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Build up Countrywide Democratic Mass Movement — Call of Central Committee to all State Committees

The country is passing through critical times. Only three months back the Central Congress(I) government was dislodged and the UF government assumed office. Within hundred days it became clear to the people that nothing new is to be expected of this newly installed government, controlled by the Congress(I) from behind and committed to pursue the latter's policies in the main. The Deve Gowda government, just like the Rao government administered a steep hike in prices of petroleum, diesel and cooking gas. Then came the Railway budget with increased freight rates and enhanced passenger fares and was followed by a general budget with huge deficit. The absence of new domestic investments along with continuous closures, lay-offs and retrenchments in domestic industries associated with increased inflation signifies the intense crisis of economy. Provisions for huge deficit financing in the last central budget will only aggravate it further.

The sky-rocketing of prices of all commodities go on unabated. Apart from the disastrous unemployment problem, the adoption of capital intensive method of production in line with policies of the IMF and the World Bank will further squeeze the existing scope of employment. The danger of retrenchment of many more thousands looms large when viewed against the government policy of disinvestment in the PSUs and of allowing foreign entry in the service sector.

While the meagre budgetary allocation for education both by the Centre and the States dwindles further, the heinous attempt to privatise and commercialise education right from the primary level continues with greater vigour. Education is considered a saleable and purchasable commodity and a field of investment for reaping fabulous profit. All the governments are bent upon going back from

their financial commitments in the field of education. Vast numbers of people are thus being robbed of the presently existing opportunities, even if these were only residual. With the same attitude the governments are treating even public health without any public commitment and obligation and are on the one hand transforming the hitherto available opportunities of free medical services for the poorer sections and the middle class in the government hospitals into paying services while on the other they are opening wide the sphere of public health to private investors.

Similarly, the public distribution system, through which a very meagre supply of only a few items is made among the vast rural masses, and that too most irregularly, and which in the urban area somewhat supported the poor and middle class people, is being gradually dismantled as a matter of policy, despite occasional ministerial pronouncements to the contrary which are dictated by electoral compulsions.

The new government has done simply nothing to solve the perennial problems of the rural poor — the problem of ensuring year-long employment as also determination of minimum wage of the agricultural labourers ; the problem of ensuring cheaper electricity, irrigation facilities and seeds and other implements as well as proper price for agricultural products for the middle and poor peasants. Therefore, when the Deve Gowda government clamours to be a "farmers' government" it must be understood to be a rich farmers' government

In the field of public transport — just as in the case of education and health — the Central and the State governments are bent upon withdrawing in a planned way all the existing benefits, upon making the available ones gradually costlier and handing over to private operators as many services as possible and thereby making the people vulnerable to the attacks of the greedy private operators. These measures for all-out privatisation in a planned way of the entire network of the public utility services, initiated under the diktat of the IMF and the World Bank will hit hard both the urban and the rural common people of all sections.

On the other hand, economic offences of unthinkable dimensions indulged in by the former Prime Minister, ex-ministers and other high-ups in the government are coming to light everyday causing dismay and disgust amongst

the people of the country. It is accelerating, together with the general decline of moral and cultural standard, the sense of all-out apathy, demoralisation and cynicism in the society. Naked greed to anyhow make money, incidence of crime and sexual abuse are increasing at a frightening pace. There is a perceptible link between this menacing tendency and the so-called market economic drive as well as the spurt in consumerist culture. An alarming index of moral degeneration of society is the worsening plight of our women. Women in our society are increasingly becoming the most

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Comrade Nihar Mukherjee on Resignation of Narasimha Rao

Expressing his immediate reaction on the resignation of P. V. Narasimha Rao, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee said on 21.9.96 :

"In our view Narasimha Rao, steeped in unprecedented corruption and scams, should have resigned long ago. His shameless attempt to stick to power is equally condemnable.

We are also of opinion that the UF government at the Centre will have to institute full enquiry against all cases of corruption even after this and mete out exemplary punishment to the culprits.

Not only that, the UF government must abandon pursuing the same new economic policy and the policy of so-called liberalisation of the Congress, which have been constantly accentuating the miseries of the people and opening further opportunities for largescale corruption."

Imposition of President's Rule in Gujarat Condemned

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary of our party issued the following statement to the Press on 19.9.96 on President's Rule in Gujarat :

The most undemocratic President's Rule imposed in Gujarat today is a sequel to the ugly scramble for and fight over petty pelf and power between the official BJP, on the one hand, and the dissident BJP-Congress(I)-combine, on the other.

Following in the footsteps of the Congress(I), the UF Government has taken this measure exposing its very unprincipled and undemocratic character.

Make SUCI Candidates Victorious in UP Assembly Poll

| Constituency | Name of Candidate |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Khutahan | Comrade Dinesh Kant Dubey |
| Garwara | Comrade Shyam Bahadur |
| Patti | Comrade Rajmanoj Viswakarma |
| Chanda | Comrade Jagannath Verma |
| Rasra | Comrade Raghvendra |
| Moradabad City | Comrade Veer Singh |

Questions Concerning CTBT

It is amidst the growing worldwide public concern about the devastating fallout of nuclear explosion tests and threat posed by nuclear armaments, that the imperialist powers, the protagonists of the CTBT (Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty), have been rallying public support for the treaty that seeks to ban any nuclear explosion test. They claim that it will go a long way in securing international security and peace, and stop or cap the nuclear arms race. The Indian Government, on its part, has been rallying wide support in our country for its refusal to sign the treaty, condemning it for lacking disarmament proposals and citing security concerns.

Having vetoed the CTBT at the Conference of Disarmament (CD) at Geneva, India has stuck to its position, declaring that it would not sign the flawed and unequal treaty, 'not now, not later', even after the UN General Assembly voted by overwhelming majority to endorse it. The imperialist powers to get the draft CTBT signed have bypassed the CD and placed it before the UN General Assembly (UNGA) through the backdoor. (Going by the rules, consensus at the CD would have been compulsory for forwarding the treaty to the UNGA.) In the UNGA India found only Bhutan and Lybia on its side, voting against the treaty, while Lebanon, Syria, Mauritius, Tanzania and Cuba abstained. However, more countries joined India in criticising the treaty, saying it would not lead to nuclear disarmament but rather propagate nuclear hegemony. But rather than oppose the treaty they held it was better than nothing.

