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Founder Editor-in-Chief : COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

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Nuclear Blasts At Pokhran Political And Economic Compulsion of Ruling Capitalist Class

On the afternoon of May 11 last, the Indian Government exploded three nuclear devices underground in the Pokhran test range in Rajasthan. One was a fission device, commonly known as an atom bomb. Another was a low-yield device, relevant to development of nuclear warheads. And there was a thermonuclear device, that is, a hydrogen bomb. On May 13, two more low-yield tests in the sub-kiloton range were conducted in Pokhran, helpful in developing small nuclear warheads for tactical use in warfare.

It may be recalled that in 1974, the Indira Gandhi Government conducted a smaller fission blast testing at the same range, which was officially described to be for 'scientific

development' and 'peaceful purpose'. But this time, all pretence of peaceful use have been shed. In an interview to a magazine, Prime Minister Vajpayee said that he did not want "any ambiguity" on the fact that India was now a nuclear-weapon state. He clarified that none of the official statements issued after the tests had spoken of them as peaceful experiments. (Report in *the Statesman*, 16.5.98)

It is being said in justification of the tests that the way the Kashmir problem was being aggravated through active Pakistani support to the insurgents and armed Pakistani intrusions, was undermining the sovereignty and integrity of

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SUCI Condemns Pokhran Blasts

Reacting to the nuclear tests by India, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in a press statement said on 12.5.98 :

"The ruling parties of India and Pakistan are locked in mad arms race, including nuclear weapon production, fomenting further national jingoism and war-tension at the cost of millions of starving and unemployed people of both the countries only to distract the attention of the people from the burning problems of their life, cover up the all-out failure of the governments and to further militarize the economy in order to artificially stimulate the market for the monopolists.

"We condemn this anti-people policy of the governments of both the countries and call upon the people to raise their voice of protest."

SUCI at Seminar in Brussels

The 7th International Seminar for the Unification of the International Communist Movement was held in Brussels, Belgium from 2nd to 4th May. 75 delegates from 44 countries participated in the seminar. This year, too, our party participated in the Seminar, as in previous years. Comrade Ranjit Dhar, Central Staff and Deputy International Affairs represented our party.

Among the participants were Mrs Hoxa, the wife of Enver Hoxa and President of Albanian Labour Party, leaders of parties various countries

including from Greece, Korea and Japan Socialist Party of Bangladesh and Communist Party of Bangladesh also participated. From India, the participants, besides our party, were CPI(ML) Liberation, CPI(ML) Maharashtra, CPI(ML) Janashakti.

The International Seminar was inaugurated by Comrade Ludo Martens, President, PTB. Comrade Martens stressed the importance of fighting revisionism and building up international untied action in order to protect unity in

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SUCI Condemns Nuclear Blasts by Pakistan

Condemning the nuclear test conducted by Pakistan, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI issued the following statement on 28/5/98:

"Pakistani rulers, just like their counterparts in India, needed nuclear tests to fan up national jingoism and war psychosis to divert the people's attention from burning problems of life lest these generate democratic movements, and to boost up militarization of economy to artificially stimulate the sagging capitalist economy when millions of people are crying for food, shelter, medical treatment, drinking water, education and employment.

"The nuclear tests conducted by the BJP government in India provided them an excuse.

"We call upon the people of India and Pakistan to rise up and forge unity against this mad nuclear arms race by both the governments."



← Demonstration in Calcutta held on 16 May '98 against brutal oppression on mass movement in Indonesia.

Guardian of Hindutva Stretching out to Domain of Culture and Art

On 1 May '98, a crowd of activists of Bajrang Dal, a member of the Sangh Parivar, led by RSS, ransacked the house of a famed, or ill-famed, Muslim artist in Mumbai. The BJP MLA from South Mumbai, Mr Mangal Prabhat Lodha said that the artist's portrayal of Hanuman and Sita hurt "the sentiments of Hindu religion". The painting is reportedly 20 years old. Obviously, it took the Dal a long time — and the right time — to get hurt, just after the BJP's coming to power in Delhi. Days ago, on 26 April, Shiv Sena activists forced a concert in Mumbai to stop because the guest artist from Pakistan was Ghulam Ali, a Muslim. Still earlier, an exhibition was torn down in Delhi and an artist beaten up by Bajrang Dal members for the same 'reason'. The message is clear. With the BJP in power, the guardians of Hindutva are no more content with demolishing masjids. They are now stretching out to the domain of culture and art too, and would snuff out whatever they believe hurts "their religious" sentiments.

These may seem to some, perhaps, as mere bursts of madness. But there is a method behind, even if the fanatic followers themselves know it not. Regimented thought, blind faith and fanatic zeal combine to make the most fertile soil for fascist culture and mental make-up. Everywhere, the ruling bourgeoisie encouraged these tendencies, themselves remaining in the shadows and consolidating their rule while the nation was torn by frenzied passions. It was so in Italy and again in Germany. The German fascists believed the Jews were the source of all evil. The BJP wants to make us believe, it is the Muslims. The Nazis spared not even scientists and artists, including Sigmund Freud and Albert Einstein. The Bajrang Dal, Shiv Sena and RSS rampages bear the same sinister stamp. It is not mere hooliganism. Clearly, they get inspiration from the writing of Golwalkar, one of their ideological mentor, on "Cultural Nationalism". Golwalkar wrote: "To keep up the purity of the nation and its culture Germany shocked the world by her purging the country of the semitic races — the Jews. National pride at its highest has been manifested here... a good lesson for us in Hindustan to learn and profit by." (M. S. Golwalkar : *We or our Nationhood Defined* p.27)

It may be argued that this is stretching the point too far, that the BJP and the Sangh Parivar do not really mean all that. Is it really? True, the BJP has now dropped its earlier 'strident' Hindu posture. It now talks benignly of 'cultural nationalism'. But it is only a honeyed name for its same old rabid Hindu fanaticism. It contends that the concept of nationalism in India is unique in that it flows timelessly from the ancient Indian culture. This eternal Indian culture, says BJP, is the Hindu culture of the Vedic ages. So, for the BJP, India has been a nation from time immemorial — a Hindu Rashtra. But nations are not religious entities nor are they eternal. They are products of modern history — to be specific, of modern industrial capitalist civilization bound by a capitalist market within a definite geographical limit.

The Indian nation also appeared in history — not in the Vedic ages nor in the Mughal period — when it was at best a country divided into some principalities — but from 19th century onwards and in measure with the growth, development and intensification of the national movement against the British colonial rule. But this movement, joined in by the common masses of all communities and all religions, was led by the bourgeois nationalist leadership which could not, for reasons of history, liberate their own outlook and the national movement from Hindu religious influence.

