

Proletarian Era

Volume 30 No. 14
May 14, 1997

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

On Recent Political Situation

On March 30, 1997, Congress(I) President Sitaram Kesri withdrew support to the 10-month old United Front Government led by Deve Gowda and staked claim to form a government of the Congress(I), dealing the Gowda Government a stunning blow and even surprising Sharad Pawar, the leader of the Congress(I), in the Lok Sabha and nearly all members of even the Congress Working Committee who had not an inkling about the decision till the last moment!

The Congress(I)-UF understanding was of course one of 'convenience' from the very beginning. In Parliamentary elections all the parties of the UF including the Janata Dal as also the Congress(I) and the Lefts had all fought independently. The non-Congress(I) parties' main issue was hawala and the other scams of the Congress(I) even though they, as also the

Congress(I), were all apprehensive of the rising prospects of their common foe in the hustings — the BJP. But when no party could win an absolute majority in the hung parliament that followed — and when the BJP's gamble of ensuring stability to its minority government by luring MPs away from other parties failed, ending its government of 13-days, frantic parleys were made, mainly by the CPI(M) and the CPI to form a new government, obviously with the support of the same Congress(I) against which they cried so hoarse centring hawala etc, just before the elections! These they did by much lobbying and manoeuvring with the Janata Dal and also with the regional parties other than those with the BJP. The 13-party conglomeration led by the Janata, named United Front, even though it was united

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Central Committee's Statement after defeat of Deve Gowda Government

Commenting upon the fall of the Deve Gowda led UF Government, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI in course of a statement said on 12.4.97 that it is the inevitable outcome of a hotch potch alliance which in its bid to form a government by any means did not hesitate to take support of the highly reactionary anti-people Congress(I) which availed of the first opportunity to bring down the Government in its desperate bid to come back to power.

Speaking about the role of the CPI(M) and CPI who, having abandoned the banner of united democratic mass movement, preferred to associate themselves with this opportunistic combination, Comrade Mukherjee observed: their act has very clearly helped the BJP to gain further mileage and pose greater danger to the cause of Left and democratic movement of the country."

49th Anniversary of S U C I Observed in States

The 49th Anniversary was observed in different states of the country with due solemnity. 24th April, the Party foundation day, evokes deep sense of emotion to all the members and supporters of the party including broad masses of the people. Reports of rallies, meetings and other programmes came from different states and these are given below in brief. We regret that the reports of the observance of 24th April could not be covered from Gujarat. In UP this day was observed throughout the state and all the reports could not be covered here.

Orissa

Bhubaneswar: On the occasion of 49th anniversary of SUCI a state level demonstration of thousands of people, demanding control of drought, irrigation facility, exemption of water tax, tuition and examination fees of students, supply of drinking water and also against price rise, was held at Bhubaneswar on 24th April. A memorandum was submitted to the Chief Minister, Orissa, by a delegation comprised of 4 State Committee members, which demanded immediate redressal of the problems.

A massive rally was also held at P.M.G. square under the presidentship of Comrade Bishnu Das, member State Committee, SUCI. The meeting started with the songs on foundation day of SUCI and on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of this era. The main speaker, Comrade Tapas Dutta, member of the Central Committee and State Secretary, Orissa, during his address said: The foundation day is being observed at a time when our state is faced

with an unprecedented drought situation. In many districts crops have been destroyed, people are starving, selling out their children and are forced to leave their villages in search of jobs. But the government has done nothing to meet such a critical situation and has shown utter negligence. Comrade Dutta urged the people to organise sustained movement against this criminal negligence of the government.

Comrade Dutta reiterated that the root cause of all problems of our country lies in ruthless capitalist exploitation. The parties like the CPI, the CPI(M) or the rightist parties are engaged in opportunist politics and alliances to safeguard the interest of the capitalist class. He said the 14 party alliance at the Centre, comprised of even regional and parochial parties, talks of fighting out communalism of the BJP with the help of the Congress (I), which played the communal card many times during its long tenure in power. These parties along with the BJP have no difference in policy and outlook with the Congress (I) which

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee on recent development in Indonesia

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, said, in course of a statement on 30.4.97 on the recent developments in Indonesia, as reported in the media, that:

"The astounding news that the nomination papers were cancelled of the daughter of the late President Sukorna, Ms Megawati Sukornaputri, leader of PDI, founded by her father and all her colleagues, who wanted to contest the forthcoming election announced by the Indonesian dictator, General Suharto — a conspiracy to foil which Ms. Sukornaputri's party along with other opposition parties have called upon the people to boycott the election — and that General Suharto has issued orders that all army personnel should cast their votes following his instruction, and only PDI, PP, and the ruling Golkar Party will be allowed to contest — is an unparalleled example of the iron-fist of military dictatorship.

"We appeal to the democratic-minded people of India and of the world at large to condemn in one voice the military dictatorship of General Suharto and its smothering of democratic movement in Indonesia."

serves the interest of the capitalist class. Their difference lies only on one point, that is who will capture the governmental power. All these parties are competing among themselves to serve the

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Albanian People's Armed Revolt against Corrupt Rule of Berisha

Recently Albania witnessed a massive armed uprising. Although the uprising was seemingly against its President Mr Sali Berisha, it was in reality an outburst against the evils of the restored capitalism in that country. Albania was a tiny socialist country which suffered a reversal through counter-revolution in 1991.

The erstwhile socialist Albania was more or less self-sufficient. There starvation death or unemployment was unheard of.

But after capitalism returned as a result of revisionist attack from within, in the main, it started to bring all its evil to the society.

Like all capitalist countries, this sovereign land of south-east Europe became very fast afflicted with price rise and retrenchment, joblessness and deteriorating law and order, corruption, smuggling of arms and drugs, nepotism, and administrative high handedness. Like all despots, Sali Berisha needed to gag people's voice. He clamped press censorship and came down heavily on the opposition. Thousands of opposition leaders and activists have been thrown behind bars.

In 1994, Fatos Nano, the socialist party leader, was given 10 years rigorous imprisonment on false ground. When Albanian Supreme Court demanded to reconsider the case against Fatos Nano, Berisha compelled its Chief Justice to flee Albania.

That section of the communists led by the grandson of Envar Hoxa, leader of Labour Party of Albania and Albania's former President, which has been consistently opposing the reform programmes, is now compelled to conduct its political activities from neighbouring Greece, after being tortured and hounded by SHIK, Berisha's secret police.

Sali Berisha was the twice elected President of the Balkan State, once in 1992, next in 1996. Both elections were heavily rigged, backed by the imperialist forces and for his election campaign he got no less than VIPs like US Ambassador and EC leaders. Imperialists hailed him, after he was elected in 1992, as a harbinger of economic prosperity which included the now devastating Pyramid Bank schemes, propelled as marvelous. The IMF opined that Albania should be emulated,

paying tribute to its "miracle economic growth." Imperialism which turned against socialist Albania now backs it as a prize for introducing market economy there and allowing USA to use its army and naval bases for espionage other imperialist reasons.

But all the miracles of the West crumble. Like Mexico or South Korea Albania too has started to crumble. Within two years of market economy, Albania was trapped in severe economic debt. Almost all economic activities have collapsed there. The crisis of education, the failure to pay pensions, mass unemployment, the lack of goods of prime necessities, fall of living standard, and so on, have caused havoc. Retrenchment and unemployment compelled countless to leave the country. At least 4,00,000 bonded labourers are there in neighbouring Greece. All problems were intensifying, pushing people towards the present outburst.

The immediate cause of the uprising in Albania was the failure of the notorious Pyramid Bank schemes which turned many into paupers. Albanians who invested in the beginning received an interest of a whopping 50 per cent a month. What an incredible amount, which lured Albanians to sell their homes and lands to invest in the pyramid schemes. The money the government backed mafia amassed in the process was an estimated one hundred crore dollars, which is overwhelming in a country with the lowest per capita income in Europe. All this ended in a devastating ruin for the common Albanians as has happened in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Bulgaria, Poland, etc. by government backed chit funds.

A large part of the money was used to strengthen the dictatorship of Sali Berisha, his party the Democratic Party and enrich its leaders. It is a total fraud on the people.

The uprising started about 40 km north of the Adriatic port city of Vloa. The demand was to oust Berisha and get the money back. The uprising then spread to the whole of South Albania. Unable to stop the upsurge with police, military had to be deployed. Barricade battles started at many places. With arms in hand, people are not easy to resist. A

section of police and military joined the militia. Besides the entire south, sections of north and other parts of Albania went in the hands of the rebels. Rebellion has also spread in Tirana the capital. In the course of movements the rebels have freed many from jail including Ramez Alia, a former leader of Albanian Labour Party and head of the state before Berisha regime. It may be mentioned that Ramez Alia compromised on revisionist line.

Feeling cornered, Berisha made Baskim Fino, the leader of the Opposition Socialist Party, prime Minister. Berisha formed an interim national government with some other parties along with the Socialist Party, which supported the revisionist reform programme.

Thus Berisha attempted to bypass the demand to oust him and also to pour cold water on mass upsurge by inducting degenerated communists in government. But the movement against Berisha continues while the rebels hadn't participated in the national government.

Friends of Berisha are behaving strangely. The USA and other imperialist powers were crying hoarse over human rights violations in Serbia and Bulgaria, neighbouring states of Albania. But about Berisha's doing they so long kept mum. They remained silent about Berisha's autocratic regime. But after the uprising, and as it is advancing, now, imperialists are grumbling about it. But the extent of popular participation has resisted the imperialists from directly interfering into the matters of sovereign country. Italy followed by Greece infiltrated Albania in the name of peace keeping, of course with the UN rubber stamp. The USA is determined to keep Berisha in power, while the EC is for bringing socialists, i.e. the revisionists in power against Berisha. This is only an imperialists conflict between USA and EC to grab Albania unrelated to people's interest.

Whatever be the outcome of the upsurge ultimately, the signal is clear that toiling Albanians no more is going to accept the autocratic rule. People will mobilise and organise themselves more and more to make the battle stronger. Capitalism will no more get a smooth going in Albania.

U K Elections In Restrospect

The British monopoly has kicked out Mr John Major and his conservative party out of governmental power in the recent elections held in United Kingdom, and has installed the government of Mr Tony Blair and his Labour Party. Mr Blair has stated in his thanksgiving speech, "We will speak up for that decent, hardworking majority of the British people whose voice has been silent for all too long in our political life." He has also spoken of "extending educational opportunity not to an elite but to all our children, modernising our welfare state, rebuilding our national health service as a proper national health service."

So it transpires that in the opinion of Mr Blair, for eighteen years, if not more, the majority of the British people could not make their voice heard. Sometimes the liberal philistines of bourgeois politics inadvertently blurt out the truth. It is an indiscretion on the part of Mr Blair to have told this truth in a moment of borrowed triumph. Anyhow,

so much for the much trumpeted virtues of British democracy! But let no one think that Mr Blair is different from Mr John Major in serving the British capitalist class. Whereas the conservative party is rather crude and shameless in its advocacy of the interests of the British bourgeoisie, the Labour Party serves the very same bourgeoisie, hiding its ugly class character with a pro-labour cover. All along the Labour Party was simply the other outfit of the British bourgeoisie.

It is obvious that the working class and other exploited masses of Britain were becoming "restive" as their voices were throttled "all too long," their children were deprived of opportunities for education and the national health service in UK was not a "proper" national health service. The conservative government was becoming unpopular. Out of sheer desperation it played the card of extreme nationalism. And it proved to be its undoing for the present.

Not that the British people are for the so-called economic integration of EU nations. The single European currency to be introduced from 1999 and the subsequent concentrative measures of European finance capital, is an affair of the capitalist-imperialists of Europe. It is in their interest to unite against US and Japanese brigands. To the extent that the European vultures will have their pound of flesh in their loot in the international capitalist market, they will throw some bones to a section of the upper layer of the British working class and middle class. This is the secret behind the story of emergence of "labour aristocracy" in Britain and other capitalist imperialist countries, which works as the "agent of the capitalist class within working class movement", as Lenin showed.

The conservative party became unpopular not because of its opposition to the subjection of British capital to EU, but because of its anti-people policies. Though the Labour Party does not seem to have expressed any strong views, for or against, on this matter, it will support whatever the British

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interest of the capitalist class and the multinationals in the best way.

Comrade Dutta said until and unless this opportunist politics of the CPI, the CPI(M), rightist parties, including the Congress (I) and the BJP is defeated and crushed, capitalism cannot be overthrown. He said, the only panacea to all evils is anti-capitalist socialist revolution. To organise this revolutionary upsurge sustained and organised movement should be developed throughout the length and breadth of this country.

The meeting ended with the Internationale after the presidential address by Comrade Bishnu Das.

Haryana

The foundation day of the Party was observed on 24th April at Rohtak, Haryana in a befitting manner. A mass meeting was held in the Patwar Bhawan Hall. Comrade Satyawan, Secretary, Haryana State Organising Committee presided over the meeting while Comrade Anup Singh, member, State Organising Committee delivered the introductory speech.

Comrade Ashutosh Banerjee, Central Committee member, was the main speaker. He mainly dwelt on the initial history of the struggle to build the party under the leadership of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh along with his Comrades in arms, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, Comrade Sachin Banerjee and others. Comrade Banerjee said : The Party is entering into the 50th year of struggle. This is an important occasion to recall and analyse the different aspects of the struggle to strengthen the Party and to draw correct and timely lessons to turn inadequacies into adequacies. We should all remember that the history of the struggle to build the party is intertwined with the life struggle, in all its aspects, of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the thinker and leader of the anti-capitalist socialist revolution in India.

He continued : we should remember that in the process of building the SUCI as a Leninist revolutionary party, Comrade Ghosh combined the struggles to develop communist character on the basis of Marxist ethics, the struggles to form a band of declassed professional revolutionaries, the struggle to attain one process of thinking, uniformity of thinking, oneness in approach and singleness of purpose, the struggle to develop democratic centralism on the basis of ideological and organisational centralism observing broadest possible proletarian democracy, the struggle thus to achieve collective leadership and to give birth to the concrete expression of collective leadership in the struggles of the working class, share croppers, poor peasants, landless labourers and rural and urban lower middle class in every sphere of life.

