicalised sections of the working class, because it is they only who can expose the anti-worker politics of the monopolists and the Government and fight in the interest of the entire class. The CITU therefore condemns the jargons recorded in the INTUC's journal which go against the spirit of unity at a time when all the trade unions in India with INTUC itself are coming forward for united actions on several issues on both national and international situations vitally affecting the working class.

Points of Agreement by the T.U.s and the Comments of the CLC(C)

1. Periodicity: Verification should be undertaken once in three years. It was also agreed that the CLC(C) should be asked to take necessary steps to complete the process within a period of one year to make it meaningful and not outdated. The verification should cover such trade unions as have been registered under the Trade Union Act.

Comments: Verification shall be undertaken once in 5 years. CLC(C) shall make all possible efforts to complete the process of verification within a period of 1½ to 2 years. The final verified membership results shall be in force till these are replaced by next verification results. The verification shall cover such trade unions as have been registered under the Trade Union Act and are affiliated to Central Trade Union Organisations participating in the verification.

2. Submissions of Claims: The claims of membership should be submitted by the Central Trade Union Organisations in the manner hitherto followed and as far as possible on the basis of the annual returns submitted to the Registrars of Trade Unions.

Comments: Could be accepted.

3. Spot Verification: (a) Spot verification should

be conducted by the Verification Officer after informing the unions concerned at least a fortnight in advance: (b) The sampling figure for spot verification should be raised to 10 per cent, (c) The concerned worker should himself/herself sign his/her membership of a union as recorded by the verifying officer. In the case of an illiterate worker, thumb impression will be countersigned by a co-worker of his/her choice. The spot verification should not be conducted in the presence of any representative of the management.

Comments: (a) Spot verification shall be conducted by the verification officer after informing the unions concerned the period of spot verification at least a fortnight in advance; (b) The sampling figure for spot verification should be 2 per cent to 10 per cent depending on the size of the physically verified membership of union. In order to maintain uniformity in selection of sample for spot verification the following criteria shall be followed:— (i) Unions with a physically verified membership of upto 1000 — 10 per cent of such physically verified membership shall form the sample for spot verification; (ii) Unions with a physically verified membership of above 1,000 and up to 10,000 — 5 per cent of such physically verified membership, subject to a minimum of 100 members, shall form the sample for spot verification, (iii) The unions with a physically verified membership of above 10,000 — 2 per cent of such physically verified membership subject to a minimum of 500 members, shall form the sample for spot verification.

Note: The selection of members for spot verification i.e. for personal interrogation shall be made from among those members who were found to have paid their subscription during the course of physical verification of 15 per cent of names among the members of the union.

(c) Could be accepted. The spot verification should not be conducted in the presence of any representative of either the management or the union.

4. Physical verification: Physical verification should be simplified and restricted only to the checking of membership register, audited statement of accounts, Registration Certificate, affiliation certificate and receipt of payment of affiliation fee. The sampling figure should be raised from present 10 per cent to 15 per cent.

Comments: In addition to the registers/documents mentioned, unions shall also produce receipt books containing counterfoils of receipts for membership subscriptions and Constitution of the Union. The sampling figure of 15 per cent could be accepted.

5. Inter State Unions: The membership of inter-state unions should be verified on the basis of the annual returns submitted to the Registrars of Trade Unions in the State where the union is registered.

Comments: Could be accepted.

6. Raising of objections: In raising objections, the Central Trade Union Organisations should raise specific objections with appropriate grounds for the objections.

Comments: Could be accepted.

7. Notice to Unions: The notices should be issued to unions to produce records giving 15 days time from the date of receipt of the notice. A second opportunity should be given to the Union. Even after the issuance of the second notice, if union fails to produce records, a *THIRD* notice should also be sent to the union. Copies of all these notices should be sent, without fail, to both the State Committees and the Central Trade Union Organisation concerned.

Comments: The notice shall be issued to the unions to produce records giving them 21 days time from the date of issue of the notice. The verification officer shall issue the second notice on the next working day after the expiry of the first notice giving the same notice period. If the union fails to produce records even on the expiry of the second notice period, a third and final notice shall be issued by the Verification Officer giving the same notice period. The Verification Officer shall endorse copies of all the notices to the State Committee and the Central Trade Union Organisations to which the union is affiliated. All the notices shall be sent by registered post with A.D.

8. Reclaims: Reclaims after receipt of the first provisional results should be entertained within one month of such receipt.

Comments: Reclaims cannot be accepted as the claims are to be submitted only once, i.e. before the circulation of claimed membership to the other Central Trade Union Organisations, the provisional results of the verification shall be sent to all the Central Trade Union Organisations so as to bring to the notice of CLC (C) any errors, omissions for rectifications. For the purpose it is possible to give one month period from the date of despatch of results.

9. Authorised representatives: In view of the difficulties voiced by Central Trade Union Organisations that in certain cases the Registrars of Trade Unions do not cooperate in enabling their representatives to examine the records in the RTU's office, during the process of verification, a list of authorised representatives should be given to the CLC (C), intimation of the list should be sent to the RTUs and letters of authority issued by the CLC (C), to the representatives.

Comments: In view of the difficulties being faced by the representatives of Central Trade Union Organisations in the process of verification with the
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Observance of Hiroshima Day

THE Hiroshima Day was widely observed on August 6 by the CITU State Committees and the unions in various parts of the country. The following are the reports received so far:

Tripura: The day was observed as a part of the year long May Day Centenary Celebration. The May Day Centenary Committee organised massive rallies throughout the state. Over one lakh people participated in the Peace Marches at different parts of the state. At Agartala the huge rally was addressed by B.T. Ranadive, President of CITU. The procession started from the Childrens' Park and culminated in the rally at the same place after traversing the different thoroughfares of the city. Workers, peasants, students, youth, women and tribal people participated in the Peace March in large numbers. Addressing the rally, B.T. Ranadive said that Hiroshima Day reminded the people of the war mongering character of imperialism. By dropping the Atom Bomb on Hiroshima at the end of the Second World War, American imperialism laid bare its craze for war and world domination. For this its particular vengeance is directed against the Soviet Union and the Socialist system which thrive on peace and development and constitute the greatest anti-war force. For this the American imperialism and its NATO allies are progressively building up huge nuclear arsenals around the world to establish their superiority over the Soviet Union. The destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are only a small fraction of the devastating potentialities of the nuclear arsenals built up by the imperialist powers today. It will exterminate the entire mankind itself. In pursuance of its global intentions, the US imperialists are also conspiring to dismember the third world countries by encouraging the secessionist and divisive forces. India stands as a classic example of the imperialist conspiracies. He exhorted to the mass that imperialism has to be rooted out of earth to root out wars. He reminded the working class of the revolutionary traditions of the May Day and called upon them to carry it forward for the establishment of socialism, which is the best guarantee for no war and for peace. The establishment of socialism in India will change the very face of the entire world. Among others who spoke were Dasarath Deb, Deputy Chief Minister of the Left Front Government of Tripura, Samar Choudhury, the Labour Minister and Manik Sarkar, the Convenor of the May Day Centenary Committee.

West Bengal: W. Bengal also observed the Hiroshima Day in a massive way throughout the State including in rural Bengal. A huge rally of several thousand people was held in front of the U.S. Consulate office despite heavy rains. Workers, students, youth, women, artists, litteratures, scientists and other joined the rally, coming in processions from various parts of the city. The rally raised sky rending slogans: "No more Hiroshima" "No more war", "Down with American imperialism", "Long live World

Peace", etc. People carried a number of Reagan's effigy and burnt them after the meeting. The rally was presided over by Baren Basu, the President of the W. Bengal State DYFI. Speaking on the occasion, Buddhades Bhattacharya of CPI(M) said that by dropping the Atom Bomb at the end of the last war, the U.S. imperialists actually declared their preparation for the third world war. After Japan they threatened to drop Atom Bomb on Vietnam and Korea also. They have shamelessly attacked Libya. Assailing American imperialism as the number one terrorists, he said that they are indulging in terrorist activities in the Asian, African and Latin American countries. They are the number one enemy of the freedom loving people. They are supporting the racist Pretoria regime and helping Israel against the Arab countries. He assailed America for encouraging the secessionist forces in Punjab, Assam and the so-called Gorkha National Liberation Front in Bengal. He said that the fate of mankind cannot be left with the war crazy US imperialists who have rejected all the peace proposals of the Soviet Union, and urged upon the working class to lead the struggle for peace. Among others who spoke were the eminent scientist Dr B.R. Nag; the DYFI General Secretary, Hannan Molla, M.P.; the State Secretary of DYFI, Robin Deb; Shyamali Gupta, the General Secretary of the State AIDWA, etc. The main resolution was placed by Tapas Basu, the State SFI President.

The day was observed in various other parts of the State also by processions, rallies, seminars, etc. Artists, litteratures, students including school children and youth took out several other processions also. The scientists also took out another procession from Satyendra Bhavan to Sidu-Kanho-Dahar. The procession was led by Prabhas Phadikar, the State Information Minister and Dr Sushil Kumar Mukherjee, the former Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University. Industrial workers also held gate meetings at different factory gates.

Tamilnadu: Hundreds of workers, students, youth and women marched to the US Consulate in Madras on the day. Activists of DYFI came from Madras, Chinglepat, North Arcot and South Arcot districts who were joined by the activists of CITU, SFI and AIDWA from Madras. A notable feature of the rally was that about 200 school children joined it. The procession was led by P.R. Parmeshwaran, V. Meenakshisundaram (CPI-M), A. Soundarajan (CITU), Sunit Chopra, S.P. Agathialingam (DYFI) and other District leaders of SFI, DYFI, CITU and AIDWA. All the participants wore black masks with the slogan, "We do not want war, we want to live" printed on the masks. They also carried hundreds of balloons with the same slogan printed on them. Trucks and cycle rickshaws carried huge boards with drawings and posters on the war danger and cartoons of the war

monger Reagan drawn in the form of a gun. Some trucks carried models of missiles and nuclear bombs with slogans calling upon the people to join struggles for peace against war. Thousands of leaflets were issued by DYFI and distributed to the people. At the rally, the leaders denounced the U.S. imperialists for spiralling the arms race and called upon all sections of the peace loving people to intensify the struggle for peace. After the meeting, white doves were released by the leaders. Hiroshima Day was also observed in the districts by holding peace marches, rallies, demonstrations and distribution of leaflets.