India's demand for total nuclear disarmament within a definite timeframe to be negotiated, had been rejected by the imperialist powers, as 'not practical'. On the other hand, they have made India's signature and ratification along with those of 43 other countries, specified in the draft treaty, compulsory for the treaty to come into force, in the Entry Into Force (EIF) clause. That is apart from the signatures, of course, of the five nuclear weapon states, viz. USA, Russia, Britain, China and France, required. All other countries had indicated their willingness to sign and Pakistan, too, despite serious reservations, consented, provided India signed the treaty. Alone India objected, refusing to be bound by the Entry Into Force clause. The imperialist powers, on their part, rather than let India opt out, added a new provision in the final draft, that if the treaty was not signed and ratified within three years, a review conference would meet to decide on 'measures' against recalcitrant countries. Condemning this 'nuclear apartheid' by the imperialist powers, India thus vetoed the treaty. Mr Gujral's statement in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha that the "Entry Into Force Provision will ensure that this treaty shall never come into force unless its proponents agree to amend this provision in order to remove any possibility of imposing any obligation on India", was greeted unanimously with loud applause by all the parliamentary parties, including the CPI(M) and the CPI. The reaction of the imperialist powers have varied between sharp criticism hinting on the need to isolate and squeeze India, and reassuring statements about its security concerns. Thus, we find, for example, Bill Clinton, the US President, saying

during his election campaign: "I believe we can find a way for the Indians to have their security concerns met", only to be contradicted the very next day by the State Department spokesman, Mr Burns, ruling out any consideration.

Let us leave for the moment the question of India's stand. What is clear is that today the USA has become conspicuous by its leading role centring round the CTBT. The same USA that opposed a test ban only a few years back, in 1991, today is suddenly trying to get the CTBT rushed through.

Have the US imperialists at last suddenly woken up to the danger posed by nuclear explosion tests to the future of humanity and our planet? Or is their eagerness to get the CTBT passed in preference to public opinion, to gain new popularity as champion of peace?

There is no reason whatsoever to think that the US imperialists have become the champions of peace. On the contrary, the policy of bullying has become their national policy. Has not the US bellicose and aggressive attitude been glaringly demonstrated once again, in their missile attack on Iraq, if at all any new demonstration was needed? It is clear that today the USA is more frantically trying to retain and enhance its military world supremacy in the face of erosion of and growing challenge to its overall economic and political world supremacy.

After the dismantling of socialism in the USSR and East European states when the USA remained as sole superpower in a so-called unipolar world, the US imperialists thought it so easy to dominate throughout the world and

Does Indian Stand Reflect Genuine Desire for Peace?

police the entire world to reap maximum economic and political benefit. But they found that everything did not work out according to their calculations. Today the USA is facing intense economic competition not only from the advanced capitalist countries but also from the relatively developed from amongst the less developed countries, even though the WTO regulations go in favour of the former countries. In this situation the USA in the economic field is finding its position as sole superpower increasingly challenged. Germany and Japan, in particular, who have outstripped the USA economically in this and that aspect, are rising as contenders. So today the bellicose attitude of the US imperialists and their measures are being increasingly challenged and resisted even by its allies. To mention but the recent US Bill signed by Bill Clinton, calling for punishment of countries investing in Iran and Libya, or the recent US law seeking to penalize foreign businessmen that invest in property which the Cuban Government had taken over. Finding their economic interests jeopardized even the US allies strongly opposed it, while the European Union (EU) reacted sharply, threatening to retaliate by imposing hefty fines on their part on European companies found to cooperate with US courts seeking to enforce this legislation. (*Times*, London, quoted in *The Statesman*, 1.8.96) The same USA that managed to line up almost the entire world in support of its Iraq war only a few years back, today finds itself totally isolated over its missile attacks on Iraq,

excepting Britain, its staunch ally.

Thus it is clear, politically and economically the USA has lost its ability to dominate the whole world as sole superpower. It is alone in the military sphere, as military superpower that it reigns supreme both in conventional and nuclear armaments and is desperately trying not only to retain but even further increase it to gain added leverage in its hegemonistic designs. Hence to that end it wants to prevent other nations from becoming nuclear powers and retain its nuclear monopoly along with the few other nuclear weapon states. All along an ardent advocate of the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty ? 1968) it has never hesitated to manoeuvre and arm-twist other countries into signing and adhering to it, through threat of force if need be, as in case of North Korea, for example, whenever it suited its interest. To that end the USA may find that the CTBT may come in handy, since by banning nuclear explosion tests, it is for all practical purposes, the technical means whereby to impose non-proliferation, because countries that have not yet produced nuclear weapons and carried out such tests do not possess the necessary database on the basis of which to proceed with laboratory tests and computer simulation which, of course, are impossible to ban and which require huge resources, but which will allow the nuclear weapon states to go on refining and upgrading their weapons. Hence it is to effectively cap the nuclear weapon capacity of not only the three 'threshold' countries, i.e. countries considered on the verge of becoming nuclear powers such as India, Pakistan and Israel, but those other countries waiting in the wings like Germany and Japan, for example, that the USA may be eager to rush the CTBT through. Japan and Germany are not nuclear powers, because of the restrictions imposed on them militarily after the Second World War, and the stigma attached to their military power. But having drastically increased their military budgets in the last few years and with their huge resources and advanced technology, they could easily become nuclear weapon states, and may do so perhaps in a congenial situation and atmosphere. But then why did the USA oppose the CTBT itself only a few years back? The fact is that the USA has never been willing to curtail its arms production, be it in chemical, biological or nuclear arms. That is why it has also not ratified the Chemical Weapons Treaty, all these years. If today the USA has veered round to become an ardent advocate of CTBT, surely the explanation must lie in the fact that with today's most spectacular advancement in technology, the CTBT will not effectively hinder it to go on with its arms race, on the contrary, since it has a technological edge over other countries, it will gain an advantage.