But the RSS, which drives the BJP, was always openly Hindu fanatic, having nothing to do with the national movement embracing all communities. No surprise that they took no part at any time in the whole nationalist movement. That they should speak of 'cultural nationalism' today! They should better say Hindu jingoism in plain words, instead of trying to smuggle 'nationalism' into it to fool the people. Sadly, the concept that religion is a matter of personal faith has been much muddled today. The religious tilt of the nationalist movement, the deepening of communal psychology in 'secular' India and finally, the active encouragement mainly by the Congress for its petty-party gains are the main reasons for this confusion. The other reason is the sheer opportunism of the pseudo-left CPI(M) and CPI who cared not a straw to build up people's united democratic movements and thereby democratize and secularize their outlook — who played the weathercock in election politics and stooped so low in it as to placate even the Congress as 'secular'.

The ground had thus been already watered and made fertile for the BJP. The latter exploited it to the hilt and reaped the harvest in the polls. Of course, its numerical handicap in the present Lok Sabha obliges it to walk on a tightrope and adopt a 'benign' instead of a 'bellicose' posture. Hence the dropping of its earlier three major demands, the talk of 'consensus', the so-called national agenda, the new allocations for development of the N-E states and so on. But it would be a costly mistake to let these help overlook how it is stepping up fanaticism even more methodically — through the other members of its Parivar. The BJP says it has dropped the plan of Ram Mandir, for the present. But the Vishwa Hindu Parishad working president, Ashok Singhal said in Calcutta — reports *The Statesman* of 8 May '98 — that "Construction of all three temples — at Kashi, Mathura and Ayodhya — are very much on the agenda." Singhal spoke of not temples alone, but also of states: "India's identity still revolves round the concept of a Hindu Rashtra". He said more: "Gandhiji's theory — that all invaders who settled here are now Indians — has destroyed the identity of the country." Gandhiji's theory, whatever, is not our concern here. But Singhal's allusion to 'invaders' is. It should concern all thinking Indians. What he says is that non-Hindus and invaders' — meaning Muslims — cannot claim Indian identity, that they are aliens. Even Hindus — and we are not speaking of zealots — would abhor such

thoughts.

The next step from this perverse logic follows. "The VHP will reconvert to Hinduism SC and ST people who had been converted to Islam or Christianity". Is not the idea of 'cultural nationalism' becoming clearer and clearer? But there is more. "Our workers will resist the attempts of Christian and Muslim missionaries," said Singhal. Clear, the VHP is inciting the Hindutva brigade and intimidating the religious minorities.

The recent attacks on Muslim artists are, therefore, not accidental, but designed. So is the mounting RSS provocation against Christian missionaries in Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa and other N-E states. It compelled Assam assembly opposition leader Sylvius Kondappan demand of the Vajpayee Government immediate explanation and a White Paper on RSS activities in the North-East. Add to this the RSS clamour for introduction of "Hindu sciences", "Vedic mathematics" and country's "true history" in the school syllabus. Note further that the BJP government of Delhi has already decreed the observance of 'Bhagwan Parashuram Day' a state government holiday. Do not all these point clearly to the ultimate aim of BJP's 'cultural nationalism'? They do.

The BJP is trying to exploit the religious faith of the common people to serve its perverse end. To have sincere religious faith is one thing while exploiting it for political end is quite a different thing. It is indeed a heinous crime. It aims at confusing and regimenting, letting loose fanaticism and mass hysteria, dehumanizing people, completely destroying the democratic fabric of society — paving way for the growth of a fascist mental make-up. Its ominous signs are already showing. Not for nothing did the top monopoly houses make the BJP their first choice in this election.

It is for all progressive and democratic minded people irrespective of caste, community and religion to ponder, decide, rise and resist unitedly this ominous threat — now itself in time.

Railway Budget Flayed

Reacting to the Railway Budget '98-'99 of the BJP government, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, said on 29.5.98 :

"The railway budget ('98-'99) presented today by the BJP government in Parliament clearly shows that like its predecessors the BJP government also on the plea of overcoming financial crises, is out to impose heavy economic burdens on the people of the country.

"We strongly protest against this out and out anti-people railway budget."

Attempt to Foist Presidential Form of Government

The BJP government's Agenda for Governance published on 18th March last contained: "We will appoint a Commission to review the Constitution of India in light of experience of the past 50 years and to make suitable recommendations". President K. R. Narayanan said in his address to parliament: "Commission would be set up to review the Constitution and make recommendations so that the anomalous experiences of the past are not repeated in the future". Mr L.K. Advani's plea in his lecture at Patna on 26th April for replacement of the parliamentary system with a presidential form confirms that the task of this Commission for review of the Constitution is predetermined and it is to pave the way for a presidential system. Mr Advani knows that such a drastic change can not be brought about by the BJP and its allies alone, and so he harps on consensus. The Congress which is waiting in the wings has neither accepted nor rejected the idea. Our party foresaw this danger and it was pointed out in our policy statement issued prior to the last mid term poll to parliament. It was stated in our policy statement: "Another agonizing sign is also coming to the fore. Viewing the present crisis of instability of the government some people are advocating for the presidential form of government. The presidential form of government is nothing but a variant of constitutional dictatorship which is sure to trample even more severely upon the democratic rights and aspirations of the people."

The present clamour for presidential form of government is nothing new. Mr R. Venkataraman moved a resolution on this subject in 1965 at the AICC after the death of Pandit Nehru. Again when the Congress was routed in the north and its majority in the Lok Sabha was sharply reduced in the 1967 general elections, Mr J.R.D. Tata, a doyen of Indian monopolists, noting the growing instability and sensing the danger to the capitalist system arising therefrom pressed the panic button and pleaded for adoption of the presidential form of government. We also recall how before the clamping of emergency an attempt, inspired by Smt Indira Gandhi, was made to install a presidential form of government, but this attempt failed because of public resentment. Again in 1979 when the disintegration of the Janata party led government set in and the ruling bourgeoisie had no viable alternative in view President Sanjeeva Reddy and circles close to him raised the question of enhancing the President's powers to install some form of direct presidential type of government in order to stem the growing political instability. Subsequently Smt. Gandhi revived the idea after her return to power in 1980 at the two-day all India Congress of lawyers, inaugurated by her on 25th October 1980. Now the BJP is taking devious moves under cover of constitutional reforms for imposing presidential form of government.

Now one thing needs to be pointed out here. There is a concerted attempt to make us believe that any decision on any matter passed by the parliament by majority votes is a democratic one. But this is furthest from the concept of democracy even in the bourgeois sense. Emergency rule, and such black Acts like ESMA, NSA, etc., were all passed in overwhelming majority in parliament. But can any one call these democratic Acts? These are despotism, albeit majority despotism.