Bihar: CITU and AITUC jointly organised a rally at Patna on August 6. The rally was joined by members DYFI, SFI, bank employees, insurance employees, BSSR Union and others. The procession marched through the main thoroughfares of the city and culminated at the LIC gate where a mass meeting was held, which was addressed by Srikant Sharma, Amerendra Prasad Mishra (CITU); Raj Kishore Singh (A ITUC) and others. At Hazaribagh a procession was taken out and a rally was held which was addressed among others by Chandi Prasad, General Secretary of the State CITU. At Muzaffarpur a mass meeting was held at Kalyani Chowk which was addressed by Nand Kishore Shukla of CITU. Similarly, gate meetings were held in the industrial centres at Dhanbad, Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Bokaro, Barauni, etc.

Madhya Pradesh: The Koyla Shramik Sangh (CITU) organised a mass meeting in front of the CITU office at Banki to observe the Hiroshima Day. Large number of colliery workers belonging to CITU, AITUC, HMS and INTUC joined the rally. The rally denounced the U.S. imperialists for the devastation caused at Hiroshima and Nagasaki and resolved to build up united struggles against the war preparations by the Reagan administration.

Delhi: The State CITU organised a hall meeting on the day which was attended by workers from the industrial areas including from Ghaziabad and Faridabad, SFI, DYFI and AIDWA members. The meeting was addressed by Nrisingha Chakrabarty, Secretary, CITU and S.B. Bhardwaj, General Secretary of the Delhi State CITU.

Gujarat: According to a PTI report, the police brutally lathi charged and burst teargas shells on an anti-nuclear war procession of Adivasis on August 6 in Vedkabhudar village in Surat district. The processionists were proceeding towards the Kakrapad nuclear station shouting anti-war slogans in observance of the Hiroshima Day, when the police made the lathi charge on the plea that the processionists had defied section 144. The processionists threw brickbats in defence. A large number of Adivasis were injured and 211 were arrested.

Karnataka: At Bangalore the CITU District Committee organised a big procession and public meeting, which was presided over by T.S. Anantaram. S. Suryanarayana Rao spoke, explaining the significance of Hiroshima Day and called upon the people to build up struggles against the present war danger

created by the imperialists. Processions and rallies were held at Gonikoppal and other places. At Udipi the CITU unions alongwith LIC, bank employees etc held a hall meeting. Thousands of posters were pasted and leaflets were distributed in all the places.

HIROSHIMA OBSERVES ANNIVERSARY

Hiroshima marked the anniversary of the dropping of the first Atom Bomb by the USA on the city on August 6. Thousands of people assembled at the Peace Memorial Park to pay homage to the lakhs of people who fell victim to the US imperialist's barbarism 41 years ago. At 8.15 A.M., the time when the bomb dropped, the bereaved family members sounded a gong, and the crowd and the people around the city stood in silence for one minute. Soon after, some 1500 doves were released, dotting the sky and then scattering beyond the park and the dome. Beyond the cinotaph loomed the bombed ruins of the city's former industrial production hall, the skeletal shell dome frame of which stood in sharp contrast to the rebuilt city and the greenery of the park, and served as a grim reminder of the devastation. Black clad mourners deposited into the cinotaph books with the names of 4,941 Hibakusha, or the Atom Bomb victims who have died since the last August 6. The names bring to 1,43,590 the number of identified victims inscribed at the site. There are some 3,65,000 Hibakusha — survivors of Hiroshima and a second Atom Bombing of Nagasaki on August 9, 1945 in Japan today according to government statistics. Their average age is around 60.

A declaration read out on the occasion by Mayor Takeshi Araki of Hiroshima appealed to the nuclear powers to destroy all nuclear weapons and appealed for world peace. The declaration called upon the USA and the Soviet Union to hold a summit meeting at Hiroshima and take the first practical steps towards nuclear disarmament. Amidst choral music, Japanese officials and foreign visitors including Bishop Desmond Tutu, the South African anti-apartheid leader and Nobel Peace prize winner, and the citizens of Hiroshima streamed in to offer wreaths to the victims. The ceremony closed with the Hiroshima peace song, composed two years after the bombing. The song called on the citizens to rise up bravely to the sound of the peace bell. (*Xinhua, China Daily, August 7, 1986*).

Peace Meeting

In commemoration of the International Peace Year, an international peace conference commenced at Hiroshima on August 6. Scientists of international fame and Bishop Desmond Tutu addressed the conference. Nobel Prize winning scientists Nainus Powling and Dorothy Hodgkins hailed the Soviet Union for its preparedness to disband the nuclear weapons and moratorium on nuclear tests. They criticised the USA for embarking on a billigerent path. The conference called upon USA, Britain and France to respond to the appeal for disarmament.

1986 — The Year of Umkhonto We Sizwe

THE situation in South Africa is one of unprecedented political and economic crisis. It is the crisis of the apartheid system. P.W. Botha is caught in the cobweb of apartheid which he frantically tries to nurture with the doom writ large in his face. Feverishly trying for a way out, he helped by his imperial advisors — Reagan and Thatcher, is swinging from so-called reforms which failed to befool the people, to savage crack down on the movement. But the imperatives of the apartheid system, jacked up by the imperialist interests of USA and Britain, have led the Pretoria regime to march on blindly on the people, certainly to its own downfall, but leaving streams of blood in its trail. Over 2000 people have been killed since mid 1984 and thousands have been arrested and tortured. Along with Nelson Mandela, hundreds of leaders are languishing in the jails for years. Botha and his cohorts are playing the role of a new set of Nazis, unleashing their savage vengeance against the people struggling for freedom. During the last one year, he has clamped down two emergencies — one on July 20, 1985 and the other on June 12 this year — just four days before the tenth anniversary of the Sweto massacre of the school children, which shook the world. Anything and everything democratic have been banned — from the African National Congress, which is leading the People's Liberation Struggle to the media. The entire country has turned into a vast land of military barracks with the death squads and the specially powered police haunting the people with the craze for killing.

Umkhonto We Sizwe

But the people are undaunted. With more bloodshed, they are getting more determined — not for reforms, nor for sharing power with the racists, but to root out the very system of apartheid in its entirety, to end the domination of the white minority over the blacks, and to have the people's power, freedom of the people in their own land. They are not merely defying, but have trampled the ban orders on their organisations and activities underfoot. The fight is open on the streets — arms against arms. The ANC has declared the year 1986 as the year of Umkhonto We Sizwe (the Spear of the Nation) — the People's Army. It has called upon the people to join the army, take up arms and attack, advance and give the enemy no quarter. The operations of Umkhonto We Sizwe have a political and psychological impact. They have instilled self confidence into the people and transformed their latent anger against the regime into open mass confrontation. On one hand they have caused a feeling of insecurity among the enemy forces, and on the other, a conviction among the struggling people that victory is certain and near. This People's Army which was formed 25 years ago as an underground organisation, has now become a mass force driving the hounds of apartheid towards

the marsh, despite its founder leaders like Nelson Mandela being thrown into the jails. As President Oliver Tambo of the ANC has pronounced, "Let this Year of the People's Army see us engulf the apartheid system in the fires and the thunder of a people's war! Let the year of MK see us mount a military offensive that will push the enemy into a strategic retreat! Let us use the opportunities that this year gives us to replace each combatant with a hundred more, and building on our achievements, to create a formidable fighting force of the people, superior to the enemy forces because of the justice of our cause, the discipline of our combatants and the bravery and boldness of our warriors."

Since 1985, South Africa saw an intensification of the armed struggle and further unification of the fighting forces. This took many forms, such as political mobilisation, youth and student's upheavals, women's struggles, on the Church front and the last but not the least, further unification and consolidation on the trade union front. The formation of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), a federation affiliating 35 racially mixed trade unions representing over 5,60,000 members on December 1, 1985 has been a significant achievement in bringing together the white workers with the blacks to fight against racism and imperialism and uproot the system of apartheid. The formation of COSATU therefore added enormously to the strength of the democratic movement as whole. It was in this climate that the Umkhonto We Sizwe intensified the armed struggle and dealt serious losses to the enemy camp. In the first 9 months of 1985, the MK attacks were more than double the number recorded in 1984. There were 93 attacks upto September, 1985 as against 44 in the whole year of 1984. These attacks were not in the cities only, but engulfed the Bantustans as well.

The Imperial Interests

The rising struggle of the South African people as against the barbarous repression let loose by the Botha regime have drawn world wide support of the progressive and democratic forces to the ANC and the condemnation of the regime. The world slogan is for mandatory sanctions. USA and Britain stand isolated with a few Western capitalist countries in this world arena of rising liberation struggle. The repeated vetoes by these imperialists have thoroughly exposed their imperial interests. The boycott of the Commonwealth Games by the majority 32 countries further blackened Thatcher's face. With the racist regime in deep crisis, these external political factors have assumed special significance. Out of a total amount of about 31,000 million dollars of the Western countries' investment in South Africa, the American investments amount to about 14,000 million dollars and its trade with the country had

(Contd. on page 23)

(Contd. from page 18)

Registrars of Trade Unions, they shall send a list of such representatives for issuing an introduction letters by CLC (C) to them asking the RTUs to render necessary assistance/cooperation in the instant process.

10. De-registration: Registrars of Trade Unions should be instructed to send a list of unions which have been de-registered to the respective Central Trade Union Organisations half-yearly.

Comments: Since there is no provision under Trade Union Act, CLC (C) will take up this matter with the Ministry of Labour.

11. Records of Registrars of Trade Unions: In order to facilitate the process of verification and obviate any delays it is requested that Registrars of Trade Unions be asked to keep their records on a uniform basis, on that of the list of industries on which verification procedure takes place.

Comments: CLC (C) shall be taking up with the Ministry of Labour to address all the respective State/Union Territory Governments in this regard.

12. Membership of unions in Concerns which are locked out, closed units or where a prolonged strike may be taking place: In all cases where lockouts, closures or strikes have been continuing for a period of three to twelve months, affecting the keeping of records in the year of reckoning, the annual returns submitted to the Registrar of Trade Unions of the previous calendar year should be accepted as a basis for the purpose of verification. No spot verification can take place in all such cases, and the process should be confined to physical verification only.

Comments: Could be accepted.

13. Stamp System: The following system should be followed: (1) Every stamp should bear a serial number, (2) The same serial number shall appear in a counterfoil stamp in the membership register, (3) The number of the membership card shall also be noted in the membership register tallying with the serial number of the stamp, (4) The date of receipt of membership shall be duly entered in the register.

Comments: Since the date of reckoning of the instant verification has been proposed by the Central Trade Union Organisations for 31.12.85, the system suggested may not be possible to adopt. Hence it may be used for subsequent verification.

