

# Proletarian Era

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## ON DEVELOPMENTS IN KARGIL

That the recent situation in Kargil sector and adjoining areas has its roots in what is known as the "Kashmir Problem" is beyond any doubt. Our party scientifically analysed and showed long ago how this critical question should be viewed keeping in mind the interest of the toiling millions both of India and Pakistan. We stated categorically that Kashmir is an integral part of India, and unequivocally declared our firm resolve to fight against all imperialist and other foreign intrigues and interference and against all fissiparous forces fishing in the troubled water. At the same time, we urged for sincere attempts for the earliest possible peaceful negotiated settlement of this sensitive issue by both sides. Regrettably, however, the issue has been allowed to linger on for too long by interested circles on both sides and tension mounted more than once on the border to serve their sectarian interests.

Such tensions and "limited conflicts" took place in Indo-Pak border in 1947, 1965 and 1971, although in varying scales. None grew into full-scale war and each, in time, gave way to usual diplomatic manoeuvres. Did anything different happen in Kargil this time? According to the government statements, 600-800 "infiltrators" aided by "few" Pakistani Army regulars crossed into Indian territory at Kargil, with powerful weapons, and occupied "outposts" belonging to India. It was a matter of time for the Indian Army, far more powerful than the Pakistani Army, to drive these "infiltrators" out of Indian territory.

As the *Frontline* (5-16 June '99) writes "What is special about the Kargil crisis? Such cross-border forays have been routine for years, as are exchanges of heavy artillery fire. ... What is new about the present case is the large number of guerrillas crossing the border and establishing relatively well-equipped camps. ... Apparently, the Army's routine operations failed to dislodge the militants." It was thus a question of numerical superiority of the Indian Army. Secondly, it was to take time because of the high-altitude terrain occupied already by the "infiltrators". This was the position.

However, contradictory statements from senior ministers, issuing of statement one day and its denial on the other repeatedly and on sensitive issues by the defence minister and even the prime minister have made this clear picture complicated and confused.

For example, conflicting accounts of "when"

and "how" exactly the intruders infiltrated into Kargil. Again, is it not equally surprising that the government, the Army and the RAW should give different versions on when the infiltrators were first "sighted"? The number of Pakistani casualties are also varying. Put at 400 earlier, it was described as 221 only very recently. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika* (10 June '99) asked ironically: how can government give such an accurate estimate while it itself had earlier elaborated on the difficulty of accurate targeting in the icy and near-impassable terrains? And if the government got the figure by "intercepting" enemy communications, as it claimed, why did we not hear about it earlier? Similarly it is difficult to realise why should the government be totally silent about the so-called "intelligence failure" of the Army. Given the fact that it is already an open secret, it would have been wiser if the government had faced the question categorically. That would have given the people a more definite picture. Its absence can be interpreted in either way. The question would naturally arise about the competence of the military intelligence and of the Army itself, which is being maintained at such great costs for the country's "defence", even while the common people of the country remain half-fed and half-clad. What rationale remains for investing thousands of crores in the defence budget and increasing it every year — if the talk of the failure is indeed true? This question cannot be answered with silence and yet the government's firmness and control over the situation be taken for granted. It was not only desirable but a

### SUCI Attends Anti-Imperialist Programmes in Europe

Under the auspices of Alliance against NATO war against Yugoslavia, formed by different political parties and anti-imperialist organisations in Germany a meeting was held at the Hanover University Hall on 26th April last. Comrade Manik Mukherjee, Central Staff and Deputy, International Affairs, SUCI, was invited as the Vice President of All India Anti-imperialist Forum. He attended the meeting and placed his views there. Comrade Achim Churs, Chairman, Anti-Imperialist Forum, Germany and its former Chairman, Comrade Rainer Gross were also present in this meeting.

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necessary obligation for the government to have either publicly established the Army's competence, or concretely locate the reasons of failure. That would have established the seriousness of the government beyond question. This seriousness appeared to be miserably absent, again, in prime minister Vajpayee's grave pronouncement of "war like situation" in Kargil — and its denial on the next day. At the same time, it is true that the government was intensifying operations in Kargil. The entire country found it in the media everyday. A sense of alarm and tension was growing.

However, the picture was not fully clear before the people. It is not yet known when exactly Army operations started. The media reported of Army operations only on 24th May, first. And then, on 26th May, the Air Force was pressed to action. What sudden emergency prompted such an action in peace time? Instead of sufficiently explaining this sudden decision to the public the defence minister merely said that "operations" come first — "the Lahore Declaration later." From London, CPI(M) leader Jyoti Basu fully supported the air strikes. Senior Congress leader Mr. Natwar Singh clarified his party's attitude to the BJP government: "As far as India's security is concerned, we stand together". (*The Statesman*, 29.5.99) All this gave impression that a sudden emergency threatened the "nation" — which justified the air attacks and prime minister Vajpayee's statement on 31 May of a "War-like situation in Kargil".

The following report on the first day of air strike does not say so. "Despite the Kargil flare-up, the director-generals of military operations of the Indian and Pakistani armies maintained their weekly conversation over the hot line today as they do every Wednesday. (*The Statesman*, 27.5.99) Does it sound like a situation of endangered "national security"?

It is clearer in *The Statesman* of 27th May '99: "Refuting suggestions of a war-like situation in Kargil, a ministry spokesman (external affairs) said 'war implies another country, whereas the crisis involves infiltrators and terrorists'." By official admission itself, then, the developments in Kargil — at least till 26th May — warned of neither "war" nor even "war-like situation", not to speak of "India's security". It was still that of "infiltration".

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# Anti-Imperialist Programmes in Europe

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Meetings of the organisers of the Anti-imperialist Forum, Germany were held in Hanover and in Berlin on 26th April morning and 27th April respectively on NATO attack against Yugoslavia. Discussions were held in these meetings to devise means to make people conscious about the imperialist menace and also about the programmes of actions to be adopted to strengthen movement against imperialism. Comrade Manik Mukherjee attended these meetings.