Comrade Banerjee further said : Comrade Ghosh taught us that the task of building up a revolutionary class party and the task of organising anti-capitalist socialist revolution can never be a compartmentalised action. It has to be multipronged, covering simultaneously every aspect of life in every aspect of struggle for emancipation. History of this party is thus the history of multi-pronged simultaneous struggles of the party. We will have to study this history not academically, but creatively by co-relating this history of fifty years' struggle with the contemporary socio-economic-political and cultural problems obtaining today in our country and the world over.

Delhi

The party foundation day was observed in Delhi with due solemnity in the party office. Comrade Suresh Awasthi made an introductory speech briefly dwelling upon the present situation in the country. Comrade Ashutosh Banerjee here also was the main speaker. He dwelt upon the history of the struggle to build the party under the leadership of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh along with his handful of compatriots. Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, member, Central Committee who was also present, briefly discussed the machinations of the imperialists and the urgent task of anti-imperialist movement uniting all anti-war peace loving people all over the world with the communist forces acting as the core of the movement.

Kerala

The foundation day of the party was observed befittingly in the state. On 24th April a state level mass rally was held at Alleppey in which Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, member, Central Committee, was the main speaker. Comrade C. K. Lukose, Secretary, Kerala State Committee presided over the meeting and Comrade V. Venugopal, member, State Secretariat of the party, also spoke. A colourful and spirited mass demonstration was held in the town in connection with the rally.

Comrade C. K. Lukose in his presidential address gave a brief sketch of the historic role our party had been playing for the last 49 years as the revolutionary vanguard of the Indian proletariat, both nationally and internationally. Comrade V. Venugopal who dwelt upon the state political situation, said that the CPI(M) led LDF government in Kerala was pursuing the very same anti-people policies framed by the previous Congress(I) government, and urged the people to build up mighty democratic movements to safeguard the people's interest. Comrade Venugopal strongly condemned the way the CPI(M) hoodlums in West Bengal let loose a reign of terror in the far-flung areas of Sunderbans and murdered five SUCI comrades in March last, besides killing Com Amir Ali Halder, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee of AIKKMS and a member of the State Committee of the party.

Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, explaining the present national political situation, said : The role being played by CPI and the CPI(M) has thoroughly exposed the real character of these pseudo communist parties. They are painting the crisis of bourgeois parliamentary system, which is nothing but a reflection of the crisis of the corrupt, reactionary and crisis-ridden capitalist system in the country, as a national crisis. The stance they have taken in the name of solving this crisis is nothing but opportunism. When they took part in the formation of the UF government at the Centre with the help of the Congress(I) which they characterized as corrupt and reactionary before the last general elections, their claim was that their move would check the BJP and keep the Congress(I) at bay. But since the formation of the UF government, the BJP, taking advantage of the unscrupulous politics of these so-called left parties have gained in strength in electoral politics, at least in 3 states. Congress(I) which was rejected by the people has considerably increased its influence over the central government's policies. This exposes the hollowness of their claim.

The CPI and the CPI(M) who masquerade as

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Assam State Committee on Present Situation in Assam

The Assam State Committee of SUCI in a meeting held today, the 31st March, 97, under the conduction of Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya, member Central Committee of the party, expressed deep concern at the increased activity of the army on the plea of tackling the problem of militancy posed by ULFA and the Bodo militant forces. Such military activities carried in the name of controlling extremism are giving rise to fresh incidents of violence, and an atmosphere of fear-psychosis has gripped the state as a result of daily recurring incidents of abduction and killing. While problems like that of soaring prices, growing unemployment, rampant corruption, etc., have made the lives of the common people unbearable, all legitimate political activities have been drastically curtailed and democratic movements of the toiling people have come to a stand-still as a result of dangerous restrictions imposed by the government.

We have been repeatedly emphasising that whether it is the problem of ULFA or Bodo militant forces, aggressive army activities will never lead to a healthy and lasting solution of the problem; rather the real solution to such a complicated problem lies in bringing about meaningful discussion of all the militant forces involving the party organisations of the state.

Under the circumstances, we demand that the central government abandon the above mentioned path of aggressive army activity and sincerely take up strong effective steps to redress the accumulated grievances of the people of the state by solving their legitimate demands through creating an appropriate environment for solving the problems through discussion across the table with all sincerity and not as a show to the people.

In this context, we again demand strongly that the government stop forthwith the practice of cold-blooded murder of arrested people in the name of fake encounters.

Protest against Price Rise in Tamil Nadu

On 30.3.97 at Thiruthangal Bus stand an agitation programme was organised by the Kamarajar District Organising Committee, SUCI against anti-people price-hike.

During the above agitation they raised slogans demanding withdrawal of train fare hike, goods tax hike, electricity tariff hike and price hike of goods supplied through PDS.

Members of the District Organising Committee, Comrades, P. Pandian and M. Ramachandran spoke to the people condemning price hike in all spheres and demanded withdrawal of the same.

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communists are in fact creating illusion among the people as if by mere change of government or persons in government within this exploitative capitalist system basic problems in people's life can be solved. Thus, they have joined hands with the bourgeois parliamentary parties in the game of deceiving the people and serving the capitalist system which is engulfed in ever increasing crisis. It is the SUCI, founded by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, that great leader of the proletariat, which alone is striving in our country to build up mighty democratic mass movements on the base political line of anti-capitalist socialist revolution. Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta concluded his speech with a fervent appeal to the people to strengthen the SUCI, the revolutionary party of Indian proletariat which is holding high the banner of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism.

Tamil Nadu

The 49th anniversary was observed in a befitting way which energised the whole party in Tamil Nadu. Reports of the programmes in different parts of the state are given below.

Kamaragar District

In Kamaragar District a public meeting was held in an area where our party started its activities very recently. The meeting was held in Kariapatti, taluk headquarters (Tehsil) on 27 April. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Rengasamy, who left the CPI(M) recently having understood its revisionist nature and started working for the SUCI, inspired by the revolutionary teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Comrade Narayanasamy, member, Tamil Nadu State Organising Committee of the party was the main speaker. Comrade Pandigan, member Kamaragar District Organising Committee, garlanded the portrait of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Comrade Ramachandran, member, Kamaragar District Organising Committee also spoke in the meeting.

Chennai

The state level meeting was held in the LLA Hall, Anna Salai (Mount Road), Chennai on 28 April. Comrade Narayanasamy, member, Tamil Nadu State Organising Committee of SUCI presided over the meeting. Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, member Central Committee, was the main speaker.

In his speech, Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta briefly traced the history of international communist movement and showed how Marxism was proved to be an invincible weapon in the hands of the world proletariat when correctly applied. Explaining the present situation in the country, Comrade Dasgupta exposed the myth of so-called 'participative democracy' and 'the era of coalition governments' and pointed to the acute instability of the bourgeois political system in India owing to the deep economic crisis. He criticised the role of the CPI and the CPI(M) in the power games among the bourgeois parties. Explaining the historic necessity of the founding of the SUCI by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Comrade Dasgupta said that despite the honesty and sacrifices of the then leaders and cadres of the united CPI, they had failed to grasp the essence of revolutionary Marxism, its cultural ethical inner kernel and that was one of the reasons why the undivided CPI failed to emerge as a real working class party. The moment Comrade Shibdas Ghosh realised this truth he came forward to found the SUCI as the genuine working class party. Today the CPI(M) and the CPI have

completely gone over to the side of the capitalist class confirming the penetrating analysis of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh about these parties.