President Clinton has made the CTBT an election issue, for he is badly in need of showing off some achievements in foreign affairs, since he has been dogged by one failure after another on the home front, where economic crisis is growing by the day. In this connection he has already sanctioned an IBM Ultra Super-computer to be installed in 1998 and connected to different laboratories, that will be infinitely more powerful and advanced than the one already existing in the USA where computer simulation explosion tests are carried out. France, on the other hand, will have their computer simulation process operational only

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On question of CTBT**Indian Ruling Class Attempts to Camouflage Imperialist Aspiration by Fanning National Jingoism***(Contd. from page 2)*

by 2003 or 2005 because of the time needed for the 1.8 megajoule laser installation. (*Time*, Sept., 18, 1996) The USA had reportedly offered to provide laboratory facilities both to France and Britain, both of whom, however, do not like to be dependent on the USA.

Even today there is, according to press reports, a powerful weapon design lobby in the USA, with vested interest, that is opposing the CTBT, as reflected in the Republican presidential campaign. It is also with a view to neutralising their opposition that Clinton sanctioned the IBM Ultra Supercomputer.

That the US imperialists in no way plan to halt or scale down their nuclear arms race, is also clear from the fact that the US Energy Department plans to further upgrade some of those laboratory facilities, and add three new ones, all with weapon design capability, at an estimated cost of 4.3 billion dollars, which does not include their annual operating cost. (*The Hindusthan Times*, 9.9.96) In this context, Dr Arjun Makhijani, President of the Institute of Energy and Environmental Research (IEER) noted that the USA intends to keep the Nevada test site open indefinitely as a condition to acceding to the zero yield CTB, which means that at short notice the USA could test and introduce new weapon designs very quickly and easily once these designs have been mostly completed on computers and in laboratory facilities. (*The Statesman*, 13.8.96) The USA has also reserved the right to opt out of the CTBT if 'supreme national interest' to ensure the safety and reliability of the nuclear stockpile demanded an explosion test.

Economist, May 4, 1996, coming out in support of the CTBT, however, conceded that a 'test ban is itself a risky venture... successful cheating could have catastrophic consequences.' Though it may be argued that above mentioned US preparations and arrangements may not fall outright into the category of cheating, the end effect will surely be the same.

The USA is notorious for breaking international laws and conventions whenever it suits its interest. Besides, it has been the experience that all the disarmament treaties like SALT, START I and START II, were used by the USA to gain further advantage over others. Even now the USA has 60 submarines cruising around the world with nuclear weapons that, according to *La Mande* (24.7.95) are capable of bringing about a thousand Hiroshimas. Moreover it is known that the US imperialists are producing and testing newer and newer high tech nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, which with their sophisticated missile delivery system they can target any moment at any place in the world, be it from the air, ground sea or underwater.

Clearly today the USA stand as the greatest threat to world peace. In this background the US imperialists' manipulations to rally people's anti-testing sentiments behind the CTBT, is surely not for the sake of peace and international security as claimed by them, but to tie down other countries' nuclear capacity so as to retain a most deadly monopoly over nuclear weapons. For just how strongly people feel

on this issue, has once again been proved by the worldwide outcry and spontaneous huge protests by people against French nuclear explosion at Mururoa atoll, not to speak of the spontaneous consumer boycotts that spread, according to *Time* (18.9.95), from Australia, New Zealand and Japan to Germany, Austria, Britain and Scandinavia, and government protests, all in all involving 20 nations. People are opposed to testing and proliferation because these are fraught with danger of disastrous consequences. But so long these weapons remain, and the race for their further refinement is on, the danger of nuclear war and its devastating fallout looms large, all the more so as the virtual trade war that exists among the imperialist powers may any day break out into fullfledged world war, and the imperialists' economies are dependent on militarisation and local and partial wars. Hence if the concern and apprehension of people is to be taken care of, the question is not one of a CTBT, a test ban treaty alone, but of total elimination of nuclear arsenal and weapons of mass destruction. To that end what is needed is a mighty surge of worldwide anti-imperialist movement of peace-loving and democratic people to bring pressure upon the imperialist powers that can lead to international security and peace.

If the imperialist powers' talk of international security and peace had any substance they could not but have agreed to total nuclear disarmament. But the US imperialists have made it amply clear that they have no intention whatsoever to move in that direction. Rather the CTBT in their hands would provide them with an added weapon with which to interfere into the internal affairs of a country, especially the less developed ones, and establish their domination by using the pretext of suspected violation of the ban and intrusive monitoring system and on-site inspections. Yet it is in favour of such dangerous imperialist machination, that the imperialists are manipulating people's anti-test sentiments on the one hand, while on the other the US imperialists, in particular, have been whipping up nuclear war phobia so as to succeed with their nuclear blackmail. They use the threat of nuclear attack to increase their bargaining power, as a leverage to extract economic and political benefit and extend their domination.

Although the CTBT is basically going in the interests of all the nuclear weapon states, in regard to the USA it puts them at a disadvantage. In the intense rivalry between the imperialist powers they move both in collusion and contention. Hence Britain and France, in particular, may after all not be as eager as the USA to get the CTBT adopted, but in view of other political consideration they may not want to come out openly against it. It is interesting to see that barring the USA no other imperialist powers are very critical about India's stand. Rather in some of their countries' journal some articles are reportedly coming in support of India's stand. Hence even if India appears to be isolated in reality it is not really alone. What is more, even a lobby in the USA is coming out in support of India. Be that as it may. According

to press reports, the USA was willing to let India opt out on condition that it did not veto the treaty. But apparently it was Britain that hardened its stand and was instrumental behind the final EIF clause - where provision of right to waver of a country by consensus has been replaced by threat of measures by consensus against recalcitrant countries. If this is true, then Britain might have known very well that India would not accept it. Whatever may be Britain's own compulsion, the possibility cannot be ruled out that it was apprehensive about other countries also wanting to opt out at an opportune moment, like Germany and Japan perhaps. On the other hand, what seems even more likely is that Britain and France - driven by the same compulsion that led the European countries to unite into the EU, despite their contradictions and growing German hegemonism, in order to gain added bargaining power vis a vis the USA — were not really interested in the CTBT, because it would impose greater restrictions on the growth of their nuclear military muscle and bargaining power compared to the USA, due to their technology gap.

Whatever be the reason, when all is said and done, what is clear is that actually each country is eager — to put it mildly — to go on developing its nuclear weapon capacity and equally eager to prevent others from doing so.

