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Naked role of monopolists in present political situation

Despite the promises of a stable and able government before the last elections the people of the country are now confronted with yet another midterm poll in September next. People know from past experience that the expenses to be incurred in the elections will have to be borne by them. They also know that these parliamentary parties talk loudly about principles, morality, values and people's interest before the elections, but the frequent elections which have become inevitable these days have no relation with the interest of the people. The reasons for the fall of the governments now are love for power and pelf, group squabbles, unprincipled conflicts between the parties and groups and even individual ambitions. The more intense and sharp the conflicts between and within these parties engaged in nasty competition have become, the more uncertain has become the stability of the government. People however know that the main question in their life is whether these elected governments are actually adopting and implementing pro-people measures for checking price rise, ensuring education, health and guarantee of job security. The stability of a government which pursues anti-people policy, as has been happening in our country, cannot provide any relief to the people. Again frequent elections thrust upon the people compound their problems many times. But it is curious to note that the media, both in print and electronic, are propagating in such a way as if the people's problems are no problems at all. Not only that.

Those power hungry parties based on lust for power because of whom the present situation has been created and who are the main contenders now are being projected by the media before the people for choosing one of them, to deliver the goods to them.

In this background some of the recent statements of the spokesmen of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) need critical examination to understand the nature of shift that has been taking place in our country in the relations between the parliamentary parties and the corporate houses representing the monopoly interest. These two institutions, among others, of the corporate sector move generally in accordance with the interest of the MNCs. FICCI and CII are of late found to be not only directly threatening the squabbling parliamentary parties but also openly dictating terms to them. They have asked these parties to ensure stability and threatened to withdraw monetary support if the elections are to be held frequently. In a report published on 14th May last in *The Economic Times* it is seen that the CII has decided "to approach the top five political parties (names of these parties has not however been disclosed) to drive home the point that a common economic agenda be formulated by them". Mr Rahul Bajaj, the newly appointed president of the CII said at a press conference in Calcutta, "We have already held discussion with the top two political parties

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May Day in Madurai Pledge to Fight Economism Reformism Legalism

On May 3, 1999, the Tamilnadu State Organising Committee of UTUC-LS observed May Day at Madurai. A mass meeting was held on that occasion.

The UTUC-LS has been organising workers for many years in Madurai, Battlaguntu, Sivakasi, Virudunagar, Chennai, Villupuram, Neyveli and other places and thus May Day was an important rallying occasion for them.

Madurai city was decorated with red flags and festoons, posters and wall-writings having announced the programme. Industrial and agricultural workers from Nilakottai, Virudunagar, Sivakasi, Battlaguntu, Gangavarpatti, Theni, Kambam Valley, Pudukottai, Neyveli and Chennai, who took pride in affiliating their unions with UTUC-LS, attended the programme.

Before the mass meeting a fervent procession led by a worker comrade holding high a massive red flag, followed by the state leaders of the UTUC-LS and workers, both men and women, from the various districts carrying colourful banners traversed different spots and reached the venue of the public meeting. Comrade Tapas Dutta, All India General Secretary, UTUC-LS, was the main speaker in the meeting.

At the meeting the AIDYO music squad rendered songs composed on May Day, and the song on the revered leader, teacher and guide of the proletariat, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

The gathering then observed silence in memory of Comrade Pritish Chanda, the departed President of All India UTUC-LS.

The newly constituted Tamilnadu State Organising Committee of UTUC-LS, comprising Comrades Anavarathan, President, P. Maharajan and N. Chandrasekar, Vice-Presidents, S. Jawahar, Secretary and T. Muthusamy, V. Venugopal, R. Natarajan, P. Pandian, V. Sivakumar and P. Narayanasamy all committee members, was introduced to the gathering.

Comrade A. Jalaludeen, Vice-President, All India UTUC-LS and President, Kerala State Committee of UTUC-LS, Comrade S. Simhadri, Secretary, Karnataka State Committee, UTUC-LS and Comrade E. P. A. Rasheed, In-charge, UTUC-LS, Andhra Pradesh, addressed the gathering.

Seven resolutions were placed before the

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Comrade Tapas
Dutta, General
Secretary,
UTUC-LS
addressing
MAY DAY rally
in Madurai on
3rd May '99

At the call of All India Anti-Imperialist Forum

People condemn US savagery on Yugoslavia

Imperialism, US imperialism in particular, can never hide its fang and the devastating war it has imposed on sovereign Yugoslavia is destroying the country, its economy. It does not spare even hospitals, and is taking countless lives. Along with the whole world here in our country people have risen in protest against this barbarity.

The All India Anti-imperialist Forum (AIAIF), in different parts of our country, has been holding protest programmes against NATO savagery.

CALCUTTA

On 21st May the Calcutta Committee of the AIAIF staged a protest demonstration in front of the Information Centre, USA. A well decorated spirited procession, starting at the Raja Subodh Mullick Square, reached the Information Centre amidst slogans against US barbarity on Yugoslavia calling for the building up of militant peace movement. There an effigy representing US, UK, German and French imperialism was burnt. A resolution was unanimously accepted that demanded immediate halt of the bombardment of Yugoslavia and withdrawal of NATO forces.

The protest rally criticised the Government of India for not voicing effective protest and condemned the role of the big left parties for not coming forward to build up people's resistance against NATO attacks. It demanded to declare US president Clinton as a war criminal.

Comrade Arun Kumar Singh, Convener of the Preparatory Committee, AIAIF, Bihar Unit and Comrade Suresh Kumar, Secretary of the Paigam Cultural Society spoke on the occasion.

Comrade Arun Kumar Singh in his speech strongly criticised the brutal attacks on Yugoslavia. He pointed out that the so-called end to the cold war as predicted by the US and its lackeys after the disintegration of the erstwhile Soviet Union and other socialist countries in Eastern Europe, have actually turned out to be a farce in the context of the attacks led by the US on various countries such as Iraq and Yugoslavia. Driving home the point he remarked that war is the inevitable result of the capitalist-imperialist market crises throughout the globe. It is the need of the hour thus, to build up mighty and militant peace movements to thwart all war-attempts of the imperialists.