At the beginning of the meeting a resolution paying homage to the 5-martyrs who laid down their lives on the last week of March at the hands of CPI(M)-backed goons in West Bengal, was passed.

West Bengal

To observe the 49th Foundation Day of the party a mammoth rally was held at the Saheed Minar Maidan in Calcutta on 24th April. Peasants and agricultural workers of villages from farflung districts of West Bengal, workers of factories, employees of offices, students, youth and women gathered at the meeting place defying the burning sun of April. Comrade Manik Mukherjee, member of the State Secretariat presided over the meeting and Comrade Provash Ghosh, the Central Committee member and Secretary of West Bengal State Committee was the main speaker. The KOMSOMOL and party mass organisations presented guard of honour.

A resolution condemning the brutal murder of Comrade Amir Ali Halder, the senior leader of the AIKKMS and member of the West Bengal State Committee of the party and five other SUCI workers by the CPI(M) goons and demanding immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to the culprits was unanimously adopted in the meeting.

Comrade Provash Ghosh said in course of his speech that the stench emanating from the parliamentary politics today was due to abnormal crisis in capitalism. The present degraded and rotten capitalist system had also brought about extreme degradation in the field of morality and values. Those parties, be they the branded bourgeois parties like the Congress, the BJP or the Janata Dal or the parties with Marxist nomenclature like the CPI and the CPI(M), serving this decadent capitalist system and trying to give a fresh lease of life to this system, were all immersed in corruption. Comrade Ghosh reminded the audience that in a class divided society the interests of the exploited and that of the exploiting class were bound to be antagonistic. So the reform, industrialisation and development in the present capitalist system were really meant to serve the interest of the exploiting class and the people's interest had no relation with all these things.

Fighting the social democratic politics of the CPI(M) Comrade Ghosh said that the CPI(M) and the CPI were giving a death blow to the left democratic movement while chanting Marxist slogans and uttering Marxist vocabularies. In this situation the democratic movement cannot advance a step further without intense struggle against the social democratic politics of the CPI(M).

In fine, Comrade Ghosh appealed to the people to identify and strengthen that party which is fighting in the interest of the people.

Karnataka

A public meeting at Mythic Society Hall was organised on 24th April at 5.30 PM on the occasion of the 49th Foundation Anniversary of the party. Addressing the packed hall Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya, member of the Central Committee of the SUCI, criticised the present UF Government for following all the policies of the Congress government. Further he exposed the attempts of the CPI and the CPI(M) to act as the saviours of the UF government, actually a Congress government entering through the backdoor — in the name of

thwarting the growth of the BJP. Expressing grave concern about the growth of the BJP, a fascist force akin to Nazi Party of Germany, he however pointed out that it could be fought out only by developing broadbased democratic movements with militant character. He further reminded the audience the teaching of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the founder General Secretary of the party that change of government did not resolve the basic problems of life and only anti-capitalist socialist revolution could solve such problems. Underlining the necessity of building up of the real revolutionary party to effect such a revolution, he called upon one and all to strengthen the SUCI to fulfill this historic task.

The meeting was presided over by Comrade K. Radhakrishna, Karnataka State Secretary of the SUCI.

Assam

Addressing a public meeting held under the auspices of the Assam State Committee of the SUCI at Lakhiram Baruah Sadan on the 1st May, 1997, on the occasion of the historic May Day and also the 49th Foundation anniversary of the party, Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya, member of the Central Committee of the party in course of his address dwelt at length on the country's prevailing political and economic situation and said that the country was faced with grave economic situation in which unemployment problem of unprecedented dimension, skyrocketing rise in prices of all essential commodities, continuous retrenchment of workers resulting not only from closer of private owned factories and industries but also policies to squeeze out workers and employees in government and other public sector undertakings by different deceptive means under the name of implementing the so-called new economic policies which were nothing new at all but a scheme for complete sale out of country's economy to the imperialists in the interest of country's ruling monopolist class at the altar of country's cherished goal of self-reliance. fast decline of people's real income and fall of purchasing power of more than 80% people of the country, etc., had brought life to a grinding halt. Comrade Bhattacharyya deeply regretted the fact that while united democratic mass movement could alone bring some relief to the oppressed toiling people, the CPI(M) and the CPI in their bid to appease the ruling capitalist class practically abjured the banner of militant mass movement and were today, without showing any hesitation, engaged in hatching different political formations combining all the anti-people, bourgeois parties and masterminding different solutions only to salvage the ruling capitalist class from the deep crisis into which it had fallen. Comrade Bhattacharyya also appealed to all the leaders of the ULFA movement to realise the need of the hour to forge unity of all the toiling people groaning under the yoke of wanton capitalist exploitation irrespective of caste, creed, community, language and religion living in different parts of India so that powerful militant mass movement as a prelude to overthrowing the capitalist rule can shake the capitalist class.

Comrade Siddheswar Sharma, a veteran trade union leader and member of the State Committee of the party presided over the meeting. Earlier, the meeting adopted two resolutions expressing grave concern over intensified military activity in the state under the name of Unified Command. The second resolution severely criticised the AGP government for being totally unconcerned about the economic development and more particularly the task of fast industrialisation of the state and for running a

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24th April in States

highly corrupt bureaucracy just like previous Congress(I) government.

Earlier in the day, as a part of the programme, the permanent office of the State Committee at Vivekananda Lane Uluberia was inaugurated by Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya.

The 49th anniversary was also observed on the 24th April, through holding of district level rallies at different districts of the state. A public meeting was also held on the 24th April at Gauri Sadan Hall, Guwahati under the auspices of the Guwahati District Committee of the party. Comrade Kalyan Choudhury, Secretary of the Assam State Committee was the main speaker.

Hyderabad

A public meeting was held at Hyderabad, Sultan Bazar Park, Koti on the 24th April on this occasion of 49th foundation day of the party.

Comrade Ch. Murahari, State Committee member and in-charge, Hyderabad district, presided over the meeting. Comrade Krishna Chakrabarty, member of the Central Committee attended as the main speaker and Comrade K Sridhar, Secretary, State organising Committee, also spoke.

Comrade Krishna Chakrabarty, Central Committee member, the main speaker on the occasion dwelt mainly upon the present political situation of our country. He said : The recent so-called crisis at the Centre is the crisis of the parliament, the crisis of bourgeoisie and petty bourgeois parties for power. It has got nothing to do with the real crisis of exploited millions groaning under capitalism. All the parliamentary parties without exception have unanimously supported the anti-people new industrial economic policies, privatisation, globalisation, liberalisation and signing of GATT agreement.

The so-called communist parties — the CPI and the CPI(M) — are also playing in the same parliamentary games for power and pelf. These communist parties by their treacherous role are creating the ground for the BJP, in the name of fighting communalism, to come to governmental power in the next elections leaving the path of people's united struggles.

Discussing the international situation Comrade Chakrabarty said that due to long practice of revisionism from Khrushchev to Gorbachev, socialism was dismantled and exploitative capitalist system was established in erstwhile Soviet Union and other east European countries. As long as Marxism was followed under correct leadership, there was tremendous growth and development and when deviation from it started, there was unprecedented crisis. This once again proved the correctness and validity of Marxism-Leninism which is the only philosophy that can guide life.