As for India, it has taken a firm anti-US stand over the CTBT and has refused to forego its nuclear option, pointing to China and Pakistan. With a declared and a non-declared nuclear weapon state in its neighbourhood, in the region, can it afford to ignore the security threat posed by them: that is how India raises the question. At the same time it is advocating peace by demanding a comprehensive, phased and time bound programme for nuclear disarmament. "We will continue to take initiative for achieving progress towards our shared goals of a nuclear free world", said Mr I K Gujral, Minister for Foreign Affairs, in Parliament. For many people in our country, India has emerged as a hero over the CTBT issue. But people cannot afford to miss the class design behind India's stand.

Is India really faced with a security threat, that it wants to keep its nuclear option open, and is it really standing in defence of peace against US imperialism? To understand these we have to consider certain issues. First, why has India agreed to greater Indo-US defence cooperation and is engaged in constant consultation and conducting joint Indo-US naval exercise and joint aerial inspections? Is it because it is faced with a security threat or to defend peace in this region? Does it reflect anti-US stand? Rather it is to enhance its military strength, to enhance its position in establishing its regional hegemony, to gain an advantage on the question of market, being driven by its economic compulsion. When the Indian ruling class talks of peace and stands up against imperialist pressure it means peace and a stand in defence of unhindered freedom and growth of its capital that has reached the stage of finance capital and is attaining imperialist character.

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CTBT : Expose Class Design

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This peace has nothing in common with the peace the people aspire for, it has nothing in common with people's interest. On the contrary, it is fraught with grave consequences for the people of the region and the people of our country who have to pay the price for it. Or can it be said that India's sending of troops to Sri Lanka, Maldives, and on so-called peace-keeping mission of the UN in Africa, is in the interest of the people and does not mean interference in other countries' internal affairs?

In this context what must be remembered, is that though India is increasing Indo-US military cooperation in its own interest, with a view to increasing its regional hegemony, it is equally in the interest of the US imperialists to enhance their domination over this region and surely not for any altruistic motive to help India, that has prompted them to do so on their part. Here we may perhaps find an explanation of one of the factors that though trying to bring pressure upon India over the CTBT, the USA is at the same time wooing India. Yet such designs are fraught with ever greater danger for world peace. On the other hand, India wants to keep its nuclear option open, not because it faces a nuclear threat from its neighbours, causing serious concern, but to increase its bargaining power. Actually India is far superior in conventional weapons than its neighbours. It has the 4th largest army of the world, and its navy stands 6th and air force ranks 12th in the world. Among the developing countries India is the most developed one. And though it can't compete with the advanced imperialist countries, it wants to play a leading role among the less developed countries as a regional superpower, and as mentioned before, use the threat of its nuclear weapon capacity, by

keeping the nuclear option open, as leverage to further enhance its bargaining power. On the one hand by refusing to sign the discriminatory CTBT and by the edge of its military power it wants to play a leading role in rallying other countries under NAM and SAARC against the advanced imperialist countries to gain concessions. At the same time its refusal to forego the nuclear option cannot but lead to further regional arms race, much to the glee of the blood merchants and the arms dealers, that is, the imperialists themselves. In what way is that conducive to peace and national security? And it is the people in our country, whose economic destitution has already reached breaking point, who have to pay heavily with their sweat, blood and sufferings.

On the other hand, India does not want to antagonize the advanced imperialist countries fully by exercising its nuclear option, merely to put pressure on them, that is why Mr Gujral said: To keep the nuclear option, is also an option.

What concessions does India hope to achieve with this? It is to be borne in mind that the WTO regulations are heavily tilted in favour of the advanced imperialist countries who constantly pry open the markets of the less developed ones for their loot and plunder. On the other hand these countries are erecting all sorts of barriers to prevent the less developed ones from access to their markets, under one pretext after another. Hence India is using the CTBT as leverage to put pressure on the advanced imperialist countries to gain some concessions in this regard. That is why we find Mr Gujral emphasizing in an interview given to *India Today* (Sept. 15, 96): "It is a technique of pressurization..."

A third factor that needs to be considered to understand India's stand over the CTBT is that

today the capitalist system and set up in our country is in the grip of crisis of such a severe nature that it is leading to anarchy and is losing its credibility in the eyes of the people. Just as the people's plight is increasing day by day, so are scams and inter party squabbles and fights — the height of corruption of people in high positions and the depth of moral bankruptcy and opportunism among the parliamentary parties is incredible. In such a situation the ruling class and ruling UF Government at the centre, have used the CTBT to divert the attention of the people and shield the crisis ridden tottering capitalist system by whipping up a wave of jingoism and national pride over India's stand on CTBT. That the government kept in close consultation with all the parliamentary parties during the negotiations has been highlighted by Mr Gujral himself. Moreover the thunderous applause which greeted India's stand in Geneva and UNO on the floor of Parliament by all the parties, both the ruling and the opposition parties alike, shows their unity of purpose, despite the rifts and bickerings among them to consolidate their class rule, refurbish their image and rally people behind them.

But unless people realise the class motive behind this stand and tear down the veil of deception, they will have to pay a heavy price. Even though they cherish peace and security, what happens is that the Indian Government is more and more mortgaging peace and security for people in pursuit of their capitalist class designs, and surely not in the interest of the common people who are left in the lurch without minimum amenities like drinking water, health, hygiene, education, etc. let alone employment and security of life. It is alone by rallying in democratic movement in a truly anti-imperialist stand and struggle, in international solidarity against these imperialist machinations, for disarmament and peace that the real way to peace and security lays.

Karnataka State Conference of AIDS

The 3 days, 29,30,31 August '96 marked a decisive turn in the history of students movement in Karnataka. The occasion was the 3rd All Karnataka Students' Conference organized by All India Democratic Students' Organization. Thousands of students from different parts of the state came to participate on this historic occasion.

Inaugurating this session, ex-Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court Js Nittoor Srinivasa Rao, said: "I whole-heartedly support the immediate and long term demands raised by your organization".

A resolution was passed against the decision of the Amitabh Bachhan Corporation Limited, to hold 'Fashion Show' in Bangalore in the month of November this year.

The Chief Guest on the occasion was Comrade K Radhkrishna, Secretary, SUCI, Karnataka. Comrade Prathap Samal addressed the gathering.

Smt. Banu Mustaz, a renowned writer and Sahitya Academy member inaugurated the colourful quotation exhibition.

Dr B.R. Manjunath and Comrade M.N. Sriram, President and Treasurer of Karnataka AIDS respectively spoke on the occasion. The meeting was presided over by Comrade K Uma, Secretary, AIDS, Karnataka.

