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Red Salute

Comrade Mao Zedong

"Why must there be a revolutionary party? There must be a revolutionary party because the world contains enemies who oppress the people and the people want to throw off enemy oppression. In the era of capitalism and imperialism, just such a revolutionary party as the Communist Party is needed. Without such a party it is simply impossible for the people to throw off enemy oppression. We are Communists, we want to lead the people in overthrowing the enemy, and so we must keep our ranks in good order, we must march in step, our troops must be picked troops and our weapons good weapons. Without these conditions the enemy cannot be overthrown."

— Mao Zedong



Central Committee on Kashmir Election

Statement of the Central Committee of the SUCI on Kashmir Legislative Assembly Elections

The Central Committee, SUCI, in its session from 25th to 31st August, 1996, has taken note, with grave concern, of the decision of the Election Commission to hold general elections to the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly in phases, on 7th, 16th, 21st and 30th Sept '96 at the behest of the Central Government under the perpetuating condition of virtual army rule and state terrorism against the people.

The Central Committee notes that this long lingering objective condition has not changed an iota since the holding of recent elections to the Lok Sabha in Jammu and Kashmir, though described as panacea for all the prevailing ills by the ruling parties at the Centre.

It is to be recalled that preceding the elections to the Lok Sabha, the Election

Commission, after a field survey of the situation obtaining in Jammu and Kashmir, had decided that congenial environment to hold free and fair elections did not exist in Jammu and Kashmir. But the Election Commission was made to change its decision by the then Congress (I) government and succumbing to its pressure the Election Commission had declared the election schedule to the Lok Sabha in the face of its own findings.

Ignoring the widespread condemnation of the rigged Lok Sabha elections in general and the threat by the security forces of dire consequences in the event of the voters abstaining from voting, leading to forced voting in particular, the Election Commission has declared the election schedule this time also. The Election Commission did not even ponder that forced elections are the very opposite to voting voluntarily, which every well-meaning

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Comrade Nihar Mukherjee condemns U.S. missile attack on Iraq

In a Press statement issued on 03-09-96, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary of the Party said :

"We strongly condemn US missile attack on Iraq. The tiny country which is under US orchestrated UN sanctions since 1990 centring round the Kuwait episode has again been made target of attack by the mightiest imperialist power of the world on the plea of defending Kurdish 'Safe-haven' in northern Iraq.

We consider that the problem of self-rule of Kurd people is the internal affair of the region of Kurdistan and Iraq. Only the people of Kurdistan and Iraq have the sole right to resolve the problem. It is impermissible for any foreign power to interfere in the name of help in resolving the problem of self-rule within a sovereign independent country.

We call upon all peace loving democratic people of the world to raise their strongest voice of protest against this U.S. gangsterism and piracy and demand of the Pentagon to withdraw immediately."

On Strengthening the Party Committee System and Methods of Work of Party Committee

On the occasion of the 20th Death Anniversary on 9th September, 1996 of Comrade Mao Zedong, who concretised the theory and practice of Marxism-Leninism on Chinese soil and led the Chinese revolution to victory, we pay our revolutionary homage to this great leader. To further learn from his teachings we are giving here some excerpts from his works which will be of great help to us in building up revolutionary movement in our country.

On Strengthening the Party Committee System

The Party committee system is an important Party institution for ensuring collective leadership and preventing any individual from monopolizing the conduct of affairs. It has recently been found that in some (of course not all) leading bodies it is the habitual practice for one individual to monopolize the conduct of affairs and decide important problems. Solutions to important problems are decided not by Party committee meetings but by one individual, and membership in the Party committee has become nominal. Differences of opinion among committee members cannot be resolved and are left unresolved for a long time. Members of the Party committee maintain only formal, not real, unity among themselves. This situation must be changed. From now on, a sound system of Party committee meetings must be instituted in all leading bodies, from the bureaus of the Central Committee to the prefectural Party committees; from the Party committees of the fronts to the Party committees of brigades and military areas (sub-commissions of the Revolutionary Military Commission or leading groups); and the leading Party members' groups in government bodies, people's organizations, the news agency and the newspaper offices. All important problems (of course, not the unimportant, trivial problems, or problems whose solutions have already been decided after discussion at meetings and need only be carried out) must be submitted to the committee for discussion, and the committee members present should express their views fully and reach definite decisions which should then be carried out by the members concerned. The same procedure should be followed by Party committees below the prefectural and brigade levels. In the higher leading bodies there should also be meetings of the leading cadres in the departments (for example, the propaganda department and organizational department), commissions (for example, the labour, women's and youth commissions), schools (for example, Party schools) and offices (for example, the research offices). Of course, we must see to it that the meetings are not too long or too frequent and they must not get bogged down in discussion of petty matters lest the work be hindered. On important

problems which are complicated and on which opinions differ, there must, in addition, be personal consultations before the meeting to enable the members to think things over, lest decisions by the meetings become a mere formality or no decision can be reached. Party committee meetings must be divided into two categories, standing committee meetings and plenary sessions, and the two should not be confused. Furthermore, we must take care that neither collective leadership nor personal responsibility is over-emphasized to the neglect of the other. In the army, the person in command has the right to make emergency decisions during battle and when circumstances require.