Comrade Singh further said that the danger of

imperialist attack is very much there in India too. Though the attack is not like that in Iraq and Yugoslavia but the imperialists in close collaboration with India's monopoly houses have been looting the labour power of our country. Thus the fight against imperialism so far as India is concerned is inexorably linked with the struggle to overthrow the capitalist class and establish socialism. Fight against imperialism cannot be successful without fight against the Indian capitalist class, said Comrade Singh.

Songs on international workers' solidarity and slogans marked the end of the protest meeting.

ASSAM

The Assam unit of the AIAIF staged protest demonstration on 5th May '99 throughout the state through processions, street corner meetings and burning of the effigy of Clinton, President of the USA, who masterminded the barbaric attack.

At Guwahati an effigy of Clinton was burnt near Panbazar Overbridge. The demonstrators carrying placards raised slogans condemning the NATO air raid.

ROHTAK

A fervent procession marched the streets of Rohtak, Haryana on 16th May last, demanding immediate halt of bombing of sovereign Yugoslavia and condemning the air attacks by the US-led NATO. The demonstrators first assembled at Mansoravar Park where Prof. Karan Singh Rathi, member, AIAIF, in his speech called upon the people to rise in protest against this imperialist barbarity. There a resolution in this context was passed. In the resolution it was demanded of the Government of India to take effective steps towards stopping US savagery.

The procession then started from the feet of the statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and at last reached the Complex. Bharat Singh Pangbar, journalist, Professor Rampat, Bedpal Dangi, Kartar Singh Kuchu, Bedpal Rathi, Anoop Singh and others participated in the demonstration. Bharat Singh Pangbar condemned bombing of schools and hospitals.

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Effigy symbolising US-UK-German-French imperialism burns before the US Information Centre, Calcutta on 21st May, 1999

PATNA

On 19th May '99, a protest march was organised in Patna, Bihar against the brutal attacks on Yugoslavia by US-led NATO warplanes. The Bihar State Preparatory Committee of the All India Anti-Imperialist Forum took the initiative to organise the march. Noted intellectuals including eminent physician Dr. P. Gupta, noted scientist Dr. S. K. Ganguly and Mr. P. N. Mahato, the former Principal of T. K. Ghosh Academy marched together in protest against the barbaric attacks.

Moreover, students, teachers, cultural activists, youths, women, in a word, people from all walks of life took part in the march. The march commenced from the statue of Bhagat Singh, near the Gandhi Maidan and traversing through the important landmarks of Patna, it finally reached the Patna junction where a protest meeting was organised. Dr. P.N. Mahato,



AIAIF registering protest in Patna on 19th May against NATO air raid on Yugoslavia

Build up militant peace movement against imperialist war machination

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BHOPAL (M.P.)

To protest the bomb and missile attacks on Yugoslavia by the US-led NATO forces, the AIAIF, Bhopal, burnt an effigy of NATO forces at Habibganj, Naka on 16 May last, where a large gathering was present. The AIAIF started its procession from Habibganj Bengalee Colony by raising anti-US and NATO slogans. Going through BHEL Hospital Marg the procession ended at Habibganj, Naka.

On the spot the All India Anti-Imperialist Forum, Bhopal in-charge Comrade J C Barai addressed the gathering. He said to grab the world market the imperialist powers, more particularly the USA, are creating different problems and in the name of peace are resorting to military attacks. People should understand this and strengthen the AIAIF for further protests.

After him Comrade Asit Mohanty placed his view. He condemned this heinous attack and stressed the need for creating strong opinion to resist US hegemonistic designs everywhere.

After that one of the senior woman activists Smt. Jayanti Chakraborty set fire to the effigy. Large number of people watched the burning effigy and raised anti-NATO slogans.

CHENNAI

The Tamilnadu unit of the AIAIF conducted a demonstration on 17th May evening, in front of the office of the US Consulate General in Chennai, to protest against the remorseless and barbaric atrocities being committed against the Yugoslav people by the US-led NATO forces through continued bombing, which have taken heavy civilian toll.

Sri R. Baskaran, member, AIAIF, demanded that the USA and NATO countries should be made to answer for war crimes against defenceless, innocent people. He said, the aggression against Yugoslavia was totally uncalled for and was outside the framework of international law, the ethnic problem being an internal problem of Yugoslavia to be solved through internal political negotiations and not

through any sort of external intervention.

He emphasised that to counter the war mongering of the US and other imperialist countries, it is very necessary for people the world over to build up a militant peace movement. While he was critical of the response of the BJP government in India, he applauded the fact that in many countries across the globe, including those of the aggressors, people were coming out in strong protest against the systematic murder being committed in Yugoslavia by NATO. He stressed that these movements should be coordinated.

Bank Employees' Unity Forum on dirty deal in SBI

Comrade Jagannath Roy Mondal, Convenor, All India Committee of the Bank Employees' Unity Forum has stated in course of his statement on 18.5.99 : "The dirty deal struck between the NCBE-led State Bank of India Staff Federation and the management on April 12 cannot be other than a heinous conspiracy to reduce the employees to the helpless position of a slave. In the name of opening the avenues for promotion, termed 'career path' it actually destroys promotion opportunities. In exchange of allowance employees will be forced to undertake higher responsibility on condition of doing jobs in the substantive clerical post as no vacancy will be created due to promotion. Employees will be bound to do multiple jobs in different capacities within the same cadre in a single day; those working in the cash sections will have to work in accounts section and vice versa; cash department employees will be bound to undertake risks outside the counters and beyond business hours, besides, business hours being raised by 2 hours, 7 days workings, staggering of workings, 24 hours bankings in automated branches etc.

We feel happy that against this crash anti-employee dastardly deed, the state bank employees are united in a struggling body to demand referendum to determine the opinion of the employees, and we are confident that in conformity with democratic method of functioning if the NCBE leadership shows the courage in favour of ballots 95 p.c. employees will reject the deal with the contempt it deserves. Meanwhile we urge the brothers of State Bank to be alive to their historic responsibility. The same kind of deals will be entered into in all other banks by the compromising leaderships if they allow this dirty deal to pass. What is wanted at this fateful moment can be summed up: genuine struggling leadership, broadest unity of SBI bank employees, effective solidarity actions of other bank employees, ironlike discipline and prolonged movement. Only by these they can safeguard job security against the danger of VRS and all other working conditions and rights earned through decades long glorious movements."



Protest demonstration by AIAIF at Rohtak, Haryana on 16th May '99



Demonstration on 17th May in front of US Consulate General Office in Chennai

Workers' Solidarity Day observed

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gathering and unanimously adopted.

The main resolution dwelt on the dangers of privatisation, liberalisation and globalisation, which is totally targeted against the workers and general masses. The resolution appealed to workers to oppose totally the above policies, while, at the same time, take all precautions not to fall victim to the heinous capitalist design to divide the people on lines of communalism, casteism, language chauvinism, regio-nalism and national jingoism.

Other resolutions adopted at the meeting called for :

- * Condemnation of the US-led NATO attacks on the people of Yugoslavia.
- * Introduction of PF and other social welfare benefits to the unorganised sector.
- * Bank employees to oppose and build up a sustained movement against the Narasimhan Committee recommendations, which were totally against the interests of the vast majority of bank employees.
- * Insurance employees to build up movement against the Insurance Regulatory Act and the ongoing steps to privatise the insurance sector.
- * Takeover of the loss-incurring textile mills by the concerned state and Central governments, as well as opening of sick and closed mills.

Speech of Comrade Tapas Dutta

Comrade Tapas Dutta, All India General Secretary, UTUC-LS, was the main speaker of the evening. He showed how workers over the last century had struggled, shedding blood, to win their rights, and how the capitalist class everywhere were taking steps to rob the workers of these hard won rights, one after another. He pointed out how the trade union movement everywhere had got bogged down in economism, reformism, and legalism, and how social democratic forces were betraying workers movement. He showed how urgent was the task to build up a strong militant working class movement and how the UTUC-LS was building up such militant movements in the country as well as fighting revisionist trends in the working class internationally.

Comrade Tapas Dutta, in his speech, inter alia, said : More than 100 years ago 1st May was declared as International Workers' Day by the great teacher of the proletariat Comrade Engels and this day is observed in India and throughout the world to express solidarity of the working class. The toiling millions voice the great slogan "Workers of all countries unite", raised by Marx and Engels.

Today we witness people dying from hunger, no education, no service, industries suffering recession. Institutions like banks, LIC want to reduce their workforce when crores of people are getting unemployed. Workers are asked to go home in the name of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and capitalist class creates a situation where workers are compelled to leave jobs.

The bourgeois class cunningly propagate that the workers do not work, hence closure of factories and reduction of workers. Is it true ? During independence Tata had Rs.36 crores, Birla had Rs.40 crores. Now their capital is many times multiplied. Who created this wealth ? It is the workers. Yet they remain wage slaves and there are people who do not have two meals a day.

Due to the squabble of the bourgeois parties, the BJP, the Congress, etc., costly election is

imposed on the people, resulting in price rise and more taxation. Congress and its supremo Mrs. Sonia Gandhi claim themselves as secular party. Sonia is visiting Tirupathi and other temples to prove herself a Hindu and not a Christian, only to get Hindu votes in the polls. CPI(M), CPI made all out effort to bring Congress to power. All the parliamentary parties, BJP, Congress, CPI(M), CPI etc. and the regional parties are united to serve their capitalist and imperialist masters.

The severe political crisis is nothing but the reflection of the grave economic crisis. Due to economic crisis all over the world, even in America, Germany, Japan, Korea, Britain, the suffering people are rising in mass movements. As a disciple of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh let me recall his invaluable teaching that if the correct political leadership is absent, all mass uprising will go astray followed by frustration and weakness, which will only strengthen the exploiters.

We are on the crossroads. Either we are to face fascist attack or we are to build up working class movements conducive to anti-capitalist socialist revolution. With the objective of emancipation we should organise workers, toiling people through democratic movements. In this connection let us recall the great teaching of Marx that working class should change themselves first to change the world.

Whole world is objectively mature for revolution, both nationally and internationally. But the point is lack of subjective condition. We must build up mass movements throughout the country that will gradually give rise to revolution under the leadership of the genuine revolutionary party which will show the path of emancipation. Let us take lessons from Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao Zedong and Shibdas Ghosh and organise waves of protracted movements towards this objective.

Chennai

NPMO observed May Day as a movement against globalisation, liberalisation and communalism. A rally organised at Chennai by UTUC(LS), CITU, AITUC and AICCTU and unions affiliated to it participated en masse. Starting from Valluvar Kottam, the procession went through T. Nagar and ended at Panagal Park. Leaders of AITUC, CITU, AITUC and UTUC(LS) spoke in the public meeting organised at Panagal Park. The presided by Com. Kuppan from AITUC, was addressed by Com. Kumarasamy from AICCTU, Com.S.S. Thiyagarajan from AITUC, Com. N. Sankaraiah from CITU and Com. A. Anavardhan, President, UTUC(LS), Tamil Nadu.

Bellary

A colourful procession marched through the main streets of the Bellary City on 1st May on the occasion of 113th May Day Commemoration. After the Flag hoisting by Comrade K. Radhakrishna, President, Karnataka State Committee, UTUC(LS) at the Union Office, the workers went in a huge and disciplined way, shouting slogans, "Hail the May Day"; "Workers of the world, unite"; "long live international proletarian

revolution". The procession reached the Gandhi Bhavan for a public meeting.

Comrade H. V. Ganapathi, General Secretary, UTUC(LS), Bellary addressed the gathering. He said that the same state was being confronted by the workers of the world even after 113 years. The workers were being robbed everyday. He said that the workers need to fight this relentlessly for their own liberation. That was what the May Day taught us.

Later an important resolution was passed and welcomed in the meeting by the workers of the UTUC-LS condemning the brutal bombings on Yugoslavia, a sovereign state, by the US-led NATO countries. A resolution was also passed and accepted condemning the anti-labour policies adopted by the Central Government and the M.M.T.C (Minerals and Metallurgical Trading Corporation). Because of the reduction in export of iron ore and minerals, workers of these mines are being retrenched for no fault of theirs. Hitherto, the workers have made for the mine owners enormous profits (crores of rupees in each mine), but today they are thrown into the streets on the pretext of losses. The resolution demanded the immediate interference by the Government and do justice to the workers.

Comrade A. Ramanjanappa, President, Samyuktha Hamaligala Sangha, Bellary District addressed the workers. He said, "All workers everywhere are facing the same problems, we need to take the struggle forward, unflinchingly. Hence the necessity of a trade union which genuinely fights for the workers. It is UTUC-LS, he said.

Comrade K. Radhakrishna was the main speaker. He said that all over the world workers in millions were commemorating May Day. May Day was the conscience day to the workers of the world. He said that our country was rich in natural wealth. But millions of people were deprived. Only the rich was getting richer. The capitalist class was hungry for money and profit filling their greedy pockets. Police, military, judiciary were in their hands. But workers had their own strength to stand. When workers were united none could save this system.

At the end, Comrade K. Somashekar, President, UTUC(LS) Bellary District Unit and Samyuktha Gani Karmikara Sangha (SGKS) addressed the workers. He said that the workers under the M.M.T.C. have brought huge profits to the mine owners. But they were retrenched. Where was justice ? The BJP waived Rs.400 crores loan to the industrialists. Now the same Government was trying to make the workers work more than 8 hours in a day.

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Workers marching on 1st May '99 at Nagpur

MAY DAY observed

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Finally, he recalled the valiant fight of the mine workers in Bellary and gave the call to continue the fight.

The May Day meeting ended with the *Internationale*.

Haryana

113th anniversary of May Day was observed in Bhiwandi at Sahina Pre-primary School. Mohd. Ashfaq Ahmad Ansari presided over the meeting and Comrade Shamim Ahmed, an advocate, conducted the meeting. Different speakers highlighted the importance of May Day and emphasized on the movements to protect, restore and extend the rights of the working class. The speakers were from SUCI, CPI, Janata Party, etc.

Nagpur

Under the auspices of UTUC-LS and Mallu Paper Mill Kamgar Union a colourful rally was held on May Day at Saoner, Nagpur. Hundreds of workers and youths participated in the rally which started from Mallu Paper Mill gate. After Com. Madhav Bhonde, a leading trade union organiser of Nagpur hoisted the Red Flag at the mill gate the rally started at 12 noon under scorching sun and covered a distance of 4 km. The procession was concluded at Saoner Municipal Hall and turned into a mass rally, which was addressed by Com. Debasish Ray from Calcutta, Com. Madhav Bhonde, Com. Sanjay Sonekar (President, Mallu Paper Kamgar Union), Com. Bhim Singh (President, M.P.M.K.U), Com. Arjun Das and Com. Rabindra Sakhare. This is worth mentioning that for the first time the people of Saoner tahsil witnessed such a militant workers rally under any organisation carrying red flag.

Anantapur (A.P.)

To observe the Historic May Day and also in response to the call of National Platforms of Mass Organisations, CPI, SUCI jointly organised a demonstration and public meeting on May 1, 1999. CPI(M), CPI(ML) Janasakthi did not respond to the call. On 1st May 6.00 p.m. May Day processions started from Arts College and went through Clock Tower, Saphagiri Circle, Sri Kantham Circle and at last reached the meeting place Krishna Kalamandir.

The proceedings of the meeting was conducted by a presidium with Comrade E P A Rasheed, UTUC-LS and Comrade Anjaneyndu, AITUC, Com. B.S. Amarnath, District Secretary, SUCI in his speech condemned the attack on Yugoslavia by NATO and stressed the necessity of building up of anti-war militant peace movement. While discussing the national situation he said changing of governments or persons could not solve the fundamental problems of the people. The present day necessity was to build up country-wide left and democratic mass movement, the only alternative to anti-people communal and fascist forces. Comrade M.V. Ramana, District Secretary, CPI spoke about the necessity of united movement against the anti-people Telugu Desam Government. Com. Rushendra Babu, AITUC, Com. Ameenabi, Mahila Samakya, Com.G. Lalitha, AIMSS spoke on the occasion.

Bokaro

May Day was observed by Bokaro District Committee of SUCI on 1st May at Chandankiari. A mass meeting was organised, which was presided over by Comrade Ramlal Mahato, the Secretary of the Chandankiari local committee of the party. The

main speaker was Comrade M. Chakraborty, a veteran leader of the Bihar party. Comrade Kumud Mahato also spoke on the occasion.

West Bengal

At the call of the NPMO a joint rally was held at the Saheed Minar Maidan in Calcutta on 1st May to observe the historic May Day.

Leaders of UTUC-Lenin Sarani, CITU, AITUC, UTUC, TUCC and other left trade unions addressed the rally. Comrade Shankar Saha, W. B. State Secretary of UTUC-LS presided.

In his presidential speech Comrade Saha said : May Day is the day of our taking pledge for the emancipation of the working class. But now-a-days, when workers are being widely retrenched in factories in the name of voluntary retirement we, the leading central trade unions, are failing to effectively sympathise with them and protect them. As a result trade union movement is being greatly weakened. Here the established leaderships of the workers have failed to develop working class consciousness among the workers, whereas workers in other countries are leading heroic battles, even unto death. He urged: we have to take lessons and inspiration from them.

Comrade Sanat Dutta, President of the W.B. State Committee of UTUC-LS called upon to build up uncompromising and protracted working class movement against all sorts of opportunism, sham leftism, sectarianism and communalism.

AIDSO Patna District Conference

The Patna University, a witness to many student movements both during pre and post independence periods saw yet another historic event being organised in its premises — the Patna Students Conference organised by AIDSO on 23rd April 1999.

Students from all over the district of Patna attended the conference. Its open session was in the form of a Seminar on 'Present educational scenario and the question of ethics'. Comrade Indradev Rai, Vice-President, AIDSO, Bihar State Committee conducted the seminar. Comrade Suresh Rai, member of the All India Council of AIDSO and Comrade Sadhana Kumari, member of Bihar State Committee of AIDSO addressed the seminar on behalf of the organisation. Besides intellectuals like Mr. P.N. Mahato, former Principal of T.K. Ghosh Academy and Prof. P.Mukherji of Patna University also graced the occasion.

The delegate session was presided over by Comrade Ramprit Roy, President of AIDSO, Bihar State Committee. Several resolutions apart from the main resolutions, on different important issues were unanimously adopted by the house. Comrade Dipak Kumar, Secretary of AIDSO Bihar State Committee, addressed the delegate session as the main speaker. While outlining the burning problems before the student community, Comrade Dipak Kumar urged upon those present to strengthen the AIDSO and build up student movements. At the same time he called to hold high the banner of student solidarity to fight against casteism and fundamentalism which pose as the main dangers before students movement today.

Later a 45-member strong District Council with Comrade Subhash Singh as President and Comrade Archana as Secretary was unanimously elected in the conference. The meeting concluded with the song on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

Mass Meeting on Political Situation

Trivandrum, May 5, 1999

Under the auspices of the Trivandrum District Organising Committee of the SUCI a mass meeting was held at Gandhi Park, Trivandrum on 5th May '99. Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, member, Central Committee of the party, was the main speaker. Comrade Jalaludeen, member, Kerala State Secretariat of the party, presided. Comrade C. K. Lukose, Secretary, Kerala State Committee of the party, also spoke. Comrade Tapas Dutta, member, Central Committee of the party and General Secretary UTUC-Lenin Sarani who chanced to be in Trivandrum in connection with a trade union programme, also attended the meeting.

There was rain before the meeting started. And it was drizzling throughout the meeting which was cut short when it started pouring. Hundreds of people came to attend the meeting and they listened to the speeches with rapt attention in spite of bad weather.

Regarding the present national political situation, Comrade Krishna Chakraborty said : A very expensive election has been imposed upon the people within 13 months. All parliamentary parties are blaming one another for it. However, it is the BJP which is directly responsible for the present development. It was on the basis of unprincipled alliances with different corrupt and unscrupulous parties that the BJP formed the Central government. And from the very inception that government was in the midst of infighting and squabbles. The immediate cause for the fall of the government was Mr Vajpayee's refusal to initiate an enquiry about the serious allegations levelled against the Union Defence Minister by the sacked Naval Chief of Staff. Why was the BJP afraid of an enquiry? Was it because that might reveal the truth?

Comrade Chakraborty strongly criticised CPI(M)'s role in these troubled times. Just like the bourgeois parties CPI(M) also tried utmost to safeguard the bourgeois political system by anyhow forming a government under the leadership of either Ms Sonia Gandhi, or if that move failed, Mr Jyoti Basu. Again, the BJP government's budget which is thoroughly anti-people and pro-capitalist was unanimously passed by parliament because these so-called communists also supported it. Characterising BJP as the main enemy CPI(M) was trying to paint Congress as a democratic and secular force which is far from the truth.

The uncertainty in the political system is the reflection of uncertainty in the capitalist system. The ever deepening crisis of capitalism is not just an economic crisis but an all-out crisis encompassing all spheres of life. This crisis in the life of the people cannot be solved by any parliamentary exercises. The only path before the people is to build up mighty mass movements on the base political line of anti-capitalist socialist revolution and SUCI, the party founded and reared by the great leader of the proletariat Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, is the only party cultivating this revolutionary politics in our country. Comrade Krishna Chakraborty appealed to the people to rally behind this line and support SUCI.

Due to overwhelming crisis

Exploitative capitalist class cannot maintain even facade of democracy

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and made our views known and we hope that they will agree with us". He further said that the CII would sit down with the political parties to draft a common agenda after the elections are over. Charting out a 16-point agenda for the state governments to follow. Mr Bajaj said that the states needed to undertake a vigorous programme of reforms.

Thus Mr Bajaj, mouthpiece of the monopolists, is dictating to these parties what economic policy they are to follow. It is also made explicit in no uncertain term that non compliance to this dictation will attract penalty in the form of withdrawal of monetary support to the party or parties in question. It shows glaringly how all these parties are subservient to the monopolists.

It is a reality that these parliamentary parties serve the interest of this or that monopoly groups or regional capitalists. Before the 80s it was seen that the monopoly houses extended support to their chosen party, and their interest was protected in the bargain. But despite that these parties maintained an outward appearance of independence from these corporate houses till then. It is known to all discerning people that all the bourgeois, petty bourgeois, social democratic and even the regional parties grow and thrive on the financial support of different financial groups. These financial groups, monopoly houses not excluded, used to get different kinds of political patronage in return. In this relationship there remained a veneer, in the then condition. Although the parliamentary parties started becoming subservient to the interest of the monopolists since long — a feature of fascism in the politico-economic field — today the things have moved so much so that even a facade of democracy cannot be maintained by these ruling parties and these are placed in a position to openly comply with the dictates of the monopoly houses. In order to maintain facade of democracy the ruling capitalist class tried for a considerable time to foist a two party parliamentary system on the country since it is the most effective means to deceive the people and persuade the working class and other sections of the toiling people to desist from taking to extra parliamentary democratic movements and to depend upon either the ruling party or the so-called opposition party for the supposed redressal of their grievances through parliament. But the crises of Indian capitalist economy has been aggravated to such a state that all attempts to maintain a veneer or facade of democracy are now torn asunder. Now the monopolists are openly dictating terms to these political parties. The FICCI is threatening these parties that they must minimise fiscal deficit and the CII is dictating to them to adopt common economic agenda and pursue vigorously the policy of reforms.

