

Proletarian Era

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Save Country Save Civilisation

The country is witness to the most sordid drama in parliamentary politics preceding and succeeding the fall of the BJP-led coalition government at the Centre. The result is again a mid-term election, thrust on the over-burdened people, imposing atleast an additional Rs. 1000 crore. Besides, the capitalists will extort money from the people by hiking the prices of essential commodities to abnormal height to fund the Parliamentary parties serving their interest. The filthy greed for pelf and power drove not only the two chief contenders, the Congress and the BJP, but also the rank opportunist CPI(M) as also the medley of the 'allies' on both sides. Their acts and behaviour show the total bankruptcy of bourgeois parliamentary politics. Meanwhile the BJP remains in power running a caretaker government to conduct 'free and fare' elections. All these parties excuse their corrupt and criminal acts by invoking, of course 'national interest'! And even a bourgeois journalist could not but comment therefore: "And the dirty work even has a brand name called 'national interests' and is apparently achieved by horse trading, broken promises, back stabbing, pulling the rug from under electorates' feet and incredible ideological gymnastics like Jyoti Basu

now wanting to do business with the Congress." (*The Statesman*, April 25, '99).

The all-out crisis in which the moribund capitalist economy is enmeshed is revealing itself with all the ugliness in political field also.

During its 13 month rule the BJP leadership provided enough evidences of their promised 'ability', 'value-based' politics, 'transparency', not to speak of 'stability' of government. Keeping aside the debate whether Prime Minister Vajpayee was the 'mask' and Sangh Parivar was the 'face behind the mask', it can be said unhesitatingly that the present BJP government perfectly proved its ability in further opening the scope for national

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Call of May Day

On May 1, 1886 the armed goons of the owners mounted a brutal onslaught on the striking workers assembled at the Hay market of Chicago. The workers were demanding eight hour work in a day - a demand which may seem quite ordinary today. The savagery perpetrated by the owners and the government set off waves of indignant protest by workers all over the world. The government was ultimately compelled to concede this legitimate demand of the workers.

In 1889, the Second International decided under the leadership of Engels, to give a call to observe May Day every year as the working class solidarity day throughout the world. Engels declared at the same meeting of the Second International that the May Day resolve of the working class must not be confined to the economic demands and trade union rights only;

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Homage to Lenin on Birthday in Moscow

22nd April, birthday of Comrade Lenin, the great leader of the proletariat, was observed in Red Square, Moscow in a most befitting and solemn manner and with great enthusiasm by people coming from different and distant parts of Russia. Many political parties participated in the programme held throughout the day. A mass gathering was organised at Red Square jointly by All Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks, Party of the Russian Communists and Russia's Workers' Communist Party. Comrade Manik

Mukherjee, Central Staff of the SUCI, was invited. He participated in this programme.

After the meeting a procession marched to Lenin Mausoleum where along with other leaders Comrade Manik Mukherjee paid revolutionary homage to the great leader of the proletariat and placed a wreath in his memory on behalf of the SUCI. After placing the wreaths the participants went inside the Mausoleum where Lenin's body was laid to rest. They paid their revolutionary homage to Lenin.

SUCI on dissolution of Parliament and Mid-term poll

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI issued the following statement to the press on 26.4.99:

"We strongly condemn the ugliest display of greed for parliamentary power and pelf indulged in by the branded bourgeois parties, the BJP and the Congress, the main contenders. The social democratic parties led by the CPI(M) also joined in this mad scramble for power that resulted in thrusting on the exploited and oppressed working people a further burden of thousands of crores of rupees. And this mid-term poll, too, cannot guarantee political stability.

"This senseless bankrupt bourgeois parliamentarism reflective of acute economic crisis can only be rebuffed by the people taking to the path of countrywide democratic mass and class struggles and giving birth to peoples political power. Our party urges the people to grasp this all important lesson and prepare themselves accordingly."



Procession towards Lenin Mausoleum in Red Square, Moscow on Lenin's birthday (more photo on page 8)

Repeated Hung Parliaments Reflect Intense Internal Crisis of Capitalist Class

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monopolists, foreign multinationals and black-money operators, how a traders, NRIs, smugglers etc. to rob the country, in increasing burden of taxes, fares, prices of essential commodities, in deciding to close more public sector undertakings and other industries, thereby retrenching lakhs of workers; in further curtailing trade union rights, in allowing privatisation of many public sectors including insurance, in initiating saffronisation of education by including medieval Hindu religious scriptures and obscurantist thoughts in curriculum and distorting history to further deprive the younger generation from having the scientific bent of mind and thereby engineering "a peculiar fusion between spiritualism and technological aspects of science" to develop fascist culture, in fomenting jingoism by rousing Hindu religion oriented national chauvinism and spreading hatred against other religious minorities, indulging in attacks against not only Muslims, but also on Christians and their religious places, even barbarically murdering them, raping women, converting them, thus asserting the victory and superiority of 'Hindu glory' — reminding Hitler's fascist design of inflaming German-Aryan jingoism and attacking and killing people of Jewish community.

Further, the BJP leadership transferred, demoted, sacked a considerable number of bureaucrats in administration to serve their petty parliamentary political interests violating even the semblance of administrative neutrality. It transferred and sacked officials who dared to refuse to fall in line with its corrupt practices e.g. transfer of Bezbaruah and dismissal of Admiral Bhagawat and Guruswamy. To maintain the fragile unity and unsecured longevity of the government it often rewarded this or that party of the combination even violating laws and rules and interfering into judicial process. It unabashedly tried to save its erstwhile ally Jaylalitha, whom Vajpayee once called 'Queen of corruption', news baron Ashok Jain and business magnet Hinduja trampling upon all norms, ethics and values. This combination was merely a crowd of parties having divergence of directions and interests. In fact it was an opportunist combination of some self-seekers and corrupt politicians led by the BJP. From the very beginning disparate interests contradicted each other often threatening the opportunist and weak unity — frequently one giving ultimatum, another boycotting the meeting, still another threatening to withdraw support in furtherance to achieve more concessions. So it was a leaky boat frequently rocked by internal conflicts and destined naturally to sink. Only it was a matter of time. The BJP leadership should be grateful to Congress, CPI(M) and other parties who saved it from this ignominy and provided it an opportunity to be 'honoured' as 'martyr'. Thanks to the opportunist power greedy leadership of Congress and CPI(M).

Indian bourgeoisie in its design to foster two-party parliamentary system not only depends upon BJP, but also on Congress. If one becomes unpopular in power, the other will replace it at the hustings, if possible singly, if not possible in combination with regional parties. So when it was found during the last polls that the National Congress had a tarnished image and it was in

disarray and faction ridden, all of a sudden Ms Sonia Gandhi, who was behind the screen was induced to come to the field of active politics with much fanfare and media publicity to be the saviour of Congress. Her task was to unite conflicting groups within the party recovering its lost image and projecting it as the national alternative to BJP at the behest of the ruling bourgeoisie. Apparently the lady was moving cautiously to have a single party government at the Centre avoiding immediate temptation. But ultimately she yielded to pressure of other power greedy leaders of Congress and more particularly to the continuous advice and appeal of M/s Harkishen Singh Surjeet and Jyoti Basu and joined the game of dislodging the BJP government taking the advantage of AIDMK's withdrawal of support. What followed afterwards is another black chapter of the Indian parliamentary history. Naked bargaining, manipulation, horse trading, back stabbing, etc., went without limit by all these parties, ofcourse, in their 'avowed' interests of the people.

To what extent the apparent contradiction between the bourgeois, petty bourgeois, social democratic parties are genuine has been exposed nakedly this time when after the BJP government was outvoted and national bourgeoisie wanted the budget to get passed. The CPI(M) along with other obedient national and regional parties unanimously passed BJP's budget just in a few minutes, a budget which is framed in the interest of the bourgeoisie against the interest of the common people.

This act itself revealed the real character of all these parliamentary parties who have no basic difference among each other and whose sole objective is to save the vested interest.

And together with all the other bourgeois parties the 'leftist' CPI(M), too, let pass without even a murmur the patently anti-people budget of the very same BJP government ! There is CPI(M) rhetoric against Centre's "economic policies" to boot !

And how much worth is its rationale for appeasing and projecting the Congress as a 'secular' party capable of forming a 'stable' government and thus saving the country from the "communal" danger of a BJP government ? Much din has been made over the word "secularism" by CPI(M), Congress, and also others alike, so that the meaning is now confused more than before in our country. What is secularism really ? The concept of 'secularism' was born of the European Renaissance, which after the bourgeois democratic revolutions, and establishment of the bourgeois democratic republics, in 19th century Europe became an integral concept and practice of democratic governance against religious interference in matters of state. Secularism means non-recognition of any super-natural entity and non-interference of religion in social and political affairs. A secular state neither encourages nor obstructs religious practices, treats believers and non-believers alike and considers religion as a matter of personal faith. But, owing to historical reasons, the Indian nationalist movement grew and developed under conditions when internationally capitalism had passed from the earlier stage of free competition to that of monopoly and imperialism and consequently had lost its progressive role,

become reactionary and being afraid of working class revolution, had started patronising religious revivalism. This is why, instead of adopting a bold and secular approach, the Indian bourgeoisie pursued a weak-kneed and compromising approach towards religion. Instead of being free from religions interference, the whole nationalist movement was imbued with Hindu revivalism — saving a few exceptions.

This is epitomized by the idyllic conception of 'Ramarajya' and the chant of 'Ramdhun' by the greatest of the bourgeois nationalist leaders, Gandhiji. Secularisation of the emerging Indian nation, thus got the biggest jolt at its emergence itself, because of the compromising bourgeois leadership of the nationalist movement. All seeds of subsequent disintegration and division of people on religious, communal, caste and parochial lines lay dormant in this historic weakness of our nationalist movement.

And although the Indian bourgeois state declared itself as 'secular' but in practice, right since 1947, it encouraged all — and especially Hindu-religious practices in educational and social affairs. The Congress, in the name of secularism, actually encouraged all religions and particularly Hindu religion and made India a multi-theocratic state. It is again common knowledge how the ruling Congress, dubbed 'secular' by the CPI(M) had right since then manipulated the minority community as its secure vote bank. Who does not know of the Congress's long courtship with the Muslim League in Kerala ? Who does not know of the Congress manoeuvres, via the Shahi Imam of Delhi, of garnering Muslim votes in the elections ? Were all these secular or communal practices ? Thus the Congress has not only tried to divide the forces of democratic movement on communal lines but has even deliberately engineered communal riots only in order to later appear as saviour of the minority community e.g. in the the horrible carnage at Nelhi of Assam. This minority communalism stoked by the Congress's electoral calculations created grounds for whipping up the majority Hindu communalism.

It was precisely on this ground that the then Jana Sangh — earlier incarnation of today's BJP — thrived during the 1970s and grew to the position of entering the Janata Government by 1977. Sensing this shift in political pattern Ms Indira Gandhi had declared openly, after the Congress's utter rout in 1977 Lok Sabha polls, that she would henceforth play the 'majority card'. Rajiv Gandhi too followed the same line. Hence, after compromising with Muslim fundamentalism in the Shah Bano case, he tried to ensure the Hindu vote bank too, by opening the Babri Masjid illegally. Is it unknown to anybody today that this was the precise turning point from which the BJP's countrywide rabid and violent Hindu communal campaign and carnage took off and after enormous bloodbath, death, and destruction of not only the Masjid but the unity of people finally brought it to power ? After having known this glorious(!) record of the Congress, can any party but the most shamelessly opportunist one offer the Congress the 'secular' title and pass a Congress government in place of the toppled one of BJP, as a 'secular

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Instead of building up democratic mass movements as deterrent to communalism CPI(M) is crushing and emasculating them

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alternative' to the toiling people of the country? This single fact shows amply clearly what sort of a 'Marxist' party the CPI(M) is. For the CPI(M), the worst casteist, communal and corrupt forces like Laloo Prasad Yadav, Mulayam Singh, DMK, AIDMK et al are 'secular' — for they may help form a non-BJP government! But can one fight communalism by merely installing a non-BJP government? If it be so, then how despite the earlier two UF governments with Congress support, could the BJP grow so fast as to come to power in the next polls? Contradiction between the Congress and the BJP is not on the issue of 'secularism', as falsely propagated by the CPI(M), but on the question of assuming governmental power in the present fragile Indian parliamentary political set-up. The CPI(M) wants to make a deal with the Congress to further its own electoral interest. To cover this hypocrisy it labours at projecting the Congress as secular. It has reduced itself as the drumboy of Congress instead of furthering the democratic mass movements. But the real deterrent to communalism is to develop the political awareness and unity of the people through a relentless ideological-political-cultural struggle based on secular democratic values of life, and at the same time, through unleashing countrywide left and united democratic mass movements. All other parliamentary 'alternatives' are bound to worsen the situation further.

As an inseparable part of the imperialist capitalist global system, Indian capitalist system is sinking more and more into grave economic crisis which is devastating and degrading the life of the toiling people, as well as it is exposing the anti-people character of all the bourgeois and petty-bourgeois parties in power at both the Centre and the states. This crisis is not confined to economy and politics only. It is an all pervading crisis — moral, cultural, ethical eating into the very vitals of the society. Economic crisis is of necessity leading to social unrest and political instability — and this, right since 1947. Hence, Indian ruling capitalist class has from the beginning sought ideologically and culturally to regiment the people, and thereby to emasculate people's democratic movements and build a most centralised and coercive state machine with a parliamentary facade having a strong and centralised bourgeois party at the helm of the government.

After the one-party rule of Congress becoming unpopular, which was but natural, it tried to replace it by a two-party parliamentary system with the Janata Party, in 1977. Though the experiment then failed, it has not been abandoned yet. However, the crises of capitalist economy, and of Indian capitalism particularly, are themselves putting all its plans in shambles. Crisis is acutely sharpening inter-capitalist competition and rivalry. One corporate house is out to corner another and grab its market. Different rival chambers of commerce have grown. Each group wants to have its party of choice in power and profit thus, e.g. the nexus between the Hinduja and Ambanis and the BJP. Similarly Congress has also corporate masters. Added to this is the fast growth in recent years of strong regional capitalist lobbies which manipulate political scenario at not only state level but also at central level. The monopoly powers are also running into combination with regional capitalists

and forming this or that group to exploit regional markets. Then there is again competition and conflict between individual capitalists in one single state. Without this fertile ground of the capitalist system turned out and out reactionary and corrupt — bribing, corruption, nepotism, money laundering by politicians in power could not proliferate as it does today nor bourgeois parliamentary politics be so muddy and dirty. That is why whichever political party goes to serve it, invariably becomes corrupt itself. That the BJP is no exception is already known.

However, it must be kept in mind that though it shot to prominence relatively recently, the BJP, earlier named Jan Sangh, originated from the RSS, a militant Hindu communal organisation built on fascist model back in 1926, which distanced itself throughout from the Indian freedom movement. The BJP's Hindu fanaticism is aimed not at merely capturing the vote-banks but at systematically regimenting the mass mind with the ideology of Hindutva and so-called Vedic education and Hindu culture, thus to build a fanatic following for the future too and kill the rational mind to question, argue and analyse. What havoc it can wreak and how beastly it can turn one, has been witnessed not only during the Ayodhya episode but also in the burning alive of a Christian missionary and his minor sons in Orissa. The BJP fits perfectly in the design of the Indian capitalist class to regiment the mass mind, dehumanise the people, tear apart the country's democratic fabric and bring about fascism — the arch enemy of mankind and civilisation. And the BJP has been systematically trying to accomplish these — its campaign to rake up 'Hindu' national chauvinism over the Pokhran blast being another example. The Pokhran atomic blast was not of course a BJP brainchild, but the eventual result of long-cherished bourgeois class design to attain super-power status. But if it was politically exploited by Indira Gandhi earlier, the BJP now sought to divert growing popular discontent by it, and this consequently geared up an arms race with Pakistan — which reacted with its own atomic blasts — leading to an atmosphere of war-psychosis in the subcontinent. And this provided rulers of both India and Pakistan the plea to escalate their military budgets and put this burden on the toiling people while whipping the bogey of 'nationalism'. It is here that the BJP is far more dangerous than just a communal organisation — it has a fascist portent. For this reason the Indian monopolists are now fully backing the BJP, along with the Congress, in their machination of a two-party parliamentary system.

The rivalry between Congress and BJP has nothing to do with secularism. However, despite all efforts by the capitalist class, its inevitable internal conflicts are not allowing political developments to follow the course it itself desires. Hence, the repeated hung parliaments in the recent years. Hence, also, the present acute political uncertainty which has seized the world's 'largest democracy'. It is tottering under the impact of such an incurable crisis today that there is no escape from it for any bourgeois party, except the inexorable fate of degenerating neck-deep into corruption and crime. It is only natural that people should reject all such politicians in one voice who has reduced the noble profession of politics as a 'profession of

scoundrels'. When the ruling class is beset with its economic crises and political instability and when it has crossed the limits of tolerance, drawing the hatred of masses, this situation was the most opportune moment for a genuine Marxist party for politically educating the masses and turn their hatred and apathy into an avalanche of united and powerful countrywide mass movement through people's struggle committees and in its wake give birth to the alternative political power of the people which would eventually bring down the present capitalist system itself. This is what our party SUCI, founded by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, has been doing since inception — which explains why SUCI is the one and only party which is out and away from all these opportunists combinations, engaged in developing the democratic mass movements in different parts of the country — and also the fact why its activities are deliberately kept in the dark by the bourgeois media.

And what has been the role of the so-called 'Marxists' CPI(M) and its parent party CPI from this point of view? Facts would tell that from their inception they have been virtually serving the ruling class and its parties in power, with 'Marxist' vocabulary of course. Not only the undivided CPI played a despicable and dubious role in the freedom movement but after independence, it lent full support to Nehru, the chief spokesman of the Indian capitalist class — as 'progressive'! Both the CPI and the CPI(M) which broke away from the former in 1964, sang full praise of the "progressive" policies of the then Central Congress Government headed by Ms Indira Gandhi! The CPI overtly supported even the Emergency in 1976, while the CPI(M) too followed suit, though covertly by supporting 20-point programme calling some of them progressive. Our party exposed their social-democratic treachery on all these issues. The sheer opportunism of the CPI(M) became more glaring with the ruling bourgeoisie's attempt to introduce a two-party parliamentary system since 1977. The CPI(M) which today clamours against the 'communal' BJP so much, lost no chance to extend support to the Janata Government of 1977 — with the then Jana Sangh (now BJP) being a constituent holding important portfolios in it. Was the Jana Sangh not communal then? But, notably, so long the Congress was in power in Delhi, the CPI(M) declined to join the JP movement in Bihar and Gujarat, on the plea of rightists and Jana Sangh being in the movement! Again, did not the CPI(M) extend support to the V P Singh Government backed by the BJP? On what common ground did their position coincide other than on electoral opportunism? On the other hand, whenever the Congress seemed to be on the favourable side in this two-party game the CPI(M) always found out reasons to align itself to it, to plead for its support — as in the case of the Devegowda and Gujral led UF governments — and even to invite it, as in the present case. The CPI(M)'s record shows it to be an utterly opportunist social democratic party which maligns the noble banner of Marxism-Leninism. It is precisely its 'Marxist' cloak and 'Leftist' verbiage which has given the CPI(M) the greatest advantage over all the other nakedly opportunist and parochial parties of the country and endeared it to the ruling class. The choice of

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Demonstration in front of USIS, Calcutta

Scrap death Sentence on Mumia Abu-Jamal

On 24th April, under the banner of the All India Anti-Imperialist Forum a protest demonstration was organised in front of United States Information Centre, J. L. Nehru Road, Calcutta, on the demand of scrapping of death sentence against Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Carrying the portrait of Mumia Abu-Jamal and raising slogans demanding a new impartial trial of Abu-Jamal and against racist and fascist character of US Government, the demonstrators assembled in front of Information Centre supporting the international solidarity actions to stop execution of Mumia.

Addressing the gathering, Comrade Achintya Sinha, an activist of the Forum, said : An outspoken opponent of racism and police brutality, Mumia was arrested and framed up on a murder charge in 1981 and in a mockery of trial was sentenced to death. At that time he was President of the Association of Black Journalists in Philadelphia and was known as "Voice of the Voiceless". In the farce of a trial in which depositions of witness in favour of Mumia was ignored while others were pressurised to testify against him, he was convicted and declared guilty. The racist administration pushed for death penalty and tried to execute him in 1995, but mass pressure and protests stopped it. The Amnesty International has included him on their list of prominent political prisoners and general people from all over the world have called for a new trial.

But the state administration and the police have not paid any heed to it, and any day now the Governor of Pennsylvania, a right-wing republican, may sign a warrant for Mumia's execution. Mumia's case has become a symbol of widespread human rights violation in US. On 24th April, Mumia's birthday, massive demonstrations were held in the USA demanding a new trial for

Mumia. Expressing solidarity with the movement "Millions for Mumia", the All India Anti-Imperialist Forum, joins in demanding a new trial for Mumia.

A memorandum to this effect addressed to President Bill Clinton was handed over to the representative of the United States Information Centre.



Protest demonstration by All India Anti-Imperialist Forum on 24-4-98 in front of USIS, Calcutta on demand of scrapping death sentence against Mumia Abu-Jamal

PRESS CLIPPING

Labour strikes cripple South Korea as minister vows toughness

South Korean labour unrest worsened on Wednesday as shipyard workers and researchers joined subway drivers in strikes to protest against layoffs.

Labour leaders earlier this week announced a "spring offensive" of strikes and mass rallies aimed at putting pressure on the government to slow down restructuring in bloated corporations. The restructuring is leading to mass layoffs.

Workers at a major shipyard owned by Daewoo Heavy Industries Ltd. went on a full strike on Wednesday, demanding parent Daewoo Group to scrap plans to sell its shipbuilding business as part of the group's restructuring plans.

About five thousand workers in the science and technology, research and chamber of commerce unions also went on strike on Wednesday, the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) said.

The KCTU is demanding talks with the government about alternatives to layoffs stemming from restructuring.

But labour minister Lee Ki-ho said the government would not negotiate with the KCTU alone. It preferred to hold talks together with the

other major labour group, the Federation of Korean Trade Unions (FKTU), and employers.

"As it's not an issue only for KCTU, we all have to sit down together and start talk," Lee said in an interview. The two labour federations and an employers' group have all walked out of a government-sponsored commission aimed at building a consensus over restructuring. South Korea's jobless rate swelled to a record 8.7 per cent in February from 5.9 in February 1998, as Seoul pushed ahead with painful reform under a \$58.35 billion bail-out by the International Monetary Fund.

But the labour minister said the worst was over, disclosing that the seasonally unadjusted jobless rate in March fell to about eight per cent. Official figures are due out on Thursday.

The minister vowed tough action against the strikes.

More than 10,000 KCTU members marched through downtown Seoul, shouting "Attain stable employment" and "Reduce working hours." The KCTU is offering reduced hours as an alternative to layoffs.

KCTU leaders said they would start holding

all-night rallies at the cathedral, a traditional refuge for activists. Some union members have been camping out at the cathedral and the Seoul National University since early this week to avoid arrest.

KCTU said the daily protests would culminate in mass May Day rallies in Seoul and other cities. A general strike will be launched from May 12, if the KCTU saw no progress in talks concerning the mass layoffs stemming from restructuring.

Most subway unionists stayed off the job a third day, despite a 9 a.m. (0000 GMT) deadline to return to work or face dismissal.

They are protesting plans to cut jobs by 20 per cent. The Seoul Subway Corp. says it is losing one billion won (\$841,042) a day.

Subway workers in the southeastern port of Pusan were scheduled to walk out at 4 a.m. on Thursday (1900 GMT Wednesday).

The KCTU has said telecom workers will go on strike on April 26 in the next big move by labour. Korea Telecom Corp union leaders were scheduled to make a final decision on Wednesday on a strike by more than 42,000 workers.

(Source : *The Economic Times* dt. 22-4-99)

Cambodia :

U.S. war criminals push for 'tribunal'

The US government, which authorized the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of Cambodian peasants during the Vietnam War, is pushing a plan for an international tribunal to bring charges against the leaders of Cambodia's Khmer Rouge for "genocide and crimes against humanity."

Prime Minister Hun Sen, leader of the Cambodian People's Party, has resisted pressure from US and European governments to arrest two former Khmer Rouge leaders, Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea, who surrendered along with several hundred supporters in December.

Hun Sen insists the matter is one for the Cambodian people to decide without outside interference. He warned that a trial would plunge the country back into civil war. On a visit to Malaysia Feb. 5 he said, "We should not push action that can lead to more killing of Cambodian people."

If a trial were held, the prime minister said, it would have to take place in Cambodia. And it would have to take up US crimes in the 1969-73 war and Washington's intervention in the civil war of the 1980s.

These statements present a clear warning to Washington and the Pentagon: If they continue to interfere in Cambodia's internal affairs, they will be put on trial for their own heinous crimes against the Southeast Asian peoples.

5,30,000 tons of bombs

No one will ever know how many Cambodians were killed by the US war machine. Estimates range from 6,00,000 to more than one million. Millions more were maimed or left homeless.

The former French colony, bordered by Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, tried to steer a neutral course during the 1960s, when much of Southeast Asia's population rose up against colonial rule and allied with the socialist camp in the global class war against US imperialism.

This neutral policy of Prince Sihanouk, the Cambodian monarch, failed to satisfy Washington.

The Pentagon charged Cambodia with harboring guerrillas of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam. The first US bombs were dropped in 1966, when Democrat Lyndon Johnson was president.

From 1969-1973, under Republican President Richard Nixon, the Pentagon carried out a sustained bombing campaign against Cambodian villages called "Operation Menu." Some 530,000 tons of bombs were dropped on Cambodia - three times the amount dropped on Japan in World War II.

In March 1970, the Nixon administration engineered a coup by a loyal US puppet, Gen. Lon Nor. Then, on April 30, Nixon ordered a full-scale US-led invasion of Cambodia.

A Jan.27 Inter Press Service dispatch notes: "One of the earliest independent inquiries into the conflict in Cambodia, carried out by a Finish commission of academicians in 1980-81, concluded that the US bombings, apart from killing thousands, led to a 'near complete breakdown of traditional social structure."

"In the 1969-1973 bombings, rice production in Cambodia fell by nearly 70 percent, nearly 75

percent of domestic animals were killed, much of the industrial sector was destroyed and more than 40 percent of its road network made unusable."

Roots of conflict

The NLF and Cambodia's Khmer Rouge at one time fought together against the US invaders. With weapons and logistical support from the Soviet Union and China, they eventually drove the Pentagon out of Cambodia and handed US imperialism its first military defeat.

On April 17, 1975, the Khmer Rouge rebels toppled Lon Nol and declared a people's republic. They inherited a ruined country devastated by years of war. Fearing renewed US bombing and with millions facing starvation, the new government hastily evacuated overcrowded Phnom Penh. Most of the population went to work in agricultural communes as the country struggled to rebuild.

In 1977, the Khmer Rouge began a border war against their neighbor, socialist Vietnam. Divisions grew within the movement as well. These developments had roots in the USSR/China conflict that split the world communist movement.

[Despite differences on ideological questions had the Soviet and Chinese leadership taken a united stand against imperialism, the enemy of mankind, while carrying out ideological struggle to resolve ideological disputes then the US imperialism would not have got any opportunity and the incidents of fratricidal war between two socialist countries and such painful end would not have occurred — Ed. *P Era*]

In January 1979, a group of Cambodian communists, including Hun Sen, appalled at the course taken by the Khmer Rouge leadership, appealed for support from the Vietnamese People's Army. Together, they expelled the Khmer Rouge government.

Washington exploited the opportunity to encourage a fratricidal border war between China - a Khmer Rouge ally - and Vietnam, and it even supplied land mines and other weapons to the Khmer Rouge during the 1980s in an effort to undermine the new Cambodian government and its Vietnamese allies.

Western governments and human rights groups claim more than one million people died while the Khmer Rouge held power from 1975-1979. Whatever the accuracy of these accounts, many sources verify that most died of malnutrition, disease and exhaustion rather than execution — conditions originating in the US war against Cambodia...

Self-determination & reconciliation

Today the Cambodian people are still struggling to overcome the devastation of the war that began 30 years ago. Another disaster, the collapse of the Soviet Union, has hit the country hard...

Hun Sen says his government is attempting a genuine reconciliation between factions of the former liberation movement. US imperialism is trying to undermine this process as part of its plan to dominate Asia...

(Source : *Workers World*, dt. 25-2-99)

On DPEP

V R Krishna Iyer's letter to Narayana Das, CPI(M) leader

Sri T. K. Narayana Das, a district level leader of CPI(M) in Kerala had written an article entitled "New Curriculum and World Bank" in *Desabhimani*, the daily newspaper controlled by CPI(M) on 5th February 1999. Sri Narayana Das, in the article argued that the New Curriculum brought in by DPEP is different from DPEP itself which only is World Bank controlled. The curriculum is developed indigenously by local experts. He tried to prove that the change will bring about much sought for radical transformation of the existing educational system.

Sri Narayana Das wrote a letter to Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer, the President of Janakeeya Prathirodha Samithi - JPS (People's Resistance Committee) which is spearheading a movement for the total withdrawal of DPEP which the Samithi has shown to be disastrous and destructive. In his letter Shri Das requested Justice Iyer to have a fresh look upon DPEP which in his opinion was a fine programme to relieve the education system of Kerala from many of its maladies. Justice Iyer's reply to the letter is given below :

Dear Sri Narayana Das,

I have read through your letter altho' I am in the Kottakkal Arya Vaidyasala under treatment. My view at the moment is that DPEP is a remedy which will aggravate the malady. We must relieve our children from the burden of books by correcting the infirmities in the present system. But DPEP, subject to my further study is throwing the children into the jungle of playsome illiteracy. The generation of young children will blame us for this neglect. DPEP may be funded by the World Bank but that source itself is suspect. These big global institutions may create two classes in our country, the elite which goes to the non-Aided Schools and the proletariat which is kept illiterate without knowing the three Rs. Without reading you cannot be educated and to deny this opportunity to children is a sin. All that I can say is that 'all play and no books make Jack a goofy good for nothing person'. Let us not over-burden with books nor shall we drive them into young inconsequence with teachers free not to teach and children free not to learn. Eco-friendly education is not achieved. But what happens is children become alien to books and knowledge. Please read Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/ V. R. Krishna Iyer

Corrigendum

In our issue volume 32 no.13, March '99 the following mistake was noted in the article on Euro.

Page 6 - under subheading 'The slogan of united Europe', at the 45th line instead of "class rule" the words "productive forces" crept in. The mistake is regretted. - Editor P.E.)

NATO Stop Carnage in Yugoslavia

No words are strong enough to condemn the barbaric imperialist attack on Yugoslavia under the banner of US-led NATO. For more than a month the NATO has been carrying out continuous bombing raids not only on military and industrial targets but on civilian targets, including schools, hospitals and even some refugee convoys. What is more the US decision to deploy A-10 "Warthog" jets and "Apache" helicopters in Kosovo that fire shells using depleted uranium, a radioactive and toxic ammunition, threatens to unleash an environmental and human disaster that will affect generations to come. According to Russian sources, hundreds of Yugoslav civilians have died in this bombing attack. This criminal attack on a sovereign nation is in complete transgression of international law and violates the United Nations charter. The US and UK have vetoed a Russian resolution to end the NATO military action in the Security Council. This bombing is ostensibly being carried out to protect the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo from Serbian attacks. But the nationality question of the ethnic Albanian population in Kosovo is an internal problem of Yugoslavia and can only be solved through internal political negotiations, not by external imposition. The Rambouillet peace plan which required the stationing of about 30000 NATO troops for three years in Kosovo, to be followed by a referendum on the independence of Kosovo, was rightly rejected by the Yugoslav government as a threat to the sovereignty and security of Yugoslavia. Today, as a direct result of NATO bombing in an already polarized environment, there is a massive outflow of Albanian refugees. It is very clear that the NATO bombing raids will only vitiate the Kosovo problem not to speak of leading to a permanent and peaceful settlement. NATO is trying to disown all responsibility for this humanitarian tragedy by blaming the Serbs, claiming that the Serb forces were carrying out a pogrom against the ethnic Albanian population even before the NATO attacked. The sheer scale of the refugee efflux after the NATO bombing contradicts NATO propaganda. What is more, in the Kosovo terrain where military targets and civilians are inextricably mixed, as pointed out in the *Economist*, London, the extensive devastating bombing once more betrays the imperialists' cynical, inhuman disregard for the immense sufferings of the people.

The stories of so-called atrocities committed by the Yugoslav military on ethnic Albanian civilians have to be examined very carefully, as the sources of these stories are the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) and the imperialist-controlled media. In any case they do not justify the external aggression against Yugoslavia outside the framework of international law. The International Action Centre, headed by former US Attorney-General Kamsay Clark, has recently exposed the use of the media by the imperialists to present a distorted picture to serve its ends. The Centre has traced the systematic demonisation of Serbs in the Western media as genocidal fascists who engaged in ethnic cleansing and mass rape of Muslim women in Bosnia, to an American public relations firm, Ruder Finn which was paid for this purpose.

The lesser known and unpublicised is the one in which the US assisted the Croatian army to drive out an estimated 200,000 Serbs from the Krajina area where they had lived for centuries. Hundreds of innocent and unarmed civilians were massacred in this criminal operation. Still the US imperialists who are habitual offenders against human rights and oppressor of people and minorities at home and in many parts of the world, pose to act in their defense. But even while leaders of powerful imperialist countries give lip service to the same plea and level the same accusations against the Serbs to justify NATO action. French officials have contested their version, according to *The Statesman*, saying there is no proof of mounting Serbian oppression against ethnic Albanians.

What then, is the real motive of this NATO attack? While NATO spokespersons have claimed that there is a broad alliance behind their move, the growing dissension of Italy, Greece and France give the lie to this claim. It is clear that this attack is spearheaded by the US and German imperialists with the aim of further fragmenting what remains of the old Yugoslavia and destabilising the Yugoslav government so as to replace it with a more pliant regime that will not obstruct imperialist interests. To this end they are also subjecting Montenegro to bombing raids, while at the same time urging it to secede from Yugoslavia which would leave Serbia as the only republic and landlocked at that. The British imperialists are faithfully toeing the American line as they have done in the case of Iraq. The location of Yugoslavia is of strategic importance for the imperialists in confronting Russian imperialism and safeguarding the whole of Eastern and South Eastern Europe as a reserved market and as a source of cheap labour and raw material for themselves. The Kosovo region is rich in some rare minerals and has large reserve of coal. Yugoslavia is strategically located on the Adriatic Sea. The land route through Yugoslavia gives access to Southern Europe and the Mediterranean, leading on to Turkey and the oil-rich Middle East, while the river Danube that flows through Serbia leads into the Black Sea, leading on to the oil-rich Caspian Sea and Central Asian region. The control of Yugoslavia by military and political means would enable an imperialist nation to gain a stranglehold on vital natural resources which would then be denied to its rivals. Besides, Yugoslavia has developed industrial base, a skilled workforce and is valuable as a market. The labelling of Yugoslavia as a 'rogue state' provides an excuse for NATO to station troops on a permanent basis all over Eastern and South Eastern Europe. It also provides a new and active role for NATO which had lost its original relevance as a force of imperialist aggression against the Soviet Union and the socialist countries of Eastern Europe.

It is to be remembered that the provinces of Yugoslavia were once semi-colonies of the European imperialist powers. The inflammation of ethnic passions to keep the Balkans divided has been a time-tested method of the imperialists. During both world wars, the German imperialists played this deadly game. During the Second World

War, the fascist Ustashe controlled the territory of modern Croatia. In collaboration with the German Nazis, the Ustashe carried out genocide of almost 800,000 Serbs, Jews and gypsies. The Communist League of Yugoslavia under Marshal Tito united the various ethnic groups against the Nazi occupiers and the puppet fascist governments installed by them. Mountain guerrilla warfare by the Communist-led Yugoslav patriots slowed down the mighty German army as it moved to invade the Soviet Union. The heroic action of the Yugoslav patriots contributed to the defeat of the Nazis at the hands of the Soviet Red Army. Finally, it was the Communist League and the Soviet Red Army which liberated the country from German imperialist occupation in the Second World War. Yugoslavia became a socialist federation of different sub-nationalities. But the growth of revisionism led to nationality problems, centring round, in the main, accentuation of economic disparities between regions. Thus, for example the liberalisation of certain aspects of the economy by Tito in the sixties, helped the already better developed republics of Croatia and especially of Slovenia to prosper while the already backward Kosovo province which provided cheap raw materials and energy became even more impoverished. In the eighties, imperialist creditor nations took advantage of Yugoslavia's economic crisis and forced it to go in for extensive economic restructuring as a conditionality for IMF loans. The resulting hyperinflation, de-industrialisation and wage cuts led to social upheavals. IMF interference in the federal sharing of financial resources was one of the important factors that led to the disintegration of federal Yugoslavia. The Communist League renounced its leading role in Yugoslavia and set up a multi-party system. Croatia, Slovenia Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina became independent countries in a bloody civil war full of imperialist machinations. The rump Yugoslavia consists only of Serbia and Montenegro, with Kosovo existing as a province of Serbia with a certain degree of autonomy.

The balkanisation of Yugoslavia has seen the display of both imperialist collusion and rivalry. Germany and the US have been the main imperialist protagonists. Both seek their own vision of "stability" in the region whereby the Yugoslav people would be kept busy in internecine strife while the imperialists exercised economic and political control in the interests of their own profits. But there is intense rivalry between the imperialists to gain sole control and deny their rivals any access to raw materials and markets. The EU which has evolved the Euro as a common currency poses a potent economic threat to the US. Within the EU Germany plays a dominant economic and political role with greater aspirations for itself. Much to the worry of the US, Germany has forged close ties with a number of former socialist countries, including Hungary, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Georgia, among others. There has also been competitive wooing of Turkey, to whom Germany gifted much military equipment in 1991. The erstwhile Prime Minister of Turkey, Turgut Ozal, called for a unification of Albania with Kosovo. According to the Anti-Imperialist Forum, Germany, the German defense and political guideline of November 1992 emphasises maintenance of free world trade and unhindered access to the markets and raw materials of the whole world." Imperialist Germany played a leading role in the secession of Croatia and Slovenia by providing political, military and financial support to the secessionists. But the

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Imperialist Collusion and Rivalry in Yugoslavia

(Contd. from page 6)

leading imperialist power, the US, would not take this lying down. In "NATO in the Balkans: Voices of Opposition, Ramsay Clark, Sara Flounders and others have drawn attention to some of the ideas expressed in published Pentagon policy papers. "...We must maintain the mechanism for deterring potential competitors from even aspiring to a larger regional or global role", "It is of fundamental importance to preserve NATO as the primary instrument of Western defense and security as well as the channel for US influence and participation in European security affairs" and "We must seek to prevent the emergence of European-only security arrangements which would undermine NATO." It is this inter-imperialist rivalry which has plunged the Balkans into a cauldron of conflict leading to avoidable humanitarian catastrophes. The US imperialists sabotaged the EU-sponsored Lisbon peace accord of March 1992 and the Vance-Owen peace accord of May 1993 which may have ended the civil war in Bosnia without giving the NATO any role. With these US actions, the war dragged on till the US imperialists were satisfied that NATO dominated by the US was playing a leading military role. Thereafter the US virtually forced all the factional leaders to sign the Dayton Peace Accord that has created a fragile peace in Bosnia. Under the Accord, a puppet regime of the imperialists has been set up in Bosnia with its administrative and financial institutions completely controlled by western multinationals and financial groups. In the interim, about 80,000 heavily armed NATO troops have been stationed at various points around Yugoslavia. Besides its old base in Southern Europe, the US has established new military basis in Bosnia Croatia, Macedonia, Albania and Hungary. In Croatia, where the old fascist Ustashe symbols are being revived, the US is actively arming and training the Tudjman government's army. Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, all client states of the US have been admitted to NATO as full members. On the other hand, the break up of Yugoslavia has provided Germany with an opportunity for direct military involvement, and direct participation of its Luftwaffe in the NATO bombings, and thus to come out of the military restrictions that had been imposed on it after the 2nd World War.

As for the so-called Liberation Army, it is completely funded and armed by the imperialists themselves, both Germany and the US. Journalists of the New York Times and the Belgian paper *Solidaire*, who have traveled with the KLA, have observed latest German weaponry with them which is not sold in the open market. There are at least two factions of the KLA. One is headquartered in Geneva, and houses the self-proclaimed Government of Kosovo. According to the Washington Post of 26 May 1998, it is funded by the CIA. The bureaus of the self-proclaimed Albanese Kosovar Government-in-Exile are located in Frankfurt and Stuttgart, in Germany. The New York Times of 6 June 1998 reports that German-speaking KLA forces are entering Kosovo through Albania. The KLA has no definite ideology or political manifesto. Very peculiarly, it calls upon imperialist forces to occupy its country, and is even assisting the NATO bombing of Kosovo by providing essential information for air strikes, according to the French Press Agency (April 8). While one faction demands greater autonomy

within Yugoslavia, another demands outright secession and unification with ethnic Albanians in Macedonia, Greece and Albania. The US has close ties with the latter three countries and is therefore against the option of secession of Kosovo. If Germany were to back the secessionists, a dangerously unstable situation may result. In short, the imperialists are trampling on the sovereignty of Yugoslavia with impunity, even as they are cynically jockeying for power among themselves, endangering regional peace and the lives of millions.

The war in the Balkans is not an isolated far-away phenomenon. It carries the stamp of imperialism on it. The world is moving towards global recession, with economic growth rates falling to less than 2%. As a moribund system, imperialism-capitalism is unable to meet the needs of millions suffering from poverty, deprivation and unemployment. The imperialist powers are redoubling their energies to redivide the world market on the basis of economic, political and military might. Even as the WTO is racked by trade disputes between the US and the EU, the imperialist nations as a whole are preparing to pressurise developing nations into a new Millennial Trade Round. This Round is to include such proposals as will weaken the control of states of developing countries on foreign capital in their economies. Today, military expenditure alone keeps crisis-ridden capitalist economies moving by providing an artificial market. The US is therefore setting up a multi-billion dollar missile defense system over its territory to protect itself from attacks by so-called "rogue states". The military alliance between the US and Japan has been growing stronger. Both are planning to set up a Theater Missile Defense system that includes Taiwan and is targeted against China. At the same time weapon stockpiles are being expended in conflicts as in Yugoslavia and Iraq. These conflicts are attacks by imperialist nations on developing countries; at the same time they are manifestations of inter-imperialist rivalry. The war in Iraq is now being maintained at a consistent low level. Its objective is US control of Iraqi oil reserves, which are 10% of the global reserves and denial of access to these reserves to rivals like France and Russia. This can be achieved only by replacing the Saddam Hussain government and replacing it with a more compliant regime. To this end, a murderous regime of sanctions that has taken 1.6 million lives over eight years has been imposed on the Iraqi people and wholly illegal no-fly zones are being maintained on the oil-rich north and south of the country by the Anglo-American combine. Under a so-called Iraq Liberation Act, the US Congress has sanctioned millions of dollars as aid to various Iraqi opposition groups. As public opinion turns against economic sanctions and the Saddam Hussain government remains unshakeable, the Iraq Sanctions Challenge, an international solidarity group including Ramsay Clark, quotes Iraqi sources as apprehending a shift in US strategy. They fear that the aim will now be to dismember Iraq by installing puppet governments of Kurdish groups in the north and Shiite groups in the south. As in the case of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, the American imperialists have cynically exploited the Kurdish nationality struggles. On at least two occasions, the US has first fomented Kurdish rebellions in northern Iraq and then enabled Iraqi army units to quell them. The fear

was that a free Kurdish enclave in the north of Iraq would encourage Kurdish separatist groups in Turkey, an US ally and NATO member. But with the arrest and trial of Abdullah Ocalan, head of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in a clandestine US assisted operation, the Kurdish movement stands temporarily weakened. This may embolden the US to go for a strategy of dismemberment of Iraq.

The modus operandi of exploiting nationality problems could well be used against any country, including India. As the imperialists intensify their war mongering, it is necessary for militant people's movements to be built up to counter them. The force of organised public opinion is not to be underestimated. It is an objective factor in international relations which prevents the outbreak of particular wars. The peace movement affords an opportunity for people to understand that imperialism generates war, that it is a barbaric and inhuman system — it will not be an exaggeration to call it the enemy of human civilisation — and that alone the establishment of a socialist system can solve the problems faced by mankind.

It is significant that in country after country people are coming out in strong protest and are getting organised in ever growing numbers against the barbaric NATO attack on Yugoslavia. Worldwide coordination and even greater participation of all sections of people is the need of the hour to put pressure of public opinion with the demands for NATO to get out of the Balkans and complete dismantling NATO.

Call of May Day

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but the working class must also pledge on this day "to win political power in order to expropriate capital and convert the means of production into public property."

This lesson of May Day as taught by Engels has assumed greater significance today when the imperialists headed by the US imperialists in league with national capital are mounting severest onslaughts on all sections of the toiling people taking advantage of the absence of the socialist camp, on one hand and the revisionists are trying to emasculate the working class movement by confining it within the narrow bounds of economism, reformism, legalism, opportunism on the other.

The working class and all other sections of the toiling people must now stand up unitedly on correct base political line to solve the burning problems in their life, the problem of acute economic crisis, poverty, unemployment, wage cut, the problem of health care, education etc., and to consolidate and broaden democratic and trade union rights, which will ultimately help them in winning political power. The task is to unleash a tide of broad based democratic mass movement by freeing it from economism, opportunism, legalism, reformism. It should be borne in mind that without a correct revolutionary leadership the working class cannot be led to the cherished goal as shown by Engels. In the complex situation obtaining today when the attacks on the working class has been ever increasing it is incumbent on it to grasp the real significance of May Day, to join strength with the real revolutionary party and help it in every possible way in order to discharge the historic task for onward march of society.

Build up People's Committees — Lead Mighty People's movement

(Contd from page 3)

CPI(M) leader Jyoti Basu as Prime Minister of yet another 'alternative' government, by the way, is indication enough of the true character of the party. It is not for nothing that the 'Marxist' CPI(M)-led Left Front Government of West Bengal continues to rule for 22 years. It claims that it differs with the Congress on economic issues like liberalisation, globalisation, privatisation, etc., but in fact the New Economic Policy, policies of globalisation, etc., adopted by the Congress with the support of BJP, were not only supported by earlier CPI(M) backed United Front governments, but are being at the same time enthusiastically implemented in West Bengal, Tripura and Kerala. In West Bengal and in other states ruled by them, the CPI(M) is handing over government enterprises to Indian industrialists and foreign multinationals. The Chief Minister of West Bengal since long has been visiting foreign countries to woo the multinationals for investment in India.

The CPI(M)'s sole interest in hobnobbing with Congress was that had the game to install the Congress to power become successful it would have helped perpetuate CPI(M) rule in West Bengal, Tripura and Kerala, where Congress is the main opposition and also that CPI(M) would have some privilege and power sharing at the Centre. This time they went to the extent of rectifying their 'historic blunder', but were disappointed by the Congress.

Ultimately these power-greedy parties imposed upon the country an undesirable and untimely election which has thrust another heavy burden on the poor people who are already suffering from starvation, malnutrition, epidemic, illiteracy, unemployment, retrenchment and scarcity of drinking water.

It is time for the toiling people to ponder : Do they gain anything by running after this or that parliamentary party ? How many times they will allow themselves to be duped by the deceptive promises of these parties ? Political apathy, frustration, etc., only lead to inaction, that ultimately strengthen reaction and opportunism to

perpetuate this nasty criminal game. To give defeat to this evil politics it is the need of the hour to unleash a powerful movement for restoration, protection and extension of democratic norms, values and rights which should include the all important demand of the people to incorporate in the Constitution of 'Right to Recall'.

It is high time people recognise the real revolutionary party. The revolutionary party does exist in our country. It is the SUCI which Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great Marxist thinker, had built up on the high edifice of proletarian culture and ethics. SUCI has been organising democratic mass movements and class struggles in different corners of the country on the basis of revolutionary politics and higher ethics as against the present decadent politics, devoid of morality. Not to speak of many, the nineteen-year-long protracted language movement in West Bengal which snatched a significant victory from the unwilling hands of West Bengal government bears one most current testimony to it, our comrades along with the people sacrificed life, sustained injuries, braved police atrocities and paved the way for it in many parts of the country. SUCI is the only force of protracted movement that remains unwavering on question of ideology because of its very basis of true communist values. Waging an intense battle on cultural and ethical plane SUCI holds aloft the nobility of communism. This is the reason why SUCI is advancing, gaining in organisational strength although blacked out by the media. What is necessary now is to strengthen the party and build up more and more people's protracted movements on burning issues of life.

Spontaneous outbursts can not achieve the goal and are quelled easily by the coercive state machinery. But sustained movement on the basis of higher ethics cannot be crushed ultimately. The so-called left parties never encouraged sustained movements, rather opposed it and forsook building up of people's committees. People's committees alone can give protracted shape to mass movements, which finally is capable of achieving victory. Thousands of people's committees are to

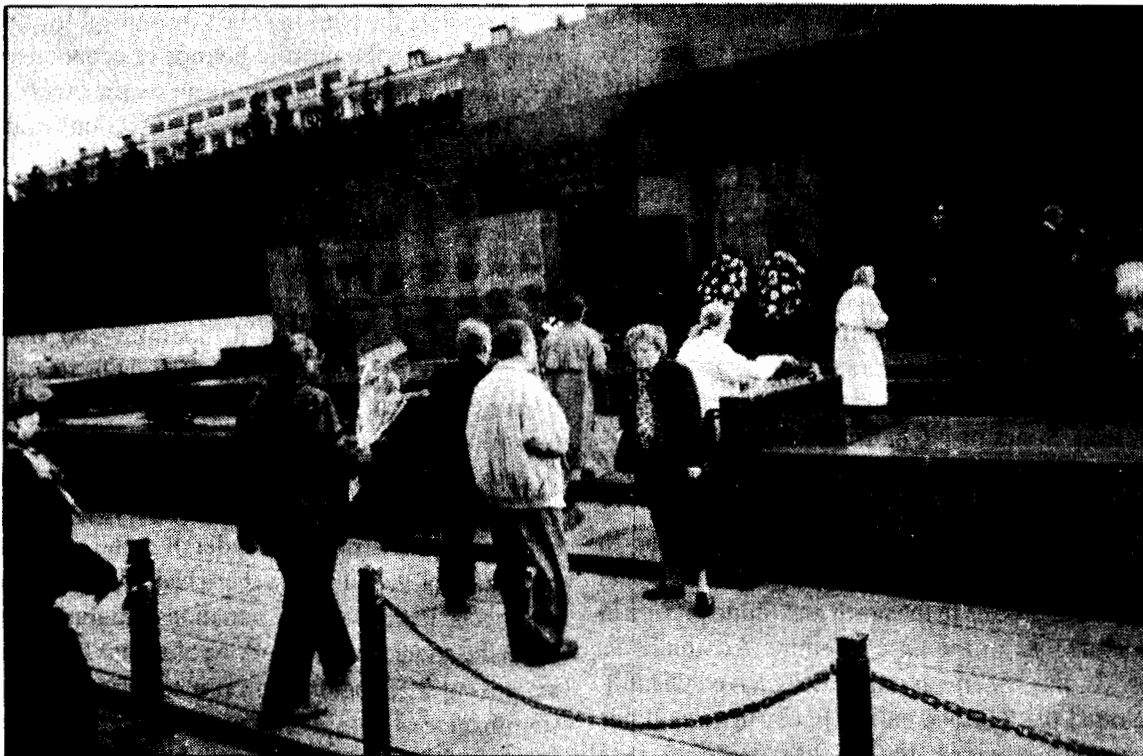
be built throughout the country to guide the mass movement onward, which in its wake will give birth to people's alternative political power, that ensures finally emancipation from the capitalist repressive exploitative system.

Now people are to free themselves from the chain of obnoxious bourgeois parliamentary manoeuvring of these parties and develop class and mass struggles. At present the unwanted election having been imposed people are to participate in it as a form of democratic struggle, not to be duped by this or that bourgeois combination or social democratic parties.

The ruling class has transformed election into a farce. It is so afraid that it is unwilling to allow the voice of the toiling people represent the parliament and legislature. Not only by resorting to all out administrative rigging, the class tries to stop the party of the poor people to represent in the parliament even by blunt anti-democratic measures, like the hike in the deposit money to the tune of Rs. 10,000/- per candidate in Lok Sabha election which glaringly exposes the conspiracy of the ruling class to stop the party of the proletariat from voicing protest and exposing all the anti-people designs and conspiracies in parliament. In this situation the task is to send the SUCI candidates to parliament to raise the voice of the extra parliamentary struggles of the masses being conducted outside and resist bourgeois design from inside. Where there are no such candidates people should put up, through people's committees, such candidates who are tested and tried on questions of pro-people existence and participation in mass movements.

Protracted struggle alone is the path for the toiling masses. There is no other way in the class divided capitalist society. Democracy now is no more for, of and by the people. It is for the rich, of the rich and by the rich today. But capitalist exploitation is not the last word in civilization. Historical destination of mankind and civilization is end of all sorts of exploitation and inequity, i.e. emancipation which will logically culminate in communism, passing through the transitional phase of socialism.

Before the teeming toiling millions of our country remains this great call of emancipation. Let people come forward to enroll in millions as volunteers to build up mighty protracted movements led by people's committees, people's own instruments of struggle, in villages and towns, fields and factories, offices and institutions, in localities — everywhere giving birth in its wake to people's alternative political power, i.e., the ideological, political and organisational instruments of power for the replacement of this capitalist system. To save the country and civilization this is the only historical path.



Communists paying homage to Lenin at Lenin Mausoleum on 22-4-99. (News and more Photo on page 1)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Reports on observance of Party foundation day on 24th April, are pouring in from different states of the country. We hope to cover these reports as extensively as possible on the next issue of Proletarian Era. — Editor P. Era

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