So the attempt to have consensus to foist the presidential form of government by amending the Constitution is indeed a shrewd move to give a democratic stamp to this heinous act.

But why this increasing urge for presidential form of government? Is it simply the product of lust for power of this or that bourgeois politician? No, this is not the case. It is a reflection in the bourgeois body politic of the growing need of the ruling bourgeoisie to concentrate more and more power in the hand of the executive as a means to stabilize the system and crush voice of protest and mass movement in the interest of the capitalist class. Today this has become a compulsion to the capitalist class, in the given situation of the country. Surely, the BJP has reasons to be in a hurry to switch over to the presidential form, because getting absolute majority for BJP seems quite uncertain. Naturally, presidential form of government, if at all introduced, can lend this party a good opportunity to run the government with the help of the presidential dictate. Such precedence may, in future, go to the advantage of the Congress if Congress can manage to become the ruling power replacing the BJP. But whether the presidential form of government can be foisted or not depends on so many other factors.

After independence India adopted Westminster form of government. Bourgeois parliament came into being at a particular stage of the historical process of social development as a political superstructure of the capitalist economy. At the dawn of the bourgeois democratic revolution, the bourgeoisie were the standard bearers of democracy, individual freedom and liberty although in the bourgeois sense. The parliamentary democracy emerged in human history as a political superstructure of the competitive capitalist economy. The multiparty democracy was then in conformity with wider and freer competition in the economic field at the early period of the development of capitalism. But owing to the law of development of capitalist economy the free and equal competition in the economic field gave birth to monopoly and finance capital. Pre-monopoly capitalism was transformed into monopoly capitalism. As monopoly capitalism developed doing away with the previous free and wider competition in the economic field, its reflection was found in the political superstructure as well. Thus the glory and fame once associated with parliamentary democracy offering wider democracy within the bounds of bourgeois democratic set up was completely destroyed by the bourgeoisie engaged in centralizing and concentrating power in their hands during the period of monopoly and finance capital either by the destruction of parliamentary set up and invoking fascism or by setting up "two party" or "multi party democracy" which were nothing but other varieties of fascism under the facade of parliamentary democracy. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat, observed: "fascism is manifesting itself in diverse forms more markedly in the state structure and administrative set up of all capitalist countries, developed or backward" (*On Some International Questions*)

"Even in countries with long parliamentary tradition parliamentary democratic rights and privileges are being gradually curtailed. Even to

the bourgeoisie the parliament is fast losing its utility." (*Ibid.*)

It is evident that in the changed situation the lively air of the parliamentary democracy cannot remain. In the exploitative capitalist set up no real equality can be ensured and with accentuation of economic crisis owing to the inherent law of capitalism, we have witnessed how the bourgeoisie themselves broke even the facade of parliamentary democracy, as in Germany and Italy.

The BJP is claiming that the amendments of the Constitution are necessary as the present problems of the society are stemming from defective Constitution, and the Congress has inflicted the "worst assault on democracy and the Constitution" by imposing the Emergency. The ruling class has taken a lesson from the widespread mass resentment against the emergency. So it tries to avoid this mistake in future, and is after imposition of presidential system through a democratic facade.

But what is the reality? Capitalism today is in deep crisis. The capitalist economic base has become moribund, reactionary and utterly corrupt. This crisis in the base is reflected in the superstructure — in the parliamentary institutions and in all its organs. Extreme economic instability has given rise to political instability. Squabbles, infighting, groupism, factionalism and defections have become common features among all the bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties which are trying to save this moribund and reactionary capitalism and prolong its lease of life. As a result of all these bickerings, squabbles and personal ambition within these parties a "stable" overwhelming majority in the legislature today becomes unstable tomorrow. At the same time the people faced with extreme hardship and pauperisation are giving vent to deep seated resentment and growing restive. The country is literally sitting on a volcano. The ruling class is growing apprehensive. The Westminster form of government which depends on the majority on the floor of the legislature is becoming less and less reliable from the bourgeois point of view, as an instrument of bourgeois class rule. Even rule through ordinance, and such black Acts as ESMA, NSA, etc., are becoming more and more inadequate in the face of growing crisis. So dictatorial measures are necessary to cope with the situation. The ruling class has been trying to bring about fascism by maintaining the facade of parliamentary democracy. The two party bourgeois parliamentary system was first attempted by propping up the Janata party at the centre in 1977. But this experiment failed. After the Janata experiment failed, the talk of presidential form of government was floated again. The ruling class was attempting at the same time to impose a two party system. The Janata Dal and then the UF governments also failed to provide the stability. The BJP was then chosen as an alternative, but the BJP also failed to provide a stable government. So attempt towards switch over from loose parliamentary structure to the presidential form with the concomitant concentration of power in the hands of the executive is being thought over. And to secure social sanction behind the projected change Mr Advani is speaking of "national consensus".

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Historic May Day Observed

WEST BENGAL

A state-level central May Day rally which recorded an impressive attendance from nearly all sections of workers, namely government and non-government, public and private including organised and unorganized sectors — UTUC-LS, CITU, AITUC, HMS, UTUC and some Federations.

The only resolution of the rally with its call for unity and united actions of the workers in the country and abroad against the mounting onslaught of both national and international capital was moved by Comrade Chittabrata Majumder of CITU. The state-level leaders of the participating Trade Unions and Federations who addressed the rally, spoke in support of the motion. Comrade Tapas Dutta, General Secretary, All India Committee UTUC-LS, in his brief speech referred to the glorious event of the Second International when Engels imparted an added significance to the day of Chicago martyrs by deciding to observe it as the Day of International Unity of workers, the world over. It was in the continuity and culmination of the message of the May-Day that the history witnessed the victory of the socialist revolution and emergence of the first workers' state — the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. What potential it held is all on record and can hardly be wished away.

On this day of taking pledge for international unity among workers Comrade Dutta referred to the brilliant historical mile-posts crossed by the world communist movement of not too long past, reminding the workers to realize in full measure what the unity, organisation and might of the workers are capable of creating. He also warned that those who are prone to be duped by the imperialist propaganda that the absence of socialist camp means end of all wars, should take lesson from the U.S. aggression on Iraq at a time when the socialist camp is non-existent. He regretted that it was revisionism that contributed to the gradual sapping and sagging of socialist system, ultimately leading to its degeneration and virtual liquidation during Gorbachev regime. But he called upon the workers not to lose heart at what happened which was only temporary. He rang optimism when he thundered that Marxism is not an utopia as is being attempted to be propagated by the enemies of workers world over but it is a science and therefore, irrefutable and indestructible.