On 28th April Comrade Manik Mukherjee held discussion with Comrade Serpil Koksal, leader of German branch of Kaldirac of Turkey on joint programme against NATO attack on Yugoslavia in presence of Comrade Rainer Gross, the former Chairman of Anti-imperialist Forum, Germany.

Under the joint auspices of the Nino Pasti International Foundation, Italy and the KSCM, Czech Republic a meeting was held in Prague, the capital of Czech against NATO strike on Yugoslavia. Different communist parties and anti-imperialist organisations participated in this meeting held on 8-9 May last. Our party was the only party which was invited from Asia. But Comrade Manik Mukherjee could not attend the said meeting because of visa problem. A resolution condemning NATO attack on Yugoslavia was adopted in this meeting. Comrade Manik Mukherjee sent a paper to this meeting. The text of the paper is given hereunder.

## Unite Against Aggression by US-led NATO : Stop War in Yugoslavia

Comrades and friends,

I bring for you fraternal greetings from All India Anti-imperialist Forum and convey our strong solidarity with your struggle.

On the anniversary of the day which marks the liberation of European countries from Nazi occupation, we are witnessing an even more brazen act of fascism, the unprovoked savage aerial attack on Yugoslavia by the USA and its allies under the umbrella of NATO. It is an unprecedented act of aggression which violates all international laws and utterly disregards the sovereignty of a nation. Since the counter-revolution in Soviet Union and dismantling of socialism in East European countries, the US imperialism is taking up an increasingly belligerent posture and has unleashed all-out military attack with any plea on any country that dared to stand against its hegemonistic design of making a so-called unipolar world of which it likes to be the master. In the cases of attacks on Iraq, Somalia, Bosnia there was atleast a show of obtaining an approval of the UNO — which has been reduced to a rubber stamp — but in case of Yugoslavia, the USA and its other imperialist allies did not care to follow this formality even. The peace-loving people of the world cannot but condemn this brazen act of aggression. On behalf of the All India Anti-imperialist Forum, I join you, who have gathered here from different parts of the world, in this historic meet at Prague, in strongly

condemning this barbaric act of the imperialists headed by the USA.

The excuse offered for this barbaric act is the alleged oppression of Albanian minorities at Kosovo by the Serbs. But nationality question of the Albanian ethnic minority in Kosovo is entirely an internal affair of Yugoslavia. No foreign power has the right either to instigate the minority for internal subversion or to make military attacks violating the sovereign right of that country — which the US and the German imperialist along with other allies have done. This only reminds us of the obnoxious plea of oppression of Sudeten Germans, put forward by Hitler at the time of occupation of Czechoslovakia.

But whatever may be their attempts to find out an excuse to hide their crime, the real motives of this attack are not very difficult to understand. It is clear that this attack is spearheaded by the US and German imperialists with the aim of further fragmenting the already fragmented Yugoslavia — and establish their control over their strategic region, located on the Adriatic Sea that gives access to Southern Europe and the Mediterranean, leading on to Turkey and the oil rich Middle East. This is also an attempt of keeping up the war tension, in which the imperialists can release their stockpiles of arms as well as justify the most unjustified existence of the NATO, after the end of the so-called cold war era. No less important is their effort to divert the attention of the people from the growing and acute economic crisis and the unemployment problem which have plagued all the imperialist-capitalist countries. Lastly, by making such interventions in the internal affairs of other countries, almost a normal affair, the imperialists, particularly the US imperialists are trying to create a situation in which it would be possible to intervene in any country in case of break out of a revolutionary movement — particularly when the cry for socialism is just growing almost in all countries, specially in the erstwhile socialist countries. When socialism was dismantled in Soviet Russia and East Europe, the bourgeois intellectuals and the Western media hailed it as signalling the end of cold war era and ushering in a new age of peace and friendship. But the most savage attacks on Iraq, Somalia, Bosnia and finally on Yugoslavia has nakedly exposed the falsity of this propaganda and the sinister war design which was inherent in the expansion of NATO. All the abovementioned attacks also show to the peace-loving people of the world how valid Lenin's teaching is — that imperialism generates war, and as long as imperialism exists the law of inevitability of war also exists. Neither dismantling of socialism in many countries, including Russia, nor the globalisation could get the world capitalism out of crisis. On the contrary in the so-called post cold war era, the world capitalism is mired in deeper crisis and passing through a recession of catastrophic proportion. This is leading to militarisation of the economy — and fierce trade wars. And it is this thirst for opening up of new markets and war economy that engender wars. War like tension are on the increase and the world is rapidly proceeding towards a situation of hot war.

Strong protests against the NATO actions have come from Russia which has announced dissociation from NATO and sent warships to the Mediterranean. But the Russian action is not to be confused with what a true working class state would have taken against such imperialist manoeuvres to halt the aggression. Russia's attitude is determined by their market interests. Russian capitalism views Yugoslavia as its own market, and there are traditional links between the two countries. It is alarmed at the fear of losing it to the Western imperialist powers and wants to stake its claim. Secondly, there is growing discontent among the Russian people over the degeneration of a once mighty socialist state. A leading power is reduced to virtual dependency on dole from the West. Its productive forces are in disarray, economy is in shambles, cultural degeneration is leading to heightened social tensions and the people are burdened with abject poverty. All these are leading to strong popular resentment against the Gorbachev-Yeltsin policy and the present regime. The Russian government's postures of protest against the NATO policy is also aimed as a sop to the people to stem the rising tide of discontent at Russia's marginalization in international politics. Thirdly, by whipping up national chauvinistic sentiments it is trying to patch up the contradiction between the different Russian states and by combining them the ruling Yeltsin clique is trying to consolidate its position. They are following the same line as the capitalists all over the world of using national sentiments to divert people's attention from the real problems.

The world is passing through a grave crisis. With the disappearance of the socialist camp imperialism has gone on the offensive with savage onslaught on the people all over the world, paying scant attention to the sovereignty of nations and human rights. Tremendous economic crisis coupled with militarization of economy in the capitalist world is sharpening the contradiction between imperialist powers. Conditions are created for hot war to break out in any corner of the globe which may lead to world war. The only way to check the imperialist onslaught and to promote world peace is to organize people's movements against imperialism in all countries and to build up a globally coordinated militant anti-imperialist movement involving all progressive, democratic forces with communists at its core. All over the world people are being vocal against the imperialist acts of aggression and massive demonstrations are taking place in different countries including the bastion of imperialism, the USA.

