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ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS
4, ASHOK ROAD, NEW DELHI.

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AITUC DIGITAL ARCHIVE - 2021

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ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

5-E Jhandewalan, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi 1

26 November 1963

To All Members of the
GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE AITUC

Sub: General Council Meeting - Bombay, 12-13 Dec.

Dear Comrades,

The General Council of the AITUC will meet at the specially erected pandal at Shivaji Park, Dadar, Bombay, at 4 p.m. on 12 December. The meeting will continue the next day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The following agenda is proposed:

- 1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the last meeting
- 2) Report and discussions on demands relating to D.A., revision of consumer price index and bonus
- 3) Any other subject with the permission of the Chair.

You are cordially invited to attend.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

K.G. Sriwastava

(K.G. Sriwastava) 24x1
Secretary

A L L - I N D I A T R A D E U N I O N C O N G R E S S

5-E Jhandewalan, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi

26 November 1963

To All Members of the
Working Committee of the AITUC

Sub: WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING - Bombay, 12 Dec.

Dear Comrades,

The Working Committee of the AITUC will meet at the specially-
erected pandal at SHIVAJI PARK, Dadar, Bombay on 12 December at
3 p.m. to consider the following agenda:

- 1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the last meeting
- 2) Consideration of applications for affiliation
- 3) Programme of General Council Meeting
- 4) Any other subject with permission of the Chair.

You are cordially invited to attend.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

K.G. Sriwastava
(K.G. Sriwastava) 26/xi
Secretary

'Grams: AITUCONG
'Phone: 57787/54740

ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS
5-E Jhandewalan, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi

26 November 1963

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS OF A.I.T.U.C. WORKING COMMITTEE,
GENERAL COUNCIL & CONFERENCE ON D.A. & BONUS
(Bombay, 12 to 15 December 1963)

Venue:

Dec. 12	- 3 p.m.	- AITUC Working Committee Meeting	In the Pandal at Shivaji Park, Dadar, Bombay
Dec. 12	- 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.	AITUC General Council Meeting	-do-
& 13	- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.		
Dec. 13	- 4 p.m.	Trade Union Convention on D.A., Bonus and Revision of consumer price indices	-do-
14			
15			

ARRANGEMENTS FOR STAY: Members of the AITUC Working Committee and General Council and Delegates to the T.U. Convention will be accommodated at the SIKH GURUDWARA, NEAR KOHINOOR MILLS, VINCENT ROAD, DADAR, BOMBAY. This place is about 12 minutes' walk from the Dadar station on the Central Railway. Delegates arriving by Central and Western Railway trains should alight at Dadar and those getting down at Bombay V.T. should proceed to the lodging place by taxi.

Delegates are notified in advance that SMOKING WILL BE STRICTLY PROHIBITED within the premises where lodging arrangements have been made.

The venue of the meetings and the convention, i.e., SHIVAJI PARK, is within easy distance from the lodging place.

REPRESENTATION IN T.U. CONVENTION: Unions are assigned the following the quota of delegates:

Membership upto 1000	-	1 delegate
" 1001 to 5000	-	2 delegates
" 5001 to 10,000	-	3 delegates
" 10001 to 30,000	-	4 delegates
" over 30,000	-	5 delegates

Members of the Working Committee of the AITUC will be ex-officio delegates to the Convention.

Observers may be permitted, in exceptional cases, subject to accommodation being available, on obtaining written permission.

BOARDING: The charges will be notified by the Reception Committee.

' Grams: AITUCONG
' Phone: 57787/54740

ALL - I N D I A T R A D E U N I O N C O N G R E S S

5-E Jhandewalan, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi 1

November 21, 1963

MOST URGENT
To All STUCs

Sub: REVISION OF CONSUMER PRICE INDEX NUMBERS

Dear Comrades,

& 15/

The conference in Bombay on index revision, D.A. and bonus has been postponed by a week and will now be held on 13-14/December 1963.

The Standing Labour Committee has been convened by the Union Labour Ministry on 6-7 December. The agenda includes the item proposed by the AITUC on the question of compilation of consumer price indices.

The demand for revision of the consumer price indices has been made by most of our State Committees and unions. Only in the case of Bombay and Ahmedabad did the Government appoint Expert Committees to conduct a probe. It will be necessary to take up this issue in a more sustained manner in other centres so that the obviously fraudulent indices are properly corrected and the workers paid their legitimate claim of D.A.