He drew attention of the workers to the current emerging scenario in different countries, including Russia where workers shedding frustration and inertia, are organizing themselves anew under red banner.

It is not just in Indonesia, Malaysia or South Korea where the agitating workers are bursting forth on streets; it is equally so in America where retrenched workers in growing numbers, are taking out anti-establishment demonstrations. A determined fight against revisionism of all shades, particularly against those that have swamped and infected the working people in this country, and united struggle of the workers armed with correct teachings of Marxism-Leninism can break the present stalemate and create a congenial situation.

DELHI

The historic May Day was observed in Delhi jointly under the auspices of AITUC, CITU, UTUC-LS, UTUC, AICCTU, Mazdoor Ekta Kendra and Federation of Bank & Insurance Employees. Marching from Ramlila Maidan, a massive rally of thousands of workers and employees, after traversing main thoroughfares of New and old Delhi converged on Chandichawk outside Town Club where a mass-meeting was held in the evening. A presidium comprising representatives of above-named organizations conducted the proceedings of the meeting. Among them Comrade Ramesh Sharma, Secretary, Delhi State Organizing Committee of UTUC-LS was on the chair. Comrades M.K. Pandhey (CITU), Chaturanan Misra (AITUC), Achintya Sinha (UTUC-LS), Bhagaban Singh (UTUC), Dipankar Bhattacharya (AICCTU) and the representatives from Mazdoor Ekta Kendra and Bank & Insurance Employees' Organizations addressed the gathering.

Comrade Achintya Sinha, in his speech explained the historic significance of May Day, highlighted in brief the all-out attacks on the working class and called upon it to develop grass-roots level unity through actions to resist onslaught of the policies of economic reforms, liberalization and globalization.

KARNATAKA

The Bellary District Unit of UTUC-LS organised the 112th May Day on 1st May at the Gandhi Bhawan, Bellary.

Hundreds of mine workers of Samyuktha Gani Karmikara Sangha, with red banners and flags, marched through the main streets of Bellary raising various slogans.

Comrade Simhadri, the State Secretary of UTUC-LS was the main speaker. He urged the workers never to confine their movements to mere economic demands but keep the ultimate aim of the working class state in view. The capitalist imperialist state which is thoroughly anti-worker and pro-management, can only be fought by strengthening unity among workers of all categories. He said that united struggle is the only weapon in the hands of workers. Even the most modern weapons of the exploiters cannot stand as a challenge before this unity.

Comrade Dr. Mannar, an eminent advocate of Bellary and Labour leader, who was the Chief Guest, congratulated the workers and the Union for their hard work.

Comrade K. Somashekar, President of the Union, recalled the History of May Day. He said, "It is not a ceremonial tradition to celebrate the May Day but a pledge for commitment to working class unity."

Finally, Comrade Gangu Naik spoke. The meeting was presided over by Comrade H.V. Ganapathi

An important resolution demanding the opening of PF office at Bellary, Karnataka, was unanimously adopted in the meeting.

50th Anniversary of Party and May Day Observed in UP

Badlapur, UP May 1: The 50th anniversary of the party and May Day was observed on May 1 last at the Saltanat Bahadur Inter College Maidan in a most befitting and dignified way. More than one thousand people started in a procession from Purani Bazar and paraded the streets of Badlapur (Jaunpur) before converging on the meeting ground. The meeting was presided over by Comrade J. Asthana, Secretary, Jaunpur District Committee, SUCI. Comrade J. Verma conducted the meeting on behalf of the president.

Comrades Shreepal Dubey, D. Kant Dubey, Hiralal Mourya, all Jaunpur District Committee members, and Comrade Pushpendra Kumar Vishwakarma, Pratapgarh District Committee member spoke on the occasion.

Comrade V.N. Singh, Secretary UP State Committee was the main speaker.

Comrade Singh in his speech dealt on national and international situation, and the task ahead of our party, the real revolutionary party of the proletariat, reared by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat. Comrade Singh then dealt on the significance of May Day and characterised it as the solidarity day of the workers of the world. After the presidential speech of Comrade J. Asthana the meeting ended.

Successful Bandh on Farmers' Suicides in Andhra Pradesh

Since December last the cotton growers of Andhra Pradesh, particularly lower middle and poor peasants, have been continuously committing suicides as they sustained huge losses. So far about 300 farmers died.

The people of AP wanted to stop this chain of suicides. In such a condition a platform was formed, namely 'the Committee for prevention of suicides of farmers'. Various *kisan* and *khet mazdoor* organizations, including the AIKKMS initiated this. A convention was held on 9.4.98 at Hyderabad in this regard. Leaders of political parties — SUCI, CPI(ML) New Democracy, CPI, CPI(M), Congress(I), TDP(LP) were also invited to this convention. Comrade K. Sridhar, State Organising Secretary of SUCI, spoke in this convention.

The convention formulated a charter of demands. It gave a call to hold rallies, picketings, dharnas, etc., at the district level from 17th to 21st April. It also gave a call to observe a Bandh throughout the State on 23.4.98. The Steering Committee was elected at the convention. The AIKKMS is a constituent of it. The Steering Committee decided to make a representation to the Chief Minister and the Prime Minister. Accordingly a delegation of the Steering Committee met the Chief Minister in Hyderabad and the Prime Minister in Delhi. But no assurance was given either by the Chief Minister or by the Prime Minister.

As a culmination of the agitation, a bandh was observed on April 23 throughout the state. The bandh was total. In Hyderabad city around 200 people from various organizations were arrested while organizing the bandh. Comrade EPA Rasheed and Comrade L.V. Subba Reddy were among the arrested.

Successful Movements for Drinking Water Supply in Gulbarga, Karnataka

For the parched citizens of Gulbarga city summer has always proved to be an ordeal. The callous attitude of the authorities and their failure to provide even clean drinking water in the sweltering heat drew large number of people on the streets in protest. The AIMSS and the Gulbarga District unit of the party led many a mass protest rally and delegation to the authorities against the mixing up of drainage water with drinking water, and for supply of water to various localities. The movement was carried out in a phased manner — delegations, rallies and finally a 2 hour Rasta Roko on one of the main roads in the city. The Jevargri Road was filled with citizens from Maara Layout, NGO Layout, Macualaynagar, on 7th May. Com. H.V. Diwakar, District Secretary, SUCI, threatened to intensify the movement if repair of lines was not done, and improper water supply was not rectified within the 24th May. Comrade Bhagawan Reddy, member, Gulbarga District Committee also addressed the gathering. Mr Syed Abdul Rehman Munne, Deputy Mayor, came down to promise the citizens of early action.