The need of the hour is to forge the unity of all anti-imperialist forces and to build up effective coordination among the organizations of different countries. Conferences such as the present one, are right steps in this direction. I wish the Conference all success and hope that the deliberations here would lead to a concrete programme of international cooperation in building up a militant global movement to stop the heinous aggression of the imperialists.

# Kosovo Liberation Army — An Exposé

In modern warfare, relentless, false propaganda is used as a deadly weapon, side by side with cannons, bombs and missiles. The German fascists set this trend in the last world war; the US imperialists have made this Goebbelian technique virtually flawless utilising the modern telecommunications and electronics. The latest is the instance of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) which is being hailed as the liberating force for the ethnic Albanian community of Kosovo, through an unrelenting campaign, simply with a view to covering up the barbarous and utterly unjust air-strikes on Yugoslavia by the US-led NATO military alliance and indiscriminate destruction and genocide thereby inflicted upon the population there. The perpetrators of these crimes are set to prove that the KLA is the symbol of the sovereign, democratic aspirations of the minority community of the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo vis-a-vis the brutal oppression on them brought about by the majority ruling Serbs. It is not only the imperialists who have unleashed this campaign; a number of parties and forces of different countries known as leftists or even Marxists, have raised their voice in support of the KLA, avowedly defending its case on the theory of right of self-determination of minority nationality.

However even with all their tricks and covers, the imperialists could not prevent exposure of the identity and character of the KLA. The KLA has provided the political excuse for the indiscriminate NATO bombardment on Yugoslavia and for the eastward expansion of the US imperialism in Europe under the garb of the NATO itself. Not only this, as the report goes, the KLA is helping the NATO air-forces, informing them from within Kosovo about the exact location of the targets and supplying them with reports on results of bombing. It means, as puppets of imperialism, it

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is working as the probe-mission for the NATO. At one stage US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, however, dismissed the KLA as "no more than terrorists". (vide *The Statesman*, May 28, 1999). *Socialist Worker*, published from Auckland in New Zealand also reported the same. Over and above, the imperialists lauded Slobodan Milosevic, the Yugoslav President, as the 'reformer' — for his contributions to dismembering of the former Yugoslavia into the present fragments. Richard Holbrooke, the US envoy, held President Milosevic as "a man we can do business with", a man who recognises the realities of life in former Yugoslavia." Now, the US rulers have made a complete turn-about.

It is now well-known that there is an acute contradiction between the US and German imperialism, centring round creation and

expansion of their respective spheres of influence destroying and dismembering the multi-ethnic federation of Yugoslavia. Germany led the way supporting the breakaway of Slovenia and Croatia. The US chose to pay attention, among others, to Serbia, a long-standing ally of Russia. And so, they tried to use the same Milosevic to their end, whom they now term the autocratic demon. Exactly for the same reason, the Americans drafted a pro-Serbia 'peace plan' for Kosovo providing the Kosovans with less autonomy and freedom they had under the old Yugoslav federation. Milosevic was not an 'autocrat' to the US rulers so long as he fitted in their plan. But when Milosevic objected to having foreign troops, such as the NATO military forces, on his soil and did not comply with the US terms of implementing the peace plan, under the supervision of these forces, the US imperialist rulers transformed him from client to demon and pounced upon Yugoslavia with warships, bombers and long-ranging cruise-missiles, avowedly for a 'humanitarian intervention' to defend the human rights of the minority ethnic Albanians of Kosovo. They started aiding and pampering the same KLA whom they had earlier termed 'terrorists'. So typical of imperialist war-mongers! For years together, the US imperialists have imposed sanctions on Libya and have thereby devastated the civic life there on the plea of Libya's supposedly helping the terrorists at the back of the Lockerie air crash : they have caused destruction in Afghanistan through missile attacks, accusing the Afghans for their support to Osman-bin Laden, the wanted terrorist, and now to fit their own ends, the same US imperialists provide military training to the KLA and patronise it in all other possible ways, even though they themselves once termed it as 'terrorist'. Here in India, we don't find much coverage in the media exposing KLA ; but the leftist periodicals and some newspapers of Europe and America, as also a large section of the commercial media, have made known startling facts and news about the US and German imperialist aid and support to the KLA. To add further to these facts, it is learnt from Yugoslavia daily *Vecernje Novosti* that at least three French army officers were killed in a clash with Yugoslav forces on May 16, while they were in charge of a KLA group trying to infiltrate into the southern Serbian province (vide *Workers World*, May 23, '99). Even the top-commander of the KLA is believed to be a Croatian, not a Kosovan. (vide *Workers World*, May 27) Lord Carrington, the former Foreign Secretary of the British Government and erstwhile Secretary General of the NATO stated on the floor of the House of Commons : Nobody should have any doubt that the Kosovo Liberation Army, which the NATO has stood by, is an organisation of a few drug mafia. We are astonished that the NATO has taken their side. (vide *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, March 29, '99) Federal Criminal Agency of Germany holds that the ethnic Albanian community is taking a main part in smuggling heroine into the Western countries. Even the Europol, the European Police Authority, with office at The Hague in Holland, was preparing reports on the link between the Albanian drug mafia and the KLA to send them to the Home and Law ministers of European countries (vide *The Statesman*, March 25, '99). The American leftist

periodical, *Workers World* exposed in its April 29 issue, the character and role of the KLA on the strength of a German document. On its basis, *Vanguard*, the organ of the Socialist Party of Bangladesh, in its May-June '99 issue, dealt with this further. Many reports in the past have mentioned the covert forces involved with the KLA. For example, on July 15, 1998, *PBS Newshour* reported that US Vietnam War veterans were training KLA mercenaries in Albania. Almost every European newspaper has reported on the known ties between the KLA and the sales of illegal drugs in Europe. Only the US media have ignored this story. The European media, however, don't mention the history of the US CIA's use of illegal drug sales to funnel money to various covert operations. This record - from secret operations in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War to financing the Contra War against Nicaragua - has been documented.