[This decision was drafted by Comrade Mao Zedong for the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on September 20, 1948]

* * *

Methods of Work of Party Committees

1. The secretary of a Party committee must be good at being a "squad leader". A Party committee has ten to twenty members; it is like a squad in the army, and the secretary is like the "squad leader". It is indeed not easy to lead this squad well. Each bureau or sub-bureau of the Central Committee now leads a vast area and shoulders very heavy responsibilities. To lead means not only to decide general and specific policies but also to devise correct methods of work. Even with correct general and specific policies, troubles may still arise if methods of work are neglected. To fulfil its task of exercising leadership, a Party committee must rely on its "squad members" and enable them to play their parts to the full. To be a good "squad leader", the secretary should study hard and investigate thoroughly. A secretary or deputy secretary will find it difficult to direct his "squad" well if he does not take care to do propaganda and organizational work among his own "squad members", is not good at handling his relations with committee members or does not study how to run meetings successfully. If the "squad members" do not march in step, they can never expect to lead tens of millions of people in fighting and construction. Of course, the relation between the secretary and the committee members is one in which the

minority must obey the majority, so it is different from the relation between a squad leader and his men, Here we speak only by way of analogy.

2. Place problems on the table. This should be done not only by the "squad leader" but by the committee members too. Do not talk behind people's backs. Whenever problems arise, call a meeting, place the problems on the table for discussion, take some decisions and the problems will be solved. If problems exist and are not placed on the table, they will remain unsolved for a long time and even drag on for years. The "squad leader" and the committee members should show understanding in their relations with each other. Nothing is more important than mutual understanding, support and friendship between the secretary and the committee members, between the Central Committee and its bureaus and between bureaus and the area Party committees. In the past this point received little attention, but since the Seventh Party Congress much progress has been made in this respect and ties of friendship and unity have been greatly strengthened. We should continue to pay constant attention to this point in the future.

3. "Exchange information." This means that members of a Party committee should keep each other informed and exchange views on matters that have come to their attention. This is of great importance in achieving a common language. Some fail to do so and, like the people described by Lao Tzu, "do not visit each other all their lives, though the crowing of their cocks and the barking of their dogs are within hearing of each other."¹ The result is that they lack a common language. In the past some of our high-ranking cadres did not have a common language even on basic theoretical problems of Marxism-Leninism, because they had not studied enough. There is more of a common language in the Party today, but the problem has not yet been fully solved. For instance, in the land reform there is still some difference in the understanding of what is meant by "middle peasants" and "rich peasants".

4. Ask your subordinates about matters you don't understand or don't know, and do not lightly express your approval or disapproval. Some documents, after having been drafted, are withheld from circulation for a time because certain questions in them need to be clarified and it is necessary to consult the lower levels first. We should never pretend to know what we don't know, we should "not feel ashamed to ask and learn from people below"² and we should listen carefully to the views of the cadres at the lower levels. Be a pupil before you become a teacher; learn from the cadres at the lower levels before you issue orders. In handling

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Methods of Work of Party Committee

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problems, this should be the practice of all bureaus of the Central Committee and Party committees of the fronts, except in military emergencies or when the facts of the matter are already clear. To do this will not lower one's prestige, but can only raise it. Since our decisions incorporate the correct views of the cadres at the lower levels, the latter will naturally support them. What the cadres at the lower levels say may or may not be correct; after hearing it, we must analyse it. We must heed the correct views and act upon them. The reason why the leadership of the Central Committee is correct is chiefly that it synthesizes the material, reports and correct views coming from different localities. It would be difficult for the Central Committee to issue correct orders if the localities did not provide material and put forward opinions. Listen also to the mistaken views from below; it is wrong not to listen to them at all. Such views, however, are not to be acted upon but to be criticized.

5. Learn to "play the piano". In playing the piano all ten fingers are in motion; it won't do to move some fingers only and not others. But if all ten fingers press down at once, there is no melody. To produce good music, the ten fingers should move rhythmically and in co-ordination. A Party committee should keep a firm grasp on its central task and at the same time, around the central task, it should unfold the work in other fields. At present, we have to take care of many fields; we must look after the work in all the areas, armed units and departments, and not give all our attention to a few problems, to the exclusion of others. Wherever there is a problem, we must put our finger on it, and this is a method we must master. Some play the piano well and some badly, and there is a great difference in the melodies they produce. Members of Party committees must learn to "play the piano" well.

6. "Grasp firmly". That is to say, the Party committee must not merely "grasp", but must "grasp firmly", its main tasks. One can get a grip on something only when it is grasped firmly, without the slightest slackening. Not to grasp firmly is not to grasp at all. Naturally, one cannot get a grip on something with an open hand. When the hand is clenched as if grasping something but is not clenched tightly, there is still no grip. Some of our comrades do grasp the main task, but their grasp is not firm and so they cannot make a success of their work. It will not do to have no grasp at all, nor will it do if the grasp is not firm.

7. "Have a head for figures." That is to say, we must attend to the quantitative aspect of a situation or problem and make a basic quantitative analysis. Every quality manifests itself in a certain quantity, and without quantity there can be no quality. To this day many of our comrades still do not understand

that they must attend to the quantitative aspect of things — the basic statistics, the main percentages and the quantitative limits that determine the qualities of things. They have no "figures" in their heads and as a result cannot help making mistakes. For instance, in carrying out the land reform it is essential to have such figures as the percentages of landlords, rich peasants, middle peasants and poor peasants among the population and the amount of land owned by each group, because only on this basis can we formulate correct policies. Whom to call a rich peasant, whom a well-to-do middle peasant, and how much income derived from exploitation makes a person a rich peasant as distinct from a well-to-do middle peasant — in all these cases too, the quantitative limits must be ascertained. In all mass movements we must make a basic investigation and analysis of the number of active supporters, opponents and neutrals and must not decide problems subjectively and without basis.

8. "Notice to Reassure the Public." Notice of meetings should be given beforehand; this is like issuing a "Notice to Reassure the Public", so that everybody will know what is going to be discussed and what problems are to be solved and can make timely preparations. In some places, meetings of cadres are called without first preparing reports and draft resolutions, and only when people have arrived for the meeting are makeshifts improvised; this is just like the saying, "Troops and horses have arrived, but food and fodder are not ready", and that is no good. Don't call a meeting in a hurry if the preparations are not completed.

9. "Better troops and simpler administration." Talks, speeches, articles and resolutions should all be concise and to the point. Meetings also should not go on too long.

10. Pay attention to uniting and working with comrades who differ with you. This should be borne in mind both in the localities and in the army. It also applies to relations with people outside the Party. We have come together from every corner of the country and should be good at uniting in our work not only with comrades who hold the same views as we but also with those who hold different views. There are some among us who have made very serious mistakes; we should not be prejudiced against them but should be ready to work with them.

11. Guard against arrogance. For anyone in a leading position, this is a matter of principle and an important condition for maintaining unity. Even those who have made no serious mistakes and have achieved very great success in their work should not be arrogant. Celebration of the birthdays of Party leaders is forbidden. Naming places, streets and enterprises after Party leaders is likewise forbidden. We must keep to our style of plain living and hard work and put a stop

to flattery and exaggerated praise.

12. Draw two lines of distinction. First, between revolution and counter-revolution, between Yen-an and Sian.³ Some do not understand that they must draw this line of distinction. For example, when they combat bureaucracy, they speak of Yen-an as though "nothing is right" there and fail to make a comparison and distinguish between the bureaucracy in Yen-an and the bureaucracy in Sian. This is fundamentally wrong. Secondly, within the revolutionary ranks, it is necessary to make a clear distinction between right and wrong, between achievements and shortcomings and to make clear which of the two is primary and which secondary. For instance, do the achievements amount to 30 per cent or to 70 per cent of the whole? It will not do either to understate or to overstate. We must have a fundamental evaluation of a person's work and establish whether his achievements amount to 30 per cent and his mistakes to 70 per cent, or vice versa. If his achievements amount to 70 per cent of the whole, then his work should in the main be approved. It would be entirely wrong to describe work in which the achievements are primary as work in which the mistakes are primary. In our approach to problems we must not forget to draw these two lines of distinction, between revolution and counter-revolution and between achievements and shortcomings. We shall be able to handle things well if we bear these two distinctions in mind; otherwise we shall confuse the nature of the problems. To draw these distinctions well, careful study and analysis are of course necessary. Our attitude towards every person and every matter should be one of analysis and study.

The members of the Political Bureau and I personally feel that only by using the above methods can Party committees do their work well. In addition to conducting Party congresses well, it is most important for the Party committees at all levels to perform their work of leadership well. We must make efforts to study and perfect the methods of work so as to raise further the party committees' level of leadership.

[This was part of Comrade Mao Zedong's concluding speech at the Second Plenary Session of the Seventh Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on March 13, 1949]

Notes :

- 1 The quotation is from Lao Tzu, Chapter LXXX.
- 2 The quotation is from the *Confucian Analects*, Book V, "Kungyeh Chang".
- 3 Yen-an was the headquarters of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China from January 1937 to March 1947; Sian was the centre of the reactionary rule of the Kuomintang in northwestern China. Comrade Mao Zedong cited the two cities as symbols of revolution and counter-revolution.

Central Committee on Kashmir Election

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person considers as the basic democratic feature of elections.

There can be no two opinions that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have the inalienable right to have representative rule in place of Presidential rule which in this case is virtual army rule. But there can also be no two opinions that it is the fundamental right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to take decision by themselves on holding of elections, on conduction and supervision of the elections, and to set up necessary administrative machinery for the purpose. But this right, within the parametre of the instrument of accession and guaranteed by article 370 in the Constitution of India, has subsequently been grossly eroded.

The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1950, regarding distribution of legislative powers, and the three lists, has been repeatedly amended in many respects to enlarge the power of Parliament to legislate in respect of subjects on which only Jammu and Kashmir state assembly was entitled to legislate according to article 370. By one of many such amendments, the supervision and control of elections to Jammu and Kashmir was taken away from the state election commission and vested in the central election commission. Article 356 has also been made applicable in Jammu and Kashmir thereby enabling the Union Government to set at naught the will of the people duly expressed through elections to the legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir, and in its stead to impose central rule on them. It is an historical truth that since fifties the central government, in a very planned manner and with a firm motive was initiating measures to reduce the state of Jammu and Kashmir to the level of other states.

The central government could introduce these measures only after arresting Sheikh Abdullah and replacing him by series of puppets since 1953. It let loose a reign of terror in Jammu and Kashmir. And now, the central government is waging a virtual war against the people.

Naturally, a tortured people deprived of their right to internal autonomy cannot take and has not taken any decision to hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir. The elections are being imposed by Union government upon them. The parties having no roots in Jammu and Kashmir and parties which deserted the people have taken the decision to foist elections on the unwilling people, suffering worst type of state terrorism.

It cannot be denied that the alienation of the people today from the administration is almost total. The state government employees, the most vocal and organised force kept away from election duties during Lok Sabha elections are also determined to stay away during the elections to the legislative Assembly. It is to be recalled that staff for the purpose of the elections had then to be brought in from other states. This is going to be repeated during the legislative Assembly elections also.