14. Procedure of verification in the case of Agricultural workers/Rural workers' unions and related matters: Membership of agricultural/rural workers' unions will be taken into account in ascertaining total membership of a Central Trade Union Organisation but the consensus is that certain aspect of procedure of verification may be different from

that of normal procedure and this will be further discussed and decided by trade union representatives. The question of representation to the agricultural workers may have also repercussions on the structure of ILC and representation to ILO. This matter will also be discussed further.

Comments: Since consensus on this issue is yet to be arrived at, comments of this office will be furnished later.

15. Classification of Industries: The Central Trade Union Organisations will send their suggestions for amendment to the classification of industries to the Chief Labour Commissioner (C) by 31st August, 1986. He may also take it up with the Ministry of Labour for finalisation.

Comments: Could be accepted.

The following issue will be discussed further by the Central Trade Union organisations: Criteria for representation on Tripartite bodies at the International, National, State and Industry level.

CITU Condemns Highhandedness of Cong (I) M.P.

P.K. Ganguly, Secretary, issued the following Statement on August 25: The Centre of Indian Trade Unions condemns the highhandedness of Shri PC Sethi, MP, the former Union Minister, who reportedly made a forced entry into the Kidwai Bhawan Telephone Exchange and misbehaved with the women telephone employees on 23rd August as he failed to get a trunk connection. It has been reported that he was in drunken condition and came with a gun. It is most unbecoming for a Member of the Parliament, and he had no right to enter the Telephone Exchange. The statement made by him is simply an eye wash and the government is trying to cover his actions.

The CITU also condemns the government for further trying to intimidate the employees by sending the military personnel. The CITU congratulates the employees for immediately coming out in protest and extends full support to their struggle and demands immediate arrest of Shri Sethi and withdrawal of the military personnel.

Similar statements were also issued by Sushila Gopalan, General Secretary of AIDWA and Vimal Ranadive, Secretary of All India Coordination Committee of Working Women.

Editorial Board

P. Ramamurti (*Chairman*)
Manoranjan Roy, Niren Ghosh,
M.M. Lawrence, P.K. Ganguly

M.K. Pandhe

CITU's Solidarity With Nicaraguan Workers

RESPONDING to the call of the CITU Secretariat the CITU unions and State Committees are continuing to send messages of solidarity and contributions to the Nicaraguan struggle.

Till date, the working class and the people of W. Bengal have contributed Rs. 4.6 lakhs to the fund. Apart from this, the materials collected include exercise books for the school children, blankets, medicines, tumbler, needles, pins and many other materials of daily necessity. The collection was organised through the Nicaraguan Solidarity Committee, which was formed with the representatives of trade unions, students, youth, women, peasants' organisations and people from all walks of life. The collected materials were sent to Nicaragua in a Soviet ship on August 8.

From other State Committees and unions also messages of solidarity and contributions are continuing. Till August 24, the CITU Central Office has received copies of such messages from 81 unions in Tamilnadu and 15 unions in Karnataka including its State Committee. The Karnataka State Committee has contributed Rs. 1000/- and 134 unions from Kerala have contributed a total amount of Rs. 8802.

Acknowledging the messages and the contributions, the Ambassador of Nicaragua has extended greetings to CITU. The Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of Nicaragua has also acknowledged and sent greetings to all the unions individually. The letters are printed as hereunder:

Letter of the Ambassador

Dear Comrade, 29th July, 1986

I take this opportunity to extend greetings to the Centre of Indian Trade Unions on behalf of the Central Sandinista Workers and acknowledge the receipt of a covering note addressed to me, including the message dated 14th of July, 1986 to Comrade Judith Silva Jaenz, Incharge of Asia and Africa, International Relations, Central Sandinista Workers.

As desired by the Centre of Indian Trade Unions, the material sent to us has been forwarded to Managua, Nicaragua.

I take this opportunity to inform you that we have also sent to Managua, Nicaragua, the more than 100 greetings and felicitations sent to us by the various workers unions affiliated to the Centre of Indian Trade Unions from the State of Tamilnadu, on the occasion of the VIIth Anniversary of the July Revolution. May I at this moment take the occasion to express our gratefulness for the above messages received by us.

Halima Sirker, Ambassador

Letter of the Charge d'Affaires

Dear Comrade, 19th August, 1986

I take this opportunity to extend greetings and have the honour to convey our grateful thanks, for the Revolutionary Greetings sent to us, expressing

solidarity with our cause, on the occasion of the VIIth Anniversary of the Popular Sandinista Revolution.

Comrades, this expression of solidarity is the just vindication of our struggle and itself a strong indictment of the United States aggression. I hope that in future, also, you would continue to stand by us and in the process strengthen peace in Central America.

Romeo Lopez, Charge d'Affaires

(Continued from page 21)

reached about 3,500 millions dollars in 1985. The figures for Britain are equivalent to those of America. So these two countries under state monopoly capitalism enjoy the lion's share of the loot from South Africa, ruthlessly exploiting the cheap black labour to boost the profits of the transnationals. In fact, with the largest deposit of gold and diamond in the world since the last hundred years, South Africa attracted every adventurer rogue from Europe for the commercial hunting of the black skin. In this fundamental sense, South African politics has been dominated by the gold question. It has been the interaction between gold mining, capital investment from abroad and the regime required to provide an organised stream of labour, that constitutes the central theme of South Africa's political history and hence the evolution of its social and political institutions and the distribution of economic and political power between the races and the social classes.

So far as USA is concerned, the actual events bear testimony to the fact that for the sake of attaining the goals of enslaving the peoples and protecting the vital interests of the American monopolies, the Reagan administration is bent upon to deal with South Africa according to the law of the jungle. Its policy of "Constructive Engagement" is only to boost the racist regime and protract the granting of independence to Namibia and intensify the undeclared war against Angola, Mazambique and other frontline States. Without its support South Africa could not have dared to ignore the resolutions of the UN, ILO and other international organisations, nor could have attacked the frontline states, nor could have continued to spill the blood of the South African people. Apart from this, the global intensions of the U.S. imperialists have drawn South Africa into the military strategy of the Reagan administration. Reports confirm that helped by the USA there is the development of a joint missile system by South Africa and Israel intended to deliver nuclear weapons.

Under the circumstances, USA and Britain cannot agree on sanctions, and so this is bound to further sharpen the contradictions between these countries and the progressive and democratic forces, the Non-Aligned Movement and among the capitalist countries themselves, and the racist regime will go further deep into the whirlpool of the crisis. The coming few months will be crucial with the Umkhonto We Sizwe heightening its offensives.

International Struggles

Soviet Union: More than 250 scientists from 95 countries, gathered in Moscow on July 22 for the international forum "Science, Technology and Peace", and the 14th General Assembly of the World Federation of Scientific Workers called upon all heads of states to show political willingness, persistence and a constructive approach in order to stop the world's mad slip towards nuclear disaster. The scientists called for the earliest agreement possible on the complete ban of nuclear tests, for the end of all weapons of mass destruction. They also said that it is inadmissible to take the arms race into space and called for the non-militarization of science. The forum upheld the Soviet proposal that the efforts, scientific and technological potentials of all countries be pooled so that outer space be used for peace and to help solve humankind's global problems.

Hungary: The World Federation of Democratic Youth in a press note issued on July 24 from its Head Quarters, Budapest has stated that over 30 lakh people from 42 countries have signed a memorandum demanding of the racist regime of South Africa immediate release of Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners. The memorandum has expressed solidarity with the struggle of the South African people under the leadership of the African National Congress for rooting out apartheid from the country and establishment of a free, democratic South Africa. The memorandum has also denounced the US and British imperialists for their support given to the Botha regime and demanded mandatory sanctions against South Africa.

Chile: The struggle of the people of Chile against the fascist dictatorship of Pinochet has entered a new stage. The overwhelming majority of the population in that country are fully determined to turn the year 1986 into the last year of the rule of tyrant Pinochet, to put an end to killings, tortures and persecution of innocent people, to the absence of rights and poverty of the broad circles of the population. On July 2 and 3 at the appeal of the National Civil Assembly, uniting more than 300 public organisations, trade unions including, a national strike was held. Hundreds of thousands of people went out into the streets, demanding the resignation of Pinochet and the reestablishment of democracy and justice. Punitive forces of the fascist regime used weapons, tear gas and water hydrants against the demonstrators. Six people were killed, many were wounded, more than a thousand were thrown behind the bars. These reprisals did not intimidate the people of Chile, they continue their struggle. The National Civil Assembly has called for observance of September 4 as the Day for Democracy in Chile. September 4 is the sixteenth anniversary of the last free election in the country (4.9.1970), which gave victory to the People's Unity candidate, Dr. Salvador Allende, who was later killed by the fascist coup detat on 11.9.1973.

USA: An important boost has been given to the

campaign to prevent Star Wars with the pledge by over 6,500 US scientists not to take part in the Reagan administration's space weapons programme. Among the signatories are 15 Nobel prize winners and the majority of professors from the top 20 university physics departments. Science departments in universities and other academic institutions are major targets for the Pentagon's effort to promote research into space weapons. The prospect of substantial government funds has lured many academic centres into working for the SDI. Science researchers know that by refusing Star Wars contracts they risk losing other Defense Department grants. In an interview in Science magazine, Donald Hicks, the Under Secretary of Defence for Research and Engineering, threatened just that, when he indicated that university departments opposed to Star Wars could find their funds cut. Calls have been made for the firing of Hicks for resorting to such bullying tactics. Nevertheless, the scientists' movement against space weapons remains firm. On receiving the signed pledge Representative George Brown Jr. (Dem. Calif) said "At a time when the administration has been seeking to purchase legitimacy for the SDI this boycott announces that the majority of the nation's top academic scientists are not for sale. By any standards this represents a major blow to the credibility of the programme".

France: The National Committee for Independence and Development (CND) held a meeting of about 100 people at Montreuil recently. Discussions focused on local conflicts in the Third World and their consequences on development, and on initiatives towards political solutions through negotiations. An Easter March organized by the Peace Movement from Bas-Rhin marshalled more than 200 Alsatians to join in solidarity with peace forces from Germany and Switzerland at Basle. Over 1,000 members of the Peace Movement assembled in front of the American Embassy in Paris on 6 May. They protested against American aggressions in Libya and called for peace in the Mediterranean.