Recent media reports tie several imperialist military and spy agencies to the KLA. This is

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**The April 18 London Sunday Telegraph reported that SAS, a unit of the British special forces, is running two KLA training camps near Tirana, the Albanian capital. According to the Telegraph, the KLA units trained by SAS are infiltrating Kosovo, using satellite and cellular telephones to help guide NATO bombing missions.**

significant since both US Secretary of Defense William Cohen and the top US general, Henry Shelton, have said in the last week that the goal of the US military operation against Yugoslavia is a victory for the KLA.

On April 19, Canadian Member of Parliament David Price told reporters that 50 Canadian soldiers are working with the KLA in Kosovo to help report "where the bombs are falling" so they can better target "where the next bomb should go," UPI reported. Opposition to the Canada's participation in the US war on Yugoslavia is growing rapidly in that country.

Jane's Defense Weekly reported April 20: "Special forces involvement confirmed." The report said that special units from Britain, the United States, France" and other NATO groups" were working under cover in Kosovo.

The April 18 London Sunday Telegraph reported that SAS, a unit of the British special  
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# What prompted air strikes to flush out a few hundred intruders not fully explained to people

(Contd. from page 1)

Doesn't this categorical and yet uncontradicted statement, taken together with Mr. Vajpayee's statement of "war-like situation" immediately after the air strikes, indicate a difference between what the government itself believes and what it wants others to believe? It applies equally well to the Pakistan government too. Thus it is very much instructive to note that while an Indian external affairs ministry spokesman refutes "suggestions of a war-like situation" or that of "aggression", the Pakistan Foreign Minister reacting to Indian air strikes, asserts, "we will take necessary steps to defend ourselves" — suggesting to the Pakistani people that Pakistan's defence was threatened. The above leaves little doubt that in spite of the dimension given to the present conflict in Kargil — it is no more than an undoubtedly well-organised act of "intrusion" only.

If the government was aware of this "limited" nature of the conflict, it could — and can — justifiably drive out infiltrators from Indian territory. Why give that an appearance out of proportion? The Armed Forces are maintained by people's hard-earned money. They are supposed to be in the service of the country — not of a particular government's convenience.

This question cannot but haunt the country in view of the so-called "intelligence failure". Because without it, the present situation could be well averted.

It is well known that intrusions across the long LoC running through Kargil and adjoining mountaneous areas at so high altitudes are a possibility always. Any army should most obviously be on the utmost alert here. Can it be asserted that this elementary sense really failed the army and the government? The government has not yet accepted nor denied it. *The Telegraph* (30th May '99) argues correctly: "Still it seems incredible that 600 infiltrators could walk into Kargil without New Delhi knowing anything." Whatever might now be told about "intelligence failure", for a government, having not one but several intelligence agencies — including the army intelligence — and sophisticated aerial and even satellite survey facilities, it is indeed highly improbable to have failed, especially in Kargil, with its sensitive past record. *Frontline* (5-18 June 99) writes: "If, as the *Indian Express* (May 28) alleges, the Border Security Force had warned it (Indian Government) of incursions from across the border as early as January, it passes comprehension why it did nothing to defuse the crisis. Why was a special emissary not sent to Pakistan? Why did Prime Minister A B Vajpayee delay calling Nawaj Sharif till the very end?"

All things considered, even if granted that the government didn't take timely notice but only too lately, of 600 - 800 well-armed infiltrators mobilised in uphill Kargil, it did not in anyway need the reported mobilisation of thousands of Indian soldiers from all over North-East against few hundred infiltrators. The use of IAF aircraft for this purpose raises similar questions about the

government's assessment of the situation. Air strikes are not "effective" in the terrain of Kargil, and for "flushing out" intruders. Fifteen days' air strikes have already proved it and the Army itself says so. Why then the strike continues?

The question cannot be dismissed lightly in view of recent experience regarding Kargil. For example, after 15 days of fight out of around 600 - 800 infiltrators, officially declared, "As many as 400 have been killed, Mr. George Fernandes told reporters." (*The Statesman*, 30.5.99) — i.e., on the fourth day of the air strikes. If that was the reality, there would have remained very little fighting to do and little need to continue the strikes. But the strike continued full-scale. Why? Firstly, the Army made it clear from the beginning

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**The half-hearted and contradictory measures taken by the government from the beginning are reflections of the contradiction between the real situation and its incorrect representation. It also reflects unprincipled, irresponsible and sectarian considerations ruling in the name of "national security". It is no less true with the Nawaj Sharif government also. Such conflicts are whipped up from time to time in order to divert the attention of the toiling people of both countries from the real problems of their life. Each time the toiling millions constituting the "nation" are kept in dark while the ruling class of both countries incite tensions.**

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that because of logistical reasons, "driving-out" even few hundred infiltrators would take time. With the elections ahead, the government did not have this time in its hand. Hence the air strike decision to rush "operations". Secondly, the air strikes have been proved "disadvantageous" militarily, but not politically. The strikes still continue for the second reason. On 8th June the government announced that most infiltrators were "Pakistan Army regulars" but not that the number changed. The Army's task still remained "driving out" intruders. Peace talks with Pakistan, after being failed once, was set on 12th June. Yet, on the 9th June, papers reported that warships and submarines were deployed in the Arabian Sea "on full alert". It is evident that either the government is itself misinformed and uncertain or that it misinforms the country and its people. The Pakistan government too informs the Pakistani people no differently. The alarming words and ominous hints made by the Prime Minister of both countries, the extraordinary scale of entire Indian military build-up and the Indian government's stiff snub canceling the Pak-proposed first date of peace talks and setting a second date by itself were all therefore — in view of the declared aim

of simply "driving out" the intruders — a colossal exaggeration. Centring round the Kargil issue a countrywide psychosis of alarm and a sense of "national insecurity" was surely generated. But the reason appears to be something apart from only Kargil. *Frontline* (5-18 June '99) made a correct guess in commenting that it is "plausible" that the "Indian decision to bring air power had something to do ... with the temptation of the Vajpayee government (which has itself lost Parliament's confidence) to outmanoeuvre domestic opponents."

Balanced assessment would make it easy to understand that Pakistan cannot sustain a prolonged conflict with the much more powerful Indian Army. This is why, a few days after the air strike began, it was the first to propose peace talks. Despite Pakistan government's strongly worded letter to UN Secretary-General seeking UN intervention — this single fact of first proposing "talks" shows Pakistan's weaker position clearly enough. It is also well known that all the imperialist powers, USA particularly, this time sided with the Indian government rather than with Pakistan, of course from their own global politico-economic-military design. In any case, the fact remains that in May itself Pakistan had offered to open talks. On the other hand, having gained already in Kargil militarily and elsewhere diplomatically, the Indian government had no visible reason, in May, to rebuff and refuse the proposal for "talks". It must be kept in mind that, especially with the elections approaching, neither the Vajpayee government could afford to prolong the Kargil conflict much. So, it also helped the Vajpayee government to hold talks and defuse tension, as early as possible. Why then it postponed it till 12th instead? The only reasonable explanation appears to be that — having forced Pakistan to "talks" — the BJP government wanted to delay matters "within limits" to "outmanoeuvre the domestic opponents" like Congress, JD, RJD, CPI, CPI(M) etc. and also to mobilise greater popular support by projecting itself as a 'strong government' which can force Pakistan to talks on its own terms. It is common sense that regardless of the success or failure of the present "talks", the BJP has already succeeded in thus stealing a march over all its political rivals in its election battle.

\* The truth has been out from none but the BJP leader and Union Home Minister L K Advani who went on record, saying that in the coming elections the BJP's issue would be Kargil and not Sonia. The half-hearted and contradictory measures taken by the government from the beginning are reflections of the contradiction between the real situation and its incorrect representation. It also reflects unprincipled irresponsible and sectarian considerations ruling in the name of "national security". It is no less true with the Nawaj Sharif government also. Such conflicts are whipped up from time to time in order to divert the attention of the toiling people of both countries from the real problems of their life. Each time the toiling millions constituting the "nation" are kept in dark

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## Militant movement to ban prawn culture at Chilika

# Orissa bandh to protest brutal killings by police

The Bandh to protest against the brutal killings by police to suppress the movement of the fishermen evoked wide response throughout Orissa. The movement by the fishermen of Chilika once again showed that just demand can be snatched from the unwilling hand of the rulers with the force of militant mass movement.

About 65 thousand families of Puri, Khurda and Ganjam district are earning their livelihood from one of the biggest lake of our country 'Chilika' which is a unique natural resource of Orissa. Fishing from this lake is an ageold practice. But in the recent past, being backed by the state government, district and local administration some mafias (which includes leaders of big parliamentary parties, top level administrative officers both existing and retired, top level police officers and contractors) have acquired hundreds of acres of land and put 'gheri' (surrounded) for prawn culture. For this act of the mafias the villagers were disallowed to go inside Chilika for their usual fishing thereby depriving them of their only source of livelihood. Villagers

unitedly protested against this and the matter was also brought to the notice of Orissa High Court and Supreme Court. Both Supreme Court and High Court have given orders to stop prawn culture in this area to protect the environment. But regretfully without paying any heed to the demands of the people to restore their right and also to the court orders, the prawn mafias in connivance with the local administration went on pursuing their heinous activities by occupying more and more land.

Long back a 'Chilika Matsyajibi Mahasangha' was formed to protect the livelihood of the people. They have time and again demanded before the government to break the 'gheris' and allow them to carry on their usual fishing and lead a peaceful life. But when after repeated request the government and administration paid no attention rather under this or that pretext tried to protect the interest of the prawn mafias, the people themselves took up the task and broke down those 'gheris'. After this incident the district and local administration along with the police

force and the mafias attacked the villagers of Soran village under Khurda district on 29th May at dead of night and fired at them without any provocation and instantly killed 3 persons and injured hundred others. One of the injured has died in the hospital. Many are struggling for their lives.

In protest against this brutal firing a massive meeting was held at Soran village, the place of occurrence, in Khurda district, attended by the leaders of the left parties. Com. Dhurjoti Das, member of the State Committee, SUCI, addressed the gathering on behalf of the party. He paid his homage to the martyrs and condemned the brutal firing and urged upon the government to demolish gheri at Chilika immediately.

A call for Orissa Bandh was given by Chilika Matsyajibi Mahasangha on 5th of June and was supported by the left parties including the SUCI. This Bandh call received wide response in the state.

SUCI, Orissa State Committee, demanded immediate ban on prawn culture in Chilika to protect the life and living of the people on the one hand and the environment on the other; punishment of the mafias engaged in this criminal act; payment of adequate compensation to the families of those who died in police firing and total responsibility for treatment of the injured and exemplary punishment to the police and administrative officials responsible for this palpable homicide.

## Demonstration in Mumbai against NATO aggression on Yugoslavia

A demonstration was organised on 20 May 1999 by the SUCI, Mumbai-Thane unit at Azad Maidan, Mumbai against NATO air attack on Yugoslavia. Earlier, demonstration was planned in the form of procession from Churchgate Railway Station to American Centre, Marine Lines but police didn't permit it and they forced the shifting

of procession from Churchgate Railway Station to Azad Maidan (near VT Rly. Station). At last it was confined within the boundary of the Azad Maidan. Comrades Anil Tyagi and Om Prakash Maurya on behalf of the demonstrators handed over a memorandum to the concerned authority of American Centre.



SUCI activists demonstrate in Mumbai against NATO aggression on Yugoslavia on 20th May, 1999

## Demonstration against NATO in Gujarat

All India Democratic Students' Organisation, Gujarat State Unit, staged a demonstration against NATO's barbaric attack on Yugoslavia at Vadodara on 16th of May, 1999. The demonstration was organised in Nayamandir area which is the centre of the city. In one hour demonstration many students voiced slogans condemning America's imperialist policies and barbaric NATO attack on Yugoslavia.

