

COUNTER-REVOLUTION IN ROMANIA

ENGINEERED FROM OUTSIDE

The trend of recent developments in East European countries, now culminating in a fierce armed clash in Romania followed by execution of President Nicolae Ceausescu, the longtime leader of the Communist Party and the State of Romania who had been strongly and gallantly opposing the new reforms and the revisionist scheme of perestroika and glasnost, has appeared today to be the issue of gravest concern to the proletariat and the progressive people of the world. The orchestrated propaganda being carried on not only by the mass media of the western capitalist-imperialist countries but now also joined in by the East European countries which have fallen in line with the new reforms initiated by the Gorbachev leadership of the USSR has created an utter confusion among the common people in different countries, helping the imperialist powers to renew their attack on socialism and malign the noble banner of proletarian internationalism. A critical examination of

the supposed news and 'reports' being circulated on the events of Romania in particular would indicate clearly that these are purported not only to conceal the real facts of the developments but to cover up also the truth of a preplanned counter-revolution engineered by external revisionist forces.

It is a fairly well-known fact that ever since the ascension to power in the CPSU of the Khrushchevite revisionist leadership the relation between the CPSU and the Communist Party of Romania and between the two States has not remained warm. During the period of the 'Great Debate' and thereafter, when a complete rift appeared between the CPSU and the CPC and between the two States, Romania continued its friendly relation with China and also with Albania and North Korea to the dislike of the CPSU leadership. The Romanian leaders, the party and the State openly opposed the Soviet Union's sending army into Afghanistan and virtual

occupation of that country and also Vietnam's military occupation of Kampuchea. All this deteriorated further the relation between Romania and the USSR. As one result of this continuing deterioration of relation was the fact that Romania never received adequate assistance from the Soviet Union under the revisionist leadership.

In this background came the present worst phase of Right revisionism introduced by the Gorbachev leadership of the CPSU which openly proclaimed to bring the reformist line of the Khrushchevite leadership to a fully developed and comprehensive scheme of the Soviet society's ideological-political thinking, economic system, cultu-

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Proletarian Era

Organ of SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA
(fortnightly)

Founder Editor-in-Chief : COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

Vol. 23 No. 9 18th January 1990 Price : 40 P,
Air Charge 5 P,

Bourgeois design behind recent Electoral Reforms

Recently on the floor of the Parliament Mr. Dinesh Goswami, the Union Minister of Law and Justice of the newly formed National Front Government, has declared that his government was going to table a comprehensive Bill on electoral reforms which will incorporate, inter alia, provision for state funding, to the candidates in Parliamentary and Assembly elections and restriction on contesting by 'non-serious' candidates. During the tenure of the former Indira Gandhi government also, the Election Commission tried to move similar type of Bill suggesting state funding to the candidates in parliamentary and Assembly elections and restriction on so-called non-serious candidates. But sensing protests from various corners the Commission ultimately drew back. And now again this National Front government is renewing that attempt.

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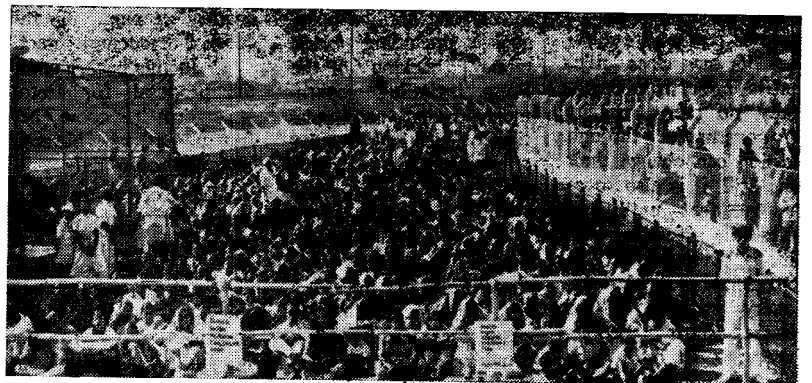
Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Children's Park & Free Coaching School Opened

GHATSHILA : 7th of January, 1990, was an occasion for the people of Ghatshila, a small town in Singbhum district of Bihar. No doubt, this day will be remembered by the people of Ghatshila for years to come.