The central government has also failed in its

efforts to persuade parties and forces of all hues, who are, in smaller or greater degree, involved in resistance movement against the government to participate in the elections. Consequently the people could not accept the bona fides of the elections to Lok Sabha. Given the same condition the people are not in a position to accept the bona-fides of the elections to legislative Assembly also.

So the forced elections instead of helping resolve the basic problems of people's life in Jammu and Kashmir, will definitely set in more complications. Moreover, the way the central government has kept this problem hanging for so long a time has provided ample opportunity to the ruling class of Pakistan and the imperialist powers to take advantage of the situation in this troubled condition only to compound the complications further.

The Central Committee cannot but unequivocally condemn the holding and foisting of the elections in Jammu and Kashmir under the conditions of people's alienation and almost total erosion of internal autonomy and a virtual army rule.

The Central Committee also condemns the policy of the central government to make the quantum of autonomy subject to negotiation by the so-called elected government which would be nothing but illegitimate in this case. In reality there is no scope to make it negotiable. It has been already settled with signing of the instrument of accession, and originally guaranteed by article 370. So the real question is not to settle about the question of autonomy but the restoration in full of internal autonomy as per the original agreement. The real question is not negotiation after the elections. The real question is restoration of the pre-'53 status forthwith and the simultaneous withdrawal of army from day to day administration of law and order.

Only under this condition the people of Jammu and Kashmir may feel the pulse of internal autonomy. Only thus the process of healing up of the deeply injured psyche of Kashmiri nationality consciousness may set in.

The Central Committee is of the opinion that only under such congenial environment the people of Jammu and Kashmir may feel the urge for elections to restore representative rule.

The Central Committee cannot but regret the role of CPI and CPI (M) to help foist an unwanted election on the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The Central Committee regrets that the CPI and CPI (M), by their policies are virtually aiding the process of total erosion of pre-'53 status which Congress (I), BJP and others are aiming at firmly. The stands of both the CPI and the CPI (M) to make the full restoration of the article 370 a subject matter of fresh negotiation and also to inject in it the question of quantum of autonomy have virtually put them in the same camp comprising the Congress(I) and Janata Dal. Both these parties have failed to grasp that this attempt to unsettle a long settled fact will ultimately help BJP to attain its goal of total erosion of pre-'53 status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Under this circumstances, the Central Committee appeals to the rank and file of CPI and CPI (M) to come forward to stop the retrograde steps of the leadership of these parties.

All the Left parties and forces should unite and come forward to defeat the gameplan of the Congress(I), BJP etc. on Jammu and Kashmir. In keeping with the tradition of anti-imperialist struggle of our people the leadership of the genuine Left forces shall surely stand united by the side of the tortured people of Jammu and Kashmir in their just struggle against state terrorism, and for restoration of fundamental rights to live with dignity.

Movement Against Price Hike at Haryana

The people of Haryana are fighting hard against the anti-people policies of both the central and state governments. The BJP and the Haryana Vikas Party led state government imposed heavy taxes and fares on the people and the Deve Gowda led 'United Front' steeply hiked the price of petrol, diesel and cooking gas after assuming power at the Centre. Under the leadership of the SUCI, Haryana State Committee a programme of movement has been drawn up in different districts of the State.

In Rohtak district on 15th of July '96 on behalf of the district unit of the Party memoranda were submitted to the Chief Minister of the State and the Prime Minister of India through the District Collectorate. Before it the comrades and supporters came in a procession and held a number of street-corner meetings which were addressed by Comrade Satyawan, member of the State Committee and Comrade Anoop Singh Roopchand, member of the District Committee.

Similar programmes were held in other districts and places of the State.

On 18th July demonstrations were held at Gurgaon, Bhiwani, Sonipat, Kaithal, Kurukshetra, Rewari, M. Garh and on 26th July at Jajjar. On all the occasions hundreds of party workers and supporters participated, protest rallies were held and memoranda were sent to Mr. Deve Gowda, the Prime Minister and Mr. Banshilal, the Chief Minister of the State.

Netaji Centenary Observed at Haryana

On the occasion of the birth centenary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the great leader of uncompromising trend of freedom struggle, a meeting was held at Bahadurgarh under the auspices of the Netaji Yadgar Committee on 23rd June, '96. Captain Kanwal Singh of INA, the Chief Guest recounted his reminiscences while addressing the gathering. Among others who spoke were Comrade Anoop Singh Roopchand and Comrade Satyawan.

Similar programmes to commemorate the birth centenary of the great national leader were also held in different corners of the State.

Miners' Movement in Bellary, Karnataka

The struggling workmen and their starving family members of the Haraginadoni Iron Ore Mines owned under lease by M/s TBA & P Ltd. in Bellary district, Karnataka have taken to the streets in course of their undaunted and sustained movement against three and a half month long illegal lock-out, retrenchment and forcible working in the mines by the company with the help of outsiders and pet rowdies. Under the banner of Sanjuktha Gani Karmikara Sangha they staged an impressive mass deputation before the Deputy Commissioner, Bellary district, demanding justice from the government and submitted a memorandum to him on 23.8.96 last.

The management of the said mines dismissed some workers on false charges and resorted to illegal lock-out from 6.5.96. It behaved with the workers in a most dictatorial manner and dictated humiliating terms to the workers for settlement of the dispute, and on 29.7.96 it tried to open the mines by hiring goondas, assaulted workers intending to join duty and created an atmosphere of fear in



Mass deputation of miners in Bellary, Karnataka

months. They declared to carry on the movement till the workers' demands were met.