Italy: Broad-based peace rallies and demonstrations were held in 100 Italian towns against US aggression against Libya and the attack on the Italian island of Lampedusa. Hundreds of thousands of Italians — 80,000 in Milan, Rome and Florence are now committed to preventing the escalation of acts of war. The entire population of Lampedusa demonstrated. As a result, there is greater mobilization of the movement for peace and security in the Mediterranean and worldwide.

DPRK: More than 10,000 youths and students gathered at an indoor stadium in Pyongyang on July 18 to call for "a broad united front" and "a mass campaign" on a regional as well as international scale to eliminate the danger of war and banish nuclear weapons from the earth. The meeting appealed to the youth and students of the world, calling for firm unity among them in the five continents to give momentum to the peace movement.

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

President :

B. T. RANADIVE

General Secretary :

SAMAR MUKHERJEE

Shri P. A. Sangma

Minister of State for Labour

Government of India

Shram Bhakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg,

NEW DELHI-110 001.

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One copy

RECEIVED

26th September, 1986.

29 SEP 1986

A. I. T. U. C.

CITU Objects to Arbitration for Cement Industry

Sub: Appointment of Arbitration for Cement Industry

Dear Sir,

The CITU strongly records its protest at the appointment as Arbitrators, Shri G. Ramanujam, President - INTUC and Shri Kapur of the Cement Manufacturers Assn. to consider the Charter of Demands submitted by the Indian National Cement and Allied Workers Federation.

The CITU also strongly objects to the reference to the Arbitration, the 8 points raised by the CMA on the plea of effecting economy at Cement plants.

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that the CITU unions have already submitted charter of Demands to the Cement Manufacturers Association. Similarly several other non-INTUC unions have also submitted their own Charter of Demands.

The Union Labour Ministry instead of calling a meeting of unions submitting the Charter of Demands had taken steps to consider only the Charter of Demands submitted by the INTUC unions. We consider that the Government is giving political consideration in deciding the issues. This is contrary to the collective bargaining practice prevailing in industries in India.

We are against the unilateral imposition of arbitration on the Cement workers and demand that the Charter of Demands submitted by all the Unions in Cement industry should be considered through negotiations with the representatives of unions submitting the Charter of Demands.

I would, therefore, request you to review the matter and get the arbitration proposal withdrawn and take suitable steps so that all the Charter of Demands are amicably settled through negotiations.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

M.K. Pandhe

(M.K. Pandhe)
Secretary

Copy to
Com. T. N. Siddhanta
Secretary AITUC
New Delhi-1.

Copy sent
to Com.
M. Nagai
20/9/86

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

President :

B. T. RANADIVE

General Secretary :

SAMAR MUKHERJEE



Date : December 25, 1986.

To

Regarding coordination of CITU with other TU including ATUC on strike Int'l. P.

The General Secretaries,
All India Trade Union Congress
Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh,
Hind Mazdoor Sabha

Dear Comrades,

You would surely recall that the Convention held on 21-22nd October, 1986 at New Delhi against denigration of Public Sector and its privatisation, had directed that a phased programme should be unitedly observed so as to strengthen the preparation for making the programme on 21st January, 1987 a success.

I am enclosing a copy of Com. S. Kumar, Secretary of ~~the~~ M.P. State Committee of CITU which shows that there is some hesitancy at some level in Madhya Pradesh which have to be overcome if at all the strike was to be a success.

I would request you to please take necessary steps to overcome these defects. We would also like you to point out to us if any hesitancy or weakness is seen in CITU Unions at any Centre so that we could also take corrective measures so that the united strike on 21st January, 1987 becomes a grand success.

With greetings,

Yours fraternately,

Nrisingha Chakraborty
(Nrisingha Chakraborty)
Secretary

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

MADHYA PRADESH STATE COMMITTEE

6, AKHTAR MAHAL, PULPUKHTA, BARKHERI, BHOPAL-8

Date : 21st Dec., 86.

Com Nrisingha Chakrabarty,
Secretary,
Centre of Indian Trade Unions,
6, Talkatora Road,
New Delhi 110 001.

*Report on CITU
Functioning & Diff
PSU for 21 Jan 1986 strike*

Dear Comrade,

Recently I had been to different Public Sector Undertakings where CITU Union is functioning, to discuss about the preparation for the 21st Jan. one day strike and phased programme taken in the convention and also role of different unions. I am giving below the report of different places.

1. Bailadila Iron Ore Project :

AITUC is recognised union in the project but the Union is not taking any initiative for jointly implementing the decisions the convention. Our union called a meeting for observing the 20th Nov, Save Public Sector day the AITUC Union did not attend the meeting. On 20th Nov. when we started the meeting and the demonstration few of their members joined it. There is also no joint signature campaign. There is no BMS or HMS union in the project.

2. Malanjkhand Copper Mines :

Here CITU, AITUC and BMS unions are functioning in the project. Our union took initiative and called a meeting for jointly observing the Save Public Sector Day on 20th Nov, 86. The AITUC union did not come nor they observed the save Public Sector Day. On 4th Dec. another meeting was called for having the signature campaign jointly, but in this meeting the AITUC did not come. It was decided to have signature campaign jointly by CITU and BMS Unions.

3. Bharat Aluminium, Korba :

A joint meeting was called at the initiative of our union. Though in the first meeting all 4 unions belonging to CITU, AITUC, BMS and HMS attended but in the next meeting the AITUC did not attend. It was decided to have signature

*S.K. R. S.
part K. R. S.
D. P. S.*

campaign jointly by CITU, BMS and HMS unions and also to have joint posters.

4. Coal Mines Area :

a. ✓ Sohāgpur under South Eastern Coal Fields Ltd.,

Here Bms has refused to have any joint movement on the above programme. There is a split in the AITUC union so there is a problem that whom to be called. Our union is alone is doing the campaign and also observed the Save Public Sector day on 20th Nov, 86.

b. ✓ Chirimiri area under S.E.C.L.

Our union took initiative for observing save public sector day on 20th Nov, 86. Except AITUC union no other union participated in the programme. The HMS union has refused to take part in any programme even in 21st Jan. strike.

c. ✓ Korba area under SECL :

Here our union tried to have joint meeting for observing save public sector day and signature campaign, but there is no response from other unions. Our union is doing this on their own.

Though two state level joint circulars have been issued but despite that the unions at lower level are not coming for joint movement. I would request you to take up the matter with the Central Leadership of the said organisations so that preparations for 21st Jan. strike can be done unitedly.

With greetings,

Yours paternally,

Sd/-

(S. KUMAR)
SECRETARY

Copy to :
Vom. M.K. Pandhe,
Secretary, CITU,
New Delhi.

1) Bawaria
Panch valley
Chindwara
2) R. S. Tripathi
O.P. Paper Mills
Amalai
Bakshi Shukla
H.P.
H.K. AG.

572
CITU
Minutes Regarding
Minutes of Meeting of Workers
Participation in Management

03 January 1987.

Dear Comrade Ganguly,

Thanks for a copy of your letter addressed to Shri R.P. Madan regarding the circulated minutes of the meeting on workers participation in Management held on 23.10.86.

You have correctly pointed out the omission. The minutes drawn are scrappy and critical observations are singularly omitted. Many of our new points are not touched. I saw it only this morning.

With best wishes for New Year.

Yours fraternally,

(S.K. SANYAL)

Comrade P.K. Ganguly,
Secretary,
Centre of Indian Trade Unions,
6 Tolkatora Road,
New Delhi- 110001.

Sks/nkv.

522-39
Gram : CITUCENT

Phone : 384071

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

President :

B. T. RANADIVE

14 Feb 1987

General Secretary :

SAMAR MUKHERJEE

Com. Indrajit Gupta
General Secretary,
All India Trade Union Congress,
24 Canning Lane,
New Delhi-110001.

Dear Comrade,

I am enclosing copies of two letters from National Projects Construction Corporation Ltd Workers Union for your ready reference.

I am not sending the photostat copy once again as it must have reached you by now.

I would request you to go through the details mentioned in Shri Shib Mahato's letter and take appropriate steps in the matter.

With Greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Nrisingha Chakraborty
(Nrisingha Chakraborty)
Secretary.

Encl: As above



NATIONAL PROJECTS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION
LTD WORKERS UNION
119, Bepin Behari Ganguly Street,
Calcutta-700012

Regn. No 12941
Affiliated to Centre of Indian Trade Unions

President: Nirmal Roy
General Secretary: Binoy Mukherjee

Ref. No 443/33/87
Dated: 6-2-87

Com. Mrisingha Chakraborty
Secretary, Centre of Indian Trade Unions,
6-Talkatora Road, New Delhi-110001.

Dear Comrade,

We hereby enclosed a letter Ref. No. 441/12/87 dated 6.2.87 addressed to the General Secretary, All India NPGC Employees Federation, Bus Stand, Ratu Road, Ranchi and copy forwarded to The General Secretary, AITUC and Com. Narayan Chowbey CPI(MP) for your appropriate action.

It is also inform to you that the following members are transfer from MTP Unit to Indrabati Unit(Orissa) Please ~~with~~ write down to a letter to Orissa State CITU for their organisational help.

1. Shri Shib Kumar Mahato
2. Shri Lakhinder Boral
3. Shri M.D. Atauddin.

Comradely Yours

Sd/-
(Binoy Mukherjee)
Gen. Secretary.

522.90

CITU

20.2.87

Dear Com.,

Your letter of 14.2.87 to hand.

We have asked our Ranchi Union to clarify the situation. We will inform you on hearing from him. We assure you will do the needfull to smoothen out matters.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

HOMI DAJI.
Secretary.

Com. Nrisingha Chakraborty
Secretary, CITU,
6, Talkatora Road,
New Delhi.

Gram : CITUCENT

Phone : 384071

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

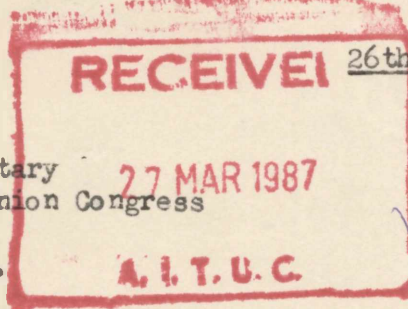
President :

B. T. RANADIVE

General Secretary :

SAMAR MUKHERJEE

The General Secretary
All India Trade Union Congress
24, Canning Lane,
New Delhi-110 001.



6 Conf of CITU held in Bombay

Dear Comrade,

I am happy to inform you that the 6th Conference of CITU will be held at Bombay (Sanmukhanand Hall) from 18th-22nd May '87. The Conference would start at 12 noon on the 18th May '87.