Our readers may recall that in this very township the "Study Centre for Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh's Thought" was established under the auspices of the Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Trust, three years hence, on 17th November, 1986. Recently, the Trust went ahead with the project of establishing the 'Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Children's Park' and 'Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Free Coaching School' for helping the all-round

physical, moral, educational and cultural development of the people, especially the uncared for and backward tribal and other poor people of the region — with an emphasis on the healthy physical and mental growth of the children. There is also a mini-zoo in the Park. The Free Coaching School, too, is situated within the Park. It now operates in three sessions — morning, day and evening — for the children,

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Comrade Nihar Mukherjee delivering the inaugural speech on the occasion of the opening of the children's park and free coaching school. A section of the vast gathering thronging the children's park to attend the inaugural ceremony.

State Funding will only help the rich and big parties

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It goes without saying that, on the face, both the state funding to the candidates and restriction on 'non-serious' candidates seem innocuous. But, we think, in the interest of democratic rights of the people and its future both the two 'pious suggestions' should be judged most critically and seriously.

After the achievement of freedom from the British colonial rule the Indian bourgeoisie established parliamentary democracy in the country more than forty years ago. Since then the system is operating here and both the bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties and the revolutionary party of the proletariat are participating in it and obviously with different class angularities.

Every class conscious proletariat knows, although the bourgeoisie describe the parliamentary democracy as 'for the people, by the people, of the people, actually this democracy is for the minority bourgeoisie to rule, subjugate and exploit the majority proletariats. To protect, continue and consolidate their class rule the bourgeoisie keep up this parliamentary system and get their representative party or parties and candidates elected who can best serve their class rule and this exploitative system.

The reality is that unless and until the bourgeoisie is forcibly overthrown from the State power, the proletariat captures seat and establishes its own class rule, that is, proletarian democracy, no more change of government through election can change their lot. Still, it is also equally true that until and unless the objective conditions of revolution become mature and revolutionary struggle of the masses starts, people, they want it or not, or like it or not, get involved in election — they are dragged into it. Only when the people are or-

ganised on the basis of the revolutionary consciousness that the necessity of election has been exhausted, people's own instruments of power have been built up, uprising is necessary and is possible. That is, they reject election from this positive standpoint and then and then only the revolutionaries can shun election. Otherwise, they too must have to participate in elections for the purpose of remaining with the masses and expose before them the real character of parliamentary democracy. Besides, to reflect on the floor of the Parliament the voices of demands of the people raised in class and mass struggles developed outside the Parliament, the revolutionaries participate in parliamentary battles and thus co-ordinate parliamentary and extra-parliamentary struggles conducive to the growth and development of revolutionary movement in the country.

So as the basic purpose of the two classes in participating in elections is different their tactics and methodology of fighting the election, implication of victory and defeat to them are also different.

With eye to grab maximum number of seats by any means, people are not only hoaxed with tall promises but also sentiments like parochialism, casteism and communalism are fomented by bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties. Not only this. In these days everybody knows the money bag of the bourgeoisie including black money, backing of the Press including government media, manipulation of election results, administrative rigging and use of muscle power — these four have now been the most powerful factors in deciding election results in the country. Thus in most of the cases, these results reflect anything but people's verdict for, election is now neither fair nor free. It is true, in the early days of bourgeois democracy in

human civilization, the bourgeoisie held high the banner of democratic values, norms and rights and individual freedom. This was in conformity with the laissez faire and competitive stage of the capitalist economy in its early period of development. At that time it aimed at establishing and guaranteeing wider democracy in the political field manifesting itself through multiparty democracy. But following the course of history capitalism has given birth to monopoly capitalism and then state monopoly capitalism — the rock bottom economic foundation of fascism. This intense centralisation of capital in the hands of a few and the State, being a subservient instrument of monopoly capital, has found its reflection in the political superstructure also. The bourgeoisie who was once more attached to individual freedom and liberty has now become more attached to militarism and bureaucracy, and more and more snatching away democratic rights of the people, trying to monopolize and concentrate those in the hands of a chosen few eliminating the real forces of Opposition from the arena of parliamentary struggle and thus trying to switch over from multi-party democracy to narrow confines of two party or three-party democracy where only the very few chosen by the bourgeoisie will play their role and people's voice will be absent. That is, they are moving towards establishing fascism in the country keeping the facade of democracy intact.

In this background, this proposal for electoral reform has come before us and we have to judge it accordingly.

First comes the question of state funding. Is there any justification for spending public money at all for helping the candidates in fighting election? When in the country more than 70 per cent of the population live below the poverty level, one-third of the population lead their life

in a subhuman condition, millions of people starve or half starve, thousands and thousands die out of hunger every year; drought, flood and famine haunt the country regularly, thousands of villages get no drinking water, millions get no medical facility and their children grope in the darkness of illiteracy, every government, starting from Right to so-called Left, whenever pressed upon for meeting these minimum basic needs of the common people, raises the plea of paucity of fund and at the same time shamelessly drain out crores of rupees for luxury and amenities of the MLAs, MPs and ministers and high officials every year. In such a situation, can any civilized government have the moral right to squander away public money in the name of state funding to the candidates to make some people MLAs, MPs and ministers? Certainly not.

Ostensibly, the government or the Election Commission desires by funding the candidates, to restrict the limitless expenditure in elections by the rich parties and candidates within the limit of the fund sanctioned to individual candidates. But what the past experience shows? In the past, to curb money power in election, seeking contribution from monopoly houses by the political parties was once prohibited. But within a few years the attempt proved abortive and the prohibition is now withdrawn. Besides, there is already a ceiling on election expenditure and, it is now an open secret how the rich parties and candidates ridicule the ceiling by spending hundred times more than it. In such a situation, is it not more than certain that the state fund sanctioned to the candidates will prove to be some additional resources to the rich parties or candidates? Thus, even a layman can understand that by this the role of black money or money power in election will go unabated, simply it will

be coupled with the state fund and henceforth, the government will cry hoarse that whatever is spent in election is spent from the state fund and hence the role of black

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ral-social life and, above all, the existing political system. Ostensibly to rid the Soviet society of the serious ills afflicting it today and overcome the piled-up unresolved problems and other phenomena alien to socialism, this scheme of trial reforms has initiated measures designed, in effect, to bring about more and more privatisation of the means of production opposed to socialism; give birth to small production, decentralise completely the socialist economy and its administration; expand the sphere of commodity production circulation, making commodity production to be governed effectively by the capitalist market law of demand and supply; and all this to scuttle and undermine the centralised planning and hence the balanced development of the national economy. Clearly this scheme of total reforms in the strappings of perestroika and glasnost is nothing but the line of revisionism — reversion of socialism and restoration of capitalism, that is, the line of counter-revolution.

It has also come to light that in pursuing and implementing its counter-revolutionary scheme of total reforms and its line of capitulation to US imperialism in the name of preventing a nuclear war and maintaining peace the Gorbachev leadership has encountered opposition not only within the CPSU but also from the leaderships of some other communist parties, namely Erich Honecker of the Socialist Unity Party of the German Democratic Republic, Fidel Castro of Cuba, Kim Il Sung of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, the comm-

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Non-seriousness of candidate a plea to curb democracy

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money in election is stopped and sanctity prevails there!

Secondly, it is most likely that ultimately only the big parties will be blessed with the state funding just like the advantage of canvassing through the Radio, TV enjoyed by them only. And smaller parties who are fighting for people's cause with their limited resources and are against vested interests will be considered unfit for being state funded in the elections. Thus a clear discrimination in distributing public money will be made among the parties of vested interests and those opposed to it.

It is needless to say, the increasing role of money power proportionately linked up with the growth of muscle power in election has reduced the whole election process, so to say, the parliamentary democracy to a farce. Unbound greed for power and practice of totally unprincipled politics devoid of any democratic norms and ethics by the bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties and politicians are, no doubt, solely responsible for such a sorry state of affairs in the political arena of the country. And naturally remedy to this malady does not lie in mere legislation particularly in this type of eye-wash by the Election Commission. This rampant use of black money and muscle power in elections can be thwarted only through countrywide mass movement based on democratic values and principles. And to start with, the ruling parties, their governments, the government administration and more so, the Election Commission itself must reflect these values in their functioning which is most wanting today.

Then comes the question of imposing restriction on contesting by 'non-serious candidates'.

According to the version of Election Commission, now-a-days in Parliamentary and Assembly elections, in many cases, too many candidates contest for a single seat to come even to a contesting position, let alone to be victorious and this makes the election procedure cumbersome and costly for the Election Commission. So, candidates failing to secure a fixed, minimum percentage of total votes polled in an election will not be allowed to join in the next fray. Maybe, there are so many habitual candidates, or candidates fighting not for any principle or cause, but for other reasons and they are most likely to cut a sorry figure. But still they deserve the right to contest and it is their democratic right. The Government or the Election Commission can never deprive them of the democratic right to contest and to be elected and the people to elect or vote for their chosen candidates on the plea of excessively lengthening of ballot paper or adding to the cost of election by such weaker candidates. If done, it will be a gross violation of the very principle of parliamentary democracy. For, in parliamentary democracy even a lone voice must be given the opportunity to be heard and that right cannot be surrendered on any plea whatsoever. It was the bourgeoisie themselves who at the time of dawn of bourgeois democratic revolution expressed, "If all mankind minus one were of one opinion and only one person were of the contrary opinion, mankind would be no more justified in silencing that one person, than he, if he had the power, would be justified in silencing mankind." (Liberty — J. S. Mill.) In all countries and in all ages forces of truth and progress in a society were first minority in their fight against the majority forces of status-quo and reaction. All great men who advanced

civilization started their struggle single-handedly and from their fight people gradually distinguished between right and wrong. Once a minority turned majority in future. So, preventing a weaker force simply on the plea of its enjoying minority support at present is nothing but a mischievous logic to gag truth and progress.

Furthermore, who will judge and how can it be judged who is a serious or non-serious candidate? For, getting higher or lower percentage of votes in the previous election cannot be the yardstick of measuring the seriousness of a candidate. There are so many factors, other than people's will behind securing votes in election as mentioned hereinbefore. So, however much serious be a candidate who is fighting against all these odds, sometimes single-handedly, with limited resources from the poor people and basing on ideology and principle only, how can he prove his seriousness in terms of votes in comparison to other candidates? Such candidates may not win or get large number of votes but they do fight for a cause and their seriousness is much more greater than the winning ones even. By denying the right of principled fight of such candidates, is not the Election Commission or the Government going to encourage winning in election by hook or by crook?

Judging from the above angularity it will be clear enough that the motive or purpose of imposing restrictions on contest by so-called non-serious candidates lies not in freeing the election procedure from complication or extra cost, but in something else. Since long the crisis-ridden moribund Indian bourgeoisie is trying to install two-party democracy in the country. As a part of this sinister design they are trying to confine the whole election process within the narrow bounds of their chosen alternatives and to isolate and eliminate the real

Rejoinder on Second Steel Plant in Orissa

The following statement has been issued by Comrade Tapas Dutta, Member, Central Committee and Secretary, Orissa State Committee, SUCI at Bhubaneswar on 27.12.1989 on the statement of Sri Biju Patnaik on the proposed Second Steel Plant in Orissa.

The demand for Second Steel Plant in Orissa has been a long-standing one. For last two decades all sections of the people of the State have expressed their support to it. In 1982, Smt. Indira Gandhi declared it to be a "presentation" to the people of Orissa. First Paradip and subsequently Daitary was selected as the appropriate site for the project. But during all these years of Congress(I) rule, the project did not materialise.

revolutionary forces from the forum of parliamentary struggle. This proposed restriction on contesting election by the so-called non-serious candidates is nothing but a part of this fascist design of the ruling bourgeoisie. Through the last Representation of People (Amendment) Act, 1988 a major offensive has already been launched on the democratic values and principles in the country. The most humiliating restrictions and conditions imposed on the political parties for getting registered with the Election Commission is a serious affront to the last remnant of bourgeois democracy in India. Our party, the SUCI, and SUCI alone is fighting relentlessly for the toiling millions of the country as the genuine revolutionary party of the proletariat and has challenged it singlehandedly. And now the ruling bourgeoisie is getting ready for the next offensive. This must be resisted at any cost. We hope, right-minded, freedom-loving and democratic-minded people should pause and ponder over it and close their ranks in defence of their democratic rights and norms, values and principles in the country.

The Janata Dal, now in power at the Centre, in its Lok Sabha Election manifesto and public utterances of the Dal leaders, has assured the people of Orissa that if voted to power they would construct the second Steel Plant.

But the State President of Janata Dal and a very important central leader of the Dal Sri Biju Patnaik has reportedly stated that the Steel Plant should not be constructed at Daitary but at Paradip. He has further told that it shall not be undertaken by the Central Government but efforts shall be made to do it by a joint corporate body of such private industrialists like Tata, Birla, Ambani and foreign collaborators like France, West Germany, Great Britain, and South Korea. In this connection he has referred to the Left Front ruled West Bengal's Haldia Petro-Chemical complex as his model. Sri Patnaik forgets to note the differences. When Haldia Petro-Chemical Project was floated in 1986 the Congress(I) Government at the Centre was opposed to it. But now that the Janata Dal is in power at the Centre the example of Haldia cannot be convincing to the people of Orissa who have hoped that the new Janata Dal Government shall undertake it as they have assured. So Sri Patnaik's statement has created confusion and apprehension in the minds of the people that Janata Dal is not serious to keep its election commitments. In these circumstances, we appeal to the Central Janata Dal Government to construct the Second Steel Plant under public sector and declare in clear terms to this effect and allay the confusions and apprehensions of the people.

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nist parties of Albania and China and above all, Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania. These leaderships refused to accept and introduce the Gorbachev leadership's line in their respective parties and States. The trend of happenings in series in the countries of Eastern Europe also clearly indicate that taking advantage of the big brotherly position and the superior economic, political and military strength of the USSR among the States of the Warsaw Pact and also taking advantage of the weaknesses of these States the Gorbachev leadership has successfully carried through its anti-Marxist-Leninist counter-revolutionary line in one after another of these States, finally now, in the face of persistently stubborn resistance from the party and the State headed by Nicolae Ceausescu, going as far as to engineer from outside an armed counter-revolution in Romania.

Otherwise, in the first place, how can it be that whereas early reports had described the security force and the Army in Romania to be loyal to Ceausescu and to be fighting the vandalism and terrorist activities of the violent demonstrators in the western border town of Timisora and whereas Gorbachev had expressed concern over the loyalist forces outnumbering the forces behind the demonstrators, later reports started circulating the 'news' of an Army siding with the rebel demonstrators and operating from the capital city of Bucharest and occupying the T.V. station? In view of the facts that joint Armies of Warsaw Pact countries are stationed in most of the countries of Eastern Europe the question of which Army it is, and under what command it is operating in Romania becomes pertinent.

In this light it is not difficult to follow the im-

plications of the two statements, one by the US Defence Secretary which categorically announced the US approval of any possible military intervention by the Soviet Union in Romania and the other by the Soviet Prime Minister — who did not agree to send Soviet troops into Romania since that was impermissible.

The Soviet denial of having offered military assistance to the rebel demonstrators of Romania, as was announced by the Romanian media also becomes meaningful in this context. If the self-proclaimed National Salvation Front had the Romanian people's and Army's support against the regime led by Nicolae Ceausescu, how could the clash continue for more than 10 days? The wave of jubilation and solidarity among the western capitalist-imperialist powers headed by the US imperialist clique over the happenings of Romania leading to the overthrow of the regime there is particularly significant. These powers are shedding crocodile's tears over the secret trial and execution of Nicolae Ceausescu. With the discerning people it is a question, however, that if Nicolae Ceausescu were a demon against the people of Romania why his 'crimes' were not exposed in an open trial? Reports have been circulated about Nicolae Ceausescu's attempt to flee his country. But whatever has been published regarding the fierce battle put up by the militia dedicated to the cause of the State of Romania and the secret execution of its leader show that Nicolae Ceausescu stood by the State, the Party and the people he led like a steadfast and gallant leader.