The Delegate Session was held for two days at NGO Bhavan. Deliberations took place with

the enthusiastic participation of delegates who had come from Gulbarga, Bellary, Raichur, Dharwad, Tumkur, Mysore, Bidar, Hubli, Bangalore and other places. Dr B.R. Manjunath was elected as the President of the presidium.

The inaugurator of the delegate session was Dr B.C. Ramachandra Sharma, renowned

educationist and former Adviser to UNESCO.

A resolution paying homage to all important personalities like Prof. Gopalakrishna Adiga, Sri Ram, Sri Mugali, Smt M.K. Indira, Sri M.V. Seetharamaiah, Sri Sr.Eddundi, Sri G. Manappa and several others who contributed towards the cause of education was moved by Comrade Bhagavan Reddy, State Sectt. Member., AIDS, Karnataka.

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A section of the gathering at the Open Session of the AIDS Karnataka State Conference.

Unite and Resist US Brigandage on Iraq

The alibi for the latest US aggression of Iraq may have left some people dumbfounded but is no surprise to those who have learned the way the imperialist powers act, the US imperialists above all. The savage raid which included a lightning volley of 44 Cruise missiles and stealth fire-power, leaving civilians dead and civil installations razed to ground, was postscripted by the US President as the price to be paid 'when you abuse your own people, or threaten your neighbours'. The 'master' of the 'new world order', in which role the US rulers now exert themselves so has arrogated to himself the sole and monopoly right to police the world and arbitrate in whatever issue they like of each and every country, has handed out the penalty to Iraq with the alibi that the latter had sent its troops to its strife-torn northern territory of Kurdistan.

In the previous instance, that is the 1991 Gulf War, the alibi of the emerging 'master' was that Iraq, had intruded Kuwait. The truth, the only possible truth, however, came to light later when it got exposed that the US rulers had hatched a plot for their barbaric perpetration on Iraq combinedly with other imperialist powers, weaving webs of lies through media orchestration to mislead the world community and secure a 'moral' sanction for the crime. That time they succeeded, availing themselves of the worldwide confusion and chaos created in the wake of the dismantling of socialist states and disintegration of the USSR. That barbaric imperialist aggression had not spared schools, hospitals, residential quarters and installations for civic amenities. US dictation had ensured UN sanction against Iraq, setting up an economic blockade, denying Iraq the right to sell its oil to buy babyfood, essential commodities, medicines even. The community of world states turned its face aside as the US, from behind a hostage, UN, carried on machinations against helpless Iraq, demarcating a 'no fly zone' over that country for more than half its territory, declaring Iraq's northern territory of Kurdistan as a 'safe zone' that was to be out of bounds of Iraq's sovereign authority, conspiring to overthrow Saddam Hussain, instigating the Iraqi people and the Iraqi army to rise in revolt against their leader, patrolling Iraq's airspace at pleasure, issuing threats now and then to cow down the people, and carrying out raids without the slightest of provocation. It was clear that all this measure was calculated to maintain the US stranglehold on West Asia to safeguard its oil and military strategic interests. Simply, they wanted to tear Iraq under Saddam Hussain into shreds, considering it a thorn in its gameplan on West Asia. They just contrived the Gulf War to leave an example for all to learn what would befall if one dared to go against the US interest, let alone challenging its supremacy.

This time the US finds itself isolated after its unprovoked, unlawful, unilateral barbaric aggression, except that its capitulating ally, the UK, remains by it. Because, meanwhile, the crisis in the capitalist-imperialist world has widened the rifts among the imperialist powers, rather than solder the cracks, globalisation-GATT-WTO notwithstanding. The contention between the US, Japan and the EU led by Germany over the shrinking world capitalist market is too real to be shelved in or wiped off by any kind of combined imperialist manoeuvre against the developing countries as a whole. The economic and financial crisis within the US itself has deepened more. The five years since 1991 saw the small Arab country Iraq stand up to the immense military, political and economic

pressure brought upon it by the US rulers because of the support of the peoples of the developing countries as a whole and of the Arab people in particular despite the silence of the most of the state powers around the world. But now the US has failed to get the UN toe its line against Iraq mainly because of the growing contradiction, contention and apprehension in the capitalist-imperialist world, especially between the imperialist powers themselves. Five years ago, amidst the chaos and confusion over collapse of socialism in the USSR, the capitalist-imperialist propaganda machinery could temporarily create in people an antagonism against Iraq and a tacit support in some sections for the US perpetration. In the changed situation of today the US propaganda machinery has failed to carry people with lies and to stop the questions in their mind regarding the legitimacy of the US rulers to intervene in the internal affairs of another country on whatsoever pretext. Does it or not constitute violation of sovereignty and an outrage on democracy, subversion of peace and trampling of human rights of a people when killer missiles are fired upon them, Tomahaq and Stealth bombers are let loose without the least of provocation? This time, in contrast to the previous time, the US gameplan has got exposed in the beginning itself, and that is what infuriates the US rulers most. In the face of a sustained and growing popular support among the Arab people in particular and the peoples across the world in general in favour of Iraq led by Saddam Hussain against the US imperialist brigandage and simultaneously amidst the growing contention between the US and its rivals, the US rulers have had to accede to the UN decision to lift the embargo on Iraq a little to allow that country to sell its prized high quality oil to buy food. Slowly though, but perceptibly, the situation was improving for Iraq against the US rulers, against their imperialist design. All these years along, the US rulers have been engaged in intrigues against Iraq and as has come out in a section of the US press itself, CIA agents are fomenting troubles in Kurdistan to secure benefit for the US imperialist design. The butcher cares a fig for the right of the Kurds to self-determination; he makes a pretext of it to undermine Saddam Hussain's control, to topple him and to set up a stooge who will obey his dictates and ensure his interests in West Asia. The arrival of the Iraqi troops in Kurdistan to frustrate this plot was more than enough for the Clinton administration to pounce upon Baghdad for its 'crime' of having stalled the imperialist subversion. The US fear is that if it did not act right now, the situation might drift further to go out of its control some day when Iraq would start asserting its rights with tacit support of the imperialist rivals of the US and moral support of the peoples of Arab and other countries. Bill Clinton must have also found it opportune in this year of American presidential election to make a pretext of Iraq's intervention in its own northern territory and to hit Saddam Hussain with cruise and stealth to secure an extra aura for his 'western' masculine stance and win over the misinformed American electorate, the victims of an enchanting imperialist cultural perversion.

This is the champion of the 'free world', the trumpeter of Parliamentary democracy, the votary of world peace, but who bats not for once his eyelids to muzzle the spirit of freedom or gag the voice of justice and silence the agony of human rights. You do not have to dig up the past to uncover their crimes. What is the role of the US rulers in Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama, or in

Libya, Ethiopia, Somalia, North Korea and Bosnia for that matter alone or in league and collusion with other imperialist powers they are interfering with other countries and intervening in the internal affairs of the latter, hatching plots, engineering military coups and subversions, manipulating elections, abetting internal strifes in the name of peace-keeping missions and foisting native rulers of their choice to secure their imperialist interest at the cost of the native peoples. It is these arch enemies of democracy, freedom, justice, peace and human rights who train their propaganda guns at people to mislead them into believing that parliamentary democracy, that political facade of bourgeois class dictatorship, is the doorway to freedom and human rights, and the haven of justice and democratic principles.

Because of its revolutionary legacy, the USSR, even when it came to be ruled by the revisionist clique, remained a deterrent in some measure to all-out imperialist machinations against the then socialist and the developing countries. With its elimination from the global scene, the world is an open ground for the imperialists to rampage about. This is the reality of the 'new world order' which the US rulers have envisaged for the 'unipolar' world with the imperialist 'pole' alone and no counter or deterrent socialist camp or 'pole' in the balance of power. Until now the imperialist propaganda would have people believe that the presence of the socialist camp and antagonism between the so-called 'free world' with the socialist world contained the seed of war. By that falsification the cause of war should have been eliminated in the unipolar world where the socialist camp has ceased its existence. But the Gulf War erupts, the US gives out threats of war to Libya, North Korea and Iraq. Local and partial wars continue in some parts or other. Imperialist propaganda falsification cannot hide the truth of the real cause of war, that is the imperialist contradiction for control over the market. Amidst both imperialist contention and collusion the air is hotting up and dark clouds of apprehension of the intense imperialist trade war escalating into a real hot war are gathering.

To deny this reality, is to succumb to the imperialist propaganda willfully or naively. No longer is it possible to deny that the absence of an anti-imperialist and militant peace movement across the world which can give voice to both people's desire for peace and their resolve to frustrate imperialist war machinations is the mainstay of the imperialist war-mongers at this moment. So efforts must be directed by progressive and revolutionary forces in every country, irrespective of the degree of development and maturity of capitalist socio-politico-economic system to rally respective freedom and peace loving people and forces against the imperialist design including war machinations. Needless to say that the socialist countries with their people are expected to discharge their historic responsibility in foiling the war design of the imperialists. The people in the metropolitan capitalist countries should have as much concern for it as their counterparts in the relatively developed among the developing countries and in those countries which are now under sanction and avert threat of US imperialist war machination. No one is safe under the shadow of imperialism, above all US imperialism. This lesson from the latest US imperialist assault on Iraq can be afforded to be missed only at the cost of one's existence. No one can do that.

BHARAT METAL, CALCUTTA**Collusion with the Owner Exposed**

When on 8th September '96 the workers of Bharat Metal, Calcutta were distributing leaflets exposing the collusion of the owner and expelled Fatick Ghosh in the matter of 6-month long closure of their factory, Fatick Ghosh's men called two of the workers in his office for discussion. There Fatick Ghosh and his men abused and beat them, when a kind man next door intervened and saved them. But curiously Fatick Ghosh managed to publish his photograph with false bandage, as if he was attacked. Not only that he fabricated a statement in the name of INTUC, HMS, BMS, NFITU and TUCC ostensibly to condemn the attack on Fatick Ghosh, which were published in some newspapers. But when the workers contacted the Central TU leaders, they were

BHARATIYA MAZDOOR SANGH, W.B.

Central Office:
Mani Narayan Bhawan, Tilak Gali,
Maharaja, New Delhi-110056
Phone No.: 62-36 1



Provincial Office:
10, Kiren Shankar Roy Road,
Calcutta-700 001
Phone No.: 28-9210

Date 10. 9. 96.

Ref. No

To
1. The News Editor
Sangbad Pratidin
Calcutta.

2. The News Editor,
The Asian Age,
Calcutta.

Sir,

Re: News relating to Fatick Ghosh
on 9. 9. 96 in relation

Since we have not known about the events
our name is there inserted in the news with-
out our consent. Thus we issue hereby our
rejection thereto. Please make a note of it.
With thanks,
yours faithfully,
Romain
(R.B. Maitra)
President.

To
The Editor,
The Asian Age,
20, Prafulla Sarkar Street,
Calcutta - 700 072.

The Editor,
Sangbad Pratidin,
20, Prafulla Sarkar Street,
Calcutta - 700 072.

Dear Sir,

We have neither issued any statement nor consented
for issuing any statement on Fatick Ghosh as published in your
daily on 9th September, 1996, which please record.

We, however, extend our full support to the
struggling workers of Bharat Metal & Industrial Works, Baranagar
for re-opening of the illegally closed factory since
6th March, 1996.

Copy to:
The News Editor,
All India Radio
Eden Garden, Calcutta.

Yours sincerely,

Bhajan Das Singh
General Secy 10/9/96
Hind Mazdoor Sangh
West Bangal, Street corner.

Ram Das President
N.F.I.T.U.

Lal Bahadur Singh
Genl Secy West Bangal Pradesh
National Trade Union Congress 10/9/96

Oravanta Das J. Secy
President
T. U. C. C.

Protest Demonstration against Beauty Pageant to be held in Bangalore

Hundreds of women, students and youths thronged to Mysore Bank Circle on 11th September 1996 to protest against the World Beauty Pageant to be organized by Amitabh Bachhan Corporation Limited (ABCL) with the patronage of the Government of Karnataka in the city in November '96. The protest march was organized jointly by the District Committees of AIDS0, AIMSS and AIDYO.

The State leaders of AIDS0-AIDYO-AIMSS addressed the gathering. Dr H.G. Jayalakshmi, State Secretary, AIMSS, while addressing the gathering said: It is unbecoming of a Chief Minister to make indecent remarks in his bid to defend the Beauty Pageant. The women of the state will not tolerate any undignified

statement or act which will belittle the women. We will unitedly stand and defeat the World Beauty Pageant derogatory to women, which aims to project the women as objects of pleasure which would result in the increase in crime rate on women.

Dr B. R. Manjunath, State President of AIDS0, came down heavily on the distorted concept of beauty and said that it was indecent to judge any person on the basis of his or her physical beauty. He was of the firm opinion that the support extended through statement by the government to the beauty contest was a part of its liberalisation and globalisation policy and the move to allow businessmen to utilize physical beauty of women as a commodity, was to be thwarted.

Comrade K. Uma, State President of

AIDS0, congratulating the students for their protest against the uncivilized and ugly beauty pageant, said, such programmes would project women as objects of enjoyment which was actually an insult to the womanhood and also a blot on real manhood. She further said that the government instead of providing basic facilities like water, electricity, education, etc., was wasting crores of rupees to parade women. She called upon the students to fight the perverted western culture and protect the dignity and honour of womanhood.

Comrade M.N. Sriram, State Secretary, AIDS0 presided over the meeting.

Students and women marched towards K.R. Circle shouting slogans against the ABCL, Chief Minister and the Beauty Pageant.

Later, a memorandum was submitted to the CM's office.

Bangalore SUCI against US attack on Iraq

The Bangalore District Committee of SUCI organised a protest demonstration against the US aggression on Iraq on 08.09.96 near Bangalore Bus Stand. Hundreds of people gathered on the occasion, shouted slogans against US attack.

Speaking on the occasion, Comrade Simhadri, member of the State Committee of SUCI strongly condemned the heinous attack Iraq, killing even civilians.

Comrade M.N. Sriram, District Secretariat member of SUCI, exposing the US aggression throughout the world in political-economic-social spheres and its interference in the internal affairs of sovereign countries cautioned about the possibility of further threat to world peace in case resistance was not strong enough to forestall it. Comrade B.R. Aparana, member, District Committee of the party, also spoke on the occasion.

Comrade Venugopal, District Secretariat member, presided over the programme.

An effigy of 'Big Bully Bill Clinton' was burnt by the people who had gathered in hundreds amidst slogans condemning the aggression.



Members of AIDS0, AIMSS and AIDYO are demonstrating against proposed Beauty Pageant

Build up Countrywide Democratic Mass Movement

(Contd from page 1)

insecure community as dowry deaths continue to claim its toll and the incidence of molestation and rape assumes the shape of a wide-spread social disease. Even the so-called guardians of law and order are often found involved in such atrocities while the political leaders, of ruling as well as the opposition parties, prefer to close their eyes to this humiliating experience.

The Deve Gowda government has already hastened to infringe upon people's fundamental rights. Pleading electoral reforms, it has contemplated a series of measures to curtail people's rights to take part in the election and has already passed in Parliament the infamous Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Act. While the people are forced to resort to different forms of agitation to give vent to their pent up grievances, the Central and the State governments instead of conceding the legitimate demands of the people, are resorting to worst forms of repression. Imposition of 144 Cr.Pc. and curfew together with deployment of paramilitary forces and shooting down of innocent people have become the order of the day. Along with these, military operations in many of the states have been continuing for many years. In Kashmir, the situation has come to such a pass that almost the entire population of the valley has risen in rebellion against the military.

Besides, the lure of pelf and power have made the political parties of nearly every description bury their ideological pretensions and fuel and foment regional, linguistic, communal, castiest and even directly religious feelings and sentiments in order only to create their respective vote banks. Deve Gowda's assurance of the formation of a separate state of Uttarakhand just before the elections in UP undeniably is a measure to woo the electorate of that area without taking into consideration the disastrous consequences it is fraught to generate in Darjeeling, Assam, Chattisgarh and elsewhere. The politics of *Hindutva* of the BJP is another menace looming large over the horizon. People's unity has been the worst casualty to this unprincipled politics, while the parochial and divisive tendencies are

perceptively on the rise. As a result of all these, not only democratic rights but also democratic values and norms are fast disappearing.

Needless to say that all these today call for the building up of sustained powerful united democratic movements to create a counter current as against Parliamentary opportunism of the ruling and the opposition parties as well as to force the Central and the state governments to concede the just and legitimate demands of the people. The Central Committee of our party therefore calls upon all the State Committees to immediately meet and chalk out concrete programmes for such movements centring round the urgent issues as discussed above and against the anti-people policies of the Central and the respective state governments incorporating along with these any other serious and sensitive local problems as may be found necessary. For doing this, the first indispensable step is to take all necessary organisational measures to make all leaders and cadres fully aware about the nature, character and dimension of the problems, briefly discussed here, so that they can get a total and comprehensive view of the approaching attacks. Our comrades should realise that given the present political situation where the Congress (I), JD and Left parties led by CPI (M) have all joined hands to hoist the UF government at the Centre, and when the BJP is continuing with its heinous communal politics, the building up of an effective protracted mass movement with our limited strength and sole effort is not easy to mature right now, but surely it will require our correct and systematic utilisation of all our resources and potential through vigilant attention and appropriate methods. It will require to make the issues of movement people's own issues by systematic and ceaseless propaganda to develop their own initiative and organisation, to subsequently give rise to the people's struggle committees as their own instruments of struggle as also the creation of the volunteer corps. Besides, the building up of such a protracted movement will also need a huge fighting fund. The State Committees shall therefore equip all comrades appropriately, decide the issues of movement after due consideration, engage the

forces of the party accordingly, conduct a state-wide intensive campaign, closely follow and guide the activities of the lower organisations in giving birth to a protracted mass movement which will grow from phase to phase by assuming all the forms like literary movements, squads, demonstrations, blockades to bandhs, etc. and ultimately force the governments to concede the legitimate demands of the people.

Movement in Kerala against Hike in Bus & Boat fares

In Kerala bus and boat fares have been steeply increased in an unprecedented manner by the LDF Government yielding to the demands of private bus operators. In case of ordinary and city buses minimum charge has been made Re.1.25 instead of Re.1 and in kilometre charge the existing 18 paise enhanced to 22 paise. For fast passenger buses minimum charge has been Rs.1.50 and per km charge 26 paise. For super-fast and express buses minimum is now Rs.5 and km rate 28 and 31 paise respectively (enhanced rates).

For justifying bus charge hike, Chief Minister Nayanar and other LDF leaders are saying blatant lies even. On September 2, Mr Nayanar said in Kerala Assembly that even with this hike, Kerala remain the lowest among south Indian States in bus charge rates. Many disputed this statement with concrete evidences to the contrary. What is the fact? The following chart will tell what is what:

| State | City/Ordinary bus rate/km | Minimum charge |
|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Andhra Pradesh | 17 paise | 75 paise |
| Karnataka | 16.5 paise | 75 paise |
| Tamil Nadu | 14.5 paise | 75 paise |
| Kerala | 22 paise | 125 paise |

Under our party's leadership, different protest programmes were taken throughout the state against this anti-people move of the LDF govt. In Trivandrum, protest demonstrations and Dharna were held in front of the Secretariat. In Ernakulam, road picketing was organised and SUCI workers courted arrest. In Kottayam, Alleppey, Trichur, Calicut and Kannur also vehement protest programmes were taken including in various localities as well as in towns. Widespread demonstrations, meetings, graffiti and posterings etc. were conducted everywhere.

Seminar organised by Legal Service Centre for Women in Calcutta

Under the auspices of Legal Service Centre for Women, a seminar was held on 13th September last at Maulali Yuva Kendra in Calcutta. The subject-matter was "The Rights and Security of Women in the present social and legal conditions."

Justice Chittatosh Mukherjee, the former Chief Justice of the Calcutta and Bombay High Courts and Chairman of the Human Rights Commission, West Bengal, inaugurated the seminar and Justice Anil Kumar Sen, the former Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court presided. Among the speakers were Justice Shamsuddin Ahmed, Justice Abani Mohan Sinha and Justice Dilip Kumar Basu. Prominent lawyers participated in the deliberations. Among them were Mr Biswa Nath Bajpayee, former Chairman, Bar Council of India, Mr Kashi Kanta Moitra, Sr Advocate, Calcutta High Court, Mr Prithwis Bagchi, Sr Advocate, Mr Gita Nath Ganguly, Executive Chairman, Legal Aid Service, West Bengal, Mr Sourendra Nath Talukdar, Sr Advocate, Mr Ramchandra Banerjee, Advocate and others.

Dr Asim Roy Chowdhury and Comrade Prativa Mukherjee, All India President of the AIMSS, were also present. Members of the MSS from different districts, lawyers from different courts of Calcutta and districts and many common people came to the seminar.



A section of the gathering at Maulali Yuva Kendra, Calcutta at the seminar, (above) eminent jurists and prominent personalities are on the dais.

Comrade Jose Maria Sison hounded by Manila government backed by imperialists

Jose Maria Sison, born in a landed and traditionally influential family has thrown his lot with the toiling masses of workers and peasants of the Philippines since his boyhood. In the early 1960s Sison began to be known nationally for his progressive poetry and for his radical activity as a student and youth leader. From this time he began to experience political prosecution and surveillance. He joined the trade union movement and the Workers' Party in 1962. He became the General Secretary of the Workers' Party in 1965. He was also the General Secretary of a Patriotic United Front Organization in 1966.

Due to his increasing anti-imperialist and anti-feudal political activities he faced political victimisation which culminated in an assassination attempt in 1968. He went underground in the same year and conducted struggle against the repressive Marcos regime.

He was among those who reestablished the Communist Party of the Philippines in 1968 and was the Chairman of the Central Committee of the Party until 1971 when he and his wife were arrested.

After arrest, Marcos' military subjected him to inhuman torture. For eight months he was confined to the cot with his left arm and right leg enchained to it and was let off only when he had his meals or had to go to the toilet.

Soon after the overthrow of Marcos regime in February 1986, Sison was released after nearly 9 long years.

Soon after release, Sison began his revolutionary activities. He undertook university lectures and public speaking tours in the Philippines and proceeded to do the same in the

Asia-Pacific in 1986-87 and in Western Europe in 1987-88.

Reacting to his university lectures and public speeches President Aquino levelled false charges against Sison and cancelled his passport without due process. Sison was compelled to seek political asylum in the Netherlands in October 1988. The Philippine government declared a hefty sum over his head.

Sison's application for political asylum in the Netherlands is still pending almost eight years after it was filed due to the pressure of the US and the Philippines governments; the Netherlands' Ministry of Justice has repeatedly turned it down notwithstanding the ruling of the Raad Van State (Council of States) of the Netherlands that the Justice Ministry's bases for rejection are not valid. The court case is still pending.

The danger of expulsion of Sison family from the Netherlands remains. The Dutch, the US and the Manila governments are hell-bent to deny asylum to the Sison family. Though the juridical merit of the asylum application of the Sison family is strong, the capability of the imperialists to use propaganda and their influence to misrepresent the fighters for national liberation and democracy as 'terrorist' in order to deny them asylum must not be underestimated. It is, therefore, of crucial importance to arouse, organize and mobilize the support of the broad masses of the people of the entire world. International Campaign for Asylum for Sison Family has issued a statement in this regard and it is hoped that well-meaning and democratic people must come forward to demand the granting of asylum to the Sison family.

Karnataka State Conference of AIDS

(Contd. from page 4)

On the second day of Delegate session of the conference Comrade K Radhakrishna, State Secretary of the SUCI, who came as Chief Guest said in his speech, "As long as unequal conditions exist in a society, development of individuals is bound to be unequal. Marx has shown long ago that as exploitation by the propertied class exists over the propertyless in capitalist society, this inequality is reflected in the superstructure also. Only a socialist society can create favourable conditions for the all-round development of all individuals. The people of former Soviet Union and East European countries are today realising that the present so-called democratic system is detrimental to the interest of development of individuals. He also urged students to engage themselves in struggle against the socio-cultural, political problem that are plaguing the country.

The All India Vice-President of AIDS, Comrade Shantu Gupta, who addressed the delegates said: The dreams of our great freedom fighters like Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Kshudiram, Asfaulla to establish scientific, secular and democratic education system stand shattered today. All governments are indulging in corrupt practices and involved in various scandals. To fight against this rotten politics students should take recourse to noble politics of self-sacrifice and struggle which alone can advance the cause of education and society.

All India President of AIDS, Comrade Pratap Samal, