

Proletarian Era

Volume 32 No. 13
March 1, 1999

Organ of the SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA
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Rs. 2.00
Air surcharge : 5 P.

EURO Signals Deepening Inter-Imperialist Rivalries Posing Danger to World Peace

The world capitalist system is in turmoil. The capitalist order is verily in disarray. Over the decades, downturn in economies both in the developed and the so-called developing capitalist countries became a permanent feature. Against this backdrop the imperialist powers in particular resorted to the policy of protectionism to save their economies from the serious crisis of recession. It is to be recalled that in the concrete context of recession prevailing, these protectionist policies coupled with overall crisis of capitalism caused the global depression of the 30's. In order that it does not repeat itself the bourgeois policy-makers tried hard for long eight years in the Uruguay Rounds of talks. It was principally a fight between the two big powers the USA on the one hand and the European big capitals led by German imperial capital on the other united in European Union. At long last an agreement was hammered out in 1994. The eighth General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) came into being.

Could all this stem the rot in the world capitalist system? Were those efforts able to abet let alone remove the crisis? The answer is an unequivocal no. Is it not a fact that it is the toiling people and none else who have to bear the brunt of burden of ever deepening crisis of capitalism more and more? The crisis has now accentuated manifold. Depression stalks over important centres. The contagion spreads far and wide. The cry is for urgent another round of talks on trade and tariff just four years after the latest. The dream of one world-wide capitalist order, after the dismantling of the USSR and East European socialist states working in harmony under the slogan of globalisation-liberalisation connoting one world-wide capitalist market without any national barrier and obstruction proved illusory again. More than hundred fifty years ago it was stated in the most unambiguous terms: "The need of a constantly expanding market for its products chases the bourgeoisie over the whole surface of the globe. It must nestle everywhere, settle everywhere, establish connections everywhere." — by the founders of the Marxian Dialectical Materialist Science, Marx and Engels, in the *Manifesto of the Communist Party*.

The same dream of a harmonious capitalist

world prompted the bourgeois economists, policy-makers, the political leaders to sit in conference at Bretton Woods after the World War II under the benign guidance of no less a bourgeois economist than Lord Keynes. The GATT came into being in 1947. IMF and World Bank, two international organisations were born. Despite different economic policies — monetarism, Keynesian welfarism and the latest globalisation-liberalisation, several rounds of agreements on trade and tariff, solemn pledges of bourgeois politicians, the hopes of bourgeois ideologues to ensure agreed rules and practices, all proved of no avail. Multilateralism meaning equal opportunities and fair competition to be in practice by all the trading parties, promised so many times including the last GATT proved a hoax. The USA being the first offender formed NAFTA (North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement), a separate economic zone under its control. The European capitals further consolidated their economic community. Japan in alliance with the USA formed the APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Council). And the US declared that the MFN (Most Favoured Nation) clause would be applicable only to the partners in the economic zone under its control.

All this vindicates what Comrade Shibdas Ghosh warned long back. In the context of what Stalin showed that the world capitalist market had lost its relative stability after World War II Comrade Ghosh pointed out that the crisis in

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Born : 9th December, 1879
Died : 5th March, 1953

"To a reformist, reforms are everything, while revolutionary work is something incidental, something just to talk about, mere eyewash. That is why, with reformist tactics under the bourgeois regime, reforms are inevitably transformed into an instrument for strengthening that regime, an instrument for disintegrating the revolution.

"To a revolutionary, on the contrary, the main thing is revolutionary work and not reforms; to him reforms are by-products of the revolution. That is why, with revolutionary tactics under the bourgeois regime, reforms are naturally transformed into instruments for disintegrating this regime, into instruments for strengthening the revolution, into a base for the further development of the revolutionary movement.

"The revolutionary will accept reform in order to use it as an aid in combining legal work with illegal work, to intensify, under its cover, the illegal work for the revolutionary preparation of the masses for the overthrow of the bourgeoisie."

(Problems of Leninism)

Budget for vested classes

Reacting on Central Government's Budget proposals Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI said in a press statement on 27.2.99 :

"In the chronically recession hit demand-starved capitalist economy of India, the BJP government's bid to infuse hope has failed and like all other previous governments it is also shifting the burden of the crisis on to the shoulders of the common people.

"On top of the pre-budget administered price hike of food grains under PDS, further rise in railway fare and freight and now budgetary

hike of postal charges will augment sky high inflation and an unlimited increase in the prices of essential commodities, which will cause immense hardship to the toiling masses. Defence allocation has been increased at the expense of education and health.

"In short, the budget has provided concessions to the industrialists, kulaks and other vested classes denying the rural poor, workers, unemployed youth and common people even a fringe of relief. The budget is nothing but anti-people. We call upon the people to raise their voice of protest against it."

Rivalries between Imperialist Powers for Redivision of World Market

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capitalist economy had become a 'daily, hourly crisis'. In his words: "Economic planning in the capitalist system is haunted by the shadow of crisis. And however much measures are taken to prevent one crisis, those invariably lead to a deeper crisis"

What started as a protective measure in the formation of economic zones as an area of predominance of respective capitals has given birth in Europe a new currency, an international currency at that, the euro, challenging the hegemony of the US dollar in the global capitalist market. We must be aware of the fact that the three important power houses of global economy are the USA, EU and Asia. The respective shares of the three in world GDP in 1997 are USA 20.4%, EU 19.8% and Asia 26.5% (Japan singly 7.7%). [quoted in the German journal 'Deutschland', December '98-January'99] The rivalries between the three but more specially between the former two now gives rise to a new currency, euro for international market and a particular economic-financial zone. This sets the background for the floating of euro as the European common currency by eleven of the fifteen members of the European Union, in the global capitalist market. The 'euro zone', the slogan of 'united Europe' — all these are therefore to be examined from the political perspective as the latest developments cannot be viewed merely as economic events. It is a marked departure from previous attempts to protect markets of one's own areas of influence. It is a definite political move aimed at challenging the overlordship of US capital and extension of market under the deceitful slogan of 'united Europe'. We are all aware that redivision of world market cannot be done always peacefully. We are always to bear in mind what Comrade Shibdas Ghosh taught us. He showed that the rivalries between the imperialist powers for hold or extension of market goes along the path of both contention and collusion. In his words "From peace manouvre to war manouvre, the imperialists move both being the two sides of the same coin of imperialism". So, the fierce rivalries between them as we witness today do not mean that war is imminent but at the same time the possibility of war cannot be ruled out.

Euro-Euro Zone-Implications

Eleven out of fifteen European states forming the European Union (EU) joined to form European Monetary Union (EMU) after the Maastricht Treaty in 1991. This group of eleven, referred to as 'core Europe' in the German document, (Offensive — A German journal, April, 1998) floated euro as a new currency for international trade and commerce representing the economic, commercial euro zone on December 31, 1998. It came into effect on January 4, 1999. These eleven states are — Germany, France, Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Belgium, Ireland, Finland and Luxemburg. The 'euro zone' stretches beyond the Arctic circle to the shores of the Mediterranean.

This area of common economic activities of 300 million people with a share of 20% global exports is claimed to be the largest trading partner,

having almost the matching strength of the United States. Similarly, euro is expected to be one of the world's most important currencies, as "Anchor Currency" for reserve due to its claimed stability.

The euro will work as the currency of conversion against foreign currencies for all the states as also as an internal currency. The national currencies will remain for the interim period till January 2002. The national banks of these eleven states will establish financial links with the European Central Bank (ECB) already constituted and stationed in Frankfurt, Germany. They will surrender independence of their monetary policy to the ECB when euro will be the single currency for internal purpose after three years. The ECB has been assured of independence. 'Stability,' not inflationary method has been set as the guiding principle after the 'Stability and the Growth' Treaty. The ECB will have the sole right to print notes and issue coins bearing name 'Euro'. Neither the ECB nor the National Central Banks nor members of these institutions are allowed to take instructions from the European Union or the national governments. This shows clearly that the EMU emerges as a distinct identity within the European Union, under the leadership of two imperialist powers, Germany and France. Britain, Denmark and Sweden did not join the EMU from political-economic consideration. Greece though interested to join failed to do so as it did not qualify to conform to the economic fiscal norms set down by the 'Stability and Growth' treaty.

Though France is a close ally, the dominance of German imperial capital is quite obvious. The ECB's constitution reflects the model of German Banking system. The dominance of German capital is determining, in the main, the economic and financial policy through the ECB. There is the attempt of merger of national central banks with the ECB. Together with ECB they form the European System of Central Banks. The ECB Council is the supreme monetary policy decision making body of the EMU comparable to the Central Bank Council in Germany. This may have been fashioned as the European counterpart of the Fed (Federal Reserve System of the USA).

The participating national central banks are to transfer to the ECB part of the gold and currency reserves for a total of almost 40 billion Euros. On 1st January, 1999, 15% of this total or almost 6 billion Euros is to be transferred in the form of gold and the rest in currency reserves. The conversion rate of Euros against the major currencies: 1 Euro = 1.17 dollar, 132.8 Japanese yen and 70 British pence.

As the conversion ratios of the national currencies are, 'arithmetically awkward' Euro can be of immediate use by the member countries for cheques, bank accounts, credit cards, company accounts, bills and stock market prices — all to be handled by computers and electronic transfers.

German Imperial Capital's design

The hand of German imperial capital as also a definite game plan of it can be discerned from bare scrutiny. It is quite aware of the contradictions and conflicting interests of other imperial capitals though of lesser strength within the EMU. Sensing

the assertion of the Dutch, an old horse since the days of mercantile capital, now championing the cause of smaller states, it uses it in choosing Mr Win Duisenberg, a Dutch, to be the chairman of the ECB through which it plans to work out its economic financial policies. It thus on the one hand ropes in majority support within the EMU and politely denies the post to France, who was its close ally, a contender still on the other.

The ECB is stationed in Germany, its chairman is German choice. The ECB is modelled on German system, the policy decisions are also of German making, in the main, to be executed by the ECB. As regards its hold on the Dutch economy, it accounts for a quarter of the foreign trade of Netherlands. The Dutch currency guilder has been tied to German Mark since 1979. So there can be no apprehension as to opposition to its policies to be worked out through ECB. Besides, Germany is presently the president of the European Union and the biggest contributor to the EU budget to the extent of one-third of it. Not only that, together with Netherlands, Sweden and Austria bear the disproportionate burden as a result of high net contributors to the Union (the net contributions means contributing more and receiving in exchange less — Ed. P. Era.)

The German imperial capital's ambition not merely lies in penetrating into the economies of eleven states as also dominating over those forming the European Monetary Union but far more. It wants all European states (now said to be 35 in number after the dismantling of the USSR and Yugoslavia and the eastern European socialist states degenerating to capitalist ones. — Ed. P. Era) unified not for the stated object of being the strongest power in the global economy against the US hegemony but more importantly to have a free hand in its expansionary move or grabbing more share in global market under the slogan of globalisation, liberalisation. We need to discuss certain other points. But before that we are to look back to the days after the end of the World War II, in order to have a proper assessment of the scheme, the German imperial capital, seems to have chalked out.

At the end of World War II the European states, especially Germany, France, Britain were devastated. The USA, least suffered from the war ravages, came to rescue Europe with its 'Marshal Plan'. The planner was American and the funds too were American. The obvious object was to enjoy a free market in the name of construction as also to extend and assure future market for its exports. Under cover of fortification militarily against the "dreaded enemy of communism" and especially the USSR, it initiated the NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) situated in Europe under its control. Though not happy, the European partners had no other options than to accept it.

America thus put Europe after the World War II "on rations" in the words of Comrade Stalin. Japan faced the same fate. These countries protected under US military umbrella advanced in economic activities, trade and commerce. Whereas the Soviet Union led by Comrade Stalin suffering worst devastations and loss of lives reconstructed

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US Imperialism Pursue Policy of Protectionism in National Market and Attacks on Economic Sovereignty of Others

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it with amazing speed with the power of its own. In war and reconstruction the Soviet people showed unparalleled heroism. This is a fact of history that none can deny. Now the German imperial capital in close alliance with France along with other wants to pay back the USA with its own coin.

The Economist, London, in its issue September 5-11, 1998, comments: "European banks are more heavily exposed to both Asia and Russia than are the American counterparts. **The Europeans have taken more risks in order to increase their share in the global market.**" (Emphasis added)

Deutschland, from Germany writes: "In a kind of new Marshal Plan for central and eastern Europe, the European Union wishes to supply effective support to the young democracies created after the collapse of the Soviet Union and now preparing for EU accession. Financial assistance is primarily targeted at **facilitating difficult transformation process in the central eastern European economies whose convergence with Western Europe is an important pre-requisite for accession.** (December 1998 to January 1999 Issue — *emphasis ours*)

The funding of the assistance is no longer confined to bank credits. The financial assistance from the budget of the European Union has been planned by the German experts. The agricultural subsidy or price support has been restricted. The economic assistance is now selective only for those industrial areas having high rate of unemployment or rural zones in a state of transition. Funding for training and re-training of unemployed, the figure of which soars to 11.1% in Europe as against 4% in USA, is also on the anvil.

The grand design of the German imperial capital has been exposed in another comment of the same German journal of the same issue thus: "Following the reunification of Germany, (a gift to the German imperialists by the counterrevolutionary renegade clique of the then USSR — Ed. P. Era) **the political union of the European nationals has become both the central challenge and principal goal of German policy. The new political geography, that is now taking shape, here also, transforming Germany's position. At the end of European integration process the Federal Republic of Germany will no longer be situated on the edge of European Union but at its very centre.**" (emphasis added)

So what German imperialism could not achieve by the most modern mechanized military machine, during the World War II, is seeking to achieve by the European Marshal Plan of financial aid and assistance to help the transformation process of erstwhile socialist USSR, the east European states, fractured Yugoslavia, etc. It is nothing but imperialist design of extension of market and as such redivision of world market. Apparently under the innocuous cloak of so-called 'United Europe' this is a political step forward. It is loaded with danger of outbreak of global conflagration, the most savage yet the ultimate measure for redivision of world market. Imperialism, or to be specific, intensification of rivalries for extension or for

bigger share of world market inevitably generates war as happened always in the past.

'Colony'— re-division of market — all that

We need to deal with an erroneous conception about the word 'colony' and related to it the relevance of re-division of world market. It seems to prevail among a section claiming to be Marxists. Their line of argument runs like this — as there is no colony, barring a few insignificant small ones, under direct administrative military rule of imperialists' powers, so there is no relevance of re-division of world market today. Willy nilly their contention reaches the absurd conclusion that there is no possibility of war as the re-division of world market is no longer relevant although imperialism not only exists but rivalries between the imperialist powers for bigger share of world market has come to a head.

What they miss and which is a vital point that imperialism indicates a definite stage, the highest stage of capitalism. At this stage, the finance capital dominates over the less developed capital. The contention and collusion between the imperialist powers i.e. of financial capitals of advanced countries expressed at one time in the colonial possessions. It meant actually military-bureaucratic rule over a country or region. This notion about 'colony' or 'colonial power' was well-known in popular parlance. But after the World War II, almost all the countries under direct military administrative rule of the imperialist powers have become politically sovereign states. This has not ended the urge of dominance of finance capital over capitals of lesser strength or even of stronger finance capital over relatively weaker one. This urge and necessity will remain so long imperialism remains. The intensification of rivalries between the imperialist powers for more share of global market, meaning redivision of it, when cannot be solved by trade war i.e. through peaceful means, inevitably leads to war. The continuous outbreak of local or partial wars now going on in different parts of the world mostly with global significance are nothing but manifestation of the same urge. This possibility will remain so long as imperialism-capitalism will remain. Lenin pointed out this in his book Right of Nations to Self-Determination. As an example, he specifically gave an instance that Russia (pre-revolution) though politically a sovereign state, economically speaking, was "so to say, a colony of Europe." By Europe, he meant, three European imperialist powers — Britain, France, Germany.

Another thing, do we not still use the expression 'neo-colonialism'? What does it actually mean? Is it not marking a distinction between 'colony' in the sense of a definite territory or a country under the direct military-administrative rule of an imperialist power or of a few and the present position where those areas or countries have achieved political independence? Are they now all free from the dominance and exploitation of finance capitals of imperialist powers? Imperialism means such dominance and exploitation by finance capital. Naturally therefore, constant rivalries between those powers for redivision of world market shows the possibility of war still remains.

Changing Political Combination

From what we have shown it is clear that in its bid for extension of market under cover of 'United Europe', German imperial capital is moving with caution. It keeps France in close alliance. This is not for its nuclear power. For according to the information of the German journal Offensive (April, 1998) Germany's strength of army exceeds 3,70,000. Not only this, Germany has access to atomic, chemical and biological weapons. The first German military action, independently at that, took place on 14th March, 1997 in Tirana (Albania). It was also found to be engaged in military actions during the war for division of Yugoslavia (supporting the Croatian army, Croatia being traditionally linked up with it economically and in trade.— Ed.P.Era.) Germany expressed its readiness to join in the aggressive military action against Iraq planned by Clinton administration as the repeat performance of the Gulf War.

So, keeping France, a big imperialist power in close alliance along with the Dutch, Spain, Portugal, Italy and even Japan possibly is a definite anticipatory move keeping an eye on the future development of peaceful competition turning into violent contention through war.

What is required is an objective analysis of the course of events taking place. We must not harbour any fixed idea about the possible combinations of imperialist powers, locking horns for redivision of the world market. The combinations witnessed during world war I and II may very well change. The possible combinations will depend on very many factors, the principal one being the relative advantage of the powers teaming up. This relative advantage will be assessed on the basis of political-military-financial strength of either of the combinations.

We need to keep in mind that in such an eventuality the absence of the USSR and the socialist states which came into being after the World War II, is a cause of great concern for world peace, civilization and humanity. For, the sake of truth one must admit it that it was the Soviet Union and the valiant people under the leadership of the Bolshevik Party guided by a giant leader like Comrade Stalin, who had to play the historic role, as the saviour of civilization and world humanity from the fascist marauders. Those who were gloating over the dissolution of the USSR after the counter-revolution must take note of this fact of history.

Trade War Turning into Sharp Political Conflicts

The raging trade war between the big imperialist powers more specially against the relatively weaker imperialist powers like India shows definite political turn confirmed by the unfolding of events.

We are to recall here what Lenin said: "Politics always supersedes economics". Comrade Shibdas Ghosh showed, the importance of this Leninist concept lay in understanding that Marxism is not economic determinism. The change in the economy, we are to understand, does not mean automatic change in the superstructure, that is to say, thoughts and ideas, force of habits of the old system. Those remain as hangover on the new base.

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Against Commercialisation, Privatisation & Communalisation

All India Save Education Convention in New Delhi

Against communalisation, privatisation and commercialisation of education the second All India Save Education Convention was held at Mavalankar Auditorium, Rafi Marg, New Delhi on 8th and 9th February, 1999.

On the 8th, the day of the Open Session, Mavalankar Auditorium was overflowing with more than 1500 delegates from 18 states. Against the backdrop of a giant logo of the Save Education Committee, the dais was full with a galaxy of eminent educationists, jurists and intellectuals — Dr. Shushil Kumar Mukherjee, former VC, Calcutta University, Justice Kuldeep Singh, former Judge, Supreme Court, Justice Ajit Singh Bains, former Judge, Punjab High Court, Prof. Sukomal Dasgupta, former Senate Member, Calcutta University, Prof. Monoranjan Mohanty, internationally famed social scientist, Prof. Sunanda Sanyal, eminent educationist and columnist, Dr H N Prasad, Head of the Deptt of Economics, Ranchi University, Prof Bimal Kumar, Principal, Cooperative College, Jamshedpur, Prof. Narendra Sharma, Reader in Political Science, Zahir Hussain College, Delhi, Shri Prakashbhai Shah, eminent social worker and journalist from Gujarat and Comrade Dipankar Roy, Secretary, All India Save Education Committee.

The tape-recorded speech of Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer was played and the written messages of Dr. N. A. Karim, former pro-V.C., Kerala University and Dr. B.C. Ramachandra Sharma, poet and Sahitya Academy Awardee, former adviser to UNESCO and adviser. All India Save Education Committee were read out.

Open Session — February 8

The Open Session was presided over by Dr Sushil Kumar Mukherjee. At the outset, the delegates observed a minute's silence in memory of those who had been a part of the Save Education movement and passed away in course of the last decade.

The Open Session got off to a rousing start with a song rendered by Comrade Ramesh Sharma of Delhi, which called to rise up against commercialisation, privatisation and communalisation of education.

A resolution on the attacks on minorities was placed by Comrade Dipankar Roy.

Speaking in support of the resolution, Comrade Pratap Samal, member of the secretariat, All India Save Education Committee, condemned the action of the Prime Minister Vajpayee in giving the Gujarat government a clean cheat. In Dang, the police helped in allowing communal attackers to escape; the central and state governments are using the administration to further their communal ends. Comrade Samal said, along with the Save Education movement, we should also launch a movement to protect fraternal relations among people and promote a democratic environment in the country.

The resolution was unanimously passed by the House.

Then spoke the luminaries present on the dais.

Prof. Monoranjan Mohanty

Congratulating the Save Education movement Prof. Mohanty recalled that the decade after the

first All India Save Education Convention has been witnessing the economic policies of liberalisation and globalisation adopted by successive political regimes — the Congress(I), the United Front and the BJP. He defined the Save Education movement as part of the worldwide resistance to so-called globalisation. Referring to the barbaric communal attacks in Orissa, Prof Mohanty said that these were part of the process of communalisation of politics that had begun with the Sikh massacre of 1984 and continued with the Ramajanamabhooni fanatic movement, the destruction of Babari Masjid and the Bombay riots. Prof Mohanty emphasised the importance of the struggle against communalism in the field of education. Only a young generation armed with a liberal, secular, humanist and democratic education can ward off this menace. He pointed out that this movement had warned that the 'value-education' component in the NPE 1986 had actually aided the Hindutva forces.

Dr H N Prasad

Dr Prasad said that education would reveal to the masses the real and burning issues of our society, namely, poverty and unemployment. If poverty means lack of material resources, then the way to eradicate it is enhancement of production which is labour intensive. But our governments are curtailing production and curbing the growth of employment. In order to prevent the issue of unemployment from being raised by the people, they are restricting education and unleashing divisive forces in society. Dr Prasad castigated those political leaders, who in the name of helping the vast majority to secure education and promoting regional languages, abolished English from government schools. With this, class division became sharper in education also.

Turning his attention to social issues, Dr Prasad said that the greatest social need was to develop good human beings with education as the means to do so. But today aim of education has become to secure better jobs, even as unemployment is growing.

Justice Kuldeep Singh

Justice Kuldeep Singh informed the delegates that the Mohini Jain case heard by him involved two questions — legality of capitation fee and whether the people have a right to education. The Supreme Court struck down capitation fee with a heavy hand. On the second question Justice Singh and Justice Sahay held that the state is obliged to provide for the entire education, from class I to professional education. In the Unnikrishnan case this part of the judgement was challenged before a 5-Judge Constitutional Bench. This Bench upheld free education for children upto the age of 14 as a fundamental right. But for subsequent stages of education the obligation on the state was subject to its economic conditions. At the end, concerning it the Bench proposed a temporary scheme of 'paid' seats and 'merit' seats. Justice Singh said that the temporary arrangement had unfortunately become permanent with the Supreme Court fixing the fees every year. He called upon the Save Education movement to question the arbitrariness of the whole arrangement.

Justice A S Bains

The theme of betrayal of the people by the rulers ran through the speech of Js Bains. Js Bains said that education has also been curtailed by the governments in the post-independence period often on the plea of lack of resources. Yet the governments of India and Pakistan were able to spend Rs.4 crore every day in military confrontation over the Siachen Glacier. Js Bains was particularly harsh on the Congress which had ruled for the major part of the last 50 years and had introduced the NPE 1986. Supporting Justice Singh's suggestion that PILs be filed to enforce the Right to Education, he urged to hold Save Education Convention in every district demanding more schools from the government as well as a uniform pattern of schooling.

Shri Prakashbhai Shah

Giving instances of communalisation and privatisation of education in Gujarat, Shri Shah said that the minister in Gujarat had all the school text books changed to replace the word Ram by Shri Ram. Text books in MP, Rajasthan, UP depict Karsevaks as martyrs detracting people from the memory of real martyrs like Bhagat Singh. Shri Shah also gave the instance of the Gujarat Government handing over municipal school to a private foundation which would charge exorbitant fees and hefty donations of upto Rs.50,000. He reminded the teaching of Rammohan Ray : 'Modern education first, Sanskrit later.' He concluded with a call for a new renaissance movement by the people.

Prof Sunanda Sanyal

Prof Sanyal described the slogans of 'Hindi-Hindu-Hindutva, as a hate campaign which should be resisted by all who are willing to fight for plurality of faith, plurality of culture and one nation. Prof Sanyal found no difference between fundamentalists of different religions.

Prof Sanyal was particularly critical of the Left Front Government in West Bengal which had removed English from the primary stage ostensibly to promote Bengali. Result was a terrible neglect of government-run Bengali medium schools even as people, including the Left Front leaders rushed to put their children into private English medium schools. Prof Sanyal categorically stated that it was not true that no political party worked for education. For 20 years, a small party called the SUCI, had staked its entire future on the subject of education. On February 3rd 1998, it organised a total bandh on issues of education. It was the first bandh in 25 years which was organised without flexing muscles. The people's overwhelming response was the main reason for the Left Front Government to reintroduce English from Class III.

Prof Bimal Kumar

Referring to the four pillars of democracy — the legislature, the executive, the judiciary and the press, Prof Bimal Kumar said whereas it was only the corrupt legislature that came in for criticism, the entire executive and the lower levels of the judiciary were not free from corruption. Prof

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Unleash Countrywide Powerful Save Education Movement

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Kumar blamed the content of education for the inability of the country to produce good legislators, bureaucrats and judges. An education system that promotes consumerism and communalism is responsible for producing engineers, who use substandard construction materials and doctors who demand additional payments even while a patient is on the operation table.

Prof Sukomal Dasgupta

Prof Dasgupta said that NPE '86 trampled the ideals of the renaissance leaders that the aim of education is man-making and character building. The declaration that education is a field of investment by NPE '86, has led to a spurt in the commercial approach to education. Similarly, the GATT Agreement of 1994 considers knowledge to be a commodity.

He said secularism means non-recognition of any supernatural entity. To stretch it further, believers and non-believers have their respective rights to believe or not believe in religions, the State shall neither encourage nor interfere in private belief regarding religion. But starting from Congress all governments resorted to equal patronage to all religions. By this token, if Pakistan is a n Islamic theocratic state India is but a multi-theocratic state. We are opposed to this concept of multi-theocratism.

Prof Dasgupta went on to say that there are two aspects of science — the technical aspect and the aspect of reason, logic and ethics which make a true man. But when the present rulers preach about sense of values in education, they mean religious values. Thereby they make sense of values static and sacrosanct. But this does not conform to history. The Church in Europe launched a serious attack against scientific concepts and many of those who held such concepts were put to death. Both in Europe and in India, the leaders of the renaissance were men of values. All of them made religion a matter of personal belief — some were believers, some not. If science is correctly understood and applied, it fights against superstitions, obscurantism and bigotry. It is said today that there should be an admixture of science and religion. But what is its real import? Prof Dasgupta said that his teacher and leader, the late Shibdas Ghosh, an eminent Marxist thinker of this age, had made a critical analysis of this subject. He had correctly concluded that fascism in the cultural epistemological domain is a peculiar fusion of the technical aspects of science with spiritualism, obscurantism and religious ideology — this constitutes bulwark of fascism.

Prof. Narendra Sharma

Prof. Narendra Sharma said : this education had produced Hindus, Christians, Sikhs and Muslims rather than human beings. Today the different communities viewed each other with more suspicion than ever before. Prof. Sharma called this the inevitable outcome of "sarva dharma samabhava" — it had communalised the mass mind by equal encouragement to all religions.

Prof. Sudharshan Malviya

Prof. Sudharshan Malviya said : the aims and objects of the founders of modern education and the revolutionaries were being trampled. Relentless attacks were made in the last 15 years

which Prof. Malviya described as twofold — the external : consisting of budget cuts, inadequate establishment of schools and colleges etc. and the internal — the more serious : tampering with the content of knowledge. Prof. Malviya said that whereas in a class-divided society the toiling millions were likely to be kept ignorant and unlettered, in itself it was a lesser threat than the current attack on the epistemological process itself. This attack would threaten the very ability of the people to distinguish right from wrong.

Dr. Sushil Kumar Mukherjee

Dr. Sushil Kumar Mukherjee, in his characteristically gentle and emotional address, started by congratulating the youthful convention which he called the future hope of the country. He described the resolutions passed at the beginning of the convention condemning the attack on the minorities as very relevant one. Dr. Mukherjee pointed out that on many occasions the government had claimed lack of resources for education. But every government had failed to provide even universal primary education. Yet these failed politicians had been elected repeatedly. Dr. Mukherjee wanted education to be made an issue among the people. The practice of the politicians was to promise much to the people and then forget about them. At election time they dole out money or blankets or clothing. The unconscious voters were thankful for these considerations but did not even know that they were being denied an important right — that of education. Dr Mukherjee lamented that there was probably more money slashed away in foreign banks than was in circulation within the country. None wanted to estimate this since they were all guilty. The Defence allocations continued to be huge, the estimate for a complete nuclear weaponisation programme was Rs. 40,000 crore, yet armaments and weapons were regularly being bought from abroad. Dr Mukherjee also lamented that education had degenerated from character-building to money-making. Declaring that those who were in power had not learnt from history that fascism is in turn trampled upon by the people, Dr Mukherjee exhorted the youth attending the convention to ensure that the government withdrew its vandalist policies and a more educated India be built.

Delegate Session — 9th February

At the commencement of the Delegate Session, Pratap Samal, a member of the secretariat of the Save Education Committee placed the main Resolution. The Resolution was seconded by R. Bhaskara of Tamil Nadu. Bhaskara said that the government had a duty to enlighten the masses of a country. There was no real dearth of financial resources, the real plan of the government was to introduce discriminatory education, an elitist education and a non-secular, non-scientific education for the masses. By means of high fees and donations demanded, education was being transformed into a commodity. It was also being privatised with domestic and foreign groups investing. Bhaskara also said that the communalisation of education was conducive to fascism through regimentation of thought.

Due to his hospitalisation, Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer, the President of the All India Save Education Committee could not attend the convention. His tape-recorded message to the convention was heard by the delegates.

Recorded speech of Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer, President, All India Save Education Committee.

We cannot lose even a moment while struggling against the grave danger that the country is facing, namely, communalisation and commercialisation of education. Education is the fundamental basis on which our culture and capacity to resist depends. The fundamental proposition that education shall be, under the Constitution, secular, socialist, egalitarian ; these fundamental principles on which our fraternity is built, are important. What is happening today is a total negation, a frustration of these great principles of education that we have inherited. The Constitution is being subverted, what is being attempted is to emasculate and brainwash the Indian people... I appeal to you therefore to take care of the first and the foremost ; education, without education, our culture and civilisation is in peril. Please be guardians and trustees. The common people look up to us to protect the joint estate in which every Indian is a shareholder — India, the sovereign, socialist republic of India. I hope you and I will not fail in this duty.

Message of Dr N A Karim

As an education activist my heart goes out in full fraternisation with my friends and colleagues in this significant convention against the onslaught of commercial vested interests and communal forces as our education system and its time-tested values... I hope and believe that this convention will address itself to these multiple threats and give a clarion call and provide a vibrant leadership to save the nation and its education system from this three-pronged attack. I wish the deliberations all success and promise my whole-hearted support to all the decisions taken

Message of Dr B C Ramachandra Sharma

No words are strong enough to describe the perilous state of our system of education, its saddest aspect being the scant regard the Government of India feels about improving its quality at any level... We have defined secularism in a strange way. Instead of keeping out religion, the education system has allowed all religions to enter schools ending in the communalisation of schools. The most worrying aspect of such a development is the growth of fundamentalism... Conventions like this one in Delhi are needed all over the country to make the people aware of the danger to democracy, if the system of education is allowed to carry on unchanged. I take great pleasure in wishing the Delhi Convention the very best.

Then on behalf of Dipankar Roy the organisational report was placed.

The delegates from the states were then invited to place their brief reports and suggestions. Those who placed reports were Deepak Kumar from Bihar, Meenakshi from Gujarat, Uma Devi from Karnataka, Binny Joseph from Kerala, Sanjay Bhattacharya from West Bengal, Ajit Acharya

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“Euro” to Help Further Centralisation of Capital Subjecting Workers to More Savage Exploitation

(Contd. from page 3)

At another place Lenin also pointed out, “Politics is congealed economics” showing the intimate connection between the two. What is important is to note the inter dialectical relationship — each interacting with the other between the base and superstructure.

The USA has responded to the floating of Euro and formation of Euro zone by the European big capital. The revival of Super 301 Law lapsed in 1997 is its counter offensive. It is a definite political move made by the declaration of President Clinton. It actually knocks the bottom of the GATT. This measure empowers the US Government to impose ‘unilateral sanctions’ against any country. This in reality denies the right and authority of the WTO (World Trade Organization) to arbitrate on a trade dispute. The organisation was formed as well as the right was invested with it by the GATT 1994.

On the pretext of removing ‘unfair trade practices’ of a trading partner the US seeks to deny the economic sovereignty of the European Union to import less bananas and hormone treated beef from USA. Similarly it is imposing sanctions or ban on import of steel from Japan and India among other countries. This, in the words of US Treasury Representative is to “open markets, enforce agreements (however unfavourable to the other party, — Ed. *P. Era*) and promote US trade interests throughout the globe.” (The Statesman, January 28, 1998)

The USA imposed ban on import of shrimp from India. India’s challenge have been upheld in the WTO. America is favoured with 13 months’ time for remedial measures. The European Union on the other hand accuses India before the WTO for its restrictions on import of automobiles. India’s quantitative restrictions on imports have similarly been brought to the WTO both by the USA and European Union.

Similar is the dispute raised by the USA before the WTO against India for certain provisions in the recent Patent Bill.

So, protectionism in case of one’s own national market and aggressive attacks on economic sovereignty of others backed up by political-military might is the politics the US imperialism resorts to. Just as it turns the UNO, the biggest international political organisation into a mere rubber stamp, so also it wants the GATT and WTO to conform to its dictates in the economic field.

Japan joined the European Union in protest against the political measure of invoking the unilateral right of sanctions. At the recent Jamaica Summit of G-15, India joined with others to demand control over outflow of foreign finance capital responsible for the depression set in the south-east Asian countries, so long considered as ‘emerging markets’. So, all these events debunked the claim of so-called ‘globalisation’ as the panacea for all the problems of world capitalism. Those virtually challenge the very policy. The moves and counter moves of capitalist-imperialist powers are political in character, but beneath all these remain the nervousness and panic of the bourgeoisie world over to defend market in the context of recession snowballing into depression in world capitalist markets.

Contradictions within contradictions

The question arises how much ‘united’ is Europe when there is palpable contradiction between the European Union and the European Monetary Union. It can be shown that the latter forming euro-zone and declaring a new currency in world capitalist market and predominantly an initiative by two very powerful imperialist powers — Germany and France cannot escape contradiction within when there are other imperialist powers like the Dutch, the Spanish, Portuguese, the Italians though with lesser strength.

The most palpable contradiction is between Germany and others. The former pleads stability following the monetarists policy while the others are more eager to anyhow stem the tide of unemployment that brings social unrest. It is to be borne in mind that at the last elections in the 11 European states 7 of which are within the EMU, the radical bourgeois parties donning the cloak of social democratism, came to power. Therefore, they are for Keynesian prescriptions, viz. public spending, reduced taxes, reduced interest rates and deficit financing for all this. This is just to offer some paltry relief to the distressed and the so-called inducements to the capitalist class for more investments to generate employment. This Keynesian Welfarism which is bourgeois welfarism is loaded with inflationary potential. Germany with a new government though, opposes. The Keynesian Welfarism failed to check the onset of depression of the Thirties. Those being cosmetic in nature not touching the basics, the inexorable law of capitalism asserted to generate crisis in world market. The ‘survival instinct’ in and through protectionism landed the world capitalist market in depression of world proportions.

So, Germany, however much it tries to avoid this policy, however much it puts a cap on danger of inflation by fixing deficit financing at 3% of total fiscal spending, however much the treaty on ‘stability and growth’ prescribes heavy penalty on defaulting countries, the inherent contradiction within will be hard to resolve. The problem will arise even for non-defaulting finance ministers penalising their defaulting counterparts.

That is why, The Economist, London, comments: “Monetary union may mark frontier beyond which national and European politics start to merge.” In an apparent dig at Germany, especially it further comments: “It is not the Brussels institutions (EMU’s offices, — Ed. *P. Era*) that are strengthening their grip on national politics. Rather, it is national governments that are reclaiming the European agenda.” (*Ibid.*, *emphasis ours*)

Opinions of the spokesmen of the participating countries therefore show divergence. For the French foreign minister: “Most people do not realise, it is more difficult to make a common European foreign policy than to make a currency. You cannot say we are going to have on January 1, 2002 the same reaction to the Middle East.”

The Irish opinion is of the same nature — “it at best an experiment, one cannot say that it will be an outstanding success.” Ireland, so long maintaining trading relationship, in the main, with

Britain and of strongest currency among the participating ones shows its independence obviously to gain more. The French stresses political independence of the European capitals, whereas the German voice shows the European finance ministers “would rapidly become the economic government of Europe.” This means once it succeeds to bring about workable unity of European capitals, the politics to decide the share of world market ‘in proportion to strength’, i.e. ‘strength of capital’ as Lenin showed would come in natural course!

The Slogan of ‘United Europe’

The slogan ‘United Europe’ by the European big capitals is nothing new. During the First World War it came as ‘United States of Europe’. In an article, ‘slogan for a united states of Europe’, Lenin wrote: “From the stand point of the economic conditions of imperialism, i.e. the export of capital and the division of the world by the ‘advanced’ and ‘civilized’ colonial powers — a united states of Europe under capitalism, is either impossible or reactionary.”

Elaborating further he showed, “United States of Europe under capitalism is tantamount to an agreement on the partition of colonies. Under capitalism, however, no other basis and no other principle of division are possible except force.” (Lenin Works: Vol. 21, August 15, 1915. *emphasis ours*)

We have explained before how ‘colony’ is to be understood in economic terms given by Lenin himself. In the changed context what we understood as ‘colony’ before the World War II is no longer there. It would be a grievous mistake to draw the conclusion as there is almost no ‘colony’ in terminology known to lay public, so there is no question of redivision of world market, no question of war breaking out. Is there any speciality in the European imperialist slogan this time? There must be; because the principal aim of capitalist-imperialists is to hoodwink the people, create confusions in working class movement by newer and newer illusions. These, they do, to draw the exploited and oppressed millions to their side to use them for sustaining their monstrous rule over the same very people.

This time Mr Duisenberg, the ECB president, circulates the fable: “The Euro goes beyond money. It is culture. The Franc is France. The Mark is Germany. The Lira is Italy.” Now, he hopes: “The Euro will be Europe.”

Unification of culture through currency is a novel idea indeed! One is to forget how culture develops within a national territory born out of a revolutionary struggle against feudalism, a historical law of development both of the productive forces, as also of the nation states before they make their exits.

In this context, it would be better to recall the teachings of Lenin, as our guidance. He wrote in the same article: “A United States if the World (not of Europe alone) is the state form for unification and freedom of nations which we associate with socialism — until the time when the complete victory of communism brings about the total disappearance of the State, including the democratic. As a separate slogan,

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Unleash Militant Anti-Imperialist Movement Conducive to Revolution

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however, the slogan of a United States of the world would hardly be a correct one, first because it merges with socialism; second, because it may be wrongly interpreted to mean that the victory of socialism in a single country is impossible, and it may also create misconception as to the relationships of such a country to the others."

(Lenin, *Ibid.* emphasis added)

Unity of Big capitals against working peoples movement

We should have no doubt that the move to unite the European big capitals under the leadership of the German imperialism in close collaboration with French imperialist power has nothing to do with the exploited and oppressed people of Europe. It is nothing but the outcome of intense rivalry between imperialist powers for extension of market and consequent re-division of global market.

There is however another aspect, another agenda of the Europe on big capitals, no less important. The recession deeply set in the European countries has caused large scale closure of industries, lock-out, lay off and consequent retrenchment of workers in thousands. The growing unemployment due to stagnant economies, downturn in economic activities or growing use of hi-tech machineries to extract much higher rate of maximum profits has made people's life miserable. Pressed under such an unbearable situation the working people are realising that the only course left to them for bare survival is the course of militant united struggle against the onslaught of capital. From bare experience there is growing realisation about the utter futility in putting faith on capitalist exploitative system. We would like to caution the working people of Europe in particular about another aspect of no less importance. They must know that from the very law of development of capitalism, there is bound to happen coalescence and merger of capitals to give rise to further centralisation of capital. In this process, the strongest gets most. Here, it will be no other than the German imperial capital.

Centralised capital poses always a serious danger to the working class movement. The attack against the working class becomes more ruthless, more savage.

From the anticipatory move the big capitals have taken the initiative to unite in a common defence against the rising challenge coming from spurt in working class movement. However much they talk loud that communism is dead the fear complex about working class revolution make them apprehensive. They have for them the hidden agenda of confusing and crushing the working people's movement. And to be in state power which is a life and death question to them, they would not hesitate to resort to fascist means and methods.

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh taught us that fascism is not just naked oppression and regimentation. Its dual face — persuasion and oppression makes it more dangerous to combat. It creates its ground by false promises. Fantasies and illusions are the means they adopt to confuse mass mind. And in this regard, media play today a very dangerous role.

They thus try to divide the working people on warpath and mislead them to be defenders of the fascist regime, the worst and ultimate bourgeois method to retain their class rule. This ulterior motive is working behind the move of the European big capitals. The slogan of "One Europe — One Currency" or 'United Europe' comes from this sinister design.

The workers' Party of Belgium has stated in its organ, 'Solidaire' in no uncertain terms, "The PTB fights against European Union which is the political form of the Union of big European capital — Europe that stands for exploitations, development of state fascism, Europe that's imperialism, military intervention and war.

While fighting European Union we are for widest and broadest solidarity and strongest unity of workers and communists who bear the yoke of this European Community. It is unlikely that the toiling masses would be victorious in all the European countries at the sametime, but those who will succeed will form a union of Socialist Republics which shall do everything to help others triumph."

(May, 1998 issue, translated from French)

Our Appeal

Our party, while taking into cognisance the new turn, an important at that in the trade war going on, in particular between the three most important power centres of the imperialists — USA, German led European Union and Japan would like to serve some notes of caution to those seriously engaged in working class movements in particular and the working people throughout the globe.

We are to remind them, first of all, Marx, Engels, Lenin, all great teachers of the proletariat brought before the working people the vision of their unity, the world over as the noble goal to be achieved. But this was from an internationalist stand point following the historical course, indicated clearly by the teachings of Lenin, we have quoted. This is entirely different from the deceitful moves like the one of the European big capitals and such slogans like united Europe. The working people wherever they reside must not be misled by such mischievous slogans motivated by the sinister designs of their class enemies. They must not rush to rally behind the bourgeoisie. In the name of 'national defence' which the exploitative class in power always invokes, incites the so-called national pride, the spirit of patriotism, etc. all for military preparedness for use in local or partial wars if not war on world scale. This has the singular purpose of perpetuating the class rule of exploitation over those who are deceived by these false slogans and deceptive moves. That's why the Manifesto of the Communist Party boldly proclaimed that the workers have no country. This means the bourgeois slogan of 'nationalism' must not blinker their vision as the exploitation of labour by capital is universal. Workers of the world must therefore unite to bring an end to global capitalist exploitative system. The overthrow of the capitalist class from state power will definitely follow the course of revolutionary upsurge of the working people led by the genuine revolutionary party of the proletariat within the national states. We are to bear

in mind that these nation states have come into being following the historical law of development of society ultimately for their extinction to make real unity of world humanity to be possible as Lenin's teachings clearly show. The bourgeoisie have exploited genuine patriotism of the people against direct imperialist rule. This is not to fulfill the honest aspirations of the patriots but to usurp the state power. The bourgeois state power has been used to guard and protect the national market. Comrade Stalin made a telling humour to reveal this truth by commenting that the bourgeoisie preach patriotism to defend their national market for exploitation wherefrom they take lessons on nationalism!

Amidst dark cloud remains the silver lining. After the big setbacks in the former USSR and east-European states, now passing through traumatic experiences of restoration of capitalism, the capitalist-imperialist camp was in jubilation. They were circulating to the whole world falsehoods of two varieties by the powerful media in their service. The prophesy of the demise of the noblest of ideologies that mankind has ever got — Communism based on scientific laws and higher ethical moral values was in their mouth. They were calling it a false ideology, a utopia, never to be realised.

To their dismay they now see that the inherent contradiction between labour and capital leading to the law of class struggles between the two opposing classes — the working class and the bourgeoisie in capitalist system cannot be suppressed. More the intensity of crisis more the concrete expressions of working peoples' movements against the bankruptcy and onslaughts of the rule of capital. So instead of communism becoming dead it is not only very much alive but asserting and reasserting in the unfolding of events. The agonised soul of world humanity cries for deliverance. It goes abegging in absence of real revolutionary proletarian leadership mature and capable enough. The objective situation has been ripe for long. The demise of capitalism, grown outworn and in decay has been long overdue. Lenin observed like this — it is not enough to keep capitalism in a state of decomposition now within the coffin. It requires to lay it beneath the earth if the human society is to be saved from pollution and disease all around. As to the second kind, the bourgeoisie held out to the people the false prospect of peace and prosperity in the fancied 'unipolar world after the end of so-called 'Cold war'. Today the imperialists have made the world multi-polar so far as their fierce rivalries for more share in global market is concerned. They are engaged in almost daily happening of local or partial wars, warlike activities and naked aggression trampling underfoot the UN Charter, once lauded to the sky. This proves once more that the law of inevitability of wars was still valid because imperialism still remains very much in vogue and that it is the imperialist contradiction that causes war and not the contradiction between the socialist and capitalist states, falsely propagated to conceal the conspiracy to subvert socialist states under the cover of 'Cold War'. And once the agenda is complete the imperialists engage themselves in sharp competition for extension of market. The

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All India Save Education Convention

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from Assam, Sunil Gopal from Madhya Pradesh, Arun Singh of UP, R. Rajesh from Delhi, Rajmal Sharma of Rajasthan, Prof. Baldev Singh from Punjab and Ho Chi Minh Thilagar from Tamil Nadu.

Prof. Baldev Singh from Punjab said that his state was witnessing communal interference in education by the Akali Dal, a coalition partner of the BJP. He complained that the Akali Dal had distorted Sikhism altogether. The rural poor were already being exploited by landlords aided by the Badal government. Their children were being denied education as well. The Adarsh Schools in every block were exclusively for the children of landlords and a few people from cities. The cities were full of Doon-type schools.

Ho Chi Minh Thilagar from Tamil Nadu criticised the distortion of history by the BJP and its allies and its wrong and misleading portrayal of Hindu emperors as heroes and Mughal emperors as villains. He also said that the struggle against commercialisation and communalisation of education could not rely on the judiciary alone as the Supreme Court judgement in the Unnikrishnan case legitimised commercialisation. He also warned against the spread of so-called Non-Formal Education.

Brigadier O. P. Choudhury, former Vice-Chancellor, MD University, Rohtak referred to the fact that less than 4% of the GDP was spent on education and that the Directive Principles of the Constitution called for universal free and compulsory elementary education in 10 years. Referring to a newspaper headline, "Opening a School is the best industry", Brig. Choudhury decried the so-called public schools for their exclusive concern of profit. Whereas the government shied away from the estimated expenditure of Rs. 14 lakh crore in 5 years to achieve total literacy, Brig. Choudhury said that this had to be seen as an investment for the future of the country. He also spoke of the failure of

Navodaya Vidyalayas established with much fanfare after 1986 and said that in Haryana students no longer sought admission in these schools and teachers were fleeing. Offering his full support for the resolution, Brig. Choudhury called on the delegates to pressurize their MPs and MLAs, gherao the Parliament and Assemblies to press their demands.

The draft resolution was then put to vote and passed unanimously.

Thereafter Dr Sushil Kumar Mukherjee invited Comrade Manik Mukherjee to speak. Comrade Mukherjee gave an overview of the people's movement on education in West Bengal.

Finally the General Secretary's report was placed by Comrade Dipankar Roy and was supported by Comrade Zubair Rabbani.

Then the new All India Save Education Committee was formed.

Programme of Action

- i) Massive Dharna in New Delhi in September, 1999
- ii) 5 crore signature by September, 2000
- iii) Historic rally in September, 2000.

Dipankar Roy, General Secretary, All India Save Education Committee said that not a single moment would be wasted from now on. This was a life and death struggle as the policy of commercialisation, privatisation, communalisation and fascisation of education was striking at the very root of humanity and civilisation. Every locality that had remained uncontacted would have to be covered, the people would have to be reached out to and inspired, educationists, intellectuals, guardians, students, workers and peasants alike would have to be called upon and movements organised. A movement of such mighty proportions as could confront the police and military if need be, if they dared to back the government, would have to be built up in support of the people's demands. In this way would we succeed in resisting the onslaught on education, humanity and civilisation and usher in a new era of higher and nobler existence.

Finally Dr. Sushil Kumar Mukherjee said : I am very proud of this young generation of activists in the education movement. Education must not suffer from now on. All of you shown such great sincerity and devotion and discipline. The government will have to bow to the wishes of the people. Success will be ours.

SUCI Flays Rly. Budget

Reacting on Railway budget proposal placed in the Lok Sabha today, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI said in a press statement on 25.2.99 :

"The Railway Minister's proposal to impose an additional 4% freight charge on all commodities and thereby to earn Rs. 700 crores as revenue, will definitely add fuel to inflation and raise the prices as revenue, will definitely add fuel to inflation and raise the prices of all essential commodities and further increase in sleeper class fare will hit hard the common people more. We oppose this freight and fare hike and call upon the people to raise their voice of protest against it."

'Euro'

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prospect of trade wars turning into hot war cannot be ruled out.

We must draw attention to all those seriously concerned about preservation of world peace. We remind them that the USSR and the east-European socialist states which could be powerful deterrent to imperialists' design to resort to war as an ultimate means for redivision of market will be missing. No doubt it is a big loss of immeasurable importance for the forces of peace and progress. But should it dishearten us? Should we give way to despair? We find absolutely no reason for pessimism. For the bankruptcy of capitalist system despite all efforts must bring to the working people the utter futility in putting faith in capitalism that fails to provide even minimum relief to them so very urgent.

The concrete task before them is to develop mighty united democratic movement to mount pressure on the capitalist-imperialist rulers for gainful employment, preservation of jobs and living worth human dignity. They must know that unless they lead their movements with the clear objective of overthrowing capitalism-imperialism from state power they cannot achieve freedom from hunger, poverty and the horrors of war. This anti-capitalist socialist revolution is the path of their emancipation. This is one aspect.

The other is to unite all those who can be united to build up a militant peace movement, with the genuine communists forming the core. This worldwide peace movement is not to preach pacifism but conducive to revolution. This militant peace movement on a global scale can alone thrust peace on the war merchants, combat military interventions to smother peoples revolutionary movement.

The inter-linking of the task of anti-capitalist Socialist Revolution with the militant anti-imperialist movement conducive to revolution has become the political agenda of the day.

Statement about ownership and other particulars about newspaper PROLETARIAN ERA to be printed in the first issue after lastday of February :

FORM IV (See rule 8)

Place of publication : 48 Lenin Sarani,
Calcutta 13

Periodicity of its Publication : Fortnightly

Printer's Name : Sukomal Dasgupta

Nationality : Indian

Address : 48 Lenin Sarani, Cal - 13

Publisher's Name : Sukomal Dasgupta

Nationality : Indian

Address : 48 Lenin Sarani, Cal - 13

Editor's Name : Sukomal Dasgupta

Nationality : Indian

Address : 48 Lenin Sarani, Cal - 13

Name and address of individuals who own the Newspaper and partners or shareholders holding more than one per cent of the total capital : CENTRAL COMMITTEE SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA

I, Sukomal Dasgupta hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

1.3.99

Sd/- Sukomal Dasgupta
Signature of Publisher

Protest Day in States

Assam

At the call of the Central Committee of the Party protest day was observed on 6th February '99 throughout the state of Assam against the indemocratic decision of the Central government to hike the prices of the essential commodities through holding of protest meetings, submission of memoranda and demonstrations at different level.

Extensive street corner meetings and protest demonstration was held at Guwahati and memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister was submitted to the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup. Such programmes were held at Gulbarga, Dhubri, Silchar and Mangaldoi.

Karnataka

Gulbarga : Protest demonstration against hiking of prices through administrative fiats was held at Gulbarga on 6th February '99 under the leadership of Gulbarga district committee. The demonstrators were addressed by Comrades H. V. Diwakar, district secretary of the party and V. Nangamral, member district committee at a nenu opposite the central bus stand.

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