

# Proletarian Era

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## US Attack against Afghanistan **Release Worldwide Militant Peace Movement**

The scale of human suffering hits a new high each day in Afghanistan with horrendous aerial attacks by the US imperialists on that impoverished and long suffering nation. The war mongers of Wall Street are indiscriminately pouring in bombs and rockets that are hitting hospitals, schools, Red Cross godown and villages causing incalculable civilian damages. Thousands of ordinary Afghans including children, women, the old and the infirm who have nothing to do with Osama Bin Laden and his terrorist organisation, Al Quaida or the Taliban are the worst hit. The US planes are reported to be deliberately targeting civilians using sophisticated and destructive weapons which were never used before in any war. Bombs have completely destroyed a village in Nangahar province, a site far off from military places. Noam Chomsky, a renowned intellectual, labelled the current situation as a

"purposeful programme of mass murder". The Pentagon admitted the civilian damages including hospitals and clinics, but brushed aside all these charges of criminal acts as inevitable collateral damages. It is also being reported that the US is using chemical and biological weapons, which it also used against Korea, Vietnam and Kosovo. The US and the British commandos have also started land operations in Afghanistan. Had not Afghanistan been natural fortress this country would have been no better than a largescale mortuary by this time. The terrorist attacks on 11 September leading to death of thousands of innocent civilians is no doubt a condemnable act, but the attack on Afghanistan, as sovereign state, by the US imperialists is a serious and most condemnable crime that any man of conscience cannot condone. Without getting any proof regarding the involvement of Osama Bin Laden and his organisation, Al

Quaida, the US imperialists have started devastation of Afghanistan only on the basis of guess. The self-imposed role of the US-imperialists as international police is posing today as the greatest danger to the world. So the sermons and tall talks by the USA on democracy, human rights, child labour and so on sounds obscene in the background of their marauding role in different countries and presently in Afghanistan.

After a month-long attack neither Osama nor Mullah Omar is found and President Bush has declared that the war will be a long drawn one. As a matter of fact, capitalism-imperialism being in the vortex of a severe worldwide crisis needs war. The excess productive capacity in the world capitalist market is to be violently destroyed and war industry needs to be promoted further on an unprecedented level. While the Bush administration is at present

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## **BJP-led Government Promulgates Draconian Ordinance**

In the aftermath of terrorist attack in the USA, followed by massive and unabated air assaults on Afghanistan, a new anti-terrorist Ordinance, banning 23 terrorist outfits has been promulgated on October 25 last by the Government of India. Close on the heels of Prime Minister Mr Vajpayee's address to the nation urging his countrymen to keep ready for 'impending war', to remain prepared for 'hard decisions' and 'hard days' to come and 'to sacrifice', echoing the shrill voice of President Bush's jingoism, the Union Home Ministry, with hot haste has come out with this Ordinance when the winter session of Parliament is round the corner. With the jaws of

the draconian provisions of it unfolding daily in the media in an atmosphere already created by the BJP-led central government as if India itself is under attack, the Ordinance, no doubt, has been launched in response to that so-called attack!

This Prevention of Terrorist Ordinance (POTO) had "built-in safeguards to make it more humane for the innocent" and it is first comprehensive "legal salvo" to deal with the terrorism and terrorist organizations, so goes the claim made by the Home Ministry officials.

Though the Ordinance in its entirety has not been revealed some

of its provisions found its way in the media. As for example, POTO provides for a jail term of upto 10 years for any person having links with banned organizations, death penalty if the terrorist act resulted in the death of a person and a minimum sentence of 5 years, extendable to life imprisonment, for any other act. In defining terrorist acts, it said, "acts done by using weapons and explosive substances or other methods in a manner as to cause or likely to cause death or injuries to any person or persons or loss or damage to property or disruption of essential supplies and services with intent to threaten the unity and

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## **Price Hike in Petroleum Products Condemned**

Strongly protesting the decision of the Central Government to hike the prices of cooking gas, petrol and diesel, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, issued the following statement to the press on 10.11.2001 :

The BJP-led NDA Government's decision to enhance further the prices of cooking gas, petrol and diesel, to be effective from tonight, is another severe blow on the already overburdened hapless people.

We condemn in strongest terms the central government's move which will further boost inflation adding to the miseries of the people.

We call upon the people to raise their strong voice of protest against this price-hike.

## **Comrade Nihar Mukherjee on Refugee Influx**

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, issued the following statement to the press on 5.11.2001 :

The ruling coalition of Bangladesh, comprising fundamentalist forces, is bringing down assault and terrorisation on the workers and supporters of the opposition parties. This assault is mainly political, but communal attacks are also being perpetrated on the minority people. As a result scared people are fleeing causing refugee influx here.

This crisis should be dealt from a humanitarian point of view as well as politically and necessary steps should be taken so that the communal forces cannot take advantage of this situation.

We demand of the Government of India to immediately sit and discuss with the Government of Bangladesh to resolve this crisis at the earliest.

# POTO Arms Centre And States With More Ruthless Power Than TADA

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integrity of India or to strike terror in any section of the people." (The Statesman, 26.11.2001). It also provides for proscribing terrorist organizations under a set of procedure. It has, therefore, spelt out names of banned organisations although the 'set of procedure' has not yet been disclosed.

Significantly, the law which places the onus on people to disclose any information one may have on terrorists, can be applied to journalists, too. Failure to furnish the information called for or deliberately giving false information to the investigating officer/team shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to 3 years or fine. The Ordinance, being replaced, in due course, as a bill, seeks to link terrorism with it in a manner to be able to suspend passports or travel documents of any citizen suspected to be a terrorist. Persons suspected of having links with terrorist organisation even fall within the purview of the Ordinance.

Our beloved General Secretary Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, while condemning the POTO in unequivocal terms, characterized it as a piece of draconian measures "aimed at throttling the voice of democratic movement of the people surpassing in stringency of TADA, MISA, etc. ..." For all practical purposes, the BJP-led Central Government has seized the war-like psychosis created by it to make the 'back-door entry' of yet another more stringent form of TADA, unhindered. Naturally therefore, a storm of protests has greeted the POTO which arms both the Centre and the states with stringently enhanced powers of preventive detention for 180 days in place of existing provision of 90 days. Even the legal and constitutional experts including different civil liberty groups are highly apprehensive of the added powers — virtually unfettered powers — vested in the hands of the executive agencies, to notify organisations, wedded to acts of terrorism, would be of no substantive benefit to combat terrorism. Rather, it would only provide a handy tools in their hands to abuse in whatever ways their masters want them to do.

Expectedly, the show of protests against this draconian Ordinance by the bourgeois parliamentary opposition parties like the Congress including the CPI(M) and the CPI are restricted to their duel in verbosity within the ambit of

parliamentary politics. Since all the bourgeois Opposition as well as the CPI and the CPI(M), servitors of the decadent, corrupt rule of capital, as they are, hands of these ruling parties are already stained with similar draconian, anti-democratic black acts.