Receiving the memorandum the Deputy Commissioner, Bellary district promised to convene a tripartite meeting to discuss and settle the issue.

Movement in Kamarajan District, Tamil Nadu

The local SUCI organisation of Thiruthangal Panchayat area in Kamarajan district of Tamil Nadu led a successful mass movement demanding supply of drinking water and the ensuring of sanitary facilities to the people of nearby villages.

Supply of drinking water to Panaiyadipathi area and ensuring proper sanitation to the local people had been a long standing demand to which the panchayat authority turned a deaf ear. In the morning of 19.8.96 local people under the leadership of SUCI submitted a memorandum to Panchayat Union office which did not respond properly. Ultimately finding no other alternative the local people resorted to road-block on the Thiruthangal-Madurai road. The P. U. officials and local police rushed to the spot and opened dialogue with the demonstrators which resulted in an agreement signed by the P. U. officials promising immediate supply of water. In the evening drinking water was supplied by lorries. The whole programme of movement was led and the demonstration addressed by Comrade Ramchandran, member, Kamarajan District Organising Committee of SUCI and Comrade Johnson, member, District Organising Committee of DYD.



Demonstration in Rohtak, Haryana against heavy taxes and fare hike and price hike of petroleum products

Haraginadoni village. The management of the mines did all these with the ulterior motive of terminating the existing permanent workers from service and leasing out the mines to a contractor in order to escape legal obligations to the permanent workers and thus to make super profit from the mines. The company has now terminated the service of all the workers of the mines. But workers of surrounding mines and agricultural workers of nearby villages are lending full support to the just cause of the struggling workers.

The demonstration before the Deputy Commissioner was led by Comrade K. Somashekar, President and Comrade H. V. Ganapati, Secretary of the Sanjuktha Gani Karmikara Sangha. Addressing the assembled workers and in the memorandum submitted to the Deputy Commissioner, Bellary they urged the district administration to immediately intervene and settle the problem, force the management to withdraw illegal lock-out and to reinstate all retrenched workers who have been deprived of work and wages for more than three



Road Block on Thiruthangal-Madurai road on 19.8.96 with the demand for supply of drinking water and ensuring sanitary facilities

RESOLVE ALMATTI DAM DISPUTE**Defeat Parochial design and maintain unity**

The Andhra Pradesh State Organizing Committee and the Karnataka State Committee of Socialist Unity Centre of India (SUCI) note with deep concern the way parochial feelings are being whipped up by the A.P. and Karnataka State governments and various political parties centring round the Almatti dam issue. The common people of both the states who have a long heritage of mutual friendship and cordial relations are seeking an amicable solution of the dispute.

Though a happy solution in the interest of the people of both the states is easily possible, particularly when both the states have long ago accepted the Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal (Bachawat) Award, 1976, different types of confusions are being created motivatedly by the state governments and different political parties furnishing contradictory facts on the issue, thus misleading the people by inciting parochial sentiments in order to serve their narrow sectarian interest. This, no doubt, will create tensions and bitter feelings among the people of both the states greatly damaging the existing cordial relations between them.

To remove the confusions that have already been created it is very much required to place all the facts before the people. It is the task of the central government to entrust an appropriate authority to probe into the whole question of Almatti dam and to see whether any violation of Bachawat award has taken place or not. If there is any violation in the construction of Almatti dam, it has to be accordingly corrected.

But, instead of doing this primary work for the solution of this problem, the central government formed a panel of four Chief Ministers to look into the matter and passed on the responsibility to this Panel, which, in its turn has appointed a 9-member committee of Technical experts complicating the issue all the more.

While the farmers of A.P. who have been enjoying the irrigation facilities for decades should continue to get regular supply of water to meet their crop cycle, so also the farmers of Karnataka, particularly the drought-prone areas of Gulbarga, Raichur and Bijapur should not be denied the opportunity to avail themselves of their share of water for irrigation by completion

of the Almatti dam. The question of raising or otherwise of the height of the Almatti dam has to be examined keeping the needs of the people of both the states in view. The peasants of both the states are interested more in resolving the problem to ensure irrigation of their lands than in the technical wranglings and politicking which the governments and the political parties are resorting to.

The Bachawat award has allotted out of the 2060 TMC ft of water flowing in river Krishna in a water-year, 560 TMC ft for Maharashtra, 700 TMC ft for Karnataka, and 800 TMC ft for A.P. A.P. could utilise a major portion of its allotted annual share because many projects could be completed in the state, whereas Karnataka could not utilise even half of their allotted quota because of the negligence and failure of their successive governments in completing the projects in time. We strongly feel that as the interest of A.P. farmers who have been traditionally depending on Krishna water shall not be undermined, so also, the interests of the Karnataka farmers who could not utilise the

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SPONSORING COMMITTEE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS CALLS**All India Demands Day on 27th September**

The Sponsoring Committee of Indian Trade Unions which met on 27-8-96 in New Delhi expressed grave concern over the current developments in the economic front facing the working class and common people. The meeting was presided by Comrade A.D. Nagpal (HMS). It further notes with agony, that the budget of the UF Government reflects the continuity of many of the retrograde policies of the previous Congress(I) Government which already had adverse impact on the country's economy, life and living of the workers and common people.