Thus the course of events in Eastern Europe in the wake of usurpation of power in the CPSU by the Gorbachev leadership, which began in Poland with the Catholic church-led organisation

of Solidarity overthrowing the Polish socialist State, followed by the Second Internationalist social-democrats dismantling the Hungarian communist party, then Erich Honecker leadership in the German Democratic Republic being ousted from power and then the social democrats of Czechoslovakia similarly ousting the communists from power, has now culminated in an armed counter-revolution in Romania engineered by revisionist forces from outside.

This has been possible no doubt because grounds were already existing internally within these States, namely an inadequate understanding of the socialist economic laws, declining ideological-cultural standard, bureaucratic approach, weakening of the concept of continuation of class struggle during the period of dictatorship of the proletariat and, above all, weakening of the sense of proletarian democracy against the sense of bourgeois democracy. These internal factors have helped the external factor of the revisionist forces engineering counter-revolution from outside and the imperialist powers carrying on their machination against socialism and proletarian internationalism.

The world proletariat and the progressive people of different countries will not fail to realise that it is the absence of a correct ideological-political line as alternative to the pernicious line of modern revisionism, in particular, the line of the Gorbachev leadership, and also the absence of common platform internationally to oppose this revisionist subversion that are helping the modern revisionists and the imperialist powers moving hand in glove with them to carry on their onslaughts against socialism and proletarian internationalism. The capitalist imperialist powers have all along been attacking the communist movement in all the different

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women and adults—respectively. Medium of instruction at present, is English, Hindi and Bengali, while there is a plan to take up other tribal languages in future.

On 7th January, '90, at 1-30 P.m., the Children's Park and the Free Coaching School was declared open to the public by the esteemed Secretary of Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Trust, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee. By then, people have filled the park to the capacity and even the road beside was completely packed. On the other side of the road, on the stretched out Red (coloured) wall of the 'Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Bhavan', an exhibition of photographs of Comrade Ghosh at different moments of his eventful life was on display. Another, with quotations from his works was also displayed

countries. It is the modern revisionist forces which are inflicting the most harmful blow to the course of the socialist States, their people and proletarian internationalism.

We appeal to the proletariat and the people across the world not to fall prey to the orchestrated propaganda being carried on by the capitalist-imperialist States and the revisionist leaderships of the socialist countries and to remain unperturbed in the face of the twists and turns and all the setbacks that may occur in course of the struggle for emancipation of mankind from exploitation of all sorts. History has opened up its course to the goal of communism through class struggle. It is the task of the world proletariat and the people in general to rally under the banner of Marxism-Leninism and wage a two-pronged battle against all shades of modern revisionism and capitalism-imperialism to achieve the goal.

alongside. The inaugural meeting then started. Songs of the freedom struggle and other mass songs were sung. The solemn gathering then heard the brief address of the esteemed Secretary of the Trust, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee.

Comrade Mukherjee underlined the immense significance and scope of the two institutions, in creating a congenial social and cultural atmosphere in the region which, he hoped ardently, would go a long way in ensuring the physical, as also moral and educational development of the children, and the aged as well, of this long neglected, poverty-stricken region of the country which had been also left in the darkness of illiteracy for far too long. In conclusion, he thanked the local people, who had come forward to offer help in different ways for the construction of the Park and the School.

After Com. Mukherjee concluded his address, selected portions from a Hindi and a Bengali tape-recorded speech of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was played on. The huge audience sat listening with rapt attention to the message of the great leader—the living inspiration behind these noble endeavours which were so respectfully dedicated to his fond memory on the 7th of January, 1990.

As the speech came to an end, a column of Komsomol members stood up. Then marched down the Park upto the front of the dais.

A photograph of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, our most beloved leader, teacher and guide was placed on top of the dais. With the call of the bugle, the Komsomol paid their tribute to the great leader. The song on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was now begun by the DYO Music Squad from the dais, and the whole huge sprawling assembly stood up like one man and waited till it ended—with the inaugural ceremony coming to its close.

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Edited and Published by Sukomal Das Gupta from 48 Lenin Sarani, Calcutta-700 013 and printed by him at Ganadabi Printers and Publishers Private Limited 52B, Indian Mirror Street, Calcutta-700 013.