As far as Bombay is concerned, the AITUC and other organisations have submitted exhaustive memoranda to the Expert Committee and these documents are now being printed. Priced at Re.1/- copies will be available within a week.

The Delhi State TUC has also moved in the matter and the detailed letter sent to the authorities by our State Committee has been published in the TRADE UNION RECORD of 20 November.

We would suggest that other State Committees and the union in major centres should immediately prepare similar memoranda and undertake a factual exposure of the faulty indices prepared by Government. The memoranda should be prepared and submitted by the end of this month and copies sent to us so that the AITUC delegation to the Standing Labour Committee may be able to make use of them. Documents for the ensuing conference in Bombay could also be prepared on the basis of the reports from the State TUCs.

Please treat this as MOST URGENT.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

K.G. Sriwastava
(K.G. Sriwastava) 2/1/63
Secretary

A L L - I N D I A T R A D E U N I O N C O N G R E S S

5-E Jhandewalan, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi 1

23 November 1963

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

TRADE UNION CONFERENCE ON D.A., BONUS AND NATIONALISATION
- AITUC GENERAL COUNCIL MEET

The Working Committee and General Council of the AITUC has been convened in Bombay on Thursday, 12 December and Friday, 13 December 1963. The Council will mainly discuss the rising trend of prices of essential articles and fall in real wages. Shri S.S.Mirajkar, President, AITUC, will preside.

A Conference to discuss the demands for reduction in prices of essential goods, introduction of D.A. linked with the consumer price indices, revision of the price indices to reflect ~~xx~~ the rise and fall of articles of daily need and grant of minimum bonus in all industries immediately, pending the report of the Bonus Commission, and to demand nationalisation of banks, export-import trade, wholesale trading in foodgrains and taking over of sugar and textile industries, will be held in Bombay on 13, 14 and 15 December 1963.

The condition of workers, peasants and the middle classes with fixed income has been deteriorating since the Government has failed to check rise in prices and arrange properly the sale of food articles and sugar. As things have been developing, in the months to come, this trend will further erode the living conditions of the common people unless a nationwide agitation and action ^{to} force the powers that be to pay special attention and take necessary steps against the monopolists, employers and hoarders, to reverse this trend.

The conference is open to all trade unions, irrespective of affiliation, who may wish to discuss these issues.

K.G. Sriwastava
(K.G. Sriwastava)^{23/xi}
Secretary, AITUC

AITUC GENERAL COUNCIL
Delhi, Aug. 6, 1967

INFORMATION DOCUMENT No. 3

I

LETTER FROM COM.P.RAMAMURTI TO COM.S.S.MIRAJKAR, PRESIDENT, AITUC

My dear Com.Mirajkar,

You told us that the General Council of the AITUC, after we had walked out of the meeting earlier this evening, had unanimously requested you to persuade us to return and attend the meeting tomorrow. We appreciate the sentiments of the General Council.

In our minds there was no question of boycotting the General Council. We are determined to strengthen the AITUC. Hence, there is no need for any such persuasion.

Our action was a protest against the speech of the General Secretary in reply to the discussion on his report. No person interested in pressing the unity of the AITUC, - and least of all, the General Secretary, - could make such a disruptive speech.

You would remember that the criticism that had been made on his report were entirely political and no exception could be taken to the speech of any one who participated in the discussion. There was no acrimony in the entire discussion.

But we were pained to find Dange, in the latter part of his Reply Speech hurling challenges like "The AITUC had been split three times before and let it be split a fourth time." There were many more such challenges. There were also wild accusations against unnamed persons.

Apart from the highly disruptive nature of these challenges and accusations, it must be emphasised that they were absolutely irrelevant to the subject under discussion. If the General Secretary had anything to say against any one in the movement, he should propose and get it included in the Agenda, and get it properly discussed. What he was doing today was a clear abuse of his right to reply to the discussion.

It was to mark our protest against this disruptive speech that, after patiently listening to his speech, we walked out of the meeting.

I hope that in future the business of the General Council will be conducted in such a way as to be conducive to greater unity and harmony in the AITUC. With greetings,

Yours sincerely,
P.RAMAMURTI

P.S. Later in the night you told us that Dange had telephoned to you and requested you to convey to us his own personal request that we should forget all that had happened and return to the meeting tomorrow. I am writing to him separately.