But is it not the new economic and industrial policy introduced during the regime of Nara Simha Rao is being faithfully followed by the successive central governments and all the state

governments, some difference in their vocabulary notwithstanding? We know that the two successive UF governments backed by Congress from outside and comprising so many regional parties and the lefts pursued this policy faithfully although they mouthed deceptive slogans to misguide the people. The BJP-led government too followed the same anti-people economic policy despite their swadeshi jargons to befool the people. All the state governments, be they run by the regional parties, the Congress, the BJP or the leftists, have also followed suit. Is there any basic difference in the economic policy of all these parties? Then why Mr Bajaj is insisting on prior acceptance of common economic agenda by all these parties? It is because the monopolists of the country want to ensure the smooth implementation of this economic policy without any jerk likely to be caused by the exigency of contending politics of these parties. Previously the monopoly houses pulled the strings from behind the scene, but now they have dispensed with this veneer. It may be mentioned in passing that after the fall of the Vajpayee government the corporate houses demanded that the budget presented in Parliament must be passed in toto in the "national interest". And the budget was passed within minutes unanimously! Those who previously cried hoarse over the anti-people character of the budget, which indeed was out and out anti-people, allowed the budget to be passed without a murmur. Thus the anti-people provisions of the budget befall the people adding further to their sufferings.

All these prove beyond doubt that actually there is no basic difference between these contending parties. In season and out of season they swear by the name of the people but actually they serve the big money bags, on whom they are totally dependent for fund. Whichever party comes to power after the election will follow anti-people policy in serving the interest of the monopolists. Competition between these parties is for how best to serve the interest of the monopolists. Thus the slogan of ability and stability means ability to serve the class and stability for exploitation of the people of the country.

Now certain developments and twists and turns have taken place in the national political scene. The media have been projecting these events in such a fashion so as to divert, at least for the time being, the attention of the people from the burning problems in their life and the necessity of organising movement for their redressal. It is being subtly propagated through the media that the main question before the people is to vote for this or that leader, this or that party. But all these projected parties are the parties that always pursue anti-people policy to serve the interest of the ruling capitalist class. We have seen that since 1952 these parties have been enthroned in governmental power through elections and the condition of the people has been steadily deteriorating and has reached the present suffocating situation where barring a thin layer of higher income group the entire population is in a state of destitution. But despite this harsh reality

a good section of the paper reading public is being slowly and steadily swayed in favour of an artificial polarisation between these very parties which serve their master, the capitalist class in lieu of power and pelf. We have also the experience in the past about the splitting of the parties on "radical" slogans. But let alone bringing any improvement in the lot of the people, further burden has been imposed on them adding to their misery. But curiously, the media maintain silence on these questions and at the same time ask the people to choose between these parties practising such nasty and anti-people politics.

The question is whether the people will again be entrapped by the media propaganda and media projection of the same parties which serve as caretakers of this exploitative capitalist system. The people must remember that the root cause of their sufferings is this exploitative capitalist system and unless this system is overthrown their emancipation cannot be achieved. People should realise that mere change of government cannot solve the basic problems in their life. The change of government and change of the state structure are not the same thing. The government is the caretaker of the state and so change of government means change of the caretaker, the state structure remaining intact. So, for preparing the ground work for revolutionary overthrow of this capitalist state structure and also for redressal of their legitimate demands on the burning problems of life, protracted mass movement on the edifice of higher culture and ethics is to be developed. For this the people should build up people's committees, enroll volunteers for forming volunteer corps for strengthening the movement and set up such candidates in the elections as are honest and firm believers of this line of building up mass movement so as to reflect the voice of the extra parliamentary struggle inside parliament and the legislatures. This is the only course left before the people to pave the path for their emancipation.

Bokaro District Conference of AIKKMS

On 25th April AIKKMS, Bokaro District Conference was held at Comrade Palaram Nagar. Comrade K.P. Singh conducted the Conference and Comrade S. Chakraborty, a senior leader of the Bihar State Committee of SUCI addressed. He discussed in details the duties and responsibilities lying before the peasantry and land-labourers in the present situation and demanded withdrawal of all anti-peasant laws of the government. The next morning the conference elected a 25-member strong AIKKMS, Bokaro District Committee which was formed with Comrade Hem Chakraborty as the General Secretary and Comrade Ramlal Mahato as the Secretary. Peasant and land labourer delegates from different parts of the district attended the conference.

SUCI Attends International Communist Seminar

Following the observance of May Day an international communist seminar was held from 2-4 May, 1999 in Brussels as has been done for some years past. On May Day a meeting was held at Brussels University Hall on May last. In this meeting Comrade Nadine Rosa-Rosso, Secretary General of PTB, Belgium was the main speaker.

In the international communist seminar 69 communist and workers' parties representing 48 countries participated. The seminar started with the opening speech by Comrade Ludo Martens, Chairman of Workers Party of Belgium (PTB). The main theme of the seminar was 'Imperialism means war', which was subdivided into 'Current danger of imperialist war' for 1st session, 'Peoples' struggle against war' for 2nd session, 'Military strategy of imperialism' for 3rd session and 'Peace movement' for 4th session.

In his introductory speech Comrade Ludo Martens stressed the necessity of coordination of activities, and not merely acceptance of Brussels declaration. He wanted solidarity of communists of different countries in the battles conducted in the streets against imperialism. He said that the Brussels declaration would be the basis of solidarity between different parties. He pointed out that all the opinions of all the parties could not be accommodated and so an adjustment had been made.

In the first session the Communist Party of Yugoslavia, the Communist Party of Bulgaria, the Communist Party of Greece, the Communist Party of Slovakia and others presented their views on the subject of discussion.

In the 2nd session, the Workers' Party of Korea, the Communist Party of Cuba, the Communist Party of Philippines, the Communist Party of India (ML)-Janasakti, the SUCI, the Revolutionary armed forces of Columbia, the Partido de la Libracion de Argentina and others participated in the deliberations.

In the 3rd session the Socialist Labour party of Great Britain, Ray of Light group of USA, the Japan Communist League, the Workers' Party of Norway, the Forum dei Comunisti of Italy, the Kommunistische Partei Deutschland, the Workers' World party of USA, the Coordination Communiste of France, the TIKB of Turkey and others placed their view points.