I have great pleasure to invite you to attend the Inaugural session and convey fraternal greetings to the Conference on 18th May, 1987. Kindly inform this Office or our Reception Committee at Bombay at the following address the programme of your arrival at Bombay.

With Greetings,

Yours fraternally,

The Chairman
Reception Committee
6th Conference of CITU
Maharashtra State Committee of CITU
Janashakti, Globe Mill Passage,
Worli, Bombay-400 013.

Samar Mukherjee
(Samar Mukherjee)
General Secretary.

ऑल इन्डिया

26188

नेशनल प्रॉजेक्ट कॉन्सट्रक्शन कॉरपोरेशन लि० इम्पलाईज फेडरेशन
ALL INDIA N. P. C. C. Ltd. Employees Federation

Head Office :
Parwana Memorial
44 Kingsway, Nagpur
(Maharashtra)

General Secretary's Camp Office;
Bus Stand, Ratu Road
Ranchi - 834001
(Bihar)

Ref No .NEF/.../87

Date ..3.4.87

To,
Com. Homi Daji,
Secretary,
A.I.T.U.C., 24, Canning Lane,
New Delhi.



Dear Comrade,

With reference to your letter no. nil dated 20.2.87 regarding complaint of the Union affiliated to CITU against our representatives of Indrawati (Orissa), I am to clarify that the complaint is false and motivated. No representative of the federation has demanded any such amount from any member of the said union there.

It is, there the leaders of the CITU should be intimated that charges as mentioned above are not true, but are concocted and levelled with ulterior motive to malign our organisation.

With regards.

Comradely yours,

K. N. Pandit
3.4.87

(K.N.PANDIT)
General Secretary,
All India N.P.C.C. Employees Federation.

27th April 1987

Dear Com.,

This is to reply to your letter dated 14th Feb.1987.

We have checked up with our union and they have categorically and vehemently denied the allegations made. They say there is not even our single case in which such practice was followed. We think there is some misunderstanding abouts the matter. However of you have any particular case in mind the same can be examined. On the face of it too the allegation seems prepostrous and misconseived.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Hd
(Homi Daji)
Secretary

To

Com. Nrisinga Chakravorty
Secretary, CITU
New Delhi.

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS
6-Talkatora Road, New Delhi-110001

Dated: 8th May, 1987

The Editor/News Editor/Bureau Chief

Dear Sirs,

We are happy to announce that the 6th Conference of Centre of Indian Trade Unions(CITU) will be held at Sanmukhanand Hall, Bombay on May 18th to 22nd, 1987. The Inaugural session would start at 3 P.M. on 18th May 1987. This Conference acquires importance in view of the deteriorating International and National situation and the victory of the Left Front in West Bengal and Left Democratic Front in Kerala.

The following Organisations have accepted our invitation to attend this conference and the names of the delegations are given below:-

1. World Federation of Trade Union
Mr. Vsevolod Mojaev, Secretary-WFTU
2. All Union Central Council of Trade Unions.
(i) Mr. Albert Iakovlev, Member AUCCTU Presidium
(ii) Mr. Konstantin Ilyich Tuzikov, AUCCTU International Deptt. Officer.
3. All China Federation of Trade Unions
(i) Mr. Yu Quinho, Member-Secretariat of ACFTU
(ii) Mr. Zhen Goshun, Deputy Section Chief of the International Deptt. of ACFTU
(iii) Mr. Zhou Yang, Interpreter for the International Deptt. of ACFTU.
4. Czechoslovak Central Council of Trade Unions
(i) Mr. Zdenek Malek
5. Central Committee of Afghanistan Trade Unions
Mr. Faquir Mohammad Zwmari, Member of the Presidium
6. Central Committee of Bulgarian Trade Unions
(i) Mr. Dimiter Markov Gospodinov, Chairman of the District Committee
(ii) Mr. Iliyan Ivanov Ignatov, Collaborator
7. Confederation General of Italian Labour (CGIL)
(i) Ms. Silvia Boba
(ii) Mr. Gianni Celeta, Textile Union, Adjoint Secretary
8. Congress of South African Trade Unions
(i) Mr. Ian War
(ii) Mr. Jacob Mabena
(iii) Mr. Hlalele
9. Commonwealth Trade Union Council
Mr. Stirling Smith

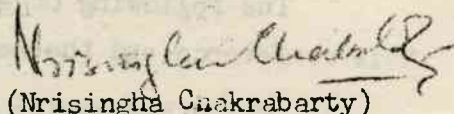
The Open session and mass rally will be held on 22nd May, 1987 under the Presidentship of Com. B.T. Ranadive and will be addressed by Com. Jyoti Basu, Com. E.K. Nayanar and Com. Nripen Chakraborty, Chief-Ministers of West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura among others.

The Inaugural session and the mass rally is fully open to the Press. Besides, everyday, press briefing will be arranged sometime in the morning or in the afternoon.

As the subject matter to be discussed and the decision thereon have an all India repercussion which will be keenly watched by the Working class and the public at large, I would request you to depute your Reporter and Photographer to cover the conference.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,



(Nrisingha Chakraborty)

Secretary.

GRAM: "CITUCENT"

PHONE: 384071

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS
6-Talkatora Road, New Delhi-110 001

CIRCULAR NO: 52/87

15th July, 1987



To

The General Secretaries of
all State Committees.

Dear Comrades,

Re: NCC's programme of Satyagrah on 3rd August '87

The National Campaign Committee of Trade Unions held a meeting at 6, Talkatora Road, New Delhi on 13th July, 1987. The meeting reviewed the preparations for the programme of Satyagrah on 3rd August, 1987 against the proposed amendments in the I.D. and T.U. Acts, against the introduction of the new CPI series and for a minimum wage above the poverty lines. As decided before, there will be courting arrest in all State capitals and industrial centres on 3rd August. At New Delhi a massive courting arrest before the Parliament will be organised on the day. In West Bengal, Tripura and Kerala however, there will be demonstrations and rallies.

Please make preparations for the above programme: by holding joint meetings, conventions, etc. Please post your reports to the Central Office.

With greetings,

Yours comradesly,

(P.K. Ganpuly)

Secretary.

Copy to: National Federations

522-91
GRAM: "CITUCENT"



CITU
PHONE: 384071

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS
6-Talkatora Road, New delhi - 1.

Circular No. 54/87

Dated: 15 July, 1987

To All State Committees of CITU, Office-Bearers of CITU,
All members of the Co-ordination
Committee of Public Sector Unions .

Subject:- Postponement of Strike in
Public Sector on 21st July, '87

.....

Dear Comrades,

After the observation of 5th June 1987 as all India Demands Day for 20% interim relief, early settlement of charter of demands and full neutralisation of rise in cost of living at all level, the campaign amongst public sector employees went on very well all over the country involving all section of public sector employees. In several industries, INTUC unions openly came forward in support of the strike, and several of them served strike notices on 6th July 87.

In view of / ^{these} demands raised jointly by the trade union movement, the settlements were stalled in all the public sector negotiations, resulting in complete deadlock all over the country. The HEC strike in Ranchi was in protest against the treacherous agreement signed by the minority INTUC union, bolstered by the Government of Bihar. The agreement was exactly within the BPE guidelines, rejected by the entire Trade Union movement. In Bhopal also workers / ^{downed} their tools for 35 days in support of their demand for interim relief. In several centres workers were prepared for indefinite strike to achieve their demand.

The meeting of 29th June, '87 was held in this atmosphere. In that meeting all the trade unions unitedly pressed for the demand for Interim Relief of full neutralisation. The details of the deliberation of the said meeting has been circulated in the circular earlier.

The second meeting was held in New Delhi on 14th July '87. The meeting was presided over by Shri Vasant Sathe, Minister of Steel, Mines & Energy and was attended by Shri P.A. Sangma, Union Labour Minister of state and Shri K.K. Tiwari, Minister for public enterprises. In the meeting trade unions jointly demanded that the workers should be paid interim relief at the same rate and slab as paid to the public sector officers and supervisory staff with effect from 1.1.86. They also demanded setting of machinery to ensure full neutralisation to all the workers of

.....2/-

: 2 :

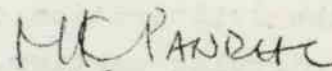
public sector at all levels. The Govt representatives for the first time admitted the justification of workers' demand and stated that they should be given two weeks' time to resolve the matter through discussion. The govt representatives also agreed to form a standing committee of public undertakings including the representatives of the trade unions to discuss the question of full neutralisation and other issues. The government spokesman said that the govt was keen to resolve the matter through discussion and they noted that the Cabinet has already appointed a four-member Sub Committee consisting of S/Shri Vengal Rao, Vasant Sathe, P.A. Sangma and Bhramdutt to go into the subject and place proposal regarding the payment of interim relief before the Cabinet. The govt, then would call a meeting of the trade unions to resolve the matter. Such a meeting is likely to be called on 23rd July 1987.

In view of the two weeks time asked by the govt, representatives of the committee of public sector trade unions considered this issue at length and decided to defer the date of strike of 21st July '87. The broader meeting of the committee of public sector unions will be held in New Delhi to review the situation and decide the future course of action.

In view of the positive achievement the strike has to be postponed. A joint statement alongwith INTUC has been issued which is being enclosed herewith for your information. All members of the Co-ordination Committee should explain this achievement to the workers and call upon them to be prepared for further struggle whenever all India call will be given. The reports of the activities of the unions in this regard should be given to the Centre without any further delay.

With Greetings,

Yours Fraternaly,


(M.K. Pandhe)
Convenor.

....3/-

TEXT OF JOINT STATEMENT BY INTUC, AITUC, CITU, HMS AND BMS

A meeting of the representatives of AITUC, CITU, HMS, BMS and INTUC was held today to review the position in regard to the situation on the demands of the workers in Central Public Sector Undertakings for interim relief and the two rounds of discussion which these representatives had with the Government of India resulting in an appeal by the Labour Minister to the ^{Central} Trade Union organisations to give up the proposed strike for 21st July with a view to facilitate an atmosphere for a satisfactory settlement of the demand.

The representatives of the trade union organisations noted:

- (a) that the Labour Minister's appeal underlines the workers' demand for interim relief has been appreciated by Prime Minister and that this has resulted in the setting up of a High Level Ministerial Committee.
- (b) The appeal for giving up the strike call also assured a time limit of a fortnight for the government to find a solution to the problem.

Taking all these factors into consideration, the representatives of central trade union organisations decided to postpone the strike proposed for 21st July. This gesture by trade union centres, they hoped, will be appreciated by the Government and will result in an early settlement of the dispute in a manner satisfactory to all which should be made possible by adequate government response to meet the just demands of the workers.

The demand of the workers was placed for consideration of the Government in simple term "same slab, same rate and with effect from same date as given to the officers and supervisors in public sector undertakings.

The trade union centres also noted that government is willing to set up a standing committee on the same pattern to consider issues and policies of national importance pertaining to the public sector undertakings, which will include, among others, full neutralisation dearness allowance upto basic pay of Rs. 3500/- p.m. In the circumstances they have decided to advise all their respective affiliates to postpone the strike action proposed for 21st July.

.....4/-

The Central Trade Union Centres congratulated the workers of public sector undertakings for their unity, solidarity, discipline and expected them to continue to function in the same spirit.

The meeting was attended by the following representatives of Central Trade Union Organisations :

<u>AITUC</u>	<u>CITU</u>	<u>HMS</u>
Sd/- Indrajit Gupta, M.P.	Sd/- Dr. M.K. Pandhe	Sd/- R.K.Samantrai
Sd/- Homi Dazi	Sd/- P.K. Ganguly	Sd/- M. Sharma
Sd/- Gaya Singh	<u>BMS</u>	
Sd/- K.G. Srivastava	Sd/- R.K. Bhakt	
	Sd/- Randeo Prasad	

I N T U C

Sd/- G. Ramanujam	Sd/- Gopeshwar M.P.	Sd/- Lal Bahadur Singh
Sd/- V.V. Dravid	Sd/- R.C. Arya, MLA	Sd/- Raja Kulkarni
Sd/- SL Passey		

Dated: 15.7.1987.

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

President :

B. T. RANADIVE

General Secretary :

SAMAR MUKHERJEE

RECEIVED

11 DEC 1987

A. I. T. U. C.

10th December '87

*Include AITUC Rep. in
Industrial Committee on Electricity
Generation & Distribution*

Dear Shri Sangma,

I am constrained to draw your attention to the Labour Ministry's circular No. U-14012/1/87-LC of 1st December, 1987 regarding constitution of an Industrial Committee on Electricity Generation and Distribution Industry.

In this Committee the CITU has been allotted only one seat and AITUC has not been given any seat at all. But some other trade unions have been allotted a number of seats.

I had a talk with Shri Amit Dasgupta, Under Secretary in this regard. He said that the allotments have been made according to the verification results of 1980.

You will appreciate that the verification results of 1980 do not conform to the realities prevailing now in the Electricity industry, where CITU and AITUC are the main force. Out of about seven lakh workers in the industry, CITU alone represents about two lakh workers. Moreover, CITU and AITUC have been demanding for the constitution of the Industrial Committee since long.

I would therefore request you to look into the matter and reconstitute the Committee giving proportionate representation to CITU and AITUC according to the realities prevailing in the industry.

Awaiting your reply, with regards.

Yours Sincerely,

(P.K.Ganguly)
Secretary.

Shri P. A. Sangma
Minister of Labour
Shram Shakti Bhawan
Rafi Marg
NEW DELHI-110001

CC: The General Secretary
All India Trade Union Congress
24, Gunning Lane
New Delhi-110001 - Attention of Com. Bardhan.

522-98

CITU

December 16, 1987.

The General Secretary,
Centre of Indian Trade Unions,
6 Talkatora Road,
NEW DELHI.

Dear Comrade,

We heard with shock the news of passing away of the veteran Trade Union leader Comrade P. Ramamurthy. His life was devoted to the working class and he played yeoman's role in building up the Trade Union movement. His passing away is a great loss to the CITU and the Indian Trade Union movement.

We extend our heartfelt condolences and join you in your moment of sorrow.

Yours fraternally,

Homi Daji

(HOMI DAJI)
Secretary.

*Active Criticism of
CITU Malagony* *CITU*
Active cover Withdrawal of Strike
 May 3, 1988. *at I.D.P.L.*

Dear Comrade Pandhe,

In the meeting of the Committee of Public Sector unions held on 4th April 1988 to review the strikes in Public Sector, Coal and 15th March, some problems, mistakes and misunderstanding were brought up and talked over. I thought the matter ended there, in fact I ended the discussion saying that in future we should take greater care so that such incidents do not recur.

However, I was surprised that in CITU's organ "the working class" of May Day, you have unnecessarily maligned the AITUC over the decision of withdrawing strike in I.D.P.L.

Since you have thought it fit to indulge in public controversy, I have to go on record that Manoranjan Roy Secretary of West Bengal CITU unilaterally issued a press statement revoking the decision to strike in NTPC and this statement was xeroxed and distributed by the management in other Plants causing disruption and confusion.

Similarly, Comrade B.T. Ranadive unilaterally declared in a press Conference that public utilities like Electricity have been exempted from strike. This despite the fact that the two Electricity Federations (including CITU) had called for a strike. This also created a lot of confusion and disruption.

In all honesty you should publish the above also in your paper, which I know that you will not do as CITU has its own partisan and sectarian methods of functioning and specially revel at defaming the AITUC.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Sd/-
 (HOMI DAJI)
 Secretary.

Com. H. K. Pandhe,
 CITU,
 6 Talkatora Road,
 New Delhi.

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

President :

B. T. RANADIVE

General Secretary :

SAMAR MUKHERJEE



✓ Com. Homi Daji
Secretary, AITUC,
24, Canning Lane,
NEW DELHI-110 001

Com. Veereshwar Tyagi
Secretary, HMS,
120, Babar Road,
NEW DELHI- 110 001

✓ Dear Com. Daji, /Dear Com. Tyagi,

Re: Convention in Textile

We have received with thanks your letter to Com. Samar Mukherjee in response to the copy of his letter to Shri N.M. Barot, Shri Barot however has not replied as yet. We are sending another letter to Shri Barot, a copy of which is being enclosed herewith. It will be better if you also write to him from your end.

With greetings.

Yours Fraternally,


(P.K. GANGULY)

SECRETARY.

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

President :

B. T. RANADIVE

General Secretary :

SAMAR MUKHERJEE

17th May, 1988.

Shri N.M. Barot
President,
National Labour Organisation,
Gandhi Mazdoor Sevayaya,
BHADRA, AHMEDABAD- 380 001.

To Have Convention of all AITUC, HTU
CITU IUS To Discuss Situation
of Textile Industry

Dear Shri Barot,

I hope you have received my letter of 30th April, 1988 wherein I made the proposal for convening a joint convention by all the trade unions to discuss the serious situation in the textile industry and initiate some united movement. I proposed to hold the convention at Ahmedabad and to have a meeting at Delhi to discuss the details. AITUC and HMS have also expressed their willingness to have such a convention. For your ready reference I am enclosing herewith a copy of my above letter to you, and awaiting your reply. I am awaiting a reply from INTUC also.

With greetings.

Yours Fraternally,
Samar Mukherjee
(SAMAR MUKHERJEE)
GENERAL SECRETARY.

CC: Shri Hari Bhati Naik
General Secretary, INTWF,
Mazdoor Manzil
G.D. Ambedkar Marg,
PANEL, BOMBAY-400 012

-- With a request to reply giving
your opinion in the matter.

522-51

CITU

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS
6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

RECEIVED
30 MAY 1988
A. I. T. U. C.

*CITU Protests
BPE to deduct
Interim Relief*

Camp: Calcutta
C/o. West Bengal State
Committee of C I T U
53, Acharya Jagadish
Chandra Bose Road
Calcutta- 700 016
Phone: 29-7890
29-2377

Press Statement :

C I T U CONDEMNS ANTI-LABOUR SECRET CIRCULAR BY BPE

Dr. M.K.Pandhe, Secretary, CITU, has issued the following statement to the Press :

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions strongly condemned the recent secret circular by the Bureau of Public Enterprises directing the Public Sector Managements to deduct the interim relief paid to the workers from 1st January, 1986 till the conclusion of the last agreement from the amount of retirement benefits to be paid to the employees due for retirement. It is strange that some of the public sector managements have already taken steps to deduct such interim relief quantum from the retirement benefits of workers.

It has been made clear by all the Central Trade Unions that they are against adjustment of the interim relief prior to the commencement of the agreement. In view of this united stand by the trade union movement the directive, if implemented by the public sector managements will only be resisted by the public sector workers all over the country

The CITU appeals to all the trade unions in public sector undertakings to raise their voice of protest against the arbitrary instruction of the BPE so that the managements are forced not to implement these anti-labour directive.

Dated, Calcutta,
the 26th May, 1988.

M.K. PANDHE
(M. K. PANDHE)
SECRETARY

To
The News Editor / Special Correspondent,

- for favour of publication.

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

President :

B. T. RANADIVE

General Secretary :

SAMAR MUKHERJEE

20th June '1988.

To

AITUC, HMS, BMS, UTUC,
UTUC(LS), INTUC (Dara), TUC.

*Prep. for July 14th Convention
of NCC*

Dear Comrades,

A meeting of the NCC will be held on 23rd June, 1988 at 5 PM at 6, Talkatora Road, New Delhi. The meeting will discuss the details of the 14th July Convention to be held at Mavalankar Hall on the T.U. & I.D. Acts Amendment Bill and the Hospital Bill. Please make it convenient to attend the meeting positively.

As decided on 13th June, all Central trade unions are to pay Rs.300/- each for the booking of the Hall, which has already been done. Apart from this, we have spent Rs. 176/- for Kerala House for the 13th June meeting. Therefore each Central Trade Unions should remit Rs. 322/- to square up the expenses. Com. Dara has already paid Rs . 322/- and BMS has paid Rs. 300/-. We request all other comrades to remit their share of Rs.322/-.

Thanking you, with greetings.

Yours Comradely,


(P.K. GANGULY)

SECRETARY.

522-53
Gram: CITUCENT

Phone: 384071

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS
6 TALKatora ROAD, NEW DELHI - 110 001

2.8.1988

To

The Director General
International Labour Office
CH - 1211 Geneve 22
SWITZERLAND



Dear Sir,

Re: Official Complaint against attack on Freedom of Association
and infringement of trade union rights in the State of
Tripura, India

While awaiting the conclusions of the Committee on Freedom of Association on our earlier complaint (Case No 1428), we hereby lodge another official complaint against attack on Freedom of Association and infringement of trade union rights in the State of Tripura, India.

Immediately after coming to power in the State of Tripura in early February, 1988, the Congress(I) has concentrated its attack on our CITU unions and cadres. The attacks are launched by deploying anti-social hirelings and with the help of police and para-military forces. The attacks are in the form of murders, physical assault, beating in police lock-up, capturing of unions, burning of houses, rape of women, deregistration of unions, arrest and involvement in false cases, etc with threatening and coercion to leave the CITU unions.

The following examples will substantiate our complain:

1. The first attack was launched on 5th February by the Congress(I) anti-socials, when the CITU affiliated Motor Shramik Union office at Udaipur was attacked and furnitures were broken. The incident was reported to the police, but no action was taken.
2. On 6th February, Com.Gopal Ghosh and Com.Indrajit Das, two Motor workers of CITU were attacked at Khayerpur. Com.Gopal Ghosh was murdered and Com.Indrajit Das was severely injured. But astonishingly, Com.Indrajit Das was arrested by the police.
3. On the same day, the houses of Com.Anil Das, a brick worker; Com.Madhu Mian of TRSU and Com.Hiramoni, a woman leader of Laxmi Lunja Tea Estate were also retrenched from their services.
4. On 24th February, Com.Dhama Das, a member of the CITU State Committee and leader of FCI workers was arrested alongwith his son without any warrant. He was kept naked in the police custody and severely beaten up. In the name of search, his house was ransacked. Nothing was found from his house and yet he was kept in police custody till 14th March and then released on personal bond.

/ set on fire. Com.Hiramoni and her husband were

....2

5. On 25th February, Com. Bandan Gope and Com. Laxmi Narayan Choun, leaders of Kailashahar Tea Workers' Union were arrested by the police on false cases and severely beaten up in police custody.
6. Com. Shakti Prasanna Bhattacharya, Secretary of the State CITU was attacked in his own residence as he refused to pay "Jijiya Kar" being forcibly collected by the Congress(I) anti-socials.
7. The house of Com. Sridam Sutrachar, a member of the State Committee of CITU was set on fire. The house of another Com. Sudarshan Das was also set on fire. These comrades and their families have become homeless. They also cannot enter the areas due to the reign of terror created by the Congress(I) anti-socials - the "Bargi Bahini."
8. On 1st April, 276 Fara workers of CITU belonging to the Kamalasagar Goatary Fara were forcefully prevented from joining their duties by the Congress(I) anti-socials. On 3rd April some of the workers were severely beaten up by the anti-socials. Both these incidents were reported to the Bishalgam Police Station by the local MLA, Shree Motilal Sarkar. But no action has been taken by the police against the culprits.
9. On 6th April, Com. Abdul Samad, a leader of the daily rated contract workers of the Thermal Plant Construction under the Kalamchura Police Station, was called by the State Home Minister at Agartala and was warned against any demand for higher wages, in pursuance of which agitation was going on. After his return from Agartala, he was arrested and beaten up in police custody severely.
10. On 10th April, the Congress(I) leader Shree Dharendra Debnath, MLA visited the Mohanpur food godown with some Congress(I) workers and the police. He submitted a list of Congress(I) workers to the Dipot in-charge and asked him to give work to them. 18 workers, who were members of the CITU were immediately thrown out of job in presence of Shree Dharendra Debnath and the police.

In the same manner, about 50 workers of R.K. Nagar Fara were not allowed to join their duties by the Congress(I) anti-socials. Despite being reported, the police did not take any action against the culprits.

In Dhamanagar FCI, 40 workers were summarily discharged and in their place the Congress(I) anti-social elements were taken into service.

11. On 8th April, a gang of Congress(I) anti-socials with the help of CRP and the police attacked the Motor Shramik Union office of CITU, beat up Com. Sudhangshu Das and others and captured the union office.

12. On 6th May, a gang of anti-social elements came to the Kalshimuk Rubber Plantation Centre under the leadership of one Parimal Bishwas and went on beating up the workers at random. A number of workers were injured including the Secretary of the union, Com. Rakhal Roy Buman, who had to be admitted to hospital, and Coms. Debabrata Sarkar, Ashutosh Debnath, Kheejoy Mohan and Kshitish Debnath. At the instruction of the in-charge of the Baikhora

Police Station, 38 CITU workers were dismissed and Congress(I) anti-socials were recruited in their place. The list of the Congress(I) people who were recruited was submitted by their leader, Srinivasan to the Manager of the Plantation. The Rubber Shramik union of the CITU was ransacked in presence of the police.

13 On 9th May Com.Mahendra Debnath, a daily labourer organised under CITU at Belonia was threatened by the Congress(I) hoodlums to leave the CITU union, otherwise he would be murdered. On 11th May, the State Home Minister visited Belonia and gave some instructions to the Congress(I) hoodlums. After this incident, Com.Mahendra Debnath was brutally murdered. Post mortem was done 40 hours later, when the body was about to decompose. The police dropped all evidences of murder and registered the case as suicide.

14 On 13th May, Com.Suken Tripura, a LAMPS worker of Tinkarchhara under Baikhora Police Station was beaten severely by Dipak Malla, a Congress(I) hoodlum. He was obstructed to go to the Police Station. On the other hand, on a FIR lodged by Dipak Malla, the police arrested Coms.Suken Tripura, Suriya Tripura, Harimohan Tripura and Deitiya Mohan Tripura - all plantation workers of CITU. Later, Suriya Tripura was beaten in the police custody. His palms were mercilessly perforated by pins and fingers were fractured and the bones were almost reduced to powder. Without any treatment he was produced before a court and sent to jail custody.

15 Com.Shyamal Paul and Com.Manik Das, the two CITU leaders were physically assaulted and were hospitalised for having mobilised the workers of National Projects Construction Corporation, a Central Public Sector undertaking, to observe May Day.

16 On 20th May, Com.Bharatmani Nayatiya a member of the CITU State Committee and a leader of the Tripura Jute Mills Workers' Union was physically assaulted by one Khoken Paul, a Congress(I) leader and his associates, when he was going to see his ailing mother in the hospital at Malghar. He was arrested without any charge. Later, Khoken Paul deposited a revolver to the Police stating that it was found in the bag of Com.Bharatmoni Nayatiya. On this fabricated charge he was again tortured by the police and sent to jail.

17 On 26th May, 8 workers of Paikhlola Rubber Plantation Centre were obstructed to join their duties by Congress(I) miscreants. On 31st May, Com.Atul Debnath, a rubber plantation worker of CITU was physically assaulted at Akhimpur market by the anti-social elements and 17 CITU workers of South Srinagar Rubber Plantation Centre were obstructed from going to duties. A few days before, Com.Natu Uzung, a tea plantation worker of Koolagar Tea Estate was physically assaulted by Congress(I) miscreants.

All the above incidents were reported to the concerned police stations, viz. Rajnagar Police Station and Bishalgarh Police station. But not action was taken by the police against the miscreants.

18 On 5th June the Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police Dipak Das of Baikhora police station, accompanied by about 250 Congress(I) miscreants went to Thachama village and assaulted Com.Dankumar Tripura, President of the

Rubber Shramik Union of its Ashangchhara Unit, and Com.S-tinanda Tripura, another leader of Sachira-bari Rubber Plantation workers.

19 On 6th June, Com.Chikan Tripura, a tapper of Ashangchhara Rubber Plantation was assaulted by the same gang and handed over to the Debduro police out-post, from where he was sent to Shikhora Police Station, where he was beaten up in the police custody and then released on 7th June. During his detention in police custody the office of the Rubber Shramik union's Ashangchhara unit was captured by the gangsters.

Simultaneously, with the help of the police, 185 workers were obstructed from going to work by the same gang. These workers have been thrown out jobless.

20 Union Offices Captured: Within this period about 25 CITU union offices were captured by the Congress(I) anti-socials, including eleven offices of the Tripura Motor Shramik union at different places in the state, and four offices of the Rickshaw Shramik Union. All these cases were reported to the concerned police stations, but no action has been taken against the miscreants.

21 De-registration of Unions: During the period, the registration of eight CITU affiliated unions have been cancelled either without any valid reasons or for alleged non-submission of Annual Returns, although the Annual Returns of all the unions were submitted and received by the Registrar of Trade Unions. The State CITU has made representation to the Registrar of Trade unions, Government of Tripura on June 13, 1988, and the Central CITU made representation to the Minister of Labour, Government of India on June 18, 1988. But no remedial measures have been taken in this regard, nor any reply has been given by the State and Central Governments so far.

22 The most barbarous and ghastly incident happened between May 31 and June 2, when seven Jhoom cultivating tribal women workers were gangraped by the Javans of Assam Rifles at Ujan Maidan, Tripura. The incident has rocked the entire country.

The above is only a brief report of the semi-fascist attacks which have been launched against the left trade union movement led by the CITU. The attacks were launched immediately after the Congress(I) led Government came into power in Tripura in early February, ousting the left-front Government in a highly manipulated election held under the para-military forces after declaring the entire state as disturbed area just three days before the elections.

The reign of semi-fascist terror is continuing and being escalated. We therefore request you to record this as a formal complaint to the Governing Body of the Committee on Freedom of Association against infringement on trade union rights and attack on freedom of association.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely,

For and on behalf of the
Centre of Indian Trade Unions

Sd/-
(P.K. Ganguly)
Secretary

522-54

Gram : CITUCENT

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

President :
B. T. RANADIVE
General Secretary :
SAMAR MUKHERJEE

3rd August '88.



Attacks By
humpens on
CITU Union on
Taking over of CPTI
Govt in
Tripura

To
All Central Trade Unions

Dear Comrades,

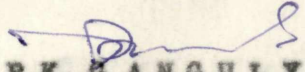
Re: Attack on the CITU Unions in Tripura

We have received several reports from our Tripura State Committee that a serious attack has been launched on the trade unions at Tripura, targetting the CITU Unions and cadres. These attacks have been launched immediately after the new coalition ministry headed by the Congress(I) came into power in Tripura. As per reports from our Tripura State Committee, the attacks are being launched by the Congress(I) workers, deploying anti-social elements and in collusion with the police and para-military forces. The attacks have taken the form of murders, physical assaults, capture and burning of union offices, beating in police custody, rape and ^{mis-treatment} ~~mis-treatment~~ of women workers, deregistration of unions, coercion to leave the CITU unions etc. The attacks constitute not only infringement of trade union rights and freedom of association of the workers, but also constitute an assault on the democratic rights of the workers. Representations made to the Government bore no results. The attacks are escalating and have taken a dangerous form.

The Secretariat of the CITU discussed the above situation in Tripura and decided to lodge a complaint to the ILO. We are enclosing herewith a copy of our complaint to ILO, from which you can gauge the nature of the semi-fascist terror that is prevailing in Tripura. We appeal to you to raise your voice of protests against the attacks and lend support to the valiant struggle of the workers in Tripura to defend their trade union rights.