Sponsoring Committee also notes that the policies of the Government of India as reflected in the annual budget has not marked any basic departure in the direction of employment generation and revival of sick units and strengthening the self reliance of the economy but rather marked an acceleration of the pace of opening up of the vital sector of the economy to foreign and Indian monopoly capital much to the detriment to the interest of the country. Further it could not offer any notable relief to the working class and the common people by a reliable strong mechanism of price control, higher exemption limit of income tax, removal of bonus ceiling etc., nor it could take any radical step for upliftment of the lot of poor people particularly in unorganised and rural sector. It is also noted with concern that there has been a consistent decline in real wages all around. Growing casualisation and contractarisation of labour and decline in proportion of permanent work force have become the order of the day. What has been done in the name of rural development is to channelise some concessions which can be availed of mainly by the rural rich.

The Sponsoring Committee also notes that the Government has already taken a stride for disinvestment of PSU shares in a big way through disinvestment commission, which, if read alongwith the statement of the Industry Ministry regarding disinvestment, would mean

privatisation of the major part of the PSU network in the country which working class cannot accept. Nor can it accept the decision of opening of the insurance sector to private capital, both foreign and Indian, and thoughtless intrusion of foreign capital in the vital infrastructure sector like Telecom, Power, Roads, Communications, etc., in the name of infrastructure development.

Sponsoring Committee also notes the legislation on Construction Workers which is no doubt an welcome step but maintains that the piece of legislation has many shortcomings and requires radical improvement. Sponsoring Committee also notes that the Government is yet to take concrete step for enactment of a comprehensive legislation for agricultural workers, as committed by it. The legislation on 'Recognition of union through secret ballot' is another commitment of the Government which is yet to be implemented. Working class movement must raise its voice for immediate implementation of above measures for which the Government has already declared its commitment. The Sponsoring Committee, after careful review of the situation demands upon the Government to take serious note of the voice of opposition of the entire working class of the country against the Fund/Bank dictated policy of so-called liberalisations, privatisation and globalisation affecting the self reliance of the country and ensure a conscious departure from the pursuance of the same economic policy of the Narasimha Rao regime and calls upon the working class of the country to renew its united struggle on the basis of the following demands:

1. Concrete measures for employment generation, to ensure right to work for all.
2. Expeditious steps for revival of sick industrial units and PSUs.
3. Amendment of SICA and revamping of BIFR to ban winding up/liquidation of sick units.

4. Minimum wage must be above the poverty line and Minimum wage legislation to be suitably amended to ensure compulsory periodic revision of Minimum wage and its automatic linkage with the price index.
5. Extension and implementation of labour legislation and social security measures in the entire unorganised sector.
6. No disinvestment of PSU shares and disinvestment commission should be scrapped.
7. Entry of private and foreign capital in Insurance Sector should not be allowed.
8. No privatisation of Telecom and Power Sector.
9. Legislation on 'Recognition of union through Secret Ballot' in the coming session of Parliament and the concerned Bill to be finalised in consultation with trade unions.
10. Legislation on 'Agricultural Workers' have to be brought in the coming session of Parliament and the concerned bill is to be finalised in consultation with trade unions.
11. Suitable amendment of Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 to put an end to the proliferation of Contract Labour in permanent perennial areas of work and regularisation of concerned workers.
12. Raising of exemption limit of income-tax payment and raising of ceiling of Bonus payment and entitlement.
13. Ceiling of Gratuity payment should be made Rs.2.5 Lakhs in line with Central Govt. employees.

The Sponsoring Committee while reiterating its commitment to its earlier demands and formulations made in the convention of National Platform of Mass Organisations, calls on all its affiliates and the working class in general to observe 'All India Demands Day' on 27th September, 1996 all over the country through demonstration, rally, dharna, etc., to highlight the above demands.

Post Budget meet of TUs with Finance Minister

UTUC-LS Demands Concrete measures in the interest of Working Class

New Delhi, 27th August 1996 : The Union Finance Minister Mr. Chidambaram met Central Trade Union leaders today at P.I.B. Conference room of Shastri Bhavan in a meeting convened by him to discuss post-budget situation. In his brief introductory speech the Finance Minister informed the leaders that he had tried to address trade union grievances in his budget and was ready to take care of minor improvements, if any, suggested by trade union leaders at this stage when Parliament was in session to consider the budget proposals. Introducing the agenda this way, the Finance Minister sought reactions, views and last moment suggestions relating to Budget 1996-97. INTUC leader Shri Gopeswar, welcomed the budget and expressed his happiness. He however told that he had prepared some written notes to be submitted to the Minister for his consideration. Shri R. K. Bhakt, President BMS, expressed his organisation's general agreement with the budget and demanded to scrap bonus and gratuity ceilings. Dr. Shanti Patel, President of HMS demanded full autonomy for Public Sector management. Shri B. D. Joshi, leader of AITUC, demanded concession for small scale industries, withdrawal of bonus and gratuity ceilings. He also expressed his reservation against disinvestment of public sector. Shri M. K. Pandhe, General Secretary, CITU opposed public sector disinvestment, opening of Insurance and Telecom Sectors to private sector and demanded dismantling of newly set-up Disinvestment Commission, Mr. Chidambaram replied that what he has done, was not in any way beyond the purview of the CPM (Common Minimum Programme). He strongly defended his action and claimed that CPI and CPI(M) had agreed to PSU disinvestment and privatisation. Now it was not fair on the part of CITU to criticise budget, the Finance Minister commented. S. R. Sengupta said more or less in line with M. K. Pandhe.