As we all know preventive detention, that runs counter to all notions of fairness and democratic norms, had been inherited by India as a part of the colonial legacy that the British imperialists handed down. Post-independent India is a witness to preventive detention laws galore for different purposes. Ground reality always turned against the rampant abuse of such black laws especially to crush the developing mass movements centring round miseries and burning issues in people's life. Putting Opposition leaders and activists of the democratic and trade union movements behind the bar indefinitely, acted as a deterrent against frequent resort to them. It is, at the same time, a fact that black laws like Preventive Detention without trial always met with stiff people's resistance across the country in the past paving thereby to compelling thereby the ruling parties at the Centre or in the states to retrace their steps.

Mr Advani, Union Home Minister, a staunch advocate of the Ordinance, 'to wage a war against terrorism', right now, one is at pains to see how ludicrously he misdirect his attention, for instance, towards an entirely different set of targets: "... under existing laws we cannot charge scare-mongers. But in POTO there is a provisions to charge those who are mailing terror letters. Even if the letter contains talcum powder, a case can be made out." Doesn't this remark, coming as it does, from no less a person than the Home Minister, underscore the extent to which POTO could be abused given the total burial of administrative neutrality?

The mischievous in-built design of POTO has been nicely unmasked in a premier journal to unearth its true colour in response to Mr Advani's defence of POTO. He said, in a seminar, "The new Ordinance should not be linked with the Hindu-Muslim issue. We should know that a terrorist is a terrorist and he has no caste or creed." In a repartee, it was said, "the recent incidents of violence unleashed by the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha members at the Taj Mahal and the trespass committed by Viswa Hindu Parishad

leaders at the make-shift temple at the site of the Babari Masjid in Ayodhya on October 17, are both examples of vandalism indulged in by the proponents of majority communalism." (Frontline, 11/01) Now if the wide definition of "terrorist act" as stated earlier sec.3(1)(a) of POTO be any guide, wouldn't the acts so committed by Sangh Parivar hooligans, prove to have resulted in mass unrest, death, injuries, damage to property and the disruption of essential services? According to the letter and spirit of the instant clause, could it not be classified as acts of terrorism? The fate of judgement, as one can surmise, is sure to hang in the balance and one is sure to draw appropriate conclusion from this glaring testimony of facts!

It is worth recalling that while the ruling bourgeois parties, more often than not, are all-praise of the Fifth Estate as sentinel of the Nation and a 'free Press helps solve problems', the POTO, on the contrary, demands of the media fraternity to disclose their sources of information failing which punishable offence will greet them. Already, the media has been vocal against it inasmuch as they are victims to Public Disturbances Act, NSA, etc., in the past, not to speak of harsher laws like POTO. So, if one does not misunderstand our contention in the light of facts narrated above, it can easily be discernible that any protest movement against social injustice, launched by any political opponents and/or trade unions and its likes be branded as terrorist acts notwithstanding the fact that it may have to take arms even within the ambit of democratic phase of struggle. POTO would provide the ruling class a handy tools for prohibiting these mass movements for achieving democratic urge of the people at large.

The ill-motive behind rushing in hot haste, to promulgate this draconian Ordinance is to take advantage of the present inflamed international situation to divert the aggrieved people's attention from their burning problems with a heinous design to suppress people's democratic movement behind the smokescreen of combatting terrorism.

At about the same time when the moves were afoot by the Central BJP-led Government to bring about an Ordinance for combatting terrorism with draconian measures, the Left Front Government rushed ahead of the Centre to float a draft

Ordinance, Prevention of Organised Crime Ordinance (POCO), 2001. Mr Buddhadev Bhattacharya, chief minister of the State, had made it a prestige issue to wax eloquent that his government was not obliged to implement the Central Government's draconian Ordinance, POTO.

Let us now turn to the import of Chief Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharya's 'democratic POCO', drafted on the lines of a similar legislation against organized crime in Maharashtra, surpasses in its draconian facet, the Central Ordinance, POTO, in some aspects, too! As for example, special courts constituted under the law can deny bail to the accused or fend off such moves in any other court trying the same accused on a similar offence. State Government's trigger happy investigating agencies have reasons to feel comfortable with the legislation which proposes extension of time for filing chargesheets from the existing 3 months to 6 months! In justification of this Ordinance, CM Buddhadev while replying to a reporter as to how could Chunnu Mia, a mafia leader closely linked with the CPI(M) detained as a prime accused in the much-talked of kidnapping case of Partha Roy Burman of M/s Khadim Shoes, get bail, he said: "It is exactly why I want the law." (The Statesman, 2.11.01) The fact of the circumstances reveal that Mr Buddhadev Bhattacharya's police administration's failure to submit a chargesheet even within 90 days' time, resulted in two of the main accused including Chunnu Mia's release on bail. Hence Mr Buddhdev's lame excuse for this Ordinance which provides for extension of time of additional 3 months over the existing law for 3 months in addition to accommodation of right to refusal of bail petition. Clearly, it aims at detention without trial for 6 months and refusal to grant bail so long the public prosecutor has been given an opportunity to oppose the bail application. One may tempt to say, good-God! but to say the least, doesn't Mr Buddhadev's POCO looks more like an attempt to bail out his out and out sectarian, inefficient and corrupt police administration rather than combatting organized crime and terrorism at that? Besides, other provisions included in it are death penalty or life imprisonment along with a fine of Rs.1.00 lakh for organised crimes. The minimum

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# WB Govt. Questions POTO While Drafts Black POCO

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sentence is 5 years' jail and a fine of Rs.50,000. Wonder of wonders, whereas a specific sec. in Central Ordinance POTO has sanctions to pull up the erring police officers and special courts may fine the investigating office or put him behind the bar for a maximum of 2 years, if he is found guilty of framing false charges, Mr Buddhadev's POCO, on the other hand, debar victims from filing suits against such erring officers or the government, let alone providing leave by the Court for extracting compensation from police officer or the government, which, alas, found a place in the Central Ordinance, POTO!

Then again, the definition of "subversive act" is sure to provide ample scope for different

interpretations paving thereby the way to combat the political opponents of the ruling parties. "Any act which is intended, or is likely to endanger public safety and tranquility or to organise or to abet the illegal acquisition, possession or use of arms or ammunition as defined in the Arms Act, 1959, or explosive substance as defined in the Explosive Substances Act, 1908, or to commit an offence of looting or raiding or to abet the commission thereof."

Like the Central POTO, the West Bengal State Cabinet approved draft POCO also rages the debate whether POCO could be arbitrarily used against journalists/innocent persons. "Whoever conspires or attempts to commit, or advocates, abets or knowingly facilitates the commission of an organized crime or any act preparatory to organized crime, shall

be punishable ..." Never mind, it goes on: "Whoever harbours or conceals, or attempts to harbour or conceal, any member of an organized crime syndicate, shall be punishable ..." So, where lies the difference in manifestations of draconian measures in 'democratic' POCO of West Bengal Government with that of 'humane' POTO of BJP-led Government at the Centre? Doesn't Mr Buddhadev's arrogance to make us believe his pet Ordinance, POCO's immunity of inbuilt-protective mechanism compared to its counterpart of the Centre, boils down to a difference between Tweedle do and Tweedle dum? It is a misfortune for CM Mr Buddhadev Bhattacharya that his all-out efforts to hand over a draconian Ordinance to the people of the state on the eve of his completion of 'glorious achievements' in one year, could not be successful thanks to pressure in and outside the Left Front and it has been kept in abeyance for the time being. Still then, Mr Bhattacharya stuck to his guns and went on record saying that despite the clamour for changes ... in the proposed law, "I strongly feel there is a great urgency and need for such an Ordinance ..." (*The Hindusthan Times*, 12.11.01) And he is now telling that differences in Left Front and Opposition prompted him to have a debate in the Assembly as if democratically adopted Act, thanks to brute majority of the ruling parties on the floor of the Assembly, of an out and out black anti-democratic Act

would vindicate his fearless, truthful contention, ostensibly to the detriment of people's cause and interest!

As a matter of fact, both the POTO and the POCO constituted a serious violation of the right to life guaranteed under the Constitution. But more importantly, there is no dearth of legislations in the arsenal of the State — Centre and the states. As many as 93 statues are there to deal with violence and all that. Like the BJP-led Central Government, Mr Buddhadev Bhattacharya's Left Front Government, too, was trying to capitalise for introduction of draconian POCO on the aftermath of suicidal terrorist strikes in the USA and immediate provocation to cover up his government's abject failure to book the real culprits even after lapse of more than three months of abduction of Partha Roy Burman of Khadim.

While drawing a close, it has to be borne in mind that simply raising amendments here and there in enactment of laws of such draconian character cannot serve the people's cause — the right to life, civil liberty, the democratic voice of dissent including right to take arms in democratic movements in fulfilment of social objectives of the vast multitude of the exploited and socially oppressed people. It is incumbent upon all patriotic people who cherish freedom, civil liberty to realize the gravity of the situation and rise to the occasion.

## Demonstration against US Attack in Moradabad, UP

The Moradabad district committee of the party organised a sit-in demonstration before the office of the District Magistrate on 23rd October last protesting against the US imperialist attack on Afghanistan. The programme was led by Comrade Bir Singh and other leaders, namely Comrades Sheel Kumar, Vijoy Kumar, Kamallesh Kumari, Md. Aslam Hossain

addressed the demonstrators.

A memorandum addressed to the President of India sharply protesting the heinous attack of America on Afghanistan killing children, old, infirm and destroying hospitals, villages and towns, and condemning the servile role of BJP-led government in the war to appease the US was handed over to the D.M.



Anti-war demonstrations at (above) Rohtak and (below) Rewari, Haryana



## Peasant Demonstrations in Singhbhum

The All India Krishak O Khetmajoor Sangathan (AIKKMS) organised protest demonstrations at different block offices in East-Singbhum district, in the state of Jharkhand in September and October. The demonstrations demanded ration to each and every poor under the Antyoday Anna Yojana scheme, round the year, job for the agricultural labourers, waiving agricultural loans, drinking water, electricity, roads, doctors and necessary medicine at health centres, withdrawal of railway fare hike, etc. The demonstrators also demanded punishment to the police officers guilty of firing on peaceful demonstrators in Kaharia in West Singhbhum on 18th July, 2001, who were building up movements on above demands. On 27 September, AIKKMS Jharkhand State Secretary, Comrades Sitaram Tudu, Rudra Das, Sarala Mahato, Abhay Das, Putu Singh and Haraprosad

Singh Solanki led the demonstration before Dhalbhumgar block office.

On the same day another demonstration was held at Dumuria block office led by Comrades Lulu Soy, Anadi Panda, Ratan Madi and Dipak Kumar Panda.

On 5th October, a protest march was held at Patka. Men and women from inaccessible jungle and mountainous region participated in it. The march was led by Comrades Dhiren Bhakat, Sanka Mahato, Sunil Mahato, Biswajit Sardar and Raghu Sardar. Comrade Bishnupada Mahato presented revolutionary songs. Comrade Bimal Das Secretary AIKKMS Singhbhum addressed the demonstrations both at Dumuria and Patka block.

On 15 October the demonstration at Chakulia block was led by Comrade Sarala Mahato, Dhanaram Suren, Niluram Madi, Joy Singh Saren, Jaleswar Majhi and Ganesh Hansda.

# Besides Interest in Central Asian Oil and Narcotic Trade US Has Geo-strategic Interest in Afghanistan

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focussing on Afghanistan, it, at the same time, is considering the opening up of a second front in Iraq. Some remarks by spokesperson of the Bush administration show how the ground is firming up for a wider war, i.e., for attacking Iraq.

The US does not have any evidence of Iraqi involvement in the threat of Anthrax attack. But there are murmurs in the circle of Bush administration linking Iraq with the Anthrax threat. This move is deliberate. Firstly, the US has long been experimenting with biological warfare. And so to get public sanction to start biological warfare the US is purposefully spreading the Anthrax hoax. Secondly, the Anthrax threat will give an alibi to the US to attack Iraq. The US is well aware of the present mood of the Arab world and knows that any move against Iraq would be opposed by the Muslim countries. So while the US imperialists are trying to win over the rulers of these countries, they are at the same time trying to link Iraq with this so-called Anthrax threat.

While after every major war people hoped for peace prevailing in the world, this hope has again and again been proved to be an illusion that human being lived with. The root cause of war is capitalism-imperialism. The Leninist theory that imperialism generates war is proved again and again. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the Founder General Secretary of our party and great leader of the proletariat, showed that the possibility of preserving peace and the danger of outbreak of war were both equally real in the post-Second World War situation when there existed a mighty socialist camp. Later, our party has come to the conclusion after thoroughly analyzing the changed international situation at the Cuttack Plenum in 1994 that with the disintegration of the Socialist Camp the forces of war, reaction and counter-revolution have now become stronger than the forces of peace, progress and socialism and so the balance of power has definitely tilted in favour of the danger of war. The correctness of this conclusion of our party has now been proved to the hilt.

While the war in Afghanistan is ravaging, the US imperialists are trying to foist a government of their choice after the eventual fall of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. For that purpose, the UN which is a naked servitor of the US-interests, has come forward with "six plus

two" formula, i.e., a government acceptable to the six neighbouring countries of Afghanistan plus the USA and the Russia. Some of these contenders do not want to hand over power to the Northern Alliance which is in control of northern part of Afghanistan. Pakistan is straining every nerve to retain some influence over the post-Taliban Government in Afghanistan. For that reason, Musharaff has invented good Taliban, meaning moderate ones and bad Taliban and is pleading for inclusion of the moderate Taliban in the new government. Pakistan is totally opposed to the Northern Alliance supported by Iran and Russia. The US is also somewhat apprehensive about the Northern Alliance since it might run riot in Kabul and then it may be difficult to control them. So while Ronald Rumsfeld, the US Defence Secretary, is trying to re-assure the Northern Alliance of the US support, General Colin Powell, the US Secretary of State is desperately trying to impress Pakistan that its interests would be looked into. Pakistan will try to fully exploit its new status as a frontline state against terrorism by getting the support of the US in installing a government favourably disposed to Pakistan. India also has a vital stake in Afghanistan. The central Asian region has vast oil resources and India can immensely benefit if this oil resources can be commercially exploited through land route of Afghanistan and Iran. A friendly government in Afghanistan can ensure that, besides resuming Indian trade with Afghanistan, which has been totally stopped after the Taliban came into power. So India virulently reacted to the idea of good Taliban. India wants that the Government in Afghanistan will, at best, be a neutral one if not openly supportive of Indian interests.

Russia has also a major stake in Afghanistan. Russia is fighting the Islamic fundamentalists in Chechniya and so wants that Afghanistan must be clear of all Jihadi groups. But at the same time, Russia does not want a strongly pro-US regime at its underbelly. The US control over the oil resources of central Asia which was part of the former Soviet Union, will seriously undermine the Russian interests. So Russia is resisting foisting of a pro-US regime in Afghanistan.

The US imperialists have on the other hand their own larger geo-strategic interests in the region. By installing a puppet government in

Afghanistan, the US imperialists can destabilise Russia and China. The US can spread its influence over the central Asian republics both for their abundant oil reserves and lucrative narcotic trade, and also for ensuring that they do not get too close either to Russia or to China. It is because of this reason the US is wary of the Northern Alliance which is supported by Iran and Russia. So the US does not want to let the Northern Alliance come to Kabul before this arrangement of a puppet government is complete. So while the US is keeping the Northern Alliance in good humour with token support, the necessary military support is kept elusive till the last moment.

It is to be noted that the tussle between these countries is for control over market. So these imperialist countries are riding roughshod over the question of sovereignty of Afghanistan. Afghanistan is a sovereign state and the people of Afghanistan must have the ultimate say in the formation of a government there. But the imperialists headed by the US imperialists are muzzling the voice of the people everywhere through application of brute force.

The US has declared crusade against Islamic fundamentalism, against Muslim terrorist organizations. Again, the Taliban and Osama bin Laden have called for Jihad against the USA. It is to be noted that the USA itself encouraged, nurtured, funded and armed the Islamic fundamentalists from country to country for a long time. Pan-Arabism or Arab nationalism was sweeping throughout the Arab world in the Fifties and there was spreading the idea of communism among the youths and working masses. This dismayed the imperialists and met them panicky about the growth of militant working class movement there. Their control over oil resources in the Middle East will be in jeopardy then. It is for this reason that Islamic fundamentalism was nurtured, aided and abetted by the imperialists to nip in the bud, that possibility so that oil riches of the Middle East can be totally controlled by the US imperialists and anti-imperialist movement emasculated. Osama bin Laden is a creation of the US imperialists to the Soviet Union which intervened in Afghanistan during counter revolution there. Osama amassed huge wealth during that period. Besides, there is flourishing arms trade in the Middle East. The terrorist organisations

amassed huge money to buy up advanced and sophisticated arms from the arms traders. The major source of money has been narcotic trade. Huge areas have been put to narcotic plant cultivation in these countries including Afghanistan and Pakistan with the backing and funding by the CIA.

On the other hand, the ruling oligarchies of the countries of the Middle East have all along encouraged Islamic fundamentalist terrorist organisations to make use of them against popular discontent in order to secure their oppressive rule.

Today there is growing discontent against imperialism on one hand and against the oppressive oligarchical rule by the local rulers on the other in the Arab world. In this context, President Bush's call for crusade and the present Islamic fundamentalist call for Jihad will serve to channelise these mass discontent along wrong tracks. It is to be noted that the US attack on Afghanistan is directly responsible for the present boost to Islamic fundamentalism from country to country. The call of crusade on one hand and the call of Jihad on the other are working toward generating fratricidal blood bath between the countries. The boost to the fundamentalist forces has endangered the Left and progressive forces not only inside Pakistan and Afghanistan but in many other countries. The boost to fundamentalism will ultimately help the imperialists by creating disunity among the people thus derailing growing anti-imperialist movement throughout the world.

Again, the Bush administration has been bolstered with enormous powers after the 11th September incident to further curtail the democratic rights of the US people. Just after the 11th September incident a draconian measure was taken by the US curtailing the democratic rights of the citizens. On 26th October, President Bush signed a bill empowering the administration with unprecedented authority to monitor phone calls, e-mail and internet traffic. These are direct onslaughts on the civil liberties of the US people. It is further declared that President Bush had signed a special order for the CIA. Leading US Senators said, the order effectively repealed America's 25-year old ban on government sponsored assassinations. This is state terrorism. It is the worst form of terrorism and no terrorism can be

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# Collusion of BJP-led Government with US Imperialists

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comparable to that. It is the first time the CIA has considered covert killings since the 1970's when the agency abandoned the tactic after a series of assassination scandals and the subsequent Presidential directives reining in the CIA. Mr Joseph Lieberman, the Connecticut Senator and former Vice-Presidential candidate said, President Bush's new order to the CIA had effectively repealed the previous executive order banning political assassinations that President Ford signed in 1976 after the agency run amok, plotting the murder of about eight foreign leaders including Cuba's Fidel Castro and Congo's Patrice Lumumba. There is an unwritten censorship over the media in the US and other imperialist countries. Tony Blair, the British Prime minister recently met the media executives and asked them not to publish any news prejudicial to the national interest. When a reporter threw a query on the question of investigative journalism for unveiling truth, he was silenced with the word that truth and national interest are to be reconciled! An emergency has been declared in Britain. The entire imperialist controlled media are projecting the US attack against Afghanistan as a clash of two civilizations, a clash between the Western world and Islam. So while the activities of the Islamic fundamentalists are highlighted, the anti-war movements in the US and other western

countries and all over the world are practically blacked out. The purpose is to wedge a rift among the people with the ulterior motive of emasculating the anti-imperialist movement.

The BJP led government in India too is very prompt to take full advantage of the situation created after the 11th September events. The government promulgated a draconian Ordinance, Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance (POTO) which stipulates more stringent measures than those in the TADA. Past experience tells us that all anti-democratic draconian Acts and Ordinances had always been used to crush democratic movements and so there is no doubt that the POTO would also be used for crushing democratic mass movements against the exploiting rule of the capitalist class. Further the BJP-led government has banned SIMI, a Muslim Students Organisation at this juncture to create and intensify communal tension in the country. The BJP-led government is also in collusion with the US imperialists in their most unjustified attack against Afghanistan. On the day of the terrorist attack in the US, the BJP-led Government offered to the US imperialists the use of Indian territory and Indian air bases for attacking Afghanistan and also Pakistan which were, according to the expectation of the BJP leaders were the targets of the US attack. But Pakistan promptly withdrew support to the Taliban and

checkmated the Indian move by its allout support to the US. But despite this initial setback, the BJP-led government is extending support to the US imperialists in their war against Afghanistan. Japan which is in league with the US imperialists in this war sent war planes to Calcutta for refuelling before flying to Pakistan. The O'Brien, the US warship, has berthed at Chennai port for necessary services before going to the Arab sea to join the war efforts in Afghanistan. Reports indicate that after Vajpayee's recent talk with Bush in Washington, a further strengthening of military collaboration is on card. Thus, the BJP led government is nakedly supporting the US imperialists by riding roughshod over the glorious anti-imperialist tradition of the Indian people.

On 7th October, the day when the US imperialists launched attack against Afghanistan, our party organised anti-war protest demonstrations all over India. In Calcutta our party organised demonstration before the American Centre. It is indeed a pity that repeated call by our party for launching united anti-imperialist movement had not got any response from the big left parties like the CPI(M). The CPI(M), too, did not take any initiative for a united anti-imperialist movement. The CPI(M) organised at a later date an anti-war march in Calcutta by avoiding the American Centre. This is merely as how to

hoodwink the people for petty parliamentsry interest. The CPI(M) is not at all interested to seriously develop an anti-war movement. Incidentally it may be mentioned that the CPI(M) led government in West Bengal opposing POTO is going to pass a similar Act named Prevention of Organised Crime Act at the next assembly session.

The world is, at present, passing through a very critical situation. The imperialists headed by the US imperialists have gone berserk. Imperialism today is the greatest danger to mankind and civilisation. All peace loving, democratic minded and saner section of the people of the world can not but be seriously concerned at the menacing threat posed by imperialism headed by US imperialism. The imperialist menace has posed a serious threat to the existence of the left and democratic forces and also to the democratic mass movement. It is also promoting communal divide to break the unity of the people against imperialism. At this critical juncture the need of the hour is to mobilise all the peace loving people, all sections of the toiling masses, left groups and individuals in a militant peace movement throughout the world conducive to the growth of revolutionary struggle. The growth of powerful and militant peace movement alone can thwart the imperialist war design and save mankind and civilisation.

## AIMSS Organises Zonal Camp of Southern States

The Southern States' Zonal Camp of the lady comrades of the party was organised at Janapadaloka, Ramanagaram Taluk, Bangalore District from October 5-7, 2001. Women comrades of the party working in different frontal organisations like AIMSS, AIDSO,

and AIDYO participated in the camp. Nearly 150 delegates from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu were present. The three-day camp, was conducted by Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, member, Central Committee. The All India President of the AIMSS

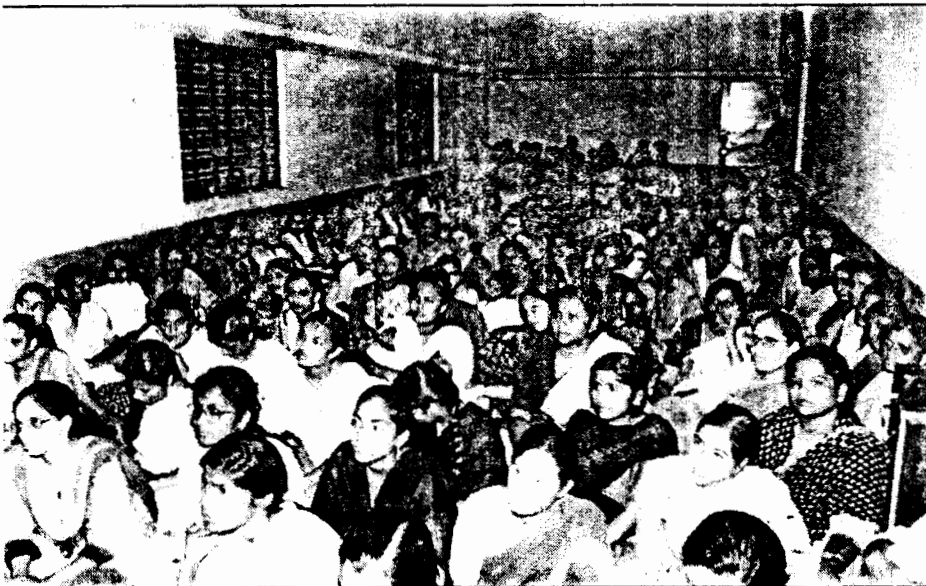
Comrade Protiva Mukherjee and General Secretary Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee were also present and addressed various sessions. Comrade H.G. Jayalakhsmi and Comrade G. Lalitha, Secretariat members of the All India Committee, AIMSS, were also present.

Based on the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat, Comrade Krishna Chakraborty dealt in detail the historical reasons responsible for the subjugation of women and the correct and scientific method of fighting it. He said, "At both national and international level the reactionary forces are growing. Women of our country today on the one hand are not free from the patriarchal oppression and domination and on the other are victims of the degenerating, exploitative capitalist system. Globally, when capitalism-imperialism is reactionary, Indian situation can be no better.

The slogans like equality,

fraternity, women emancipation onced raised are utterly disregarded. The new slogan of the ruling BJP government to the women is 'go back to the kitchen'. The task of the revolutionary women of our country at this juncture is even more urgent, serious and critical. When the 50% of the population are women, they cannot but be the part of a very great social movement to put an end to all sorts of social injustice – economic, political, cultural, etc. Therefore, the women revolutionaries are to realise three important aspects of this struggle. They are (1) the historical and scientific reasons for the subjugation of women lies in the emergence of private property. Therefore, the struggle of ultimate emancipation of women lies in the establishment of the social ownership over all means of production and not fighting for certain equal rights alone, (2) merely equipped with the correct ideology a social change cannot be

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A section of the audience at the Zonal Camp of southern states

## Education Convention in Karnataka

The Karnataka State Unit of the All India Save Education Committee (AISEC) held an education convention on 13th and 14th October. A protest march was also held on 13th October against commercialization of education, distortion of history, introduction of Astrology and Palmistry in Universities. The march from Bannappa Park culminated in the Open Session at ADA Rangamandira. Around two thousand students from different parts of the State — Gulbarga, Bellary, Raichur, Dharwad, Davanagere, Mysore, Tumkur, Bangalore, Mangalore etc., — participated in the colourful procession which was led by Sri H.S. Doreswamy, veteran freedom fighter, Sri Dipankar Roy, All India General Secretary, AISEC, Dr. G., Ramakrishna, leader of teachers' movement, Prof. J. S. Patil, Vice-President, Karnataka, AISEC, Dr. Somashekharappa, member, State AISEC, Smt. K. Uma, Secretary, State AISEC.

Inaugurating the Open Session, Dr. G. Ramakrishna decried the fact that 'education' had to be 'saved' when it should have been 'nourished and developed'. Coming down heavily on the attempts to saffronise education through distortion of history and attempts at reinterpretation of history — with particular reference to the construction of evidence for the Saraswathi river and of Aryans in India he added that the introduction of Astrology and Karmakanda in the universities destroys the very scientific foundation of our education

system in our country. He called upon the gathering to pledge to save, develop and help the blossoming of real education.

Sri Dipankar Roy, General Secretary, AISEC, who was the Chief Guest recalled the teachings of great men and said that 'Education which should have been a man-making, character building process' was denied to a large section of the populace due to anti-education attitude of the government. He condemned the government's move to commercialize education through self financing courses. He also expressed concern over the central government's attempt to foist communal, religious and obscurantist education over us. Let us not make the mistake that Germany made. This is a struggle to make men of ourselves and free our reason from blindness, superstition, fanaticism", he concluded.

Prof. J.S. Patil, Gulbarga University, spoke about the commercialization of education and the need to resist attempts of government interference in the functioning of universities.

Smt. K. Uma, Secretary, Karnataka State AISEC, shared the experience and growth of the save education movement from the 1980s and remarked that the movement had gained in strength in all universities and more and more educationists, scientists, professors, teachers, students and education-loving people were coming forward to strengthen it.

Sri H.S. Doreswamy who presided over the occasion criticised the various governments which had played a role in damaging the cause of education. Lamenting that



A section of gathering at the Save Education Convention in Bangalore

education had been converted into 'job' earning degree', he called upon the need to free it from the tentacles of vested interests. Condemning the distortion of history in school textbooks he said that there was no dearth of education-loving people without self-interest who could formulate education policies. He called upon the people to resist the government's education policies.

Prof. Sudhakaran, (Ex-JDCE, Kerala) also spoke.

Messages extending support to the Convention were received from Prof. U. R. Rao, Prof. S. Ramaseshan, Prof. Nadkarni (Vice-Chancellor, Gulbarga University) and Dr. B. C. Ramachandra Sharma, Prof. J.R. Laxman Rao and Prof. M.A. Sethu Rao. The Delegate Session was held at Senate Hall, Bangalore on 14th October 2001.

The session was opened by Smt. K. Uma, the Secretary of AISEC, Karnataka State unit and attended by hundreds of students, teachers and parents. The following distinguished personalities addressed.

Sri H.S. Doreswamy, Adviser to

AISEC and a veteran freedom fighter; Prof. M. Savadatti, former V.C. of Mangalore University; Prof. D.P. Sen Gupta, Professor Emeritus; Prof. Alladi Sitaram, Professor of Mathematics and Statistics, Indian Statistical Institute; Prof. Joseph Samuel, Scientist, Raman Research Institute; Prof. Narendra Naik, Assistant Professor, K.M.C., Mangalore; Prof. Dhruvajyoti Mukherjee, Koltaka University; Dr. Ambrose Pinto, Principal, St. Joseph Evening College; Dr. S. Balachandra Rao, Principal, National College; Dr. Madan Rao, Scientist, Raman Research Institute; and Shri Shaikat Ali M. Torgal, Principal of Anjuman College, Dharwad.

The speakers decried the destructive effect of the education policies, and dwelling on different aspects of the role of education in their inspiring speeches, they stressed the need to uphold the noble concepts of scientific and secular education.

The concluding address was delivered by the All India General Secretary of the AISEC, Sri Dipankar Roy.

## RTC Employees' Victorious 24-Day Strike in AP

On 14th night of October 2001, the Joint Action Committee (JAC) consisting of employee's union (recognized), National Mazdoor Union, Employees' and Workers' Federation etc., had given an indefinite strike call on the following main demands :

1. Reduction of Motor Vehicle Tax for the RTC (Road Transport Corporation) buses.
2. Full reimbursement of the concessions extended to various sections of the commuters.
3. Effective control of illicit operations.
4. Revision of the pay scales and allowances and improvement of service conditions of employees.

The state government had rejected the demands saying that the Corporation is facing a critical financial situation. The government claimed that the RTC has been incurring a loss of Rs. 600 crore per

annum and the occupancy ratio has fallen by 30%. The JAC argued that the RTC is incurring losses solely because of the wrong policies pursued by the government. Allowing illicit operations of the private buses indiscriminately was one of the main causes for the losses. 15% motor vehicle tax for RTC buses was the highest in the whole country where as the private buses had to pay only 7%. This is highly discriminatory and speaks of the plans of the government to slowly push the RTC into losses and privatize the RTC. For the first time the employees have raised their strong voice against privatization of RTC and exposed the policy of the government before the people.

Nine left parties i.e., SUCI, CPI, CPI(M), MCPI, CPI(ML-ND), CPI(ML-UNITY INITIATIVE), CPI(ML-JANASAKTI), CPI(ML-

LIBERATION) AND ML COMMITTEE have not only extended their full support to these just demands of the striking employees but also organized Dharnas, Rasta Rokos, picketing throughout the state. Our party SUCI played its due role in all these programmes. Many of our comrades were arrested and police booked cases on some of them. The police resorted to arrests and lathi charge injuring many of the activists of the RTC. The government tried to intimidate the workers through such repressive measures.

Almost all the trade unions and different mass organizations have extended their full support to the movement. The trade Unions ultimately gave a call for general strike on 8th November in support of the striking RTC employees. The nine left parties, Congress(I), TRS and

many other parties and organizations gave call for a state level bundh on the same day.

Finally the government had to come down accepting the demands to a great extent. Motor Vehicle Tax has been reduced from 15 to 12.5% in rural areas and to 10% in the urban areas. A high power committee has been constituted to curb the illicit operation of the private buses. A sum of Rs. 125 crores has been allotted towards the pay revision. With this the strike and bundh were called off at mid night of 7th November.

The nine left parties congratulated the RTC workers for showing their unity and determination in spite of the threats and intimidations by the government. The common people were also thanked for sympathizing with the employees though they had to face hardship due to lack of buses during the 24 days strike period.

## 84th Anniversary of the Great November Revolution Observed

84th anniversary of the Great November Revolution was observed in a solemn and befitting manner under the auspices of the Kerala State Committee of the party. On 7th November a state level public meeting was organised at Thirunakkara Maidan, Kottayam. It was preceded by a colourful and spirited demonstration in the town holding aloft the portraits of Lenin and Stalin along with red flags.

The meeting was presided over by Comrade Jaison Joseph, Secretary, Kottayam District Committee of the party. Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, member, Central Committee of the party, was the main speaker. Comrade C. K. Lukose, Secretary, Kerala State Committee, also spoke. Then a resolution condemning the Central BJP government's undemocratic act of promulgating 'POTO' which further curtails the hard earned democratic rights of the people was adopted.

Comrade Krishna Chakraborty in his inspiring speech paid tribute to Great Lenin, the architect of November Revolution and Comrade Stalin, the worthy disciple of Lenin, who consolidated the proletarian state established through the Revolution as the citadel of world revolution, progress and peace. Stalin, following the teachings of Marxism-Leninism, proved how socialism alone can free man from the exploitation of man, bring forth all round advancement of the society by opening the gate of unbridled development of social production. It is an undeniable fact of history that the victory of Soviet forces in the Second World War created a very favourable international situation for the success of national liberation struggles and proletarian revolutionary movements throughout the

world. The world socialist peace camp headed by the mighty Soviet Union was objectively in a position to impose peace upon the imperialist warmongers. Now, after the dismantling of socialist camp due to the treachery of revisionists from within aided by all the reactionaries of the world the international situation has changed significantly. Forces of peace have been weakened and those of war and reaction have temporarily gained an upper hand.

Imperialists headed by U.S. Imperialism, the arch enemy of mankind, are unleashing war against the common people in different parts of the globe, the latest being Afghanistan. The present situation again proves beyond doubt that the only path for emancipation and progress of society is the path shown by the great November Revolution, Comrade Chakraborty said. For the toiling people the task is to fight the imperialist designs of the globalization and war at the same time. So worldwide militant peace movement is the need of the hour. Comrade Krishna Chakraborty concluded his speech calling upon the people to strengthen SUCI, which alone is trying to fulfill this historic task from the revolutionary proletarian standpoint in our country.

Comrade C. K. Lukose, in his speech, said that the process of globalization is a war waged by the capitalists-imperialists against the common people of the whole world. He cited the increasing cases of farmers' suicide in Kerala also as the case in other states of the country due to the impact of globalization policies of the central and state governments. He called upon the people to get united in people's struggle committees to resist these onslaughts.

## Demonstration at Naugan, Orissa

More than a hundred youth and farmers organised under SUCI Naugan Block Unit of Jagatsinghpur district in Orissa staged a demonstration in front of Naugan Block Office on September 28, last, demanding immediate withdrawal of 2.5 fold water cess hike etc. The demonstrators also demanded the implementation of measures for permanent solution of flood, cyclone and drought problems,

reconstruction of roads, reconnection of electricity to each and every village, irrigation facilities, job to all labourers and to return the amount which banks kept from the beneficiaries of Indira Awas Yojana. Comrade Udhav Jena, member, SUCI Orissa State Committee explained the problems and situation. He stressed on organising mass movements for the solution. Finally a delegation met the BDO.

## School of Politics of Orissa

A three-day school of politics of the party members of the Mayurbhanj and Sundergar districts of Orissa was held from 30th September to 2nd October 2001 at the Study Centre of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought at Ghatsila. The School was conducted by Comrade Tapas Dutta, Secretary, Orissa State Committee and member, Central Committee, SUCI. Comrades from Salania and Manoharpur of Keonjhar district and Chandaneswar of Balasore district also attended the school. Discussions were held on the present international and national situation, particularly in the backdrop of the dismantling of socialism in USSR and some of the East European countries, the strategy and tactics of the Indian revolution, the communist party organisation, the struggle and

the process of building of SUCI as the only genuine communist party on the Indian soil under the leadership of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the responsibilities of the activists to strengthen the party and the mass organisations and the struggle to build up revolutionary communist character.

Party's State Committee members Comrades Sk. Quasim, Bishnu Das, Shambhunath Naik, Dhurjati Das, Shankar Dasgupta and Chhabi Mohanty were present in the school. Physical training was also imparted to the comrades. The school was inaugurated through hoisting of the Red Flag and garlanding the statue of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh followed by guard of honour to the great leader of the proletariat.

## Zonal Camp of Southern States

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brought about. A powerful organisation of women should be built up from the grassroots level, (3) the organisation should constantly strive to build up powerful mass movement involving all sections of women against growing atrocities and on their day-to-day problems. But to realise all these important aspects, the revolutionary women have to conduct a severe struggle both within and outside. The oppressive, patriarchal society does not allow women to take part in the social movement. But to fight against all these problems women are to acquire knowledge and free themselves from various prejudices and old culture which prevent them from fighting side by side with the men. To organise the vast majority of women, our comrades are to develop speedily. This is the need of the hour."

Based on the discussion of Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, intense discussions were conducted on 6.10.2001 by Comrades Protiva Mukherjee and Chhaya Mukherjee in different groups.

On the final day comrades from different states shared their opinions and all expressed their desire to intensify the struggle both individually and collectively and strengthen the AIMSS.

In the concluding session Comrade Protiva Mukherjee and Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee called upon the comrades to go to vast sections of women – working women, housewives, students and peasants – and organise them against their burning problems, issue mass membership and in this process strengthen the AIMSS.

The camp started with Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and ended with the *Internationale*.

## Victorious Movement at Bellary

The people of Kolar and D. Kaggal villages of Bellary (Tq) organised a Road Blockade Movement under the banner of AIDYO and RKS on 19.10.2001 on demands of repairing the village roads, their electrification and improvement of the poor condition of the primary health centres, etc.

The blockade started at 9 a.m. and the people of Kolar and D. Kaggal gathered in thousands bringing the traffic to a standstill for hours. Comrade A. Ramanjanappa, State Secretary, AIDYO and State Committee member of the RKS, addressed the demonstrators.

After three hours of blockade the government officials arrived at the spot, received the memorandum and promised to appoint teachers and doctors and also to start repairing the roads within 15 days as well as to grant Rs.30 lakh for road repair works for Kaggal village and construct a ladies' toilet at Kaggal.

AIDYO district president, Comrade A. Devasas, Secretary Comrade M. Basavaraj and District Committee member Comrade A. Pompapathi, and RKS office bearers Shri A. Hanumanthappa and Shri Rudrappa appealed to the people to build up powerful mass movements in future.

**RE-INDUCTION OF TAINTED MINISTER****BJP creates shameful precedent**

The re-instating of George Fernandes as defence minister has come a bare 7 months after he had to quit for his involvement in defence deal corruption, following the Tehelka expose. At a time when all eyes have been riveted on the US-led war attack on Afghanistan in the aftermath of 11 September terrorist attack, and on related issues, the BJP-led NDA government chose the opportunity to re-induct him in mid-October without his having been exonerated from the charges of corruption. Not to speak of being exonerated by the Tehelka probe panel, the fact is, according to press reports, that NDA leaders fear that Fernandes may not emerge clean and hence the BJP-led government is thinking about scrapping the enquiry altogether, be it by refusing to grant the Venkataswamy Commission another extension, or in any other way. (*The Statesman*, Oct. 25) By acting in such a brazen, criminal manner, the BJP government has created a new precedent with ominous portends. Such an incident is

simply unthinkable in a country with even a modicum of democratic rule and norms left, or minimum political integrity, and no words are strong enough to condemn this shameful incidence. It goes once more to expose the despicable corrupt and ugly fascist face of BJP that always vaunts its so-called value-based politics in saffron garb and its nationalism.

It may be recalled, in this context, that the Tehelka staff, posing as night vision binoculars suppliers, secretly recorded on video cameras politicians, bureaucrats and army officers in the process of freely accepting bribes or discussing about receiving bribes in exchange for helping to forward the offer so that the 'deal' could be clinched. Though the bribes paid by Tehelka staff involved just a few lakhs — yet from the recorded conversations the horrifying fact was revealed that crores of rupees exchange hands as commission or bribe in granting defence contracts as a matter of course.

On March 15 George Fernandes

and Jaya Jaitley had to quit. Bangaru Laxman who admitted that he had accepted bribe money had to resign as BJP president. Now he has got a parliamentary committee post, and BJP leaders don't rule out his rehabilitation as a senior organizational leader. Mamata Banerjee, whose name also featured in the Tehelka tapes, at that time immediately resigned as union railway minister in 'protest' against government inaction against such corruption. That was, to be sure, right before the Assembly elections in W. Bengal. But after her party's election debacle it was just a matter of time before she returned to the NDA fold. She may reportedly be again re-instated as railway minister in return for her support for Poto, even though its provisions are even worse than Tada against which she had all along voiced her vehement opposition. And this is the leader who is always trying to pose as the champion of people's interests! And now after Fernandes' re-induction where is her outcry against corruption?

It has also come in the press that George Fernandes was able to "convince" the Prime Minister of his innocence — the same Prime Minister whose PMO, including his son-in-law, have been implicated in corruption too. It is not for nothing that India has been rated as one of the most corrupt countries in the world, according to a booklet recently published by the Central Vigilance Commission, that is based on a survey conducted by (Berlin based) Transparency International. The sheer scale of opportunism and criminal corruption of BJP which not only poses before the people as if it valued clean politics but is forever raising the cry of national pride, is really wind logging and no words are strong enough to condemn such criminal conduct.

Is this how BJP is upholding our national pride, our national interest? Do not these actions make democratic and saner people hang their head in shame? How is BJP defending national interest? Whose interest, anyway? The interest of those keen to fill their pockets with ill-begotten money or the interest of the people at large who make up the country? It is for the people to judge!

**US Imperialists Hands off Afghanistan****Tamil Nadu**

The Tamil Nadu State Organising Committee of the SUCI demonstrated against the US-UK war attack on Afghanistan. A large number of demonstrators gathered near the Valluvarkottam today morning with their banners and placards, raising anti-imperialist slogans denouncing the attack carried out defying world public opinion.

S. Narayanasamy, member of the Tamilnadu State Organising Committee of the SUCI, strongly

condemned the barbarous incessant and mindless bombing of Afghanistan since midnight of October 7 by the USA and UK governments. He said that this act of state terrorism displayed a total and callous lack of concern of human lives. He also condemned the role of the allies of the USA who have lent support to this naked aggression on Afghanistan, violating all international norms, practices and convention.

He said that the US government is

the world's biggest terrorist organisation. It had a long bloody history of fomenting state terrorism, not only against people of other countries, but also against its own citizens, and had no moral right to point the finger of terrorism to others.

He said that President Bush's declared objective that the present war was to destroy Bin Laden's terrorist bases and the Taliban's military capabilities was a lie. The real aim of the USA is to install a political regime in Afghanistan that will enable US imperialism to establish control over oil-rich and strategic Central Asia.

He said that the SUCI demands the US and UK governments to immediately stop military action and desist from military or political interference in Afghanistan and the Central Asian region.

He severely criticised the highly deplorable role of the Indian Government in assuring all sorts of helps to the US war design, shamelessly, without caring the least for the anti-imperialist tradition of the Indian people. He said that its gratuitous offer of support to the US was an attempt to deny Pakistan the role of US ally in the conflict and for India to take over that role.

The SUCI demands of the Indian government to oppose the US-UK military action on Afghanistan and withdraw all support given to it.

The SUCI calls on the peace-loving, anti-imperialist citizens of India to protest against this unjust, predatory war through organised peace movements.

**Karnataka Bellary**

On the 8th October 2001 a protest demonstration was organised by SUCI Bellary District Committee against US bomb attacks on Afghanistan. It was attended by hundreds of people and supporters in which effigy of American President George W. Bush was burnt at Royal Circle, Bellary.

The gathering was addressed by Comrade K. Somashekar, District Secretary, SUCI. Comrade A. Ramanjinappa, SUCI Bellary District Committee member also addressed the gathering.

**Haryana Rewari**

A protest demonstration against the barbarous attack on Afghanistan by the US and British imperialists was organised by the Rewari District Committee of the Party on 23rd of October last. The demonstration was led by Comrade Bijoy Kumar, District Secretary of the Party. Com. Kumar and also Com. Ramesh Chanda, member of the District Committee addressed the demonstrators, explaining the rural imperialist motive of the US and British aggressors in attacking Afghanistan and strongly condemned the wanton killing of the innocent Afghan people days in and days out

**Eminent Artists Draw Paintings against War**

Many Eminent artists drew paintings at Layam ground Tripunithura, Ernakulam District Kerala against imperialist war. The programme was organised by Anti-Imperialist Forum Ernakulam District Chapter and All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO) which was inaugurated by Vijayakumar Menon, a well known Historian and Critique of paintings. Students of various Colleges and Institutions expressed their opinion about war in their paintings. Renowned artists Sri. C.N. Karunakaran, Sri. T. Kaladharan, Sri. R. Parthasaradhy Varma, Sri. Sidharthan, Sri. Nandan, and Sri. G. Prathapan led the programme.

In the evening an Anti-War meeting was held and it was inaugurated by Sri. M.V. Devan, the famous artist and social activist. He told "U.S. War machination and the terrorism, which they created by dubious means, is the main threat to the peace loving people of the world. We oppose both social evils. All of us stand for life. No literature or art stand by the side of War and Death — Mr. Devan told.

Prominent Trade Union Leader Sri. S.C.S. Menon, the senior Advocate of Kerala High Court, Sri. P. Balagamgadhara Menon, Prof. Vincent Maliyekkal, Abraham Puthussery, Capt. Kerala Varma, K.P. Saidalavi, T.K. Sudheer Kumar, K. Indira, K.K.S. Ponnuranni, Adv. Panjimala Balakrishnan, J.M. Sait, K.K. Suresh, K.S. Harikumar, K.O. Sudheer and K.K. Shoba spoke at the occasion. Com. N.R. Mohankumar, Convenor, Anti Imperialist Forum Ernakulam District Chapter presided over the meeting.