II

LETTER FROM COM.P.RAMAMURTI TO COM.S.A.DANGE

My dear Shri Dange,

Last night, Com.Mirajkar told us that you had telephoned to him and requested him to convey to us your personal request that we should forget whatever had happened yesterday in the meeting of the General Council and return to the meeting today.

The latter part of your speech in reply to the discussion on your Report was highly disruptive. You suddenly started flinging wild accusations and hurled challenges. You said: "The

. . . AITUC had

AITUC had been split three times, let it be split a fourth time." This you repeated again and again.

The fact that you did not name anyone is no excuse for making such highly disruptive speech. The General Council cannot be used as a forum for making charges against a section or even individuals in the movement, and that too, without naming them.

Anyone who participated in the discussion yesterday would admit that there was no acrimony till the latter part of your speech and all the criticisms were entirely political or about lack of attention to organisation at all levels.

But even if any individual member of the General Council sometimes goes off the track and gives room for provocation, you, as the General Secretary, bear a special responsibility to be sober and bring back the discussions to the main points under discussions.

Instead, it was an amazing sight to see you going off at a tangent, and without any relevance to the points that had been raised during the discussion or to your report, hurling accusations and challenges.

If you wanted to bring any charges against anyone, you should have got it included in the Agenda and arranged for a proper discussion. But you cannot, under the guise of reply to a discussion, suddenly fling such charges and challenges. This is clearly abusing the right of reply.

As I have pointed out in my letter to Com.Mirajkar, our walk-out was to make our protest against your speech.

You have requested us to forget all that happened yesterday. I do hope that in future, such speeches will not be repeated. And if that happen there will be no need for anyone to remember what happened yesterday.

Yours sincerely,
P.RAMAMURTI

III

LETTER FROM COM.S.A. DANGE TO COM.P.RAMAMURTI

My dear P.R.,

You have handed me a written letter stating your reasons for your last night's walk-out from the AITUC General Council and your return to the meeting today.

I would not have written this reply had it not been that you gave me a written letter. Hence I have to give you my reply also in writing.

In the first place, after your walk-out, the Council members who continued the meeting, asked the President to request you to return to the meeting. But before it could be conveyed to you, it seems, you had left the place.

Since we did not get any reply, I phoned to Com.Mirajkar to convey to you my request that you should not walk out and that you should come to the meeting. He asked me if it was my personal request. I said that it was as also that of the General Council.

As regards my concluding speech, let me first tell you that the one sentence you pick up is absolutely wrong. You quote me as follows: "The AITUC has been split three times, let it be split a fourth time."

. . . . You have simply

You have simply omitted the crucial word "not" from my speech when I said: "Let it not be split a fourth time". I do not think this is a fair or honest way of dealing with things.

Let me also remind you why this question arose. I was dealing with the question of how to "politicalise the trade unions". Therein I referred to a school of thought which holds that to politicalise the union means to rid the union of all reformists and their kind. This, as you know, in the history of the AITUC has meant expulsions leading to splits.

So I warned against such kind of "politicalisation" which had split the AITUC three times and asked that we should not split a fourth time, that we must do things unitedly for which the glorious struggles of the working class and the incoming all-India strike were paving the way for an all-India working class unity and, in fact, a merger of all TU centres in one.

After my speech, you got up and made a statement of protesting against my speech. After your statement, there was really no reason at all to walk out.

I am really unhappy that your prejudices against me have led you to understand things in a way different from what I said.

Anyway, it is good that you have come back to the meeting. And let both sides get over these differences my mutual agreement as much as possible.

Yours sincerely,
S.A. DANGE

A.I.T.U.C. GENERAL COUNCIL
New Delhi, August 4-6, 1967

Information Document

AITUC PROPOSALS FOR TALKS ON UNITED ACTION AND REPLIES
RECEIVED FROM T.U. CENTRES

On July 10, 1967, Comrade S.A. Dange, General Secretary, AITUC, addressed a letter to all central T.U. organisations and independent trade federations proposing talks in Delhi towards end of July "for exchange of opinions and to examine concrete proposals to strengthen united action of all trade unions." It was also proposed that the "meeting could also discuss the most urgent and historic need of the organised labour in India, i.e., the setting up of a unified national TU Centre, if all participants agree to such a discussion."