UTUC-LS was represented in this meeting by its All India Secretary Comrade Achintya Singha, who had been the fourth speaker. Thanking Union Finance Minister for his second meet with Central Trade Union leaders on the budget Comrade Singha said as follows :

"Permit me to take you back for a while to the pre-budget discussion held on 21st June 1996. You will kindly remember that in the said discussion, while you were preparing your first budget, we raised some serious points relating to the health of Indian economy and budget outlook. The points we raised, inter alia, were continued devaluation of budget, dangerous consequences of foreign investment, Foreign Institutional Investment (FII) in particular in view of its usurious and migratory character, retention of public sector in general and of core, heavy and basic infrastructural industries in particular under state control, harmful consequences of disinvestment of PSU shares and privatisation etc. You gave us a patient hearing. Some of us, wanted to believe that you would not go Manmohan Sing's way, who used to hear but do what he liked quite disregarding merit of the views expressed by trade unions. But after observing the steps taken by the United Front Government after the 21st June discussion and going through your budget proposals, we are constrained to note that you could not be an exception in this regard. And

probably it was not your desire too. My honesty and commitment to the cause of the working people demands of me to be frank and say that the views, observations, suggestions put forward on behalf of the working class movement, have not been at all reflected or accommodated in your budget speech and proposals."

At this stage, the Finance Minister, intervened and said that like UTUC-LS representative he would also like to speak something frankly. Stating this, he said : I respect your views and observation. But as you have right to differ I too have right to differ with you. I don't agree with your views and philosophy. And moreover, you also must appreciate this limitation of mine that, I am representing views of 13-party coalition and am bound by Common Minimum Programme. I request you to view the budget keeping in view my limitations.'

In reply the UTUC-LS representative said : But the working people of our country are not bound by CMP. You cannot expect of them to stand anything contrary to their interest imposed on them in the name of CMP. Besides this, let me also tell that facts, truths and reasons stand independently of our limitation and philosophical differences. The Minister did not comment anything on this statement of UTUC-LS but requested him to suggest proposals ; if any, for improvement.

Before placing his suggestions, Comrade Achintya Singha spoke on continued Congressite practice of devaluating budget, flayed hike in the prices of petroleum products, 50% reduction in corporate taxes while only 5% in case of salaried employees of lower income bracket, setting up of Disinvestment Commission, doubling of investment limit of Foreign Institutional Investors, opening infra structural sector industries to monopolies and multinationals of home and abroad. He also demanded scrapping of bonus and gratuity ceilings and concrete financial measures for revival of sick industries. Lastly he put forward the following three suggestions which, he considered could be accommodated in this year's budget.

1. It has been claimed that in the current budget the United Front Government and the Finance Minister have laid greater emphasis on agriculture sector. But that

sector does not comprise only the capitalist farmers and rich peasants segment whose 'march-ahead' at the cost of public exchequer has been ensured in this budget; there is another segment i.e. agricultural workers who constitute a vast majority of our population. For them there is not a single word in the budget. They have no work for months in a year. Jahawar Rojgar Yojana and Rural Employment Assurance Scheme have come to their little help. Bulk of them are starving and living in sub-human standard. In this backdrop, UTUC-LS proposes to supply them rice, wheat and other essential commodities at the rate by which those are supplied to police personnels in our country. It is known to all that the persons in police are supplied all these materials at maximum possible cheapest prices. Agricultural workers deserve this concession more than any one. UTUC-LS proposes a fund to be allocated for this purpose in this very budget.

2. Most deplorable is the plight of victims of industrial sickness, closure and lockout particularly in private sector. The factories/ establishments closed remain closed/locked out for years and the workers are not paid their wages and other statutory dues. Government cannot force the employers to pay the workers. Hence the workers starve with their family members and children. It is shocking to note that thousands of workers of closed and locked out factories/ establishments all over the country have died or committed suicide out of starvation. Should a civilised nation allow such a shameful and deplorable situation to continue? Hence the UTUC-LS proposes that the Government must take responsibility of those workers till factories are re-opened or they are ensured their due wages.
3. The Finance Minister, though agreed to consider trade unions' demand for tax exemption of salaried employees upto Rs. 60,000/- of income per year has only reduced by 5% in respect of employees within the income bracket of Rs 40 to 60 thousand. UTUC-LS proposes to reconsider trade union's demand with an assurance to increase proportionately the exemption limit keeping in view price-rise and resultant erosion of real wages.

World of Corruption

Corruption rocks the bourgeois world in all of the five countries. At least it is a solace to the people of the country that they need not be ashamed alone looking at the corruption, nepotism, malpractices, misappropriation in their national body-politic. For, when the Indian news media reveal almost daily newer and newer faces of corruption as being practised in this country, similar reports from all over the world are being poured in numbers. It is clear that counterparts of Rao or Advani are not few in this world. Not only in the poor third world countries but also in the member countries of G-7 there are people in the corridor of power who take advantage of their position to plunder the wealth of their countries in the form of kick-backs, bribes, bribing for clinging to power or offering undue advantage to their keens. These tendencies are on the rise and have become

almost the order of the day in the capitalist world. We illustrate here a few of these.

Economic offences have virtually devastated the entire Latin American countries. Colombia President Ernesto Samper could not deny that \$ 6 million from the Cali drug cartel fueled his 1994 campaign ; three top campaign aides have confirmed it. But the President insisted, "it happened behind my back" and refused to quit. It was learnt that he could quit after being sure he would not go to jail. In Equador the Vice-President was impeached last year by the Supreme Court for allegedly diverting public money for his own cause. Ultimately he fled into exile in Costa Rica.