With greetings,

Yours Fraternally,


(P.K. GANGULY)
SECRETARY.

Gram : CITUCENT

520-53

Citru

Phone : 384071

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

President :

B. T. RANADIVE

General Secretary :

SAMAR MUKHERJEE

4th August '88.

N.C.C.



To

All Constituents of NCC

Re: Meeting of NCC

As informed telephonically, a meeting of the National Campaign Committee will be held at 6, Talkatora Road, New Delhi on 12th August, 1988 at 4 P.M. The meeting will discuss fixing up the date of the proposed strike against the T.U. & I.D. Acts and Hospital Bill.

Please make it convenient to attend the meeting.

With greetings,

Yours Cordately,


(P.K. GANGULY)
SECRETARY.

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

President :

B. T. RANADIVE

General Secretary :

SAMAR MUKHERJEE

1.9.88

✓
INTUC, AITUC, HMS,
BMS, UTUC, TUCC, UTUC(LS)

Dear Comrades,


Re: Anti-apartheid meeting at Kerala House on July 21, 1988

A meeting was held on July 21, 1988 at Kerala House to observe the 70th birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela.

The total cost including the rent, tea, poster, etc has come to Rs 276/-, which we have paid. We shall be obliged by your kindly sharing the amount, which comes to approximately Rs 34/- per union.

With greetings,

Yours comradely,


(P. K. Ganguly)

Secretary



CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

President :

B. T. RANADIVE

General Secretary :

SAMAR MUKHERJEE

Com. Shau Phatak,
25, "Tarangan"
Sadhana Housing Society,
Madhapur,
PUNE - 411 028.



Dear Com. Shau Phatak,

I have received your letter of 2.11.88. In my letter of 15th October to Com. Kishore Pawar, a copy of which was endorsed to you, I had suggested to call a meeting of the Steering Committee at Delhi. This was suggested by Com. M. M. Katre also. In the mean time, I have received a copy of the letter written by Com. Tara Chand Sethi to the Labour Minister.

While I assure you that I have full confidence on you, I hope you will agree that due to the growing discontentment among the sugar workers, there is an urgent need for at least a Steering Committee meeting. This will help keeping our National Coordination Committee and the Sugar Workers united and consolidated. But while you have taken care to promptly reply to the correspondences, I am yet to receive any confirmation from Com. Kishore Pawar, regarding the meeting.

I hope you will take tak trouble to do the needful in this respect.

With greetings,

Yours comradely,

(P K Ganguly)
Secretary

CC: 1. Com. Kishore Pawar

Convenor, National Sugar Sugar
Workers Co-ordination Committee
'Nath' Sinhgad Marg, Pune-411030

2. Com. M. M. Katre, "Shramik", Tilak Road, Ahmednagar - 414 001

3. Com. T. N. Siddhanta, Secretary, AITUC, 24 Canning Lane, New Delhi-1

4. Com. Tara Chand Sethi 2, Govindnagar, Saharanpur (UP)

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

President :

B. T. RANADIVE

General Secretary :

SAMAR MUKHERJEE, M.P.

Com. Madhukar Katre
 General Secretary,
 Maharashtra Rajya Sakhar
 Kargar Maha Sangh,
 Shramik, Tilak Road,
Ahmednagar-414 001 (Maharashtra)

Date 2nd December 1968*Sugar*

Dear Com. Katre,

I have received your letter of 24th November. I am happy to learn about the Conference of your federation to be held at Pune on 11th December. I thank you for your invitation. It would have been a privilege to attend it. But unfortunately I shall not be able to attend it, as I shall be out of Delhi on 11th and 12th December on other programmes. I wish all success to your Conference and hope that it will take some agitational programmes in line with that decided by the National Co-ordination Committee, which you must have received now. The meeting was called by Com. Kishore Pawar under a very short notice. I also received it on 16th itself and therefore could attend.

In the meantime, I have received the copy of the letter written by Com. Siddhanta to you. I hope you shall be attending the National Co-ordination Committee meeting to be held at Pune on 11th January. As suggested by Com. Siddhanta, we shall discuss during that time.

With Greetings,

Yours Comradely,

CC: Com. T.N. Siddhanta
 Secretary, AITUC,
 24, Canning Lane,
New Delhi-110 001

(P.K. GANGULY)

SECRETARY

522-59

RECEIVED
- 8 DEC 1988
A.I.T.U.C.

Citu

Gram: CITUCENT

Phone: 384071

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS
6 TALKatora ROAD NEW DELHI 110 001

Press Statement

7.12.88

Petition by Over One Lakh Textile
Workers Submitted to the Speaker, Lok Sabha

A petition signed by about one lakh fifty thousand workers of the Textile industry from the organised mills, powerloom sector, handloom sector and the NTC mills from all over the country was submitted to Suresh Bularam Jakkar, Speaker, Lok Sabha on December 7, 1988.

The Petition was counter-signed by Samar Mukherjee, M.P., E Balanandan, M.P.; Ajoy Biswas M.P (all CPI(M); Geeta Mukherjee M.P (CPI); Thampian Thomas, M.P (Janata) and Souren Bhattacharya, M.P (RSP).

Secretary CITU

A delegation of the above Members of Parliament alongwith M.K.Pandhe / S.B.Bharadwaj, General Secretary of Delhi State CITU; P.K. Ganguly, Secretary CITU; Gopal Bishwas, General Secretary of the W.Bengal Cotton Textile Workers' Federation (CITU); B.D.Joshi, Vice President of AITUC; Veereshwar Tiagi and Mahendra Sharma, Secretaries, HMS; and Pratul Chowdhury, Secretary, UTUC met the Speaker and handed over the packets containing the signatures and the Petition.

The Petition was submitted in accordance with the decision arrived at the All India Convention of textile workers jointly organised by the CITU, AITUC, HMS and UTUC at Kanpur on October 8 and 9, 1988. The workers all over the country observed 21st November last as the "Save Textile Industry Day" by holding conventions and rallies and collected the signatures from the workers.

The Petition contained the resolution unanimously adopted in the convention, which focused to the deepening crisis in the Textile industry following the new Textile Policy adopted by the Government in 1985, throwing over two lakh textile workers jobless, closure of a large number of the NTC mills and making the cotton growers destitutes.

The Petition contained the following 11-point demands pinpointing the necessity for a Textile Policy to the benefit of the workers, cotton growers and the consumers and nationalisation of the Textile industry with genuine workers' participation in the management:

1. Immediate ban on all closures, partial closures, retrenchment, lay-offs, textile etc. in cotton / industry; lift ban on recruitment and ensure full capacity utilisation.
2. (a) No denotification of the taken over units.
- (b) Mills already taken over should be nationalised.

(c) No amalgamation of units of the NTC which will lead to closure of a number of mills leading to unemployment.

(d) Ensure genuine and effective participation of workers in the management at all levels with equal rights.

3. Restructuring of the industry without causing loss of employment.

4. Take-over of all closed or locked-out mills pending complete nationalisation of the textile industry

5. Ensure substantial increase in the prevailing low wages of powerloom workers besides enforcing the grant of all other statutory benefits to them. Extension of labour laws, social security measures and statutory minimum wages to powerloom workers.

6. Ensure strict reservation of yarn of the required quality and counts at subsidised rates for the handloom sector, besides guaranteed purchase at remunerative rates of all their products. Minimum wages to handloom workers should not be below the poverty line.

7. Excise duty on coarse cloth to be abolished and excise duty in case of medium cloth to be reduced and ensured that benefits are passed on to the consumer.

8. No export of cotton or yarn without meeting the internal requirement.

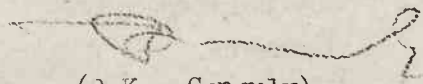
9. Remunerative prices to the cotton growers to be ensured.

10. Immediate and adequate relief and compensation to all workers rendered unemployed due to closures.

11. Abolition of contract labour.

The delegation apprised the Speaker that the workers would be compelled to step up agitation if the demands are not considered.

Statement issued by


(P.K. Ganguly)

Secretary, CITU

To

The News Editor/Special Correspondent

For Forward of Publication

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

6, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

President :

B. T. RANADIVE

General Secretary :

SAMAR MUKHERJEE, M.P.

*Protest By CITU
at Non Invitation to National Safety Conf.***RECEIVED****15 DEC 1988****A.I.T.U.C.**

Date.....

12.12.88

Dear Shri Dubey,

The CITU was regularly being invited in the past for the National Safety Conferences on Mines convened by your Ministry. In the last Safety Conference CITU had participated in the deliberations.

This time I find that CITU has not been invited for the Safety Conference on Mines to be held in New Delhi on 18th and 19th December 1988.

On behalf of the CITU I strongly protest against this discrimination shown towards our organisation. As a former member of the JBCOI you are aware of our strength in mining industry and this exclusion of CITU is a clear vindictiveness shown by your Ministry towards our organisation.

I only hope that you would see reason and take suitable steps so as to invite CITU to participate in the Conference.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

M. K. Pandhe

(M. K. Pandhe)

Secretary

Shri Bindeshwari Dubey
Minister of Labour
Government of India
Shram Shakti Bhawan
New Delhi-1

cc to General Secretary, AITUC
Canning Lane, New Delhi.

522.61

CITU

Rivalry between CITU & AITUC
over C.P.S.T.U. Meeting - Blocked by CITU

December 14, 1988.

Dear Comrade Pandhe,

I was surprised, the C.P.S.T.U. meeting was used to carry on wrongful propoganda by C.I.T.U. Comrades.

The appeal circulated stated that the Policy in IDPL is that every registered union is allowed one representative in the negotiations. On verification I found that representative is allowed on completion on one year and the CITU union was registered just four months back and not fulfilled the conditions then.

Further the A.I.T.U.C. affiliated union and the B.M.S. affiliate were to negotiate and both the unions had submitted Memorandum whereas the C.I.T.U. union had not even submitted a Memorandum.

They obstructed the management representatives from attending a negotiations blocking them which is highly objectionable.

Moreover without providing the correct facts the C.P.S.T.U. was hustled to pass a resolution. It is indirectly using the C.P.S.T.U. platform to accentuate trade union rivalry.

The representatives attending naturally go with a wrong impression.

This is to request that a clarification is circulated and in future see that the members of your organisation desist from such practise.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

(HOMI DAJI)
Secretary

Comrade M.K.Pandhe,
CITU,
6 Talkatora Road,
New Delhi.