Comrade Chakrabarty appealed to the people not to go away from Marxism-Leninism, the noblest of all ideologies, seeing the conduct and role of the CPI and the CPI(M). He urged the people to study Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's works and party's analyses on different national and international issues and strengthen the genuine communist party in India, the SUCI.

Bombay :

Party foundation day was observed in Bombay at the Gavaskar Hall, Mumbai-Marathi Granthasangrahalaya, Dadar(East) on 26-04-97 at 5.30 PM. The main speaker was Comrade Ranjit Dhar,

Central Staff and West Bengal State Secretariat member and Comrade Arwl Tyagi also spoke. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Ramajore Maurya and conducted by Comrade Om Rakesh.

Comrade Ranjit Dhar spoke thoroughly on the principle of building up of a genuine communist party. He explained the historic necessity of building the SUCI despite the existence of the then CPI, RSP, etc. He also dwelt upon international communist movement and the causes of its setback.

Tripura

A meeting was held at Kaman Chaumuhani, Agartala on 24th April to observe the party foundation day. A condolence resolution in memory of departed Comrade Amalendu Bhowmick, a member of the Tripura District Organising Committee of the party was read and one minutes silence was observed in his memory. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Shibani Das, and the main speaker was Comrade Protiva Mukherjee, a leader of the SUCI and former minister of the UF Government of West Bengal. Comrade Mukherjee in course of her long speech showed how the SUCI had been trying to build up countrywide democratic mass movement when the parties like the CPI(M) and the CPI were immersed in the mire of parliamentary electoral gains. She stressed that communalism could be checked only by releasing united mass movement on the burning problems in the life of the people. She said that the SUCI while trying to build up united movement within the country had also been engaged in developing militant anti-imperialist struggle with the different communist and workers' parties and groups of different countries.

Bihar

This year, Bihar State Committee of the SUCI decided to observe the party's 49th Foundation Anniversary through district level meetings and processions. As per the decision meetings were held at Patna, Muzaffarpur, Ara, Jamshedpur, Bokaro, Munghyr, etc. The reports are given below in brief.

Patna: The meeting was held at the Panchayat Bhavan and was presided over by the District Secretary Comrade S. Mukherjee. The main speaker was State Secretary Comrade Amriteswar Chakraborty.

Muzaffarpur: The meeting was held on 24th April at B.B. Collegiate School Ground and was presided over by Comrade Arun Kumar Singh, member, Bihar State Committee. The main speaker was Comrade Anil Sarkar, member, Bihar State Committee and Comrades Shivshankar, member Bihar State Committee, Baleswar Rasulpuri were among other speakers.

The meeting place was crowded with thousands of peasants, women and youths. In spite of peak time of harvesting, thousands of people from all corners of the district attended the meeting. Before the meeting started, an impressive and colourful procession covering a distance of two kilometers paraded through the main thoroughfares of the city.

Ara: The meeting was held at the Town School on 26th April and was presided over by Comrade K.K. Pandey. Comrade Shivshankar was the main speaker. Among others who spoke was Comrade Shivkumar Roy.

Munghyr: The meeting was held at Haveli Kharagpur on 30th April. It was a very big meeting. Before the meeting started a well decorated procession of thousands of peasants,

youths, students and womenfolk carrying red flags and banners started from Jagdeo Paswan Memorial spot and marched 14 km long way to Haveli Kharagpur bus stand where it turned into a mass meeting. Some other processions also came from other parts of the district and joined the rally. The rally was presided over by Comrade Bhaju Singh, a senior party organiser.

The other speakers in the meeting were Comrades Arun Kumar Singh, member of the Bihar State Committee, Bhola Tanti, Sailendra Pandit and Krishnadas Shaw and Misri Prasad.

A resolution was moved by Comrade Pramod Kumar demanding subsidy to the peasants for the damage done to the crops and household cattle due to recent hailstorm in the region. The resolution was passed unanimously.

Bokaro: To observe the 49th Foundation Anniversary of the Party a meeting was held on 29th April at Vaishali More Maidan at Bokaro which was presided over by Comrade R.S. Sharma. Comrade Shivshankar was the main speaker. Comrades Mohon Chowdhury, Bariyar K.P. Singh, Hem Chakraborty, member, State Secretariat also addressed the meeting.

Before the meeting, a protest demonstration was held under the banner of the party before the DC office which submitted a memorandum to him demanding redressal of some local burning problems.

Aurangabad: In Aurangabad district, the Foundation anniversary of our party was held at Mirjapur on 24th April. Comrade Ramadhin Singh, Comrade Jugal Thakur, etc., addressed the meeting.

Rohtas: On 26th April at Vasrigunj of Rohtas district a meeting was held to observe the Foundation day of our party. A procession of hundreds of people marched through the different thoroughfares of the town and joined the meeting. The speakers were Comrades Ramshankar Shastri, Brijnandan Singh, M.K. Pathak.

Garhwa: In Garhwa district, a mass meeting was held to observe the Foundation anniversary of our party on 24th April. The speakers were Comrades Prem Kumar Mehta, Rajesh Kumar, Dhananjoy Kumar.

Jamshedpur: The party foundation day was befittingly observed here on 24th April. The students, youth, peasants and workers of different parts of Singhbhum district participated in the meeting held at the Ambagan Maidan in Jamshedpur to observe the occasion. A procession was organised from the Triangular Park and reached the meeting place after parading different roads. Comrade Durga Das, the leader of the Singhbhum district committee presided over the meeting. While Comrade K. P. Singh, the labour leader of the Railwaymen's Union delivered the welcome address, Comrade Hem Chakraborty, the senior leader of the State Committee was the main speaker.

Nagpur, Maharashtra

Under the auspices of Nagpur Organising Committee, this 49th Anniversary was observed with enthusiasm. A large meeting attended by workers, women, students and youth was held on 26th April at the Bhure Bhawan, Baidyanath Chawk with Advocate Gavale in chair.

Comrade Dipankar Roy, West Bengal State Committee member of the party was present there as main speaker. Others who spoke in this meeting

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Present Political Development**CPI (M) helped Congress to come out from mire of its own creation***(Contd. from page 1)*

neither by any principle nor yet by a common programme worth its salt, but only by the greed for governmental power was thus born. The Congress(I) offered it immediate unconditional support for none was ready to support a Congress(I) government, so that the Congress(I)'s refusal to support the UF to form a government would result in a 'constitutional crisis', a snap poll again, which was what each and every party dreaded most, for fear that BJP might profit most from it. Clearly, the Congress(I)'s decision to unconditionally support the UF government was influenced by purely electoral calculations of keeping the BJP away from even the remotest chance of recapturing the government just as was also the UF's appeal to the Congress(I) for its support. It had nothing to do with exposing and containing BJP's politics of communalism. It was an opportunistic alliance, pure and simple. Were the UF constituents like the Janata or the ones like the TDP, DMK, TMC, AGP, etc., which all used communalism, casteism and regionalism as their electoral weapons, the forces of struggle against the BJP's brand of the same communal politics? No. Hence, to justify its own political opportunism of aligning with not only such an alliance, but through it even with the Congress(I), the CPI(M) worked hard to project the UF as an instrument of struggle to contain the BJP and lauded to the sky the Congress(I) as 'secular'!

Everybody knows that ever since independence the then Congress and later the Congress(I) has been colluding with different communal forces at different times to further its electoral prospects, albeit surreptitiously and all the while vociferating against communalism. As for its present posture against the BJP, could the BJP's communalism assume its present form without the Congress(I)'s express abetment of it for its own opportunistic reasons? Could the BJP have demolished the Babari Masjid if the then central Congress(I) government did not allow it a free hand, deliberately refraining from taking timely administrative measures with the crafty design of making use of the whole grim episode in a strident election campaign against 'BJP's communalism' and thus trying to outsmart the BJP in the election? Is not such unscrupulous abetting of BJP's rabid communalism to attain its own purpose clearly a deceptive and therefore dangerous device of fostering communalism?

Does not giving this Congress(I) a 'secular' certificate therefore amount to shielding from the masses its heinous and clever encouragement of communalism? Does not calling its electoral tirade against the BJP as 'secular' amount to glorifying its bitter competition with the BJP for power grabbing and the pursuance of the dirty means to that end as a struggle over principle? It, in effect, justifies each and all sorts of conglomerations, collusion, connivance and conspiratorial designs of all bourgeois opportunist parties and combinations as 'secular' — provided only that they are aimed against the BJP! It means completely blurring the line of demarcation between secularism and parliamentary opportunism. How can such a politics contain communalism? Undoubtedly, containing the

communal menace posed by the BJP before the entire country is also the need of the hour. But it cannot be done by parliamentary opportunist politics or by governments born of such opportunism.

Communalism is a reactionary social phenomenon. It can be fought out not only by educating and organising the masses cutting across castes, communal and regional lines for developing mighty democratic mass movements on the burning issues of their life which alone helps to bring about democratization of society, raise the cultural level of the masses and cement the rock bottom unity of different sections of the people, burying communalism and strengthening secularism. It is precisely the refusal of the left parties like the CPI(M) and the CPI to organise these democratic mass movements and their wallowing in the mud of their opportunist parliamentary politics for nearly two decades, especially since their tasting of governmental power in a big way in 1977, that has added to the condition for communalisation of the politics all over the country and the consequent rise of the BJP on this communal plank. Can then the continuation of that very same opportunistic election politics which, has helped the BJP gain its present position and which it is employing with far greater cunning, contain BJP's communal menace? How then, despite the UF government, the Congress(I) and the CPI(M) and CPI's combined opposition, did the BJP ride to power in Haryana, Punjab and UP in combination with others during the days of the Deve Gowda Government? It is, therefore, clear that in justifying its role in the formation of the UF government and in procuring the 'secular' Congress(I) support behind it as 'necessary to fight the communal BJP', the CPI(M) was merely trying to conceal its own opportunistic relations with these parties and especially with the Congress(I). The CPI(M)'s opportunism thus helped the BJP as it helped the Congress(I) too, for it had the UF government hanging on to its support with larger and greater participation of the Congress (I) in policy matter and administrative affair of the UF Government led by I. K. Guzral.

However, the UF government of Mr Deve Gowda was from the very beginning apprehensive that the Congress(I) might anyday withdraw support if it could buy the requisite number of MPs from other quarters enabling it to form its own government. Mr Deve Gowda therefore started nurturing the group conflict within the Congress(I) between Mr Kesri and Mr Pawar, Mr Narasimha Rao, Mr Karunakaran, etc. Ironically, aspirants for Prime Ministership from within the UF were also keeping in touch with Mr Kesri and assuring him of their assistance to remove Mr Gowda from leadership once Mr Kesri withdrew support to the government and put Mr Gowda in a spot, and that the following arrangements could be made, allowing the Congress(I) a position of greater advantage.

Mr Gowda's scheme apparently was to woo and persuade Mr Sharad Pawar, into joining a coalition government to lead all, or most of the Congress(I) MPs with the UF, ostensibly to

counter the BJP with greater strength, but actually to circumvent any future Congress(I) attempt to topple his government. Mr Kesri was opposed to such a move for fear of being sidelined by Mr Pawar and consequently of losing his privileged position as the party president and also because he calculated that if his own scheme worked, with the assistance of his friends in the UF, he might sideline Mr Pawar and become Prime Minister himself.

Meanwhile, cases implicating top-level Congress(I) leaders were coming up one after another, causing great embarrassment to the party and its president. Of course, no party was free from it. Mr Sharad Yadav was dogged by the hawala, Mr Laloo Prasad Yadav by Fodder Scam, Mr Moopanar by the Indian Bank Scam. Each bourgeois party used these for pressurising the other, while doing the same itself. Now the Congress(I) was under pressure. Then there were reports that the Bofors papers — documents which the Rao Government did its utmost to suppress — were in the final stage of processing in Switzerland and were expected shortly. This sent a panic wave to Sonia Gandhi, wielding considerable influence over Mr Kesri, as also to the other concerned leaders whom Mr Kesri was obliged to protect in order to protect his presidency. Reportedly, there were also investigations by the CBI and other central agencies seeking links of Mr Kesri with the JMM Pay Off case, with alleged FERA violation case of the Congress(I) and also investigation into the source of Mr Kesri's assets which were said to be disproportionate with his income.

On March 30, Mr Kesri withdrew Congress(I) support from the Gowda government. The 'rationale' behind his act, was that the UF did not take the Congress(I) into confidence in framing policies, it attacked the Congress(I) more than it did the BJP, that the UF was thus no longer an instrument for combating communalism. But these questions could have been easily sorted out through dialogue with the UF and did not require toppling of the government. Kesri's excuses persuaded not even the Congressmen. Rather, the absolute 'secrecy' and 'abruptness' of the move suggested that he was under extreme pressure to act fast to block the disclosure of the Bofors Papers and was also scared of the skeletons in his own cupboard coming out. But it was a desperate gamble, standing upon the only chance that the UF would be compelled to buckle under pressure. But the UF understood the game no less and despite its own internal feuds for the moment, stood desperately united to save its government.

Kesri's lame excuses were however echoed by CPI(M) General Secretary, Harkishen Singh Surjeet: "Let us admit that we had been unduly harsh on the Congress"! He even urged Mr Deve Gowda to start a dialogue with Mr Kesri "before it is too late"! (*The Statesman*, April 2, '97) Queer utterances for a Left leader when it was obvious to everybody that Mr Kesri's reasons were purely eyewash and that the Congress(I) could not really dare fell the government and invite upon itself a snap poll! Indeed, the Congress(I) was gripped by panic and there was pressure on Kesri from within the party. Its best evidence was Mr Kesri's immediate backtracking on April 1 from his position of March 30. His position now was that the UF was "secular" but Mr Deve Gowda was "communal" and if he was replaced by any other Front leader, he would

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CPI (M) and CPI abandon path of united mass struggle to side openly with bourgeois parties

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again extend support to the UF government under the new leader. So, within two days of withdrawing support to the UF government, he was himself virtually disowning the charges on the basis of which he said he withdrew support to it. What could be a greater self-exposure? But in return he wanted to strike a new deal: change of leadership of UF which the UF turned down. But even when he was imposing this new condition on the UF, "there was panic among Congressmen... The Congress is in a disarray". (ibid, April 3, 1997) It is clear that had the UF been able to stick to its position to the end that there would be no change in its leadership, Mr Kesri would have no choice but to finally eat his own words, make a compromise with the UF on the latter's terms and resume support to the government. The question is, what gave Mr Kesri the assurance to impose conditions rather on the UF when its own house was visibly not in order? He counted on the services of his friends within and outside the UF.

So, when the Congress(I) so badly needed to be extricated from the mire of its own creation, "senior Congress leader Mr Pranab Mukherjee met the CPI(M) polit bureau members and West Bengal Chief Minister Mr Jyoti Basu to discuss the present scenario." (ibid, 3 April) After the two-day long CPI(M) politburo meeting on 2-3 April — even while the Congress(I) letter to the President withdrawing support to the UF government stood valid and its demand for change in the UF leadership was persisting — the General Secretary Mr Surjeet suggested: "to work out a mechanism to involve the Congress in all policy matters". (ibid, April 4, 1977) The next day, Mr Sitaram Kesri met Mr Jyoti Basu and held a closed door meeting with him. It resulted, according to *The Statesman* of 6th April, 1997 in "a major change in the Left's attitude". Mr Indrajit Gupta, senior CPI leader felt that: "The Congress grudge was 'quite justified'". "Senior Left leaders who did not want to be named — an allusion to CPI(M) leaders because Mr Indrajit Gupta had already been named, (in the same report) and leaders of only these two parties represented the 'Left' to the press — said: "When we survive on someone else's support we have to take into consideration their sentiments and views while formulating policies and programmes. Unfortunately this was not done... we all are to blame. It is natural that the Congress will feel hurt." The report continues: "This realization by the Left leaders and their open acknowledgement has softened the Congress to a large extent and both the Lefts and the Congress leaders have been holding meetings for the past three days." (ibid, April 6)

What resulted from these meetings, in addition to that held between Mr Jyoti Basu and Mr Sitaram Kesri, which were to unfold themselves in the following days?

Firstly, the fall of the Gowda government, as Mr Kesri has already been assured that Mr Gowda will be replaced by someone acceptable to the Congress(I) so that he will face no difficulty in supporting the next UF government.

Secondly, cracks in the UF appear immediately after the fall of the Gowda govern-

ment since CPI(M)'s liaison with the Congress(I) made everyone understand that the Congress(I) would have the decisive voice in the new arrangement to emerge between the UF and the Congress. Hence, the speculation around Mr Moopanar's choice as the next UF leader-cum-Prime Minister for his proximity to the Congress(I) and especially to Sonia Gandhi. But since it would have been too much for even the CPI(M) to justify to its ranks and the people in general, he was dropped at none but the CPI(M)'s instance. The next best choice was Mr I.K. Gujral, an ex-Congressman and Union Minister of the Department of Information & Broadcasting during the days of Emergency and well acceptable to the Congress(I). Interestingly, the CPI (M) leaders did not raise a little finger against the Finance Minister Mr. Chidambaram of TMC who surpassed even the previous Congress (I) Finance Minister Mr. Manmohon Singh in all the anti-people measures through liberalisation, privatisation etc.

Thirdly, the Congress(I) is expected to receive the greater leverage in the Congress(I)-UF Parliamentary Coordination Committee if and when formed. But even more important is that two member apex body with the UF Prime Minister and the Congress(I) President being its members which will take final decision on policy matters. What the CPI(M) General Secretary Mr Harkishen Singh Surjeet suggested back on April 3, namely, working out "a mechanism to involve the Congress in all policy matters", materialised in the end. Has not the CPI(M), and the CPI, a legitimate share in this achievement?

A complete reversal of the situation to the benefit of the Congress(I) and particularly to Mr Sitaram Kesri was thus effected, thanks to the opportunism par excellence by the CPI(M) and the CPI! The Congress(I) which was in total "disarray" and Mr Kesri who was cornered by his own partymen were elevated by the CPI(M) betrayal to a position from where they would now be calling the shots and dictate policies. Whereas, the UF which had the Congress(I) in a spot only a few days ago and could make Kesri eat his own words and resume support or face revolt in the party, for fear of the imminent snap poll, was now at the receiving end, thanks again to CPI(M)'s shrewd manipulation. But even more ironically, by proving itself thus as the political accomplice of the Congress(I) and the UF as Congress(I)-dependent, the CPI(M) only lent credence to the BJP's cunning logic that since all the other parties have joined hands in opposing the BJP and thrown their mutual antagonism to the winds for that, it ipso facto proves that the BJP is the only party with the principled stand, upholding value-based politics! The CPI(M)'s rotten opportunism in the whole murky affair of governmental crisis in Delhi helped the BJP immensely to take such a posture. The BJP is getting this chance when the same party was engaged in the rank opportunism in forming 13-day long minority BJP government at Centre by banking on the defection from other parties and its attempt once again, after the fall of the Gowda government, to lure the regional parties of the UF into joining hands with the BJP by forming overnight the so-called NDF! So, how

did the CPI(M) serve not only the Congress(I), but the BJP too!

Summing up the situation, a shrewd political observer and mouth-piece of Indian monopoly bourgeoisie, *The Statesman* dated April 20, 1997, observed: "Having failed to stick with Deve Gowda and giving up an excellent opportunity to sideline the Congress in national affairs, there is no knowing how much further the United Front will travel in the wrong direction... In their anxiety to stick to office, and here the Congress President has not been wrong, the Front has chosen to ignore something that stares them in the face. Having connived at and accepted the position that it is for the Congress to nominate their leader, any new government born of such prostitution is equally at risk... the position now established is that the Congress needs no reason at all. The Front is lost... They will pay heavy price for it. They will be liquidated in the next elections, closer in time than they care to admit and the BJP are handed an advantage they can be relied upon to exploit." Only the paper did not disclose — following its class policy — the devious role of the CPI(M) and the CPI which compelled the UF to take this compromising course.

What should have been their role instead, if they were genuine Left parties? They should have then taken the fullest advantage of this crisis in the bourgeois camp — of this intense rivalry, connivance and conspiracy of all bourgeois parties against each other and the instability of the bourgeois government — by bringing upon it in full strength of the united democratic movement of the masses in order to completely expose and exhaust the bourgeois parties. But what did the CPI(M) and the CPI do? On every occasion it stood by the bourgeois government and its anti-people policies and actively discouraged people's movements on the pretext of "national crisis", i.e. the bourgeois crisis! They made a great noise about bringing amendments, cut motions, etc. against the nakedly anti-people, pro-corporate central budget but ultimately voted for it without a murmur. They took a similarly critical stance on the UF Government's anti-people industrial policy. A 'Bharat Bandh' was called on April 3 by the Platforms of Mass Organisations. It was dropped at the last moment at CPI(M)-initiative, in order not to embarrass the government at a moment of "national crisis"! So, even though our lefts wanted to strike a 'left posture' but at the decisive moment their 'leftism' prompt them to join the bourgeois chorus of "national crisis", leaving the toiling people in the lurch.

We can thus clearly see the renunciation of the leftist politics has reduced the parties like the CPI(M) and the CPI into naked apologists of the bourgeoisie and bourgeois parliamentary order. This order is in tatters today and cannot but be so, as it stands upon and protects the capitalist economic base, which is itself in the throes of an unmanageable and unrelenting general crisis. It is the general picture of capitalism everywhere in the world today. It has brought about an acute sense of social insecurity throughout the country which in turn has given rise to an unprecedented political instability manifest in the elections of three hung

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On Present Political Situation

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parliaments in a row since 1989. The upshot of this deep crisis of capitalism finds reflection in the volatile situation and political corruption at the highest levels, a degenerating political climate devoid even of last pretence of political principles, a spurt in regionalism, communalism, casteism and divisive tendencies of all sorts, and a general lowering of moral, cultural and ethical level of society. The politics of BJP is also typical of these times. It is, therefore, no less a menacing force before the secular democratic values and struggles of the people than the Congress(I). These forces could not grow to their present extent had the CPI and the CP(M) as well as other left and democratic parties and forces faced them unitedly, organised the masses and fulfil their historic role. But the crux of the problem lies precisely in their abandoning this historic role and siding with the bourgeois parties.

Reviewing this situation, the Central Committee of our Party said in a statement issued on 7th April last that, "... while the need of the hour is to develop mighty people's movements embracing all sections of the people centring round their burning problems and in the process to eliminate whatever influences still remain of the Congress(I) and the BJP, both of which are the enemies of the common people, the leaders of the CPI(M) and the CPI in their bid to taste greater power are clearly acting as saviours of these bourgeois parties ...

"Under the circumstance, the Central Committee of the Party calls upon the Left and democratic minded people of the country and the rank and file of the CPI(M) and the CPI to bring pressure upon their leaders to give up the role of playing second fiddle to the bourgeois parties, to stop hobnobbing with the Congress(I) so as to force them into upholding the banner of mighty people's movements since under the prevailing condition nothing else ... can bring any kind of relief to the vast multitude of downtrodden people and effectively contain communalism and opportunism."

The chain of events since March 30 has confirmed this analysis of our party to the hilt. It now rests upon us to rise up unitedly to fulfill the tasks that follows from it. Dt. 6.5.97

Bihar State Committee demands resignation of Laloo Prasad Yadav

On the decision of the CBI to chargesheet Laloo Prasad Yadav and others in the Fodder Scam, Comrade Amriteshwar Chakraborty, Secretary, Bihar State Committee, SUCI, issued the following statement to the press on 28.4.97.

"In view of the chargesheet proposed to be framed by the Central Bureau of Investigation against 56 persons including Bihar Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav in the fodder scam, we demand immediate resignation of the Chief Minister along with other accused ministers from their posts. We also demand immediate suspension of other public servants accused in this case."

U K Elections

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capital decides. It is a different issue how far the economic integration will help the crisis ridden European capitalists, and whether the so-called integration will ever mature or even if it happens, how long the unity can be maintained. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that European countries are at present severely afflicted with recession, UK being one of the worst hit nations. To misdirect people's attention to this capitalist crisis, the Tories are painted villain in the two party parliamentary system.

Be that as it may, the fact is that unless the British working class rises to oppose the neo-colonialist plunder by the British imperialists it can't free itself from capitalist exploitation. Both the conservative and Labour parties are the parties of the British capitalist class and for the people the victory of any of these two parties or even the LDP (Liberal Democratic Party), makes no difference.

The problems of the toiling people of Great Britain cannot be mitigated without fighting the anti-people policies of the government. To make this struggle successful as well as to save humanity from imperialist onslaughts, the British people will have to strive to defeat the imperialist designs in fraternity with fighting people of the world.

Foundation Day Observed in States

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were trade union and party organiser Comrade Madhav Bhonde, AIDS Office Secretary Comrade Debashis Roy. After the meeting a well-decorated procession was organised in Baidyanath Square area. This rally was addressed by Comrade Tambule, a veteran trade union leader from Akola.

Jaunpur, UP

A meeting was held in the campus of Saltan Bahadur Inter College Badlapur (Jaunpur) on 24th April. The main speaker was State Secretary of SUCI Comrade V.N. Singh. Comrade Jagdish Chandra Asthana, Jaunpur District Secretary presided over the meeting. Comrade Dinesh Kant Dubey Advocate, member of the State Committee also addressed the meeting. The whole programme was conducted by the State Office Secretary Comrade Jagannath Verma. There was a great enthusiasm among the participants.

Rajasthan

The Party Foundation Day was solemnly observed in Chirawa (Jhunjhumu) Kota and Jaipur on 24th, 27th and 1st May respectively. Comrades Maha Singh, Pancham Singh and Devi Shankar Malav presided over the meetings respectively. Comrade Girjeshwar Singh, Secretary, Rajasthan State Organising Committee was the main speaker.

Bhopal, MP

The foundation day was observed on 24th April in Bhopal. At Purbachal Maidan, Habibgunge a well attended meeting was held with Comrade Badshah Khan in chair. Comrade J. C. Baraie conducted the meeting and Comrades Asoke Ganguly, S. Biswas, Ramabatar Singh addressed the gathering. The meeting was a biggest one ever held there.

Red Salute Comrade Amalendu Bhowmick

Comrade Amalendu Bhowmick, a prominent member of the Agartala District Organising Committee in Tripura breathed his last on 21st April in the morning. He was under treatment in the G.B. Hospital owing to cerebral hemorrhage. His age was 56 years.



A memorial meeting was held at Photamati in South Tripura where Comrade Protiva Mukherjee paid revolutionary homage to the departed Comrade Bhowmick.

Comrade Amalendu Bhowmick came in contact with the revolutionary thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in the sixties, and associated himself with the SUCI. He played a dynamic role in the students and mass movements in West Bengal. He went to Tripura in 1973, and took a leading role in developing mass movement of the exploited people. He remained a struggling friend to the poor peasants and workers till his last breath. The Party lost a devoted worker and a valiant soldier of the mass movement in his death.

MAY DAY OBSERVED

Bihar

Under the auspices of the Patna District Committee of SUCI May day was observed through a day-long programme of Badge wearing, procession and meeting. In the evening an impressive meeting of hundreds of labourers was held at Patliputra at the call of the Building workers' Union affiliated to the UTUC (L.S.) which was presided over by Comrade Sudhuji and was addressed by Comrade S. Mukherjee, District Secretary and Comrade Indradeo Roy. A joint procession of UTUC(LS), AITUC, CITU, UTUC, AICCTU etc., started at 5pm from Gandhi Maidan which turned into a meeting after it reached Mauryalok Complex. Comrade S. Mukherjee, District Secretary of the party and member of the Bihar State Unit of UTUC(LS) was among the speakers. The meeting demanded immediate resignation of the Bihar Chief Minister, Laloo Prasad Yadav and other ministers accused in the fodder scam.

Bellary

Hundreds of Mine workers took part in the procession, holding banners, placards and rent the air with slogans for workers solidarity and united struggle. The procession started from the party office, proceeded through the main streets of Bellary and gathered at the Municipal High School grounds for the meeting. Comrade K. Radhakrishna, State Secretary, SUCI and President UTUC(LS) Karnataka State was the main speaker.

Comrade K. Somasekhar, District Secretary of SUCI and President Samyukta Gani Karmikara Sangha, Bellary addressed the gathering. Comrade H.V. Ganapathi, presided over the meeting. And on this occasion Sri D.R. Mannar, renowned advocate was honoured with a memento and bouquet by the UTUC(LS) for the assistance and guidance given to the workers in several ways.

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