In South Korea former President Chun Doo Hwan and Rah Tae Woo are both on trial charges of sharing in multi-million dollar slush

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Resolve Almatti Dam Dispute

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water of Krishna river, because of the failure and neglect of their governments to arrange proper irrigation system shall not be ignored.

The allotment of shares of water as per the Bachawat Award has been accepted by all the states concerned. However, the point now is to see that the release of water to the lower riparian states is ensured strictly and monitored accordingly. For this a permanent high power Board should be set up comprising of engineers from all the three states concerned, under overall supervision of the Central Water Commission (CWC) to monitor and control inflows and record the quantum of Krishna water utilisation. This Board should be empowered to formulate the Reservoir Operation Policy for Krishna River Basin projects and measure inflows into the canals and utilisation of water in every water year. This proposed Board should effectively check any possible over-utilisation of Krishna water by any state. This Board should be given adequate powers to enforce compliance to reservoir operation schedules by the riparian states; besides maintaining transparent data on utilisation and discharges. The contending states should immediately sit and amicably settle the problem by agreeing to a rational reservoir operation schedule that can ensure timely release of water to meet the crop-cycle of the lower riparian areas.

It is not difficult for the people to understand that when the anti-people policies of the A.P. government such as increase in subsidized rice price, decrease in the rice quota for the poor, hike in bus fares, milk price, water cess, and unprecedented hike in power tariff, etc. have created tremendous discontent among the masses of A.P. leading to demonstrations and protests and when internal dissensions among some of the members of the ruling TDP are mounting as they could not get the promised ministerial berths and government portfolios, the Chandrababu Naidu Government will try to divert the attention of the people from its anti-people policies and project itself as the champion of the cause of the Andhra people. So also, it is not difficult to understand that when the Karnataka government, because of the same type of anti-people policies, such as unprecedented hike in power tariff, milk price, etc., have created discontent among the people, leading to protest movements, it is interested in diverting the attention of the people from the real problem to fake ones.

We are not at all astonished to see that both the state governments which are not at all interested in guarding the people's interest are utilising such an important issue of people's life for their petty political gains; neither is it surprising that the bourgeois parties like the Congress, BJP and Janata Dal are using this to fan up parochial sentiments. It is significant to note that the so-called Left parties like the CPI, CPI(M), true to their nature are also engaged in the same political game of whipping up parochialism for their narrow political gains.

While in Andhra Pradesh all these parties are supporting Naidu government's stand not to increase the height of the dam, their counterparts in Karnataka are supporting the Patel government's stand that the height of the dam should be increased. In this way supporting simultaneously the two diametrically opposite stands regarding the height of the dam, they are taking opportunism and parochialism to a new height.

We are happy to note that people at large in both the states have not fallen prey to the game of these political parties. We appeal to the people not to be swayed by the propaganda of these parties, especially when on the one hand the ruling capitalist class and its governments both at the centre and the states are mounting savage attacks on the people, making their life increasingly miserable and on the other are trying to divide the exploited people on communal, casteist, parochial and regional lines to suppress the growth of united democratic

movements against their anti-people policies. People should never forget that in this situation when the problems of their life are growing the unity of whole of the exploited and oppressed people is of paramount importance; and whichever party, under whatever garb tries to divide the unity of the people is acting as the enemy of the people.

We demand of both the Andhra and Karnataka governments and different political parties to immediately stop provocative speeches that fuel passions and create mistrust among the people; and that they should pave the way for an amicable settlement of the issue.

We appeal to the people of both the states to build up sustained mass movements to mount pressure on their respective governments to immediately settle the dispute amicably and remain firmly united defeating all parochial designs of different parties and forces and build up struggles at the same time against the anti-people policies of both Central and State governments.



A protest demonstration organised under the auspices of All India Anti-Imperialist Forum against the barbaric US missile attack on Iraq in front of USIS in Calcutta. A memorandum was also submitted to the US President through the Consul General of the USA, Calcutta, condemning the US action.

World of Corruption

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funds, largely made up of bribes paid by businessmen for government contracts.

In Italy, the corruption is far more rampant and the probe has virtually wiped out the rulers of 40 years. Former Socialist PM Bettino Craxi was sentenced in the last April to eight years in prison for corruption connected with the construction of the Milan Subway System. Craxi, who had already been sentenced to two other cases, fled to Tunisia in 1994 rather than go to prison. But he was again acquitted of a separate bribing charge involving dealings with the pension fund of Italy's largest savings bank. Mr. Giulio Andreotti, a seven times PM is now on trial for alleged mafia ties. Mr. Silvio Berlusconi's newly formed Forza Italian Party won the 1994 elections on a clean up pledge. But he was forced out as PM after only seven months in office on charge of bribing tax inspectors to conduct lenient audit of his Fininvest financial empire.

The economic offenders have developed a practice, like those in India, to save off the longhands of law by manipulating the

administrations or influencing the jurisprudence. In France, the elite Western democracy, a police investigator, who discovered a kickback scheme that financed the late President Mitterand's Socialist Party operators, attracted the government displeasure. Exploiting the loopholes in the French law the investigation was quashed by the party in power. In Egypt President Hosni Mubarak cracked down on the reporters who revealed that he exercised his influence to help his son amassing huge amount of wealth.

Instances of similar corrupt practice and corrupt game are numerous in so-called democracies all over the world. The bourgeois humanism which once committed to provide a system defined as 'of the people, for the people, by the people', was not only converted into a exploiting system for historical reasons, but also longtime ceased to present a fair and corruption free administration. In fact this system is devoid of anything good for the people at large. The present instances only corroborate our views.

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