In the 4th session the Communist party of Sweden (Left), the Algerian party for democracy and socialism and others participated. In this session Comrade Ludo Martens moved a resolution on Yugoslavia, strongly condemning the barbarian aggression of NATO against Yugoslavia, a sovereign and independent country and one of the founders of the United Nations organisation. The resolution pointed out that Germany and the USA had deliberately stirred up ethnic conflicts in Yugoslavia in order to create a pretext for imperialist intervention. The resolution further pointed out that the war against Yugoslavia served to strengthen imperialism militarily and economically not only in Europe but also in the strategic areas of the Middle East and the former Soviet Union. It also pointed out the first combat role of German troops on foreign soil since the defeat of Hitlerite fascism. That the former People's Socialist Republic of Albania was occupied by NATO and turned into the main military base of imperialism in its aggression

against Yugoslavia was also pointed out. The resolution demanded immediate stoppage of barbarian bombing, resolution of the crisis by peaceful means, independence and sovereignty of Yugoslavia be maintained, all refugees be allowed to return and indemnification by the countries that took part in aggression for material damage and for all citizens killed. The resolution was deliberated in this session and passed.

In the concluding session discussion on Brussels declaration was held. On behalf of our party 22 amendments were placed and all the amendments were circulated to all the parties. Comrade Manik Mukherjee, the Central Staff and Deputy, International Affairs of the SUCI proposed circulation of all amendments placed by different parties to all the parties. Comrade Ludo Martens pointed out the difficulty of translation from various languages whereupon Comrade Mukherjee proposed the circulation of as many as possible to all parties which may translate them on their own initiative. Comrade Mukherjee also stressed that if the amendments placed by our party, having vital importance are not accepted it would not be possible for our party to sign the declaration because of political difference.

On 5th May Comrade Mukherjee held party to party discussion with Comrade Ludo Martens. Comrade Martens agreed to redraft the declaration and send the same for necessary examination by our party.

Paper placed by Comrade Manik Mukherjee at the Seminar :

Comrade Members of the Presidium and Comrade Delegates,

I bring to you revolutionary greetings from our party, the Socialist Unity Centre of India, at this International Seminar for Unification of the International Communist Movement on the occasion of observance of the May Day this year. We must strive to take one more step forward towards our declared goal through unity-struggle-unity.

Being called upon to present before you an analysis of the Indian people's struggles against war we need to emphasize in the first place that any account of this matter which is short of its essential political bearings and political direction will flounder on infructuous labour, no matter the scale of militancy of the struggles it describes.

You will recall that in the wake of the dismantling of the erstwhile socialist states bourgeois philistines and confused intellectuals the world around had started claiming that with the 'cold war' ending the danger of war no longer remained, implying that as if the root cause of war lies in the contradiction between the imperialist bloc and the socialist states. This propaganda simulated the argument of the Khrushchevite revisionists who, on that count, directed all effort towards reaching a detente with the USA. It is history now how this process of demobilisation at the state and mass level ultimately shaped into capitulation to the imperialist powers and what befell the international communist movement thereafter.

The reality has already assumed far more dangerous proportions than meets the eye. No amount of globalised and liberalised arrangement, trade, plan for economic integration is proving

enough to root out the features of moribund capitalism inherent in the economy of all capitalist-imperialist countries. For this, on the one hand, the trade war among the imperialist powers is escalating in the face of the severe recession now gripping the capitalist world. On the other hand, economic and military blockades, sanctions, intrigues, the inflaming of fundamentalism and racialism, the fomenting of ethnic and religious conflicts, and military attacks by the imperialist powers, especially by US imperialism, resulting into local and partial warfares are continuing without relent. Intervention in Somalia, Bosnia, Nicaragua and Kosovo, the latest attacks upon Iraq, the bullying of North Korea, or the forty-year long economic blockade of Cuba are instances to show how these countries are sought to be kept under imperialist hegemony at bayonet point.

The simulated unity of the imperialist bloc should not be confused with the reality of gaping chasms between the three major powers of the bloc — the USA, Germany-led European Union and Japan. While the USA, with the UK behind it at present, is on the guard to protect its military buildup through expansion of the NATO in Europe, the European imperialist powers, especially Germany and France, nurse strong grievances against US overlordism, hegemonism and intransigence to maintain its share of the world market.

Clearly, the antagonistic contradiction between the imperialist powers, which owes its existence to the dearth of market and excess finance capital and excess productive capacity, is very much extant. Increasing militarisation of economy is accentuating this contradiction and, in turn, is enhancing the danger of outbreak of war. Lenin's prognosis, therefore, that imperialism engenders war remains fully valid today. Secondly, the cosmopolitan and global nature of capital does not diminish by an iota the aggressive and predatory character of capital, rather this specific feature of capital is the outcome of its more and more predatory ventures.

Critical analysis of the political disposition in the imperialist bloc brings out its following major features :

First, the imperialist powers are increasingly engaging in local wars and war manoeuvres against one or another of the developing countries to bully them into submission. Second, the major imperialist powers are maintaining a facade of unity, but deep down they are divided and antagonistically positioned on issues of contention. Third, Russia, along with the other CIS members, is trying to create a position for itself. Fourth, The NATO has been expanded towards the Russian border by including in it some East European states. Fifth, the UNO has been reduced to an instrument of approval for the imperialist machinations, especially of US imperialism. Sixth, the USA is nakedly bullying the developing countries to force them desist from all types of nuclear research work.

These facts lead us to conclude that what we witness today on the international plane is an unprecedented antagonistic contradiction among the imperialist power themselves on the one hand and between the developing countries and the imperialist powers on the other hand. In this

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Hasten the doom of Imperialism-Capitalism

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situation the imperialist manoeuvres under whatsoever name are making the world more and more war prone. This is laying the road to national jingoism and war psychosis.

