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As Crisis in capitalism deepens

Working Class Under Deadly Attacks

The BJP-led NDA government is launching fresh onslaughts on the working people as the crisis in moribund capitalism, global in nature, deepens. The first salvo of the current attacks was fired in the last budget speech itself by the Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha in his bid to placate the corporate sector, monopoly capital, national and foreign. This was deemed quite unusual and a gross deviation from even bourgeois parliamentary norm and practice.

As the press reports go, the union government is bringing about, in the coming winter session of Parliament, some drastic changes in the Industrial Disputes Act (ID Act) designed to take away whatever little legal protection of job security the workers have been enjoying since 1976. These, when passed by brute majority, will play havoc with the job security of the workers. The government shows undue haste when the trade unions demand that these so-called labour law amendments are held back till the report of the Second National Commission on Labour comes out. The Report was to have seen the

light of day by October last year as per the promise made at the time of appointment of the Commission two years back, 30 years after the First National Commission on Labour. Will it be wrong to infer that the delay in bringing out the NCL Report is deliberate as it is to be doctored to bring it in line with the so-called labour reforms? That is why the trade unions' demand has not been heeded, as had been the case while rushing through amendments to the Trade Union Act 1926 in the monsoon session of Parliament. Those amendments made registration of unions difficult and participation of "outsider" in

union activities impossible.

The proposed amendments to the ID Act will have far-reaching implications for the working class in as much as the employers will have a free hand to "hire and fire" and retrenchment through lockout and closure even in the organized sector will be made easy. Let us see in brief

how these amendments will palpably crush the workers' right to work and living.

Fascist method to take away workers' rights

Duplicity is the method that fascism adopts to hoax the masses.

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CENTRAL COMMITTEE STATEMENTS

Against Violation of Air-space by US Copter

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI issued the following statement to the press on 27th November, 2001 :

"No word is strong enough to condemn the anchoring of the US naval vessel USS John Young at Chennai Port on 26.11.2001 and violation of Chennai air-space by a US helicopter reportedly taken off from that same US destroyer. The unauthorised helicopter even refused to establish the mandatory radio contact with the nearby Chennai Air Traffic Control when it was hovering close to the high security Kalpakkam atomic power plant. The Indian government's reported role of taking serious note of the incident comes up to be an eyewash against the backdrop that the concerned Indian naval officers welcomed the US destroyer ship at Chennai Port as they did it earlier this month when another US destroyer USS O'Brien visited the same port. The Indian government has made itself so much subservient to the US imperialists that the USA has taken it for granted as if it is at liberty to use the Indian territory using both naval base and air space for its war design. This is highly condemnable and goes against the long tradition of glorious anti-imperialist movement of the Indian people. We demand immediate withdrawal of the US destroyer from the Chennai Port. We call upon the democratic and peace-loving people of the country to mount pressure on the BJP-led NDA government to compel it stopping recurrence of such incident in future.

Condemning India Government's interference in Nepal

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI issued the following statement to the press on 30th November, 2001 :

"It is the right of the people of Nepal to fight its own exploitative, oppressive, corrupt, undemocratic and authoritarian regime, like the people of all other countries. What form this struggle will assume and whether a particular form of movement adopted by a particular party is supportable or not can only be decided by the people of that country.

It is no business of the Indian ruling class as well as its government, the BJP-led Centre, to interfere into the internal affairs of Nepal and send military aid there. Further, it has promised to provide any necessary help as requested by the Government of Nepal. This is another example of the Indian capitalist class's imperialistic hegemonism in the subcontinent.

On behalf of the toiling people of India, we strongly condemn this attitude and demand immediate revocation of the decision."

US-64 SCAM

Finance Minister Further Exposed

The dubious role of the Central Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha in the infamous US-64 decision has recently been further exposed.

It is still vivid in memory of the readers how on July 2 of this year the repurchase of US-64, the flagship mutual fund units of Unit Trust of India, was suspended throwing over 20 million small and medium investors in the lurch and for face saving the government announced an exit option for them to sell back units to the UTI from August (with 10 paise increase in every successive months upto December 2001 and thereafter at market price) whereas investors bought these two or three months back at a price of even Rs.14.90. Thus the Unit Trust virtually cheated the common investors hundreds of million rupees, albeit, it was revealed, top corporate houses with investment in US-64 found easy exit through insider trading rightly before the freeze realizing the highest repurchase price filling their coffers.

Be it mentioned that the government had although created a confidence among the public regarding this fund but latter on, in the period of liberalisation by planfully diverting its investments largely in share market, particularly

secondary one, made it highly vulnerable to capitalist crisis. It was led to bankruptcy also through high level and deep-seated corruption and conspiracy for looting hundreds of crores of public money. Just after the

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Remedy Prescribed to Combat Capitalist Crisis Boomerangs

(Contd. from page 1)

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, our revered departed leader and teacher, showed that fascism is not naked dictatorship which automatically evokes revulsion from the masses. Fascism adopts the methods of both persuasion and repression. Persuasion to mislead the people in order to have their support and sanction at first and then the worst kind of repression thrust upon the people ruthlessly.

The BJP-led government's method is to be closely followed in this perspective. First it set up a Task Force on employment opportunities under the chairmanship of Planning Commission member Montek Singh Ahluwalia. The Task Force was set up to suggest strategy for employment generation in order to achieve the target of providing employment opportunity to 10 crore people over the next 10 years.

The Task Force report, submitted on July 2, provides instead a blueprint for "labour reforms" including the abolition of job security requirements to make downsizing, retrenchment and drastic pruning of the workforce much easier. It takes the plea that in a globalised world market, an economy persisting with labour laws that are "much more rigid" than those prevailing in other countries only makes us uncompetitive not only in export markets but also in domestic market.

So, the important changes suggested in the recommendations of the Task Force are to do away with the requirement of prior permission of the government for retrenchment, lay off, lock out and closure by deleting chapter VB from the ID Act. As a sop, in the name of providing so-called "safety net" or social security to the workers, the Task Force recommendation has been to raise compensation for retrenchment from half a month's pay per year of service to one month's pay per year of service. Recently, to subdue the noises of protest from SJM (Swadeshi Jagran Manch) and BMS (Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh), affiliates of the RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh), the mentor of the BJP, its President Jana Krishnamurthy suggested enhancement of compensation money to 45 days in place of half a month's pay. As if the whole issue is not about fresh retrenchment of workers on such a massive scale being engineered now but the quantum of compensation! And this has been termed as 'balancing measure' by the Task

Force. What is being balanced and how is the moot question.

For example, the Task Force has recommended deletion of Section 11A of the ID Act which allows labour courts, industrial tribunals and national tribunals to provide appropriate relief in case of discharge or dismissal of workmen. The mandate of the Task Force was to deal with employment opportunities to fulfil (!) the Prime Minister's promise to create 10 crore jobs. Quite contrary to what was pronounced as the objective, it has suggested short-term employment contracts under which workers hired on contract basis can be sacked at the end of the contract period without any scope for legal challenge or dispute. A premium over the normal wage for the contract period has been suggested to avoid the demand for such employment to be treated at par with permanent employment.

As for the Contract Labour Act, the recommendation of the Task Force is to bring amendments that would help to out source (doing the job from outer source) on the pretext that "an important aspect of cost-effectiveness is that the service can be discontinued or contracted on a reduced scale in difficult times."

False Premise, False Prescription

Despite discordant notes from the Sangh Parivar, the BMS and even two of his cabinet colleagues, George Fernandes, Convenor of the NDA coalitions also Sharad Yadav, the Labour Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister, is insistent in his demand for reforms in Labour Laws. In his opinion: "Labour reforms are a much-needed initiative to boost investment and improve management in Indian business." So, the tall promise of creation of 1 crore jobs has turned into a shameless bid to generate loss of employment of the workers on massive scale. A fine specimen of duplicity!

The specious premise has been that foreign investors would be attracted by the absolutely 'free market' (!) to freely fleece the working people and in the bargain boost investment and employment generation so that a booming labour market would ensue. Is investment and employment generation so that a booming labour market would ensue? Is there any relevance of this fable to the ground reality?

Jagdish Shettigar, one of the

members of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, told *The Statesman* (*The Statesman*, 14 September '01) that a prolonged crisis in the USA would certainly have adverse effect on the Indian economy. This has already been reflected in the reduced flow of investment through FII's (Foreign Institutional Investors) being affected with adverse impact on the stock market and the international value of rupee, increase in crude oil prices leading to balance of payment crisis of India and further damage to Indian exports to the USA. The World Bank has reported that net flows of global capital to the developing countries have become negative in 2000. (*The Statesman*, 28 October 2001)

This knocks down of the plea of the government in support of labour law reforms.

Besides, the IMF in its latest estimate (*World Economic Outlook 2000-2001*) shows downside risks to global economy mounting with the distinct slackening of production in the USA with growth coming at 1.5 p.c. in 2001 despite huge tax cuts to boost consumption and eight times downward revision of the interest rates aggregating 5 p.c. European growth prospects are bleaker and Japan's growth rate is facing contraction to 0.5 p.c. from 1.5 p.c. predicted earlier. India cannot be any exception. Globalisation has done nothing else other than globalisation of crisis of market and mounting of attacks on the working people as a way out. The attempt presently being made to wipe out the last vestiges of workers' right to work and living is nothing but a part of the vicious design of the ruling capitalist class to pass the buck of crisis snowballing in world capitalist market on to the toiling people.

The capitalists search for remedy or even brief respite from all-out crisis by the methods already mentioned but these actually boomerang and further complicate the situation. The capitalist methods lead them from one crisis to a bigger crisis. Drastic reduction of the source of livelihood and the ever-increasing figures of unemployed bring about reduction in purchasing power of people and consequent further squeeze of market which recoils on increased productive potential of high-tech now in use resulting in higher and higher percentage of unutilised productive capacity. The crisis of market deepens as the capitalists' confidence to realize maximum profit is severely eroded because of instability and insecurity of market.

The ever-contracting market due to lowering or stoppage of income of increasing number of working people can hardly absorb the products. The palliatives like tax reduction for the wealthy, reduction of interest rate, huge diversion of fiscal resources towards purchase of military hardware, etc., prove futile to stem the rot ingrained in capitalism particularly at its present crisis-ridden moribund state.

The government's recurrent diminution of interest rates on small savings and deposits on the plea of reduction of fiscal deficit is mischievous. This brings direct attack on the living of the poor and lower middle strata particularly the retired employees who eke out a precarious living on the interest earning from their bank or post office deposits. This further worsens the already sagging market.

Indian Economic Scenario

We quote from *Dalal Street*, a journal of India's biggest share market, about the graphic picture of the present economic scenario in the Indian economy. The journal in its issue dated 22.8.2001 wrote thus: "Despite interest rate cuts, bank credit offtake is not moving up. In fact, according to the latest figures released by the Reserve Bank of India, the incremental growth in credit offtake was lower by 200 per cent at Rs. 7,223 crore in the first quarter of 2001, compared with Rs. 23,976 crore in the corresponding period of last year." What can be the reason? The journal resumes: "Investor confidence has touched rockbottom with India Government backed mutual funds baring its feet of clay with its latest US-64 fiasco and arrest of top brass. The alleged involvement of overseas corporate bodies (OCBs) in recent stock-price rigging with RBI and SBI passing the buck instead of unearthing truth is contributing to shake investors' confidence in government institutions. With retail investors feeling ditched lock stock and barrel, there is an all-pervasive gloom. Dalal Street has crashed." Will the 'prescription' of drastic reduction of employment or wages be able to arrest the deep recession in the economy or further worsen it?

Relevant Questions Bypassed

The Task Force on employment opportunities bypassed the most relevant questions in order to conceal the truth. First, it has avoided the unpleasant fact as to why the so-called economic reforms

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US-64 SCAM**Finance Minister Further Exposed***(Contd. from page 1)*

fall on July 2, the Finance Minister promptly declared his innocence, sacked and arrested the UTI chairman shifting the buck singly on this ill-fated fellow to hide his own involvement in taking the highly questioned decision.

The curtain has now again been raised with the deposition of the then Finance Secretary, Mr Ajit Kumar before the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) formed at that time to probe into the scam. Mr Ajit Kumar has simply brought the cat out of the bag to the dismay of the Finance Minister and has been transferred from the post of Finance Secretary as his punishment for this act. While deposing before the JPC, no less than a person like the then Finance Secretary held the Finance Minister's declaration totally untrue.

When at the rude shock of the freeze of US-64 units widespread criticism of and suspicion about the role of the Finance Ministry and the Finance Minister in freezing it expectedly arose — because US-64 is not regulated by SEBI and in that case the Ministry of Finance and the FM perforce to oversee such drastic action — the Finance Minister repeatedly and categorically declared in his statement to the reporters on July 9 and statement in the parliament on July 24 that the Finance Ministry and he was not at all informed by the UTI chairman Mr Subramaniam before taking the decision of freezing and he had no responsibility for such a fate of US-64. To strengthen his stand he even sacked the UTI chairman and directed him to be arrested. The arrested chairman at that time told the country, in an affidavit, that the Finance Minister was all along been kept informed about the UTI activities, its major investment decision including investment in RSS high-up-controlled and fraudulent Cyberspace Infosys and the freezing of US-64, but in vain.

Now as per detailed report published in *The Statesman* dated 11.11.2001, the FM's closest aid, the Finance Secretary Ajit Kumar during his deposition before the JPC in reply to a pointed question whether a decision relating to US-64 was "communicated" to him as Finance Secretary by the minister, he said the matter was seriously considered, and 'discussed' with the Finance Minister. Actually, a letter communicating the UTI chairman's proposal "along with alternatives" was sent to the Finance Secretary

on 30th June evening. On July 1, the FM discussed the matter seriously with him and met the UTI chairman on July 2, thereafter the decision of freezing was taken. Thus the FM himself and the government were both party to the decision.

Lastly, being unable to deny completely that Finance Minister himself and his ministry knew what was going to take place on July 2, the Finance Minister had told that the ministry did not get time to "examine the entire issue in its entirety". But his Finance Secretary has in his deposition also confirmed that "... the then UTI Chief did keep the Minister of Finance posted about the serious situation in the UTI — through a letter to the Finance Minister on 18 May detailing the UTI situation and through a formal communication on 30 June ..." (*The Statesman*, 11.11.2001) All these lead to the fact

that the Finance Minister and his ministry were not only aware of all the finer aspects of the controversial decision but had the final say as well. So, what does this deposition then transpire? Everything except the term used by the Finance Secretary — the FM 'lied'! Shouldn't people of the country feel proud that they have got such a truthful Finance Minister and an honest government like the NDA government led by a 'value-based' party like the BJP?

On 14 July in parliament Mr Sinha claimed: "The needle of suspicion cannot point at me and I deny with all the vehemence that we were informed". Now what will he say after his own secretary's deposition confirming the UTI chief's claim? The needle of suspicion not only point at you, Mr Finance Minister, it goes deeply into your integrity too!

In a vain attempt to protect

himself the FM issued an rejoinder (published in *The Statesman* on 21.11.2001) to *The Statesman* where he also admitted the existence of UTI chief's letter dated May 18 and June 30, discussion on it with the Finance Secretary but called the meeting with the UTI chief on July 2 forenoon merely a 'courtesy call'! What a 'courtesy' that leads to the subordinate's sacking and arrest! We cannot, until the whole scheme of things is unearthed, and do not plead innocence of the UTI chief but it is clear that the BJP Finance Minister simply made him scapegoat for the UTI scam swindling hundreds of crores of rupees of the public to the interest of persons best known to him including ex-PMO Secretary N.K. Singh, PM's foster son-in-law Ranjan Bhattacharyya, the Ambani and Birla Houses, as discussed in details in our issue dated August 15, 2001. With the curtain raiser Finance Secretary Mr Ajit Kumar the US-64 Scam has made us known where lies the needle of suspicion! It is now as clear as daylight.

Working people must stand for a real fight and not a mock one*(Contd. from page 2)*

implemented over the past decade did not lead to employment growth rates between 1983-84 and 1999-2000. It has not indicated why employment at both aggregate and sectoral levels did not pick up in the reform years. Compared to an overall average of 2.04 per cent before the reforms (that is, in 1983-84) the annual growth rate of labour was mere 0.98 per cent in 1994-2000. Despite all attempts at statistical jugglery, the truth of steady deceleration of growth rate in employment during the reform period of globalisation cannot be concealed. As to the picture in sectoral levels, agriculture, mining, quarrying and power have all shown negative growth rates. Growth has also been low in manufacturing, financial services and community, social/personal services as compared to the pre-reform years. (*Outlook*, October 12, 2001)

What can be the explanation other than the truth that crisis in moribund capitalism has become all-out and pervasive and no amount of worn out capitalist methods can solve it? That the GDP growth has no bearing on the growth of employment could not but be admitted. The journal further noted: "The low employment elasticity in the 1990s reflects the fact that employment growth decelerated in

this period while GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth accelerated." The Economic Survey 2000-01 touches only partial truth when it gives the explanation by stating: "Higher economic growth in the recent past, if it has been more capital intensive, may have resulted in lower employment intensity." (*ibid*) What an understatement!

Only some vague assurances about increase of job opportunities in travel and tourism, information technology, housing, real estate development and construction besides social sectors such as health and education are coming from the spokesmen of the government when the latter is presently engaged in a purchasing spree of military hardware at staggering costs. But, though of temporary nature and not tackling the real causes that give rise to crisis in capitalist productive system, even the remedial avenues suggested are hamstrung because of lack of direction and objectivity.

For example, the rural poor would not be able to get into the services sector except in areas such as construction and trading. But if the government does not undertake investment on a bigger scale in infrastructure like roads, dams, power plants etc., even the temporary reliefs will not be forthcoming. The government has

instead opted for militarization and creation of warlike tension on the plea of containing terrorism when people in different parts of the country have become victims of state terrorism without an end in sight.

Sustained movement on correct base political line — the need of the hour

Crisis-ridden capitalism is launching all-out attacks on the working class through its subservient government in Delhi in order to pass the whole burden of crisis in capitalist economy on to the shoulders of the toiling people. As the crisis deepens more and more, the attacks would mount further. The working class must resist the onslaughts tooth and nail and engage in sustained, united, life and death struggle on their demands and for restoration, preservation and extension of democratic rights. All the problems in their lives spring from the present capitalist system and so the struggle should not be confined to just this or that demand but be directed against capitalism itself from a revolutionary outlook. Only a correct revolutionary party can provide leadership to such protracted united proletarian movement which, along with securing the demands will be conducted on anti-capitalist base political line.

November Revolution Day Observed in States

Study Centre of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought, Ghatsila

We will finally reach our goal through success and failure

— Tapas Dutta

The 84th November Revolution Anniversary was observed on 7th November last at the Study Centre of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought, Ghatsila, Jharkhand.

On that day, the portraits of great leaders and teachers of the proletariat Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao Zedong and the statue of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh were garlanded by Comrade Tapas Datta, member, Central Committee, Comrade Provash Ghosh, member Central Committee and Secretary, West Bengal State Committee and Comrade Sadananda Bagal, member, West Bengal State Committee.

A meeting was held at the main hall of the Study Centre under the chairmanship of Comrade Malay Bose, in-charge of the Study Centre. Comrade Tapas Dutta was the main speaker. Comrade Dutta said: I hope you all realize the importance of this day. After capitalism was restored in the Soviet Union, a section of the bourgeois intellectuals propagated that Marxism failed, Marxism was wrong. Even some so-called communist parties sang to the same tune. Since November Revolution imperialism-capitalism had carried their attacks on socialism from outside. But defeating their conspiracies and attacks, socialism existed with all its fervour and zeal. Socialism was not defeated even when attacked by the fascists. And the great victory in the Second World War led by Comrade Stalin is a glorious history, a memory which is still a great source of inspiration to the toiling millions.

Marxism-Leninism has taught us that society is law governed. As nature is law governed so also is society. Man cannot violate it. Before Marx, there were many who spoke of socialism, many even spoke of labour-owner contradiction. It was not discovered by Marx. But these humanists could not say how to resolve the labour-owner contradiction. It is Marx who with the help of historical materialism showed how by way of resolving this contradiction socialism is sure to establish. It is he who laid down the scientific basis of socialism. Our party is moving ahead with this teaching of Marx.

So, at the setback of socialism, though deeply shocked, we were not left bewildered. For, we had with us the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh who distinctly showed that the conclusion reached at in the 20th Congress of the CPSU would inevitably open up the floodgate of revisionism. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh then warned unless revisionism was defeated, counter-revolution, as its consequence, was

not impossible to happen. In his lifetime, Comrade Stalin, too, threw light on very many problems in socialism. In his famous treatise *Economic Problems of Socialism in the USSR*, he stressed that economic advancement in socialism could achieve only by means of socialist economic laws, not through bourgeois incentive. It is sad that revisionism could not be defeated in Russia. Finally even before socialism collapsed in East Europe and Soviet Russia, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary of our party branded, on the basis of the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the *glasnost* and *perestroika* of Gorbachev as the blueprint of counter-revolution.

This should be kept in mind that the accentuation of class contradiction is not the same in capitalism as in socialism. Lenin said, accentuation of class contradiction deepens many times in socialism. If politics and culture do not keep pace with the economic advancement in socialism, if socialist consciousness does not advance constantly, then a gap is created through which revisionism sneaks in. This is what has happened in Russia.

Comrades, man-marches ahead only through ups and downs. Have you seen ocean? Only crossing countless waves the divers reach the calm sea. We too will advance overcoming obstacles. When Comrade Shibdas Ghosh began to build our party, he had only seven comrade-in-arms with him. This was as if to cross the vast ocean with a dinghy. Many people bantered him, many asked him, 'could you do?'. Comrade Ghosh answered, 'Maybe, I will fail, I may die by the roadside, but I can't compromise with falsehood'. He used to say: a revolutionary can undertake any work for the sake of revolution. This is the true sense of prestige of a revolutionary. Nobody can humiliate a revolutionary, unless he does it himself. Finally, must we reach our goal through countless ups and

downs.

Long live revolution! Long live Comrade Shibdas Ghosh!

Patna

On 7th November, on the occasion of the 84th November Revolution anniversary the SUCI held a huge demonstration against the RJD-led Bihar government for its anti-people economic policy – industrial, agricultural, labour, education and health policies; nexus of power-greedy leaders, criminals, police and administration; Muzaffarpur firing; US-sponsored war and terrorism. A huge meeting was held at R Block when the procession was stopped by the police.

Addressing the meeting Comrade Achintya Sinha, All India leader, UTUC-LS told that the present NDA government led by the BJP was pursuing the same anti-people policies taken up by the earlier Congress(I) government with more zeal. Due to anti-employment and anti-worker economic and industrial policies, industries, mills and factories were closing and workers were being retrenched forcefully in the name of VRS. He criticised the Union government for pursuing the

delegation headed by Comrade Amriteswar Chakraborty, Bihar State Secretary, SUCI, submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister.

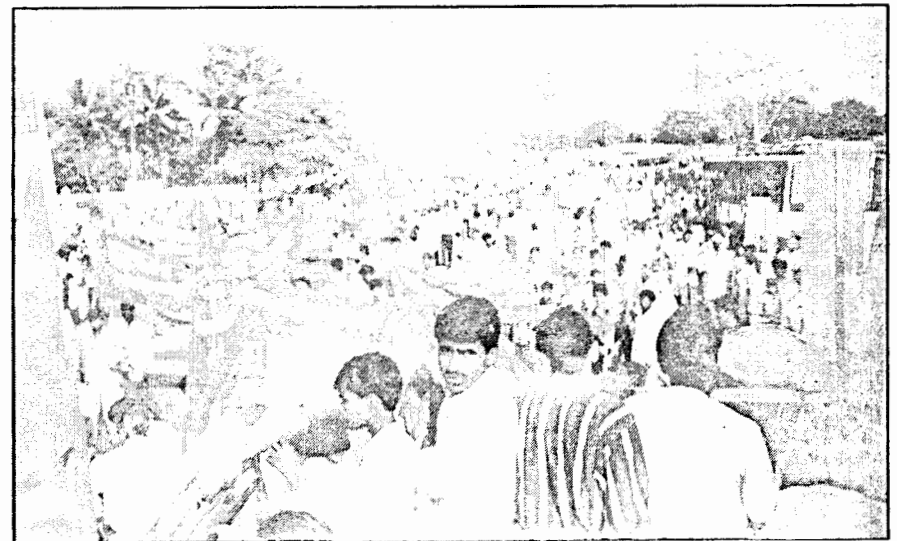
Tripura

The 84th anniversary of Great November Revolution was observed in Tripura from 7th to 17th November, 2001 through various programmes. On 7th November hoisting of Red Flag and garlanding the portrait of Great Lenin at Agartala and Udayanpur party office followed by the *Internationale* were made amidst due solemnity. Thereafter wearing of Pin flags with collection of public charities were done throughout the day. A street-corner meeting was held at 5 PM where Comrades Babul Banik, Shibani Das and Subrata Chakraborty addressed the gathering.

On 8th November another street-corner meeting was held in front of Hapania Jot Mill. Two other meetings were held at Kepper Bazar and at Sonamura on 9th and 10th November respectively.

Bhopal

The Bhopal unit of the SUCI observed the 84th anniversary of November Revolution at its State



A view of the huge demonstration at Patna on November Revolution Day

knee-down policy towards the USA.

Comrade Shivshankar, senior member, Bihar State Committee, SUCI told in his speech that the much trumpeted 'pro-people' RJD-led state government was pursuing the same anti-people policies of the union government. The mills and factories were closing down in the state. Large number of impoverished workers were compelled to leave the state. Every year thousands of people died and lakhs of people were affected due to flood and drought. No master plan had been made for permanent solution of flood and drought. He, urged the common people to build up a sustained and organized mass movement against the anti-people policies of the state and the central governments. Comrade Amar Kumar Panday, State Committee member, SUCI and other speakers also addressed the gathering. Later, a

Party office on 11 November, 2001. On this great historic occasion, Comrade Ashok Ganguly, member, MP State Coordination Committee hoisted the Red Flag.

Speaking on this occasion Comrade J C Barai in his presidential speech stressed that Marxism is not economic determinism.

As the main speaker Comrade Ashok Ganguly elaborately discussed on very many aspects of November Revolution.

He said, November revolution taught us that only socialism can advance the whole human society. Concluding his speech, he stressed the necessity of building up of Anti-imperialist Forum, which, through various movements, ultimately will weaken the imperialist power and help defeat capitalism.

The programme was conducted by Comrade Asit Mohanty.

Real Motive Behind Afghan War

Consequent upon month-long indiscriminate and devastating aerial bombings and use of modern sophisticated weapons of mass destruction, killing and maiming hundreds and thousands of innocent Afghan people, the imperialist powers led by the US war mongers are now busy to install a puppet government of its choice over the Afghan capital, Kabul. This was their actual gameplan behind the war-cry to combat terrorism and its abettor, the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

Just before pouncing upon Afghanistan, the US President George Bush had told : It was of no use throwing a 2-million dollar cruise missile on the hills of Afghanistan to fetch merely a scratched tent of 10-dollar value added with killing a few camels. He was pretending to be careful to avoid mass destruction and rather would resort to attack on selective targets of terrorist concentrations. Contrary to creating this seemingly innocent notion among the world community at large, ground reality unmasks Bush's hypocrisy.

As a result of perpetrating a war of mass destruction at the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars, Afghanistan has been reduced into shambles, killing thousands, over and above thousands upon thousands turned into street beggars. Why this misfortune befell them? It is a well-nigh fact that Osama bin Laden was propped up to stature by the US-imperialists, and at the same time the US was well-aware that the Taliban, too, were getting nurtured by Pakistan regime to which it never raised its finger crossed. Naturally, therefore, the moot question before all sensible people is : Why and what interest drove the US to devastating assaults of state terrorism brought to bear upon Afghanistan in the wake of continuing undeclared war against it? The lure of vast potential of untapped oil and gas reserves is a very vital consideration.

After the falling apart of the erstwhile mighty Soviet Socialist Republics, the US imperialists, the servitor of the US-multinational and transnational corporations, took upon themselves the 'holy' task of extending their overall supremacy over the oil-rich Caspian/Central Asian region. In that case the geo-political strategic importance of Afghanistan demands of a puppet government of US-choice through which it can accomplish its imperialist loot and plunder unhindered.

The Caspian region contains vast untapped hydro-carbon reserves, much of these being located in the Caspian sea basin itself. The region's total oil reserves is thought to be the second largest reserve in the world, reckoned only after the oil rich West Asia. Some estimates place it at as high as 200 billion barrels of oil. This precious wealth was so long under the absolute control of the erstwhile Soviet Union when the US-imperialists could hardly dare to poke its nose in this region. But with the disintegration of the socialist camp along with its bastion, the Soviet Union, the North-West Asia

witnessed a sea-change. Restoration of capitalism in the erstwhile Soviet Republics like oil-rich Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan drove the rulers of these states afoot, to garner heavy dividends by selling indiscriminately their oil wealth in the global market. With this new scenario unfolding, the US-monopoly oil sharks jumped into the fray.

When the Taliban rule reigned supreme in Afghanistan, three years ago, when the US had no headache for Osama bin Laden, the US-monopoly oil sharks made it known what they stand for in Afghanistan. The testimony given by an oil and gas corporation executive (of Union Oil of California = Unocal) to the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific of the US House of Representatives' Committee on International Relations on February 12, 1998, throws much light on the strategic importance of Afghanistan and, accordingly, it goes a long way to focus why the US-imperialists, in league with western capitalist-imperialists, have gone a whole-hog to war there. In no uncertain terms, it was presented before the House of Representatives : "The impact of these resources on US commercial interests and US foreign policy is also significant and intertwined. Without peaceful settlement of conflicts within the region, cross-border oil and gas pipelines are not likely to be built." The Vice-President Mr Maresco of Unocal International Relations put it bluntly why it stressed so much importance in finding and building routes to world markets through geographical territory of Afghanistan. Since the Central Asia is land-locked and isolated, there exists two obstacles towards building the routes to world markets: one is technological while the other pertains to political matters. The chief obstacle they face relates to transporting oil in the region's existing pipeline infrastructure. Because, the region's existing pipelines were constructed during the previous Soviet regime, and it tend to head north and west

toward Russia. There are no connections to the south and east. For all practical purposes, therefore, dependence wholly on this infrastructure for the purpose of exporting Central Asian oil is of worthwhile significance to this US oil shark. So their resolve, if there are to be other routes, in other directions, they must be built. What are they? One option is to go across China. But then this would mean constructing a pipeline of more than 3,000 kms to Central China — as well as a 2,000 kms connection to reach the main population centres along the coast. It entails a huge cost. A second option is to build a pipeline south from Central Asia to the Indian Ocean, the obvious potential route being across Iran. However, because of US sanctions legislation, this option for US companies is forbidden. More importantly, the French imperialists presently dominate over Iran while the German imperialists exert partial influence over Iran, which the US shark Unocal conveniently avoided to explain. A third option, the only other possible route, is across southwest Afghanistan via Pakistan to lead it into the Arabian sea. It is the shortest route to the sea and has relatively favourable terrain for a pipeline. Not only that; Afghanistan provides the opportunity to bring Central Asian oil closest to Asian markets and thus likely to be the cheapest in terms of transferring the oil. Unocal thus envisions : "The 1040-mile long oil pipeline would begin near the town of Chardzhou, in northern Turkmenistan, and extend southeasterly through Afghanistan to an export terminal that would be constructed on the Pakistan coast on the Arabian sea. Only about 440 miles of the pipeline would be in Afghanistan."

A recent study for the World Bank also goes in favour of the proposed pipeline from Central Asia across Afghanistan and Pakistan which would provide more favourable netbacks to oil producers through access to higher value markets than these currently being accessed through the traditional Baltic and Black sea export routes. Besides, they are after laying the proposed 790-mile gas pipeline to open up new markets for this gas, travelling from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan to Moulton, Pakistan. Over and above, a proposed extension would link with the existing Sui pipeline system, moving gas to near New Delhi, where it would connect with the existing HBJ pipeline. A 400-mile extension connecting India would

enhance the economies of the project and would assure better returns, no doubt. Moreover, in terms of technology it would not be an insurmountable obstacle to construct a route of pipelines through Afghanistan with its hard terrain. But Afghanistan has its own unique challenges. According to the US oil-sharks, "We have made it clear that construction of our proposed pipeline cannot begin until a recognized government is in place that has the confidence of governments, lenders and our company." Thus the Unocal bosses were telling from the outset, along with multiple pipeline routes for Central Asian oil and gas, the paramount need, "... for US support for international and regional efforts to achieve balanced and lasting political settlements within Russia, other newly independent states (CIS) and in Afghanistan." The sumum bonum of their urge boils down to political interference and intervention by the US-imperialists in this region.

Afghanistan, a war-ravaged country for almost two decades, with the Taliban, an Islamic fundamentalist force in its control, enmeshed in intermittent conflicts and with political uncertainty can attract little or no confidence to abide by agreements entered by the foreign companies. And these chaotic state of affairs play havoc with the safety and security of capital flow. And hence the political intervention is called for. For this nefarious end, the very same US-imperialists which once aided and abetted the diverse groups of Mujahideens and even their 'new found culprit Taliban', through the stretching hands of Pakistan, are now weeping with crocodile tears for restoration of stability and peace inside Afghanistan in the interest of poorest of the poor people of the country! Hypocrisy abounds. Then again, a stable Taliban government at the helm won't do. According to the US oil-sharks, most of the countries across the globe do not recognize the Taliban government. That's why from the very beginning they were harping on the theme that the, "... proposed pipeline cannot begin until a recognized government is in place that has the confidence of governments, lenders and our company." At the same time, they have raised a hue and cry for repeal or removal of Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act thrust upon Azerbaijan inasmuch as this statute is endangering the US interest and influence in this region.

At any rate, it transpires vividly that long before terror attacks on
(Contd. on page 8)

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Diminished Democracy

"The war against terror unleashed in the aftermath of September 11 is fast turning into a campaign to leash democracy and curb fundamental rights in countries as far apart as the United States, the UK and India. President George Bush's military proposal to try non-US citizens "suspected" of terrorism before a special military commission as opposed to civilian courts, is just one more in an expanding armoury of repressive weapons threatening civil liberties and democratic rights. There is trenchant irony in the world's 'only indispensable' democracy militarizing justice, albeit selectively, just days after President Bush made Pakistan's military dictator, Parvez Musharraf, record his commitment to revive the democratic process by holding elections before October 2002. The order on military tribunals provides for secret proceedings that can be held not only in the US but also overseas — including countries such as Pakistan or Afghanistan — and on American military ships. In the event of a secret trial, the Freedom of Information Act may not be applicable, and, regardless of location, US laws and punishments, including the death penalty, would apply. Defending the logic of this

extreme measure, attorney general John Ashcroft said that there is no reason that a terrorist captured in another nation has to be brought back to the US for trial. The precedents cited by vice-president Dick Cheney — such as the trial of conspirators in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln — unwittingly underscore how democracy is being rolled back instead of being promoted.

However, as the driving force behind 'global values' today, the US administration can take comfort in the fact that other democracies are following its example with alacrity. Soon after Washington's sermon on democracy to General Musharraf, Tony Blair placed Britain under a state of public emergency. The emergency, which has provoked protests among the ruling Labour party's own MPs, allows for detention without trial of suspected terrorists and foreign nationals. Civil rights groups have denounced the Emergency Bill, proposed to be rushed through parliament, as a violation of fundamental rights and an "extreme attack on a historic core principle of British justice". The proposed law would require Britain to opt out of Article 5 of the

European Convention on Human Rights, which bars detention without trial. Closer home, the government of India's Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance (POTO) delegitimises dissent and is more draconian sweep than TADA which had to be scrapped under the force of public opinion. Even before the POTO is introduced in Parliament, an atmosphere has been created where criticizing its provisions entails the risk of being dubbed "anti-national". With the USAPATRIOT Act becoming the new global standard for defence of democracy and

national interest, latent authoritarian tendencies worldwide have received a fresh boost. What is particularly disturbing in India is that several public voices associated with liberal values — who were unrelenting in their opposition to anti-democratic laws in times past such as the Emergency — are now turning their eloquence in defence of repressive measures which are made out to be a test of "nationalism". The increasing tendency of governments in supposedly open societies to use terrorism as a bogey to diminish democratic space is fraught with consequences which may well outlast the terrorist threat.

(Times of India, Editorial, 17.10.2001)

Terrorism and Trade

"...quite apart from this indirect process of causation, there is another sense in which international terrorism and international trade are not in opposition, but actually fundamentally linked and reliant upon each other. This is in terms of some types of world trade which are huge in size but rarely get talked about either by the WTO or by the most ardent advocates of

globalization — the world trade in arms and drugs. The trade has become the source of the vast incomes which generate the funds used by terrorist networks, even as they also form an important source of demand for small arms production in particular. The close nexus between such nefarious trading activities and the activities of

(Contd. on page 7)

Kerala Womens' Convention and Procession against War

The AIMSS, Kerala State Committee organized Womens' convention and march against US imperialist war, on 5th November in Cochin city. The convention was inaugurated by a prominent social activist and a leading advocate of Kerala High Court, Mr Balagangadhara Menon.

In his inaugural speech Mr Menon strongly condemned American attack on the people of Afghanistan on the plea of fighting terrorism. In the Taliban regime women of Afghanistan were denied democratic rights. Now the war crush them more and they face both the enemies for none of their mistakes. People of the whole world should protest this barbarity, he appealed.

Comrade V. Venugopal, state secretariat member, SUCI, exposed the real designs of the USA behind this war. Building up a militant peace movement is the urgent task of the hour; he reiterated. Prof. Jayasree Sukumaran explained the role of women in the peace movement. Prof. Susan John, Comrades Shyla K. John, K. Indira, Soubhagyakumari also spoke. Comrade Mini K Philip presided over the meeting.

Two resolutions condemning the war and black POTO were placed, by Comrades Bindu and Sasikala respectively. Comrade S.Radhamony read out a portion from an article

published by the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) condemning war and terrorism.

After the convention hundreds of

women took out a protest march in the city led by Comrade Lalitha Mathew, president, Shyla K John, Secretary and other state leaders of the AIMSS.



Protest March by AIMSS activists in Cochin

East Zone Students' Convention in Cuttack

The city of Cuttack witnessed a huge students' convention on 24-25 November, 2001 with students coming from the eastern Indian states of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal. The convention was organized on the demands of withdrawal of Astrology, Vastushastra and Purohitya courses at the college and university levels. It was also against fee hike in education which is exorbitant and made at all levels, i.e., against the policy of privatization and commercialization and also the policy of communalisation of education perpetrated by both the central and the state governments.

As a part of the nationwide movement against the above government policies the Eastern Regional Convention, organized by the AIDS0, started on 24th November at the College Square, Cuttack with the inaugural speech by the renowned litterateur Dr. Sachi Rout Roy. It was the open session of the convention. Other persons of repute like litterateur Prof. K C Behera, Sri Dipankar Roy, Secretary, All India Save Education Committee, Comrade Binapani Das, member, Secretariat, Orissa State Committee, SUCI and Comrade Pratap Samal, President, All India Committee, AIDS0 spoke on this occasion. All the speakers raised their voice in protest against the government

policies. The open session was attended by over 10,000 students.

The delegate session was held on 25th November at the Barabati Stadium Hall, Cuttack. Noted educationist Prof. Md.Fakiruddin delivered the inaugural speech. He stressed the cultivation of the very spirit of secular, democratic and scientific education once advocated by the great personalities of the Indian freedom struggle. The main resolution was moved by Comrade Chhabi Mohanty, President, Orissa State Committee, AIDS0. It was supported by 47 delegates from the eastern Indian states and was finally accepted unanimously with some amendments. The total number of delegates was 2562. The convention concluded with the speech of Comrade Provash Ghosh, Adviser to the AIDS0 and member, Central Committee, SUCI.

As the future course of action, it was decided in the convention that the main resolution accepted there would be submitted to the HDR Minister, Govt. of India; the demands would be placed before different university authorities asking them not to comply with the UGC circular to introduce Astrology and other courses; massive campaign would be launched against the government policies through posters, distribution of leaflets, booklets in regional languages so that a vast cross-section of education loving

people would join their voice against this dangerous design of the government; the on-going signature campaign would be intensified all over the country so that at least 5 core signature could be collected in support of the demands; movement would be built up from

the grass-roots level and conventions would be held at the state level everywhere starting from school level; protest demonstrations will also be launched at all levels including a national level demonstration to be organized by the end of the next year.



East Zone Students' Convention in Cuttack. (Above) Comrade Provash Ghosh, Central Committee member, SUCI and Advisor to AIDS0 addressing. (Below) A section of the audience at the Barabati Stadium Hall.

Terrorism and Trade

(Contd. from page 6)

international terrorists, as well as the close involvement of quasi-governmental organizations like the CIA and the ISI, is brought out very clearly in a study by Canadian academic Michael Chossudovsky.

Thus, as Chossudovsky shows, the history of drug trade in Central Asia is intimately related to CIA's covert operations. Prior to the Soviet-Afghan war, opium production in Afghanistan and Pakistan was directed to small regional markets. There was no local production of heroine. The CIA not only encouraged the local leaders to coerce farmers into growing opium but also set up around 11 heroin production units. Within two years, "the Pakistan-Afghanistan border lands became the world's top heroin producer, supplying 60 percent of US' demand. In Pakistan, heroin-addict population went from near zero in 1979 to 1.2 million by 1985

— a much steeper rise than in any other nation."

CIA assets again controlled this heroin trade. As the Mujahideen guerrillas seized territory inside Afghanistan, they ordered peasants to plant opium as a revolutionary tax. Across the border in Pakistan, Afghan leaders and local syndicates under the protection of Pakistan Intelligence operated many heroin laboratories. During this decade of wide-open drug-dealing, the US Drug Enforcement Agency in Islamabad failed to instigate major seizures or arrests. US officials had refused to investigate charges of heroin dealing by its Afghan allies "because US narcotics policy in Afghanistan has been subordinated to the war against Soviet influence there." In 1995, former CIA director of the Afghan operation Charles Cogan admitted the CIA had indeed sacrificed the drug war to fight the Cold War. The cynical attitude of the CIA is exemplified by Cogan's

shameless statements. "Our main mission was to do as much damage as possible to the Soviets. We didn't really have the resources or the time to devote to an investigation of the drug trade ... I don't think that we need to apologize for this. Every situation has its fallout. ... There was fallout in terms of drugs, yes. But the main objective was accomplished. The Soviets left Afghanistan."

The end of the Soviet presence did not mean a disruption of this production and trade, which has grown exponentially even after this. With the disintegration of the Soviet Union, a new surge in opium the adduction has unfolded. According to UN estimates, the production of opium in Afghanistan in 1998-99 — coinciding with the build-up of armed insurgencies in the former Soviet Republics — reached a record high of 4,600 metric ton. Powerful business syndicates in the former

Soviet Union allied with organized crime are competing for the strategic control over the heroin routes.

So the Central Asian region is not only strategic for its extensive oil reserves, it also produces three-quarters of the world's opium representing multi-billion dollar revenues to business syndicates, financial institutions, Intelligence Agencies and organized crime. The annual proceeds of the Golden Crescent drug trade (between \$ 100 and \$200 billion) represents approximately one-third of worldwide annual turnover of narcotics. In this context, it is hard to sympathize with a US administration that claims it will "smoke terrorists out of their holes" even as its main Intelligent Agency probably remains closely involved with the international drugs and arms trade which both finances such operations and depends upon terrorism for its markets as well.