On the occasion, Com. Jayesh Patel, Secretary, All India DSO, Gujarat State Committee, in his speech highlighted and analyzed

the imperialistic design of America and NATO countries. He said that America had become self appointed police of the world. He added that America was waging war to provide a temporary boost to crises ridden economy of their country when people of America were denied democratic rights and faced racial discrimination in every walk of life. American rulers were using arms on the plea of ensuring democracy in other countries. Jayesh Patel in the end demanded immediate halt to the bombing of Yugoslavia. Hundreds of people observed the programme on their way.

## Strike in Pentagon Shipbuilding

A minute after midnight on April 5, some 9000 members of steel workers walked out on strike at Newport News Shipbuilding in New News. They are fighting against the united effort of the company, the Pentagon and the company's rivals in the shipbuilding industry to keep down the wage of the labour in order to keep profits up. The workers have been "locked in a low-wage freeze since 1993. Some make so little they get food coupons to feed their children. Most of them can't even afford to retire on the dismal pension they would get." The company produces new generation of naval war-machines like the aircraft carrier, the CVN77. In spite of the fact that the company is a profitable one with annual revenues of \$1.8 billion, it refused the union's major demand of increasing wage and benefits. After twenty years "Newport News is again the scene of a major class battle." Though the whole military-industrial complex is against the workers, they are determined to carry on their fight. [Source: *The Workers World*, 22.4.99]



# State Level Convention of Peasants and Agricultural Labourers in Bangalore

The Karnataka State Organising Committee of Raitha Krishi Karmikara Sanghatane (RKS, a unit of AIKKMS) organised a massive peasants convention on 18.5.99, in Town Hall, Bangalore. Peasants from Gulbarga, Raichur, Bellary, Tumkur, Bangalore Rural, Mysore, Mandya, Davangere and other districts took part in the convention.

A protest demonstration was organized in front of the Town Hall prior to the convention. The peasants raised slogans against globalisation and liberalisation policies and anti-people attitude of the governments both at the Centre and in the state.

Inaugurating the convention Sri H.S. Dorceswamy, Veteran Freedom Fighter, severely condemned the banning of the procession which was to be held before the convention. He called the banning an attack on the fundamental rights of the people. Then in his inaugural speech he, inter alia, emphatically stressed the need to protect the right of the tiller to own the land. He castigated the government for its anti-people Import-Export policy, Patent's Act, etc. and called upon the peasants and agricultural labourers to forge unity and organise movements to fight for their rights. Speaking on the occasion as the main speaker, Comrade K. Radhakrishna, Karnataka State Secretary SUCI, said that the globalisation and liberalisation policies of the government are

labourers. He noted with deep pain the mass suicides which were earlier unheard of, are becoming common now. He said the change of

governments do not change the life of people. Stability of government ensures stable exploitation and ruination of people. He impressed upon the delegates that only a sustained, conscious movement of peasants along with the other exploited masses to establish a society free from exploitation can alone ensure security, well being of peasants and agricultural labourers.

Dr. Suneeth Kumar, State President of Raitha Krishi Karmikara Sanghatane (RKS) in his presidential address, congratulated the peasants for having participated in the convention despite hardship.

Comrade H V Divakar, State Secretary of RKS explained that RKS is a revolutionary organisation of the peasants and agricultural labourers. It is different from other organisation in its

uncompromising attitude and called upon the peasants and agricultural labourers to rally behind RKS. Other state leaders of RKS and peasants from different districts also spoke. Resolutions condemning the banning of procession and containing a charter of demands were unanimously passed. The convention also adopted a resolution condemning NATO attack on Yugoslavia.



*Sri H S Dorceswamy, veteran freedom fighter inaugurating RKS Convention in Bangalore on 18 May, 1999*



*A section of the gathering of peasants and agricultural labourers organised by Raitha Krishi Karmikara Sanghatane (unit of AIKKMS)*

## Nexus between capitalist economy and war behind Kargil development, apart from narrow political aim

*(Contd. from page 4)*

while the ruling class of both countries incite tensions. The present Pakistan government is going through difficult times due to Nawaj-Benazir intense conflict, riotous situation in Sind, sagging economy, deep public discontent and a volatile political situation. So, even while desiring bilateral trade and relations with India in the interest of Pakistan's ruling capitalist class, the Pakistan government can, in the same class-interest, try to defuse people's resentment by creating a limited conflict at the LoC at Kargil. That the Indian government also understands and plays the game is clear even when it talks of being "prepared for all eventualities". For it at once adds that "at the same time, the Lahore process should also be sustained." (*The Statesman*, 9.6.99)

Another significant aspect can never be undermined. Perennial economic crisis is the universal feature of all capitalist economics today, developed or weaker. With industry and economy sagging, the capitalist governments increase the military budget and pushes up arms trade to artificially stimulate the economy. Keeping this trade running requires clearance of military stockpiles, and therefore war. Kosovo is one glaring example of such large scale release of

stocks. In this context must be seen the continuous increase of military budgets and the recent nuclear blasts by India and Pakistan. The interest of the powerful arms industry and the arms lobby in the Kargil conflict cannot be overlooked. The considered capitalist opinion is: "Any war will have its effects on economy. ... Almost certainly there will be a surcharge on taxes. Inflationary pressures will increase. But the overall demand, both for weaponry and for all other products will increase. ... The more the economy is mobilised for defence, the better will be the impact on economic growth. ... A limited war, provided it does not extend to more fronts, and does not become nuclear, will not be so bad for the economy...." (*Economic Times*, 8.6.99)

Narrow political ambition clearly played its part. But this nexus between capitalist economy and war must also be taken into due account to explain why Kargil became so special. A clamour has been already raised that for engagements at so high altitudes as in Kargil the Army and Air Force need more sophisticated aircrafts and weaponry. Proposals have been already made to lift the ban on the Bofors guns. Vajpayee's "assurance" after last year's Pokhran blast that India is prepared technologically for "nuclear weaponisation" should be kept in mind. Then the wide range and

scale of militarisation of Indian economy can be fathomed. Indian government needs this colossal power at the cost of thousands of crores of rupees which the poor people pay from their pocket not for defending the country — but for defending capitalist economic interest.

"National interest" means nothing if it does not mean "people's interest". The most legitimate question will arise that in a country where majority of the people are deprived of all benefits of civilisation for decades, how can a fattened military alone represent and defend "national interest"? Nations are defended not by firepower but by the invincible power of people's resistance. Its most convincing example is Indian nationalist movement itself. Therefore national interest can be truly safeguarded only by raising the material and moral standard of life of the crores of people living in subhuman conditions in both countries. Conversely, increasing military budgets and escalating arms race are bound to mount tension, war psychosis and mutual distrust and animosity between the two peoples. These may benefit the merchants of "national interest" but will go against people's interest — in both India and Pakistan.

*(Date of this write-up going to Press — 11.6.99)*

# Mammoth rally against DPEP in Trivandrum

Heralding a new chapter in the history of Kerala's democratic movements, thousands of people under the leadership of leading and renowned personalities took out a protest march to the government secretariat demanding complete withdrawal of World Bank's DPEP and re-introduction of Primary Education. People from different walks of life across the state, including teachers and parents took part in the rally. The march which marked a turning point in the history of struggle for education in Kerala proclaimed the determination of the people that the path shown their predecessors can never be retraced and the state can never be pushed back to absolute darkness, barbarity and intellectual impotency.

The march was organised by Janakeeya Prathirodh Samithy (People's Resistance Committee) of which the eminent jurist, Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer is the President. The General Secretary of JPS, Dr. V. Venugopal welcomed the gathering. He said that the state government led by Mr. E.K. Nayanar could no longer ignore the movement which so strongly expressed the anger of the people.

The march was inaugurated by Dr. N.A. Karim, former pro-vice chancellor of Kerala University and a leading figure in the field of social and cultural movements in Kerala. Before the martyrs' columns at Palayam were thousands of people assembled. He asked the govt. not to take the issue as a matter of false prestige because DPEP destroyed the very foundation of education in Kerala and he requested the state government to change their attitude towards the matter. He also observed that the exponents of the government themselves were in utter confusion regarding DPEP. He said he was opposing DPEP because it was not merely an educational problem but a political problem as well.

After this Prof. Panmana Ramachandyan Nair, a famous writer and linguist, spoke on the occasion. He said that it was quite painful that DPEP had already led 35 lakhs of pupils astray. Also he made an emotional appeal to the parents to make the movement more stronger, because nothing but a movement could save the children. DPEP had done away with the mother tongue also at the primary level, he continued. He demanded the government to behave sanely and restore status quo from June onwards.

Introducing the subject and issues involved, B. K. Rajagopal AIDSO Kerala State President, addressed the gathering.

The march concluded before the secretariat and turned in to a mass gathering where Sri Pavanan, writer and leader of rationalist movement asked the government to exorcise the spectre of the World Bank aided DPEP from the schools as early as possible.

Government school teacher's union leader Sri Ambalathara Ramachandran Nair stated that majority of the school teachers in the state were in favour of the withdrawal of DPEP.

The state service pensioners association leader Sri K. P. Kesava Karanavar said that it was strange to see those people implementing DPEP who had strongly opposed its introduction previously.

The General Secretary of the State Committee for the Protection of Basic Education in Kerala, Sri K. J. Devalsia observed that DPEP only exacerbated the backwardness and helplessness of people in Ynad district. He added that the condition prevailed in Malappuram, Kasargod and Palakkat

was no different. DPEP once again led the tribal people and the down trodden to the path of retrogression, he emphasized.

The state leader of parent and teachers association Sri Chethadi Sasi stated that DPEP sealed the doors of future generations.

SIO state leader Sri Salil Hassan opined that the Nayanar ministry mortgaged many vital sectors, including education to foreign powers.

The state President of Gandhian Democratic Movement Sri A. C. George said that DPEP was nothing but the intrusion of IMF, World Bank and CIA in the economic, political and educational fields of Kerala.

Leader of the Cheramar Sangh Sri K. P. Chellappan was of the opinion that DPEP only led the poor and the destitute to the stone age.

DPEP undermined the valuable contributions made by Kerala to education and it led the poor away from the main stream, said Sri B. S. Satheesan, Deputy Mayor of Trivandrum Corporation, who is also the leader of KPMS.

Criticising DPEP, Sri K. Panoor, a noted fighter for Adivasis' cause exhorted the people of Kerala to build up a movement to dump it to the Arabian Sea.

Advocate P. A. Parvan, Sri K. P. Kosala Ramaclas, Father Abraham Joseph, K Therivatha Damodaran, Smt. Shyla, K. John, Sri. C.M.P. Nair,

Sri Ullattil Abdul Latheef Maulavi, R. M. Parameswaran, Elluvila Viswambharan, Nemam Salahuddin, and Leena Joseph also addressed the gathering.

A mass memorandum signed by half lakh people was submitted to the Chief Minister by a group of leaders led by Sri Pavanan, A. C. George, B. K. Rajagopal and Dr. Goda Kumar. It demanded the complete withdrawal of DPEP, reinstating of primary education and annulment of all contracts made with the World Bank. In the absence of the CM, same memorandum was submitted to the Secretary Sri Muraleedharan.

The march was led by Sri Pavanan, Prof. Panmana Ramachandyan Nair, K. Panoor, K. P. Kosala Ramadas, Veterans freedom fighter Thiruvathra Damodaran, Adv. P. A. Pauran, Father Abraham Joseph, Adv. Mathew Velangadan, Dr. Nandiyode Ramachandran, Dr. D. Surendranath, Prof. T. K. Somasekheram Pillai, Prof. Johnykittry Ozhukayji, N. Subramaniyan, George Mullakkara, Dr. V. Venugopal and others.



*Dr. N.A. Karim, former Pro-Vice Chancellor, Kerala University inaugurating Secretariat March on 18.5.99*



*Prof. Panmana Ramachandyan Nair, renowned writer and linguist, addressing the Secretariat March against DPEP*



*Dr. V. Venugopal, General Secretary, Peoples' Resistance Committee, addressing the gathering before the Secretariat*



# On Kosovo Liberation Army

(Contd from page 3)

forces, is running two KLA training camps near Tirana, the Albanian capital. According to the Telegraph, the KLA units trained by SAS are infiltrating Kosovo, using satellite and cellular telephones to help guide NATO bombing missions.

The same report said that the KLA has also contact with the Virginia-based MPRI, which is apparently expanding its role. MPRI is a shadowy operation - the Telegraph called it a professional mercenary organization - which was setup by top US military officers.

MPRI was contracted by the Pentagon to organize and train the Croatian Army, which is acknowledged to have carried out the most vicious campaign in the Balkans since the Nazi invasion in the 1940s - the August 1995 offensive against Serbian farmers in the Krajina region.

A report in the July 28, 1997, Nation magazine detailed the role played by MPRI and the Pentagon in this criminal campaign which left hundreds of thousands of Serbs homeless. Finally, this March 21, the New York Times carried a front-page story about a report by the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague that characterized this attack as probably the most brutal event in the Balkans in the last decade. The report was then quickly buried.

The Croatian government recently confirmed that several of its generals have "taken leave" to go work with the KLA.

A more revealing report was released on April 8 by Jurgen Reents, press spokesperson for the Party of Democratic Socialism in Germany. The PDS received almost as many votes as the Green Party, which is part of Germany's ruling coalition. The PDS has actively opposed the NATO war on Yugoslavia.

Reents said the report came from someone who holds a "strictly confidential and high position in the offices of the German government." The report came through a Catholic priest who has kept the individual's identity secret but has verified the person's authenticity.

The report asserts that top NATO, US, British and German officials are "utterly lying the public concerning almost all the facts in regard to the Balkan War." It says there are no pictures of any

mass killings or of troops force-marching the people of Kosovo out of their homes. There are no such pictures because this is not happening.

NATO has desperately attempted to create such pictures but has been unable to, the report asserts.

The report says that NATO has let it be known in the refugee camps in Albania and Macedonia that anyone who can produce a videotape or still photographs of any kind - including staged photos - showing these things will be paid \$ 200,000 in US currency. Still no pictures have appeared.

The report says that the German government knows NATO consciously created the refugee crisis. For example, the report says, NATO has targeted and destroyed nearly every fresh-water facility in Kosovo. It also asserts that there are KLA units in Kosovo - one is entirely US mercenaries, the other German mercenaries - who report to the military commands of those countries.

Perhaps most revealing is the report's description of a CIA covert operation cynically named "Operation Roots." It is aimed at sowing ethnic divisions in Yugoslavia to encourage its breakup.

Lastly we may refer to a touching letter from the workers at the Yugo auto plant in Zastava in the city of Kragujevac. They write: This night, the 9th of April, the Zastava factory plants in Kragujevac were bombed. The live shield is broken through.

This bombardment has inflicted severe damage to factory equipment and almost completely destroyed the energy supply complex that served not only Zastava's needs, but also the heating of the entire city of Kragujevac: its residential houses, schools, faculties, hospitals...

In the name of what aims did war planes take off from once friendly countries which used to send us the ideas of humanness, freedom, maybe the greatest treasure that we have in modern civilization? What has happened to all those ideas - and have they been just an illusion that dispersed at the first sound of raised arms?

We, the small people, who have looked with admiration at all the great things coming from you, could not or did not want to accept that this

was so. haven't we, still, been mistaken? Has anyone from among you given a thought to our future and the future of our children? That has become entirely uncertain, due to this insane act, and precisely this future (is what) we have been defending at the price of our own lives.

...knowing that destruction of the factory would call into question the very existence of ourselves and our families, we have made a desperate move: With our bodies have made a live shield that has been guarding our factory night and day. We have been resolute, since the very onset of the attack on our country, and persisted in the realization of that decision every day, not to leave our plants after the expiration of working hours, not even when the alarms would sound air strikes, thus staying round the clock at our work places.

By night our family members and citizens of Kragujevac were visiting us, giving us support... we have addressed the local and worldwide public, giving the precise coordinates of the factory, and pointing at the potential losses, spiritual and material, that might be inflicted by its destruction. In our addresses we appealed to the public of NATO member countries, to the conscience of the common people in those countries. our appeal was published and broadcast by numerous foreign media: TV networks and news houses.

We the Zastava workers and citizens of Kragujevac, are afraid of the future standing in front of us. Now we wonder whether we have any future at all. Our children are hungry and their eyes filled with horror. We have no more answers to their questions. (vide *Workers World*, April 29, 1999 : Letter from Zastava workers)

## Quit WTO

### Demands UTUC-LS

The 2nd meeting of the 18th General Council held in extended form at Faridabad on 5-6 June, 1999 under the chairmanship of Comrade Ashutosh Banerjee after detailed deliberations on the report placed by the General Secretary Comrade Tapas Dutta as well as on the national and international situation, inter alia, demanded of the Government of India to quit WTO at the earliest as according to the resolution adopted remaining in WTO is tantamount to abject surrender of people's interest to the interest of domestic financial capital and imperialist design. The meeting also urged the Government of India as well as the state governments to cry halt to pursuance and implementation of policies of Economic Reforms, Liberalisation, Globalisation as they are, as proved already, detrimental and inimical to the interests of absolute majority of our population, the working people in particular. It was resolved to launch united movement of working people to resist such policies and their devastating consequences: with these central issues at the fore to ensure and protect the right to work and rights at work, existing jobs, job opportunities, rights, including right to organise strike and collective bargaining. Lastly the meeting strongly flayed US-led NATO's aggression on Yugoslavia and demanded its complete, unconditional withdrawal. The meeting was attended by representatives from 12 states and 35 industries of public and private sector.



Peasants' protest demonstration against globalisation organised by Raitha, Krishi Karmikara Sangathane, a unit of AIKMS

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