In regard to the Indian national situation the point to be kept uppermost in this regard is that the Indian bourgeoisie have already acquired imperialist traits by giving birth to finance capital. The expansionist trait of the Indian ruling class is evident from its intervention in Sri Lanka under the livery of an Indian Peace Keeping Force in that country, its interference in Maldives, its domineering attitude to the weaker neighbouring countries. That India has emerged as a regional superpower with a formidable military buildup is acknowledged by the imperialist global superpowers. The ruling bourgeoisie of this country, where people suffer from abysmal poverty, social injustice and political oppression, spend the largest chunk of the country's budget on military buildup, including nuclear arms development, sophisticated delivery systems for nuclear warheads and modern satellite based telecommunication systems. In the last four decades the Indian rulers have engaged three times in warfares — once against China, twice against Pakistan. While the USA has built up a naval base on the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean the Indian rulers have set up a modern naval base in the Nicobar Islands within the country's territorial waters. Indian military regularly engages in joint exercises with the US military, while Indian Government secures full benefit of military technological assistance from Russia and partly from other imperialist countries. Whereas the Indian rulers, spurred on by their class aspirations, have played the role of a junior partner in the international trust and cartel, in the Non-aligned Movement they have all along played between the imperialist bloc and the socialist states to secure maximal advantage in their class interest.

It should be kept in mind that the much vaunted globalisation or integration of national economies, let alone eliminate the deep-rooted contradiction between the developing countries and the major imperialist powers, has failed to even touch the fringe of the problem. The ruling classes of the developing countries are engaged in fights with the imperialist powers, seeking better terms for their corporate houses. The corporate houses of these countries, being circumscribed by the present situation, are entering into collaboration with the MNCs of the imperialist countries as junior partners to jointly exploit the market at home and abroad.

There cannot be two opinions over the fact that in the absence of the erstwhile USSR, which acted till its dismantling, even as it suffered revisionist deviations, as a deterrent to imperialist interventions in other countries, the danger of imperialist interference and attack on both liberation and revolutionary struggles has increased manifold. To make revolution successful it is, therefore, incumbent on every working class party that while they will prepare for the revolutionary struggle against the ruling class of the respective country, they will give due emphasis

on the task of mobilising their people and combining with all other peoples the world over against the imperialist policy of intervention and aggression.

This anti-imperialist war movement is of such nature and character that it will have to be conducted while the proletariat of different countries will engage in class battles to overthrow capitalism in their respective countries. It is for this that the genuine communists in every country should be in the core of this movement. This anti-imperialist war movement is not just an anti-war movement, nor a peace movement guided by a pacifist outlook.

Many of you may be aware of the glorious struggles of the Indian people against British imperialism during the days of Indian national independence movement. After India became independent, the Indian masses enthusiastically participated in all anti-imperialist war movements. The left parties of the country had a role in organising these movements. Today's reality is, however, that all the major left parties and those calling themselves communist parties have taken complete recourse to parliamentary politics. True to their social democratic character, they are playing a conciliatory role between labour and capital to the point of overtly defending today the crisis-ridden ruling bourgeoisie. Wherever these parties are in governmental power they are openly inviting the MNCs of the imperialist countries for open collaboration. No wonder, then, that their role in anti-imperialist war movements today is limited to gestures designed to hoodwink the people.

Certain other left parties are confusing this anti-imperialist struggle which arises from the historical necessity of creating a favourable international situation for the successful completion of revolution in different countries with the anti-imperialist struggle which stems from the task of revolution in particular countries where imperialists, or puppets of imperialists, or feudal forces wedded to imperialism are in state power and are therefore to be overthrown from power. Consequently, these left parties fail to see the real class character and power of the Indian ruling class, that this ruling class itself has already acquired imperialist traits. The role of these parties has objectively reduced to shadow fights against imperialism. Our repeated effort to forge unity with all the left and democratic parties to build united broadbased anti-imperialist war movements has failed to evoke response from these parties.

Our task in India, therefore, has had to be geared to mobilising the broader section of the people — intellectuals, middle class people, workers, peasants, youths, teachers, students, women — and rallying them under people's committees and on other forums to build and develop anti-imperialist war movements on the Indian soil. In the last decade, especially since the renewed imperialist manoeuvres began following the dismantling of the USSR and other East European socialist states for redivision of the world capitalist market through globalised arrangements in the face of the accentuated worldwide capitalist crisis, we have organised

protest movements against every imperialist interference, intervention and war machination. In 1992 we organised an anti-imperialist convention in Delhi. We organised our people in support of the Cuban people in their struggle against continued US blockade. We organised protest rallies against the US onslaught and sanction against the people of Iraq. In continuity with the building of these anti-imperialist war movements, we organised in Calcutta in November, 1995, an Anti-imperialist Convention under the aegis of People's Preparatory Committee. The All India Anti-imperialist Forum which grew out of it includes a former judge of the apex court of India, several former Vice-Chancellors of different Indian universities, renowned scientists, writers, lawyers, engineers, physicians, and workers, peasants, youths, teachers, students, men and women from other walks of life. This All India Anti-imperialist Forum organised protest rallies against US interference in Libya and Turkey. An International Meet was held with participation of delegates, including delegates from the USA, and a protest rally of thousands of people was held against US bombing of Iraq. The Forum appealed to the electorate of India at the time of election to Parliament to seek assurance from election candidates that they stood against imperialism. Protest movements have also been organised by our party and the Forum against the recent nuclear blasts by the present Governments of India and Pakistan. Our party views with great enthusiasm the anti-imperialist war movements in different countries and we are one with you in all efforts to globally coordinate these movements to build up a united struggle at the international level.

Our party firmly holds that it is the task of the working class party everywhere to prepare for the revolutionary overthrow of the exploiting ruling class in respective countries and, at the same time, join strength towards building anti-imperialist war struggles the world over, making one conducive to the other, and thus hasten the doom of world imperialism-capitalism. Seeking your attention to this analysis and account, and wishing all success to this seminar for unification of the international communist movement, we lend our full voice to raise the slogans :

Down with Imperialist War

Long Live Proletarian Internationalism

Long Live Marxism-Leninism

Long Live Revolution.

SUCI, Kerala Protests against NATO attacks

On 14th May last, SUCI organised a protest demonstration at Calicut against NATO barbarity on Yugoslavia. Led by Calicut District Organising Committee of our party SUCI, the demonstration traversed through the main spots of the town and culminated in a street corner meeting at LIC junction. The speakers condemned the US-led NATO attack on Yugoslavia and called upon the people to build up anti-imperialist militant peace movement.

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