Replies to the AITUC letter were received only from the following organisations: 1. INTUC, 2. HMS, 3. UTUC, 4. Confederation of Central Government Employees, 5. AIRF, 6. AIBEA, 7. AIIEA and 8. State Bank of India Staff Federation.

The texts of the AITUC letter as well as the replies from the above organisations are being reproduced below:

A. LETTER FROM AITUC TO ALL CENTRAL T.U. ORGANISATIONS
AND TRADE FEDERATIONS dated July 10, 1967:

"Dear Friend,

For some time past, there has been a widespread feeling among trade unionists that the time has come when representatives of various national TU centres and independent trade federations should sit together to exchange views on the serious problems facing the organised workers and to discuss the problems of unity and united action.

With the official pronouncements about "wage freeze", "D.A. cut" and the so-called "income policy" etc., being spelt out in more menacing tones and the employers' attitude in all sectors becoming all the more obdurate - and attacks on jobs, wages and other benefits mounting, the organised workers and employees look forward with hope to prospects of concerted trade union initiatives for united action in defence of common interests.

As you will agree, the economic situation in the country has led to a crisis in several sectors of industry. Textiles, Sugar, Engineering, etc., are all facing difficulties and the workers in these industries continue to be the victims of closures, lay-offs, and retrenchment. The awards of Wage Boards are not implemented and because of employers' stubborn attitude, most of the Wage Boards have now been rendered ineffective. Decisions of courts are flouted by employers. The food situation in various parts

...of the

of the country is causing acute hardship. Prices continue to mount. Real wages show a fall in almost all sectors of employment. Faulty indices and low rates of neutralisation erode real wages even where D.A. is linked to the cost of living index. The bonus issue is in a longdrawn stalemate. And on top of all these have come the proposals made for a freeze on wages and D.A., behind the ruse of a so-called price-freeze.

On broad assessments of the nature of these problems and the solutions required in the interest of the working class and the national economy, there is considerable identity of approach among the various TU centres. It is also increasingly felt that what prevents a major intervention on the scale necessary on the part of organised labour, on these basic issues, is the lack of sufficient strength of organisation and unity in our TU movement. There is, of course, no denying the fact that considerable reservations and misunderstanding also exist in the ranks of the TU movement which prevent the growth of unity and united action. The question therefore is: should we not discuss these vital problems facing the workers and our TU movement, without any further delay, among ourselves, in their actual context and see if some of the factors which weaken the TU movement could be tackled effectively?

In recent weeks, I have had occasion to mention these points to friends in other TU centres and encouraged by the positive response, I now venture to propose that accredited representatives of all central TU organisations and trade federations should meet together in Delhi in the last week of this month for exchange of opinions and to examine concrete proposals to strengthen united action of all trade unions. I am of the opinion that such a meeting could also discuss the most urgent and historic need of the organised labour in India, i.e., the setting up of a unified national TU centre, if all participants would agree to such a discussion.

I would, therefore, request you to give us the benefit of your ideas and suggestions so that we could take some joint initiatives. As I have suggested, in view of the urgency of the situation, we should try to meet in the last week of this month itself in Delhi. The date and place of the meeting could be fixed up after consultations among the leaders of the various TU centres.

Awaiting to hear from you early, With greetings, etc."

B. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM ORGANISATIONS

1. INDIAN NATIONAL TRADE UNION CONGRESS (letter dated July 29, 1967)

"Your letter of the 10th instand was received here after redirection from New Delhi. The copy of your letter endorsed to Shri Vasavadaji has also been seen by him.

You have suggested that we should jointly discuss problems confronting labour and the trade union movement. You have also admitted in your letter "there is, of course, no denying the fact that considerable reservations and mis-

...understanding

standing; also exist in the ranks of the trade union movement which prevent the growth of unity and united action."

I agree there are reservations. You must be aware of the reasons for the same. I do not, however, agree there is any misunderstanding. On the other hand, the reservations are the result of understanding.

The INTUC stands for peaceful and constitutional methods treating strike as the last weapon. The INTUC feels that whenever arbitration or adjudication is available, strikes will be unjustified. The INTUC believes that the trade union movement is an instrument created by Statute for improving the workers' standard of living, and is intended to function within the four corners of the law.

If AITUC also subscribes to the foregoing and can come out with a categorical declaration that:

1. It will function on peaceful and constitutional lines;
2. It will eschew violence;
3. It will condemn 'gheraos' as gherao is not a trade union weapon;
4. It will not resort to strikes whenever arbitration or adjudication is available;

and 5. It will accept that trade unions, being the creations of Statute, are intended to function and must function within the limits of the law,

there could be some common ground between it and the INTUC, at least on the working plane.

The INTUC will be happy to give consideration to the suggestions contained in your letter immediately the assurances as aforesaid are forthcoming.

Sd/- G. Ramanujam, General Secretary. "

2. HIND MAZDOOR SABHA (letter dated 22nd July 1967)

"Thank you for your letter dated July 10. It will be placed before the working committee of the Sabha and its decision would be conveyed to you in due course.

The meeting of the Working Committee is scheduled to be held during August 16 - 22, 1967.

With greetings, Sd/- Ram Desai, Secretary."

3. UNITED TRADES UNION CONGRESS (letter dated July, 25)

"We deeply regret the delay in acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant.

We have very carefully gone through your letter and fully share your views expressed therein. The vital problems faced by the entire working class and the trade union movement as a whole can only be resolved by united action.

Inspite of organisational differences you along with the leaders of other Central Trade Union Organisations and Federations took the initiative to form the Rashtriya

...Sangram

Sangram Samity. The Samity was functioning on the all-India level though there were many organisational drawbacks and shortcomings. In some of the States, specially in West Bengal, it played a very important role in bringing under its banner a very large section of the militant working class.

Is it not possible to revitalise that organisation and use it for the purpose you have mentioned in your letter?

However, if you feel strongly to have a meeting of the representatives of the Central Trade Unions in Delhi, our President, Com. N. Srikanthan Nair and Vice-President, Com. Tridib Choudhury who are in Delhi in connection with the Lok-Sabha session may kindly be contacted in the matter and they shall be our representatives to attend the proposed meeting.

With fraternal greetings, Sd/- Jatin Chakravorty, Secy."

4. CONFEDERATION OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND WORKERS (letter dated 27th July 1967)

"Thank you very much for letter of 10th July 1967.

We appreciate your efforts for a united movement of the working people against the wage-freeze policy. This Confederation expresses its desire to participate in the proposed discussions of the various Trade Union Centres.

With greetings, Sd/- G.S. Gnanam, Secretary General."

5. ALL INDIA RAILWAYMEN'S FEDERATION
(letter dated July 28, 1967)

"Thank you for your letter of the 10th July, 1967. Since the Annual Convention of the AIRF is meeting at Gwalior on the 6th August, your letter will be placed before the Working Committee for consideration.

Yet I may inform you that the General Secretary's report to the Gwalior Convention has put out certain suggestions for co-ordinated working. Since unity is not possible in the near future, the report has suggested the setting up of a 'Trade Union Economic Council' consisting of representatives of Central Trade Unions and Central Government Employees. This limited area of joint effort will, I hope, pave the way, for increasing cooperation in the future.

With greetings, Sd/- Peter Alvares, General Secretary."

6. ALL INDIA BANK EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
(letter dated 14th July 1967)

"We acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. and are happy to note your suggestion for a get together

of Central Trade Union Organisations and independent trade federations for an exchange of views on the current problems which the organised working people are facing. From our side we welcome this move.

We too have been noting trends which are developing into major attacks on the working people and our organisation at all levels is expressing awareness about these trends. We find that despite our unique achievement throughout the country, we have to launch struggles for proper implementation and for retention of our existing rights. We also find that the bankers are making a determined bid to enlist government support to strangle our militant movement by executive fiat and also place on our organisation at all levels multiple restraints, if necessary, by legal enactments, so as to render our organisation ineffective.

We also find that whilst the slogan of nationalisation of banks had gained nation wide support the same has lost considerable ground at present. Our Central Committee has decided to launch movement to strengthen this demand for nationalisation of banks. We realise that this movement, to be really effective, must have the massive support of organised labour. In this connection also, we cannot but agree with you about the state of organisational disunity in the Trade Union movement. We feel distressed that even where like mindedness exists, efforts to disrupt our organisation is resorted to. Nevertheless we do appreciate that in the realm of broader issues a common organisational forum is becoming increasingly imperative. The revival of the slogan of Trade Union unity cannot be delayed any longer except to our peril. Our organisation would definitely support the setting up of a unified national Trade Union Centre.

Whilst we heartily welcome the opportunity of joining in such a meeting of the accredited representatives of the Trade Union Centres, we are somewhat handicapped about the dates proposed by you.

During the last week of this month our leadership is engaged in another session of joint meetings with the bankers. Therefore, if it would not inconvenience others, our suggestion is that the meeting take place in the first week of August. Delhi as venue suits us.

We look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

With greetings, Sd/- H.L. Parvana, Secretary."

7. ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
(letter dated July 13, 1967)

"Your Circular letter dated July 10, 1967.

We fully share your assessment of the condition of the working people, their problems and the exposition of the Government of India's role in aggravating the crisis further. There can be no two opinions that the most urgent and historic need of the hour is to have a broad-based platform for all the trade unions for united action.

We however find from your circular letter that one of the most urgent problems - the problem of Automation has not

...been

been mentioned along with other problems. Against this menace already a nation-wide agitation is developing. The grave consequences of this menace of Automation are well known to you and all other organisations. The campaign and struggle against Automation has now reached the national plane and is attracting great public attention.

We would therefore suggest that along with other problems this issue may also be placed before the ensuing meeting so that this campaign and struggle may reach further heights. Since the LIC employees will observe a nation-wide strike against automation on July 25 (Tuesday) next, we suggest that the proposed meeting be called at New Delhi on any day between July 27 and 31, 1967.

With greetings, Sd/- Saroj Chaudhuri."

8. ALL INDIA STATE BANK OF INDIA STAFF FEDERATION

(letter dated 26th July 1967)

"We thank you sincerely for your letter dated the 10th July 1967, the contents of which have been carefully perused through by us.

There could hardly be a dispute over the opinion that the time has come for the trade unions to sit together and endeavour to draw a common programme with a view to safeguarding the minimum rights and privileges of the workers. It also remains a fact that the attitude of the Government and the Employers towards the workers is hardening and exploitation of labour in the sacred name of national cause has become a common occurrence in this country. In the circumstances, a Joint Meeting of all Trade Union organisations should be normally welcomed, but how far it would be practicable to get all the divergent idealisms stoutly maintained by the different political camps converged to a common aim and objective - is a must debatable point, as we all know, that such attempts of convergence made spasmodically in the past did not meet with much success.

Insofar as the Banking Industry is concerned, the workmen staff in this sector are organised through All India Unions and Federations and most of these organisations are not directly affiliated with any central trade union. These organisations have been, therefore, conducting their affairs according to their own needs and circumstances. Recently, the Bank employees under the command of AIBEA and AIBEF have entered into an Agreement with the Bankers providing substantial increase in the wages etc. Other unions of the Bank employees, not covered by the above two organisations, have also executed similar agreements with their respective Banks. One of the stipulations contained in these Agreement is that the Unions shall not raise any further demand involving large financial outlay during the period these Agreements remain in force and that they would avoid having recourse to agitational measures but endeavour to resolve all disputes by mutual negotiations and, if necessary, by arbitration. The Code of Discipline since accepted both by the Employers and the employees in the banking sector also stipulates that the parties would settle all disputes by negotiation, conciliation and voluntary arbitration. In the context of such

...circumstances

circumstances, how far the Bank employees, in complete disregard to the Agreements executed by them, would be able to actively and effectively participate in any agitational programme involving demands of wage-increase is not perceptible to us.

Further, according to the news appearing in the Press, the Dy. Labour Minister has since made a categorical statement on the floor of the Parliament that any contemplation of wage-freeze without a simultaneous price-freeze would be unrealistic and irrational. The standard of living of the workers has much deteriorated already and a wage-freeze without a firm control over the price-line would worsen the conditions further. The Government is not, therefore, contemplating to have recourse to any such measures in the present state of affairs in this country. This removes the apprehensions that prevailed amongst the workers about the wage-freeze and perhaps takes away the main ground for which you have proposed to convene a Joint Meeting.

We shall shall, however, place your proposals before our Council for its due consideration. Meanwhile, please advise us whether, in the context of circumstances related in the preceding paragraph, a Joint Meeting for the purpose stated by you is still necessary.

With fraternal greetings, Sd/- Secretary."