Earlier protests have yielded results in the following areas :

- 1) In New Raghavendra Colony a 15 year old problem has been solved with the laying of a 800mt. 3 inch pipeline and a 17 HP Pumpset promised.
- 2) In Makhthimpura, Bhavaninagar, citizens have not had water supply for 2 months. Our protest has helped in forcing the authorities to resume water supply in these areas regularly.
- 3) Water supply in Mijuguri Extension was ensured after our delegation met the authorities under the leadership of our party.
- 4) A 3 year old water problem was solved in Suvarnanagar after a Protest Rally to the Corporation. A 1400 metre long pipeline has been laid from the filterbed to ensure regular water supply.
- 5) Hundreds participated in a movement demanding Bhima river water instead of salty water in Ambikanagar. The Engineer rushed to the spot to console the irate citizens. A delegation led by the party met the Water Supply and Sewerage Board authorities to demand a permanent solution to the problem. Now work has begun on laying of a pipeline, involving several lakhs of rupees.
- 6) Shahabazar and Vaddaragalli had not seen a drop of water for years. Women walking home with drawn faces and empty pots has been a common sight here. A protest demonstration forced the authorities to dig the earth 400 mts. deep and lay a main borewellpipe and assuage their problem considerably.

It can be recalled here that the party's historic movement for Bhima water in 1986-87 had drawn thousands of people into vortex of movement. After that, every year too, people from various localities have marched under the Party's leadership, seeking redressal.

Union Finance Minister's Pre-budget Meet with Trade Unions

24th April, 1998, New Delhi — The Union Finance Minister, met leaders of Central Trade Union organizations at North Block to seek their views and proposals on ensuing Budget. Representatives from seven organizations namely, BMS, INTUC, HMS, CITU, UTUC-LS, AITUC and NFITU were present. On behalf of UTUC-LS were present Comrades Achintya Sinha and Shankar Saha. Participating in the discussions Comrade Achintya Sinha, All India Secretary of UTUC-LS, forcefully demanded immediate halt to the implementation of the policies of economic reforms, liberalization and globalization. He also demanded drastic measures to contain the trend of increasing internal and external loans, and military budget.

He further demanded budget allocation for unemployment allowance which should be introduced for unemployed youths, pending their employment, as well as for the victims of closed/sick industries till they are re-opened. Budget allocation for supplying essential commodities at cheap rate to agricultural/rural workers and poor/marginal peasants was demanded. The UTUC-LS drew attention to the following:

- 1) Lakhs of rural health workers known as Community Health Guide (CHG) are working at Rs. 50.00 per month for last 20

years. They are attached with primary health centres under the Ministry of Health and entrusted with primary health care work at grass-roots level. Not to speak of increase in remuneration, they could earn more than Rs. 1000/- per month if only the government compensated erosion of purchasing capacity of Rs. 50/- alone. The government must look into the matter and provide for them at least minimum wages which are being paid to various segments of working population in unorganized sector.

- 2) Central government employees are on a year-long movement under the leadership of Joint Platform of Action (JPA) on the demand of non-implementation of 5th CPC's reforms related anti-employee, anti-people recommendations, exemption of non-gazetted employees from the burden of income tax and elevation of Calcutta and Chennai to A-1 city status of which they have been unjustly deprived. The United Front Government refused to accept their demands. On 30th March 1998, JPA submitted a memorandum in this regard. I would request you to look into and announce before Budget Session begins that Calcutta and Chennai have been accorded A-1 city status.

Presidential Form of Government

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The totally unethical and corrupt politics pursued by the bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties, squabbles for narrow selfish ends, defections and floor crossings by the legislators — all these have caused revulsion among the people and eroded whatever trust they had on the present Westminster type of government. The BJP is trying to skilfully utilize this revulsion of the people toward *Cabinet* form of bourgeois parliamentary system and channelise the public opinion toward acceptance of presidential form to confuse the people into thinking that the *Cabinet* form of government has failed and the presidential form may be better and will ensure better administration and deliver the goods. By spreading this type of confusion the BJP is trying to garner the support to its heinous move of foisting the presidential form of government and thus the switch over to this system of constitutional dictatorship is endowed with some kind of social sanction. This attempt of the BJP bears the stamp of typically skilful fascist tactics.

It is to be borne in mind that any such switch over proposed by the ruling class in its own class interest will only help in deteriorating the social-political and economic condition of the people instead of lessening the sufferings of the exploited and oppressed people of the country. People cannot expect any relief by any reform within the existing exploitative capitalist system. Even according to the old bourgeois concept as aired in the heyday of bourgeois democratic revolution the presidential form is undoubtedly more undemocratic than the Westminster form of parliamentary democracy. But we, the communists must not be dragged into the relative merits and demerits of the two systems. We, the communists, are for extension and

broadening of the democratic rights of the people, for the interest of the growth and development of democratic mass movements. As we have not yet been able to have a sway over the people who still cherish illusion about bourgeois democracy, we must make use of the bourgeois institutions to the maximum extent possible to create conducive atmosphere for democratic mass movement, but with an eye to helping the people to shed illusion about these institutions. Unlike the pseudo Marxists — the CPI(M) and the CPI who are pastmasters in the manoeuvres in parliamentary politics and whose activities help strengthening the people's illusion about parliamentary politics, the task of the real revolutionary party is to be directed to this goal of helping the people in shedding any illusion about parliament. In accomplishing this task the real revolutionary party must launch class and mass struggles conducive to anti-capitalist socialist revolution. This is why a revolutionary party can never support a presidential system with the attendant concentration of power in place of the present Westminster form of bourgeois democracy. At the same time we must constantly bear in mind this teaching of Lenin, "...from this capitalist democracy — that is inevitably narrow, and stealthily pushes aside the poor, and is therefore hypocritical and false to the core — forward development does not proceed simply, directly and smoothly towards "greater and greater democracy", as the liberal professors and the petty bourgeois opportunists would have us believe. No, forward development i.e. towards communism, proceeds through the dictatorship of the proletariat, and cannot be otherwise, for the resistance of capitalist exploiters cannot be broken by any one else or in any other way." (*The State and Revolution*)

Blasts to Trigger Arms Race and Help Further Militarisation of Economy to ward off Capitalist crisis

(Contd from page 1)

India, and so was the insurgency in North East India aided by foreign powers, going on for years. Further, the way in which the Pakistani army was re-equipping itself fast with Chinese help, created a dangerous security situation for India. The situation was so critical that India had no option but to do the tests and go nuclear. In glorification of the nuclear tests, it is being aired that the earlier prime ministers were weak-kneed and did not dare to go for the nuclear testing for fear of international pressure. The present BJP ministry led by Vajpayee as an able Prime Minister has taken courage in both hands and gone ahead with the testing, defying opposition and economic sanctions of the powerful states of the world, enhancing national pride and prestige.

Are these assertions and claims corroborated by facts? Is the situation such that nuclear explosion was an unavoidable compulsion imposed on India? Let us examine this.

The Kashmir problem has been there since 1947. The only solution can be through a political settlement, given correct approach and goodwill on both the sides. We have said this time and again earlier too. The same view was expressed by all well meaning people throughout the country. Without doing this, the ruling circles of India and Pakistan have all along maintained a war-like situation, a war psychosis and using this as justification, have gone on increasing expenditure on the military from budget to budget and resorted to militarization of economy to artificially stimulate the economy and in order to divert the attention of their respective peoples from the real problems in their lives. Armed clashes and negotiation parleys have gone on alternatively for decades. This is not the first time that Pakistan is procuring military hardware from outside. They did so reportedly in the past with US help, but it was more than matched by India through outside procurement and indigenous production to maintain a decisive military superiority throughout.

Has the insurgency in North East ever assumed such magnitude and intensity that war with the foreign powers alleged to be behind it became even a remote possibility?

What new situation has arisen today, what overriding necessity warranting nuclear arming of the country, further depriving the people who are already half-fed and half-clad and lack even the elementary facilities of sanitation, health and education?

There have been none. There has been no qualitative change. Therefore, with respect to security perception the story of "compelling circumstances" concocted by the Government is a hoax.

Secondly, it should be remembered that the Indian nuclear weapon development programme, involving huge expenditure from the public exchequer and deployment of an army of scientists, engineers and technicians in the development work spread over a large number of establishments across the country in a sustained, coordinated fashion for a period of about thirty

years spanning the tenures of a number of successive governments in Delhi, could not have been the brain-child of this or that party or government. This programme was launched at the behest of the ruling capitalist class of India in the late sixties when Indian capitalism which had already grown and matured being led by an aspirant bourgeoisie to acquire distinct imperialistic traits, looked outside the country for markets and deemed it necessary to acquire nuclear capacity to strengthen its bid for emerging as a major power, creating its own sphere of influence and exercising hegemony in South Asia. After the test blast in Pokhran range in 1974, the Central Committee of our party, in a statement dated 20th May, 1974 stated inter alia: "...In a capitalist country like ours, explosion of nuclear device ... making a colossal wastage of state exchequer created by the sucking of blood of the starving millions groaning under the grinding machine of capitalist exploitation, cannot delight any right thinking person..." The statement went on to say that the ruling Indian bourgeoisie was frantically trying to fan up national jingoistic feelings on the issue in order to distract the attention of the people from the evergrowing economic crisis. The statement, in the concluding portion, stated that "... even the CPI(M) and CPI, who still claim themselves as Marxist-Leninists, have hailed and eulogized this 'success' and have come out in the open to share the so-called 'national pride' in tune with the ruling bourgeois class and other national jingoistic forces. In doing so they have completely gone against the Leninist teachings that in a capitalist state like India it will not only add to the coercive power of the capitalist state and to the untold sufferings and miseries of the common people but also is fraught with other dangers, particularly in view of the fact that Indian capitalism has already reached the stage of imperialism..."

It is the ruling class that, pursuant to its class objective, decides and controls the nuclear programme, including the timing of nuclear tests. From all accounts, India completed the preparations for the present series of testing quite some time back when Narasimha Rao of Congress was the PM. But the industrial-bureaucratic-military axis that really runs the affairs of the state from behind the facade of parliamentary democracy has given green signal for the tests to be conducted only now, when Atal Behari Vajpayee of the BJP happens to be the PM. BJP and Vajpayee can claim no special "credit" other than this in the matter. The FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM have all but their support to this blast.

What impelled the ruling Indian capitalist class to precipitate the test series just now, so soon after assumption of power by the BJP-led Government?

There have been strong political and economic compulsions for this.

The ruling class of India accepted globalization of the Indian economy with the class objective of maximizing profit in collaboration with imperialist monopoly capital as junior partners in joint ventures through enjoying slices

of foreign market, in return for opening up the Indian market to foreign capital, through jointly fleecing the people at home and abroad. For speeding up the process of globalization and opening up the economy at the cost of the Indian people, already smarting under the initial onslaughts of globalization on their life and living, the ruling class needs stable rule by a party or a combination of parties subservient to it. But political stability has been eluding it for the last decade or so, despite its continual efforts to anyhow artificially stabilize the political situation — such has been the degree of crisis and instability in the political superstructure generated by the extreme crisis in the economic base.

With great expectations, a big section of the Indian monopoly houses accorded strong support to the BJP during the parliamentary polls earlier this year, the assessment being that BJP was the only available force that could provide the much needed stability. But in point of fact, the moribund communal BJP-led combination could just manage to form a Government, but the utterly opportunistic alliances entered into by the BJP combination before and after the polls for anyhow forming a Government was fast eroding the credibility of the BJP Government and so was the petty bickerings within the combination itself. All this made the continued existence of the Government precarious.

No time could be lost now. The Congress, the most trusted political agent of the ruling class for decades, is in disarray and although it is trying to put its house in order and rejuvenate itself, that will take some time. The prospect of its providing a stable government immediately is bleak. The Janata Dal has all but disintegrated. The UF is not a coherent political entity. With no alternative in sight, the BJP Government must be bolstered up anyhow. The ruling class had to precipitate the nuclear test series to stabilize the political situation. The assessment is that this should stabilize the present Government, silencing the criticism of the opposition as also the bickerings within the ruling combination. Or else, the BJP and its associates, riding on the crest of the national jingoistic euphoria to be whipped up centring round the nuclear blasts, could sweep the polls in a mid-term election if need be.

The economic compulsion that actuated the ruling class to precipitate the nuclear blasts is that there has been mounting pressure from imperialist finance capital for more speedy globalization measures, for faster opening up of the Indian market so that it feels safe to invest more in India under stable conditions — and this corresponds to the interest of the Indian ruling class too. The requirement is for more speedy globalization measures by the BJP Government than even the preceding Congress and UF governments. But here the declared Swadeshi avocation of the BJP was putting it into an awkward position. Large sections of the Indian people have been viewing globalization with misgivings, even looking at it as outright sell-out of Indian interests. In order to make use of this feeling in its favour electorally,

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Blasts to Help Wider Liberalisation

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the BJP had declared that globalization would be adopted only to the extent that it did not hamper full and free development of Swadeshi (indigenous) enterprises. After forming the ministry, this was now proving to be a hindrance to the political somersault that the BJP must perform by speeding up the globalization process in order to remain eligible to stay in power. Here, the nuclear blasts could provide an effective cover of euphoria of "national" pride behind which the BJP Government could pulverize the Swadeshi concept into bits. Having thus played up the people's sentiment for making gains in the election, the BJP has now betrayed it.

This is no guesswork, but has already been strikingly borne out by the events within just the few days that have passed since the explosions. "Soon after the nuclear blasts, the government awarded 18 oil exploration contracts, 11 of them to American companies, whose projects had been in limbo for two years. It cleared 34 exploration licences for onshore minerals in four states. Three foreign investments in power projects, which had been languishing for want of a government guarantee (Government counter-guarantee to safeguard the profit rate - Ed. P.Era), were suddenly approved. And, according to newspaper reports, the government is to allow foreign investors to own 100 per cent of the equity of housing companies (against 40 per cent earlier) and to raise hard currency loans for the first time" (Quoted from an article in the Economist, London, reproduced in The Statesman, 24.5.98). The people should note the rank hypocrisy of the "Swadeshi" BJP involved in outdoing the Congress and the UF in surrendering the interest of the Indian people behind the din and bustle of the "national" pride generated by the "Swadeshi" bomb!

It is idle to presume that the seasoned and matured industrial-bureaucratic-military axis of India had not carefully evaluated the pros and cons, the likely extent of international repercussions before it embarked on the current nuclear testing programme. Its calculation was that the affluent nations comprising the G-8, with their crisis-ridden economies, the main donors to and investors in India, would find the carrot of the profitable Indian market represented by the 10 to 15 % of the over 100 crore strong Indian population held out, to be too juicy and tempting to resist. The axis must also have anticipated the contradiction within the G-8 and had hoped to handle it. Already, this assessment is proving to be correct. The initial flurry of economic sanctions against India has almost petered out. The article in The Economist, London, referred to earlier, has noted that "The G8 meeting in London last week criticized India's tests but, to India's delight, announced no unified sanctions. Britain, France and Russia have refused to impose sanctions, and Japan will not hold up the \$ 7.4 million credit it had already agreed to last year. Indian diplomats are trying to exploit divisions within the G8." The USA too, reportedly did not consider it wise to isolate India. One should also remember the fact that ever since globalization was adopted by India, by far the highest inflow of foreign investment in the country has been from the USA, earning profit for the US multinationals,

and the USA cannot jeopardize this in a huff. President Clinton told a reporter the other day that the question of USA contemplating break of relation with India did not arise as India was the largest democracy in the world! There have also been reports in the press about the Indian Government trying to pressurize the US administration through the US multinationals operating in India so that it does not impose stringent sanctions against this country.

When one remembers that in 1995, during the tenure of the Rao ministry, the US spy satellites detected preparations for nuclear testing in the Pokhran range and the US Government raised hue and cry over it, it is difficult to believe that the US intelligence failed to detect preparations for the multiple tests this time. Moreover, before these tests, a Khalistani paper in British Columbia reportedly leaked out information about the ensuing tests. It is reasonable to assume that the USA had prior knowledge of the tests but decided to keep mum and react after the event. Why? Increasing profitable US investment in India is not the only reason. There has been a growing Indo-US collusion in recent years reflected in defence co-operation, regular consultations on defence matters and joint naval exercises and aerial inspections. When India sent troops to Sri Lanka and Maldives in blatant exercise of its regional hegemony, the USA looked the other way. There appears to have been a growing perception, a tacit understanding in Washington of the special position and status of India as the major power

to stir up national jingoism by its stance of refusing to be cowed down by the powerful countries of the world on the issue, we observed in an article that "...India wants to keep its nuclear option open, not because it faces a nuclear threat from its neighbours, but to increase its bargaining power.... And though it cannot compete with the advanced imperialist countries, it wants to play a leading role among the less developed countries as a regional superpower, and ...use the threat of its own nuclear weapon capacity by keeping its nuclear option open, as a leverage to further enhance its bargaining power. ...by refusing to sign the discriminatory CTBT and by the edge of its military power it wants to play a leading role in rallying other countries under NAM and SAARC against the advanced imperialist countries to gain concessions." (from article in the Proletarian Era, issue dated 24.9.96)

Now that threat of developing nuclear capability is a reality. Like the possible extent of adverse international repercussion following the tests, the industrial-bureaucratic-military axis, on behalf of the Indian ruling class, must also have assessed the gains to be achieved through this. These are, in brief: attainment of undisputed regional hegemony, congenial to the aspiration to move towards a global power status; sharp increase in manoeuvrability and bargaining power vis-a-vis the advanced imperialist countries; silencing the people's protests against the more intense crisis, unemployment, poverty and destitution that are bound to result from speeding

up the globalization through stirring up national jingoism; to obtain, by the same means, popular sanction for even higher expenditures on the military, and even more militarization of the economy in a bid to stave off the crisis; diverting the people's attention from their real problems and exploitative capitalism, the root cause of the problems through maintaining a warlike situation between India and Pakistan — a stratagem employed for long by the rulers of both India and Pakistan. It is of course anybody's guess when the Pakistani rulers will jump into a nuclear blast using India's explosion as a plea and holding India responsible for it. If any such thing happens the entire brunt of the burden will have to be borne by the common people of Pakistan.

The present series of nuclear testing has been a calculated move by the Indian ruling capitalist class to further its class interest at the cost of the people. But the testing is being projected as a compulsion in the "national" interest, is being acclaimed with fanfare as a matter of "national" pride.

That the bourgeois parties like Congress would support this and uphold the bourgeois concept of nation as they have done was to be expected. Their lingual differences with the BJP are due to the difference in their position with respect to the BJP in parliamentary politics, that is, because they are in the opposition, and the contradiction with the BJP stemming from it.

The "Communists" like the CPI(M) and the CPI have the habit of shifting their stand on any issue with an eye to gaining advantage in parliamentary politics. They have been doing it this time too regarding the present nuclear blasts. They have never provided clear cut guidelines to

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Sabre-rattling by Advani Condemned

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI issued the following statement on Advani's remark on Pakistan on May 19, 1998 :

"Being armed with nuclear arms the Home Minister, true to the BJP's policy and character, has threatened Pakistan about a 'qualitative change' in relationship between the two countries and that if Pakistan does not roll back its anti-India policy 'any other course will be futile and costly for them.'

"It is highly provocative, utterly irresponsible and is bound to worsen mutual relation between the two countries.

"We severly condemn this attitude on the part of the Home Minister and call upon all democratic and well-meaning people to protest in one voice to restrain him from making such provocative moves."

in South Asia. It cannot be ruled out that this is part of a give and take arrangement in exchange for the US enjoying a large slice of the Indian market. The heinous US policy of keeping both India and Pakistan at logger heads will of course continue to remain.

However, the heroic assertions of BJP leaders about defying the world and going it alone in the matter of nuclear blasts come what may, have no substance at all. These are pseudo heroics designed to hoax the people and work up a false sense of "national" pride in them.

About two years back, when the Indian Government refused to sign the CTBT and tried

Destroy All Nuclear Weapons

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the people showing that all the burning problems in people's life arise from the capitalist system, far less have they exposed the hypocrisy and falsehood inherent in the bourgeois concept of nation and national interest, as our party has done. They have become parties of the establishment, serving and protecting the capitalist system. They have deserted the people and gone over to the side of the ruling capitalists.

It has been seen on different occasions after the independence that whenever the ruling class adopted some drastic measure likely to have harsh effect on the people's life and living, it invoked "national" interest to justify it and tried to carry the people with it, using them as pawns. Our party has time and again tried to expose such machinations of the ruling class from a correct Marxist-Leninist approach. The question is: who constitute the nation and whose interest is the national interest — the handful of capitalists who thrive and enrich themselves by misappropriating the wealth produced by the people through their sweat and blood, or the vast majority of the people who must remain impoverished and destitute because of the class policies of these very capitalists and whose well-being cannot be ensured without overthrowing the exploitative capitalist system?

We have also shown again and again that the ruling capitalist class has been always engaged in making people believe that the interest of the ruling class is the real interest of the "nation". So it is clear that when they speak of "national interest", "national unity" and "national pride", it is the 'interest', 'unity' and 'pride' of the exploiters having nothing to do with the interest of the toiling people.

There is another aspect. These occasions are such that national frenzy, and national jingoistic feeling can be very easily whipped up encouraging blindness and fanaticism among a good section of the people paving further the path towards fascism, an arch enemy of mankind and civilization. Moreover the BJP as the ruling party at the Centre has also taken recourse to fanning up religious revivalism, Hindu religious

revivalism in particular, as has been manifest in the nature of campaign spread by the VHP and others about declaring the explosion spot as "Sakti Peeth", building a Hindu mandir there, and sending the 'sacred' sand across the country in memory of this occasion. Even if these are not implemented the religious and obscurantist overtones are obviously fraught with dangerous consequences.

In this connection, let us recall a teaching of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, an eminent Marxist thinker of this era, the founder General Secretary of our party, the leader, teacher and guide. Explaining the cultural-philosophical foundation of fascism he taught us that it is a peculiar fusion between spiritualism, obscurantist ideas, religious beliefs and faith with technological aspects of science. This is what is happening very pronouncedly at the behest of the BJP which while acknowledging the importance of up-to-date technological aspects of science in the interest of the capitalist class is throwing to the winds the scientific bent and faculty of reasoning. This has the inevitable effect of dehumanizing a man. When fascism appears, Comrade Ghosh told, there remains hardly anybody who can be called a Man.

Be that as it may, could an all-out attack by an enemy power be thwarted effectively by keeping the people half-fed and half-starved? Who save the country in case of a life and death struggle with an aggressor — the capitalist exploiters or the masses rising up with patriotic fervour? What are the lessons of history in this regard? If the ruling capitalist class defends anything that is their right to loot and plunder and the ministerial *gaddi* for this or that ruling party but never do they defend country's independence.

In fine, it should be noted that Vajpayee Government, following the footsteps of France and China which put their signatures on CTBT after some nuclear blasts carried out by them defying strong world opinion from a position of power, may anytime decide to sign hoping to be an official member of the nuclear club.

But at this critical moment common people of both India and Pakistan should raise their strongest

voice of protest against preparations of all nuclear weapons, more so demand complete destruction of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destructions by all countries — once for all. The students, youths, intellectuals and all well meaning people should stand unitedly to build up powerful, protracted united mass movement against the war-psychosis and mad race for nuclear weaponisation which is looming large on this sub-continent. This is the only course left before us all.

P. S. This write up went to the press before Pakistan had its nuclear blast. This issue of *P.Era* contains the observation of our Central Committee on this point which readers should go through carefully. The Central Committee, SUCI, has decided to observe "All India Anti-Nuclear Protest Day" against the conspiracies of the ruling classes of both India and Pakistan on June 1, '98.

SUCI Condemns Brutality on Mass Movement in Indonesia

Condemning the brutal massacre in Indonesia, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, issued the following statement on 15.5.98:

"Indonesia's military regime brutally murdered hundreds of students and people to ruthlessly suppress the mass upsurge demanding political and economic reforms to resolve the severe economic crisis and to change the fascist political order.

"Indonesia's reactionary bourgeois regime is out to crash the legitimate struggle with the direct connivance of world imperialism led by the USA.

"We condemn this barbaric murder. Further we express our solidarity with fighting students and people of Indonesia at this hour of their historic struggle.

"Our salute to those martyrs who have sacrificed their lives to the cause of this noble struggle.

"We call upon the people of the whole world to stand by the heroic fighters of Indonesia."

People's Victory in Indonesia Hailed

Congratulating the heroic people of Indonesia, particularly its students' community for bringing down the fascistic rule of Suharto, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI in course of a statement said on 21.5.98, that people all over the world engaged in life and death struggle against the capitalist class, the imperialists and their henchmen were today proud of them.

Comrade Mukherjee also opined that this had once again brought to the fore the tremendous strength of mass upsurge in dealing powerful blows against the exploiting class and fascistic rulers.

Brussels Seminar

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international communist movement. In his speech he highlighted the Leningrad Declaration for the Unification of International Communist Movement signed by 22 workers' and communist parties. The text of the declaration, signed also by our party, was published in the *Proletarian Era*.

In the Seminar it was decided to provide financial aid to North Korea, which suffered from natural calamity, as well as to the Albanian Labour Party.

Comrade Ranjit Dhar, on behalf of our party, placed the Seminar paper on: "Proletarian Internationalism and the New World Order".

In the final session of the Seminar, resolutions were taken against USA's intrigue against Kabila government in Congo, imperialist conspiracy against North Korea, for Reunification of Korea, for monetary help to famine stricken Korea,

against US sanction on Cuba, for help to Albanian party, against aggression on Iraq, on the support for revolutionary movement in Latin America, particularly Columbia and Peru.

The subject matter for the Seminar in the coming year (1999) has been decided to be: "Imperialism means war"

Prior to the Seminar, on May 1, the International Working Class Day, was celebrated at BUC university campus through a festival. Thousands of people attended the festival. Seminars were held on different important issues. Revolutionary songs were presented there. In the afternoon May Day meeting was held and addressed by Comrade Ludo Martens, besides delegates from Congo, Albania, Greece and Azarbaizan. The day before, a get together had been organised with the delegates where Comrade Nadim Roze introduced the delegates.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : NIHAR MUKHERJEE