(Deccan Chronicle, Hyderabad, October 20, 2001)

Facts speak for themselves

Military base

"During his Delhi stopover on November 5, US Defence Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld was characteristically forthcoming. At a joint press conference with Defence Minister George Fernandes, he said his aim was "to strengthen the military-to-military and defence ties between our two countries, which I think are so important."

Apart from hinting that military cooperation could figure during the agenda of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-Bush talks in the White House, officials in both countries are tight-lipped. They deny the very existence of any concrete proposal.

"Documents with India Today clearly indicate that military cooperation is a serious understatement. What the Bush Administration has in mind is a full-fledged alliance that is calculated to make India the US' foremost military ally in Asia, with a relationship akin to that of the US and NATO members. The American blueprint envisages a central role for India as a counterweight to China on the one hand and the fragile Islamic states of West Asia on the other. It would involve the establishment of American bases on Indian soil and India's direct participation in future operations. An attack on the US in the region would automatically invite Indian retribution.

At the core of the US proposals, submitted to India in the form of a non-paper just prior to Rumsfeld's visit, is a key role for the Indian Navy. The proposals included:

Indian Navy tankers conducting replenishment operations for US Navy (USN) ships in the Indian Ocean, southern Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.

Escort operations every eight to 10 days by Indian Navy ships (INS) for USN supply ships through the Malacca Straits.

Refuelling USN ships in India and sourcing high-grade aviation fuel for combat aircraft.

INS frigates or destroyers to intervene in support of USN in the Arabian Sea in case of enemy action.

Establishment of joint communications networks.

Ship repair facilities, port visits and supply of fresh foodstuff to USN ships.

The US proposals don't stop at merely identifying the Indian Navy as a reliable escort service. Washington wants to broaden Delhi's involvement in a formal alliance by seeking training and range facilities for its entire military operations. It wants facilities for combined landings, combined field training, combined live-fire training (land, air and sea). These facilities would involve establishment of large US military bases. An effective naval firing range, for example, involves clearing an area of up to 500 km of sea from normal traffic. Likewise, field operations would mean that a large chunk of the Rajasthan desert would become a combat training zone....

India, it would seem, is keen to extract a price from the US, as President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan has done. From Powell to Rumsfeld, India has spelt out its own charter of demands.

For India, the US proposals have a mixed appeal. There is of course, the fear of the devastating social consequences of large US troops presence. Images of South Vietnam and the Philippines haunt the middle classes.

Without question, Delhi is attracted by the possibility that a formal Indo-US alliance would mean the final burying of the Kashmir issue - to India's advantage. With access to the most advanced technology India could begin the process of competing with China. Its regional power ambitions won't be thwarted and it would have fulfilled its unsatiated desire - recognition from the USA.

"For the moment, the alliance idea seems stillborn. ..." (*India Today*, November 19, 2001)

London — 100,000 march against war in Afghanistan

Some 100,000 anti-war protesters marched in London today, doubling last month's turn-out of 50,000, indicating the full depth of opposition to the war in the UK. Trade unionists, Muslim organisations, community groups, anti-racists, human rights activists, anti-globalisation activists, students and MPs heard a wide range of speakers condemn the US-led military action in Afghanistan.

Protesters came by the coach-load from across the UK, including Newcastle, Manchester, Plymouth, and the Foreign Secretary's own constituency of Blackburn. Forty coaches came from Birmingham. As the head of the march reached Trafalgar Square, the tail was still leaving Hyde Park. "After today's demonstration, no-one can doubt both the scale and the diversity of anti-war feeling in this country," said Suresh

New Phase of Movement in West Bengal From December 1

The CPI(M) led Left Front government of West Bengal, like the BJP-led NDA government, has been unabashedly pursuing policies and measures in favour of the corporate houses, the capitalist class. The result is the present grave crisis in public life. Further steep rise in hospital charges and electricity charges is another burden besides soaring fee hike at all levels of education, high corruption in panchayats, lay-offs, lock-outs, closures, eviction of slum dwellers, and hawkers, declaration by the West Bengal government to enact POCA similar to black POTO of the central government to suppress people's movement and infringe human rights, and a host of other problems. In this background in a Press Conference at the state party office at Calcutta on 28th November, 2001 Comrade Provash Ghosh, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee, SUCI announced a programme of sustained movement. The movement starts on 1st December, 2001 at different levels.

Motive Behind Afghan War

(Contd. from page 5)

World Trade Centre and the Pentagon in the USA, establishing supremacy over the precious wealth of oil and gas in the countries of this West Asian region, the US imperialists were hell-bent to foist a puppet regime overrunning the Taliban, enabling thereby to bring 'peace' and 'stability' in the service of MNC oil sharks at the beck and call of the imperialist finance capital.

The incident of terror strike of 11th September, though it came as a dreaded curse, is a boon, indeed, to

the US-imperialists. To the freedom loving people, who are victims of covert and overt terrorist acts of US imperialism, today, are sanguine enough that indiscriminate military operations are being perpetrated by the US-war mongers to fulfil the grand design of politico-economic interest of the US imperialist finance capital. And the hapless poor, poverty stricken Afghan have-nots are paying dearly indeed!

(Source : Internet, www.house.gov/international-relations/105th/ap/wsap212982.htm).



A public meeting to observe the 84th November Revolution anniversary was held at Anantapur, AP on 17.11.2001. Comrade K. Radhakrishna, Secretary, Karnataka State Committee of the party seen delivering his speech as the main speaker. (L to R) Comrades B S Amarnath, Anantapur District Secretary and President of the meeting and K Sridhar, Secretary, AP State Organising Committee, SUCI on the dais. (Below) A part of the gathering.

Grover of the National Civil Rights Movement and Stop the War steering committee. "This is a groundbreaking event which has coalesced into a massive operation against the military action. "This protest is also against the attack on human rights in Britain. The government is slipping in the suspension of habeas corpus and the introduction of internment and detention without trial. We are also

seeing a proliferation of racist assault.

"This huge turn-out represents the tip of the ice-berg of disquiet running throughout British society. Despite the efforts of some section of the media, we've doubled our numbers in a month. The message of the demonstration is that we are not going away. This movement will only get bigger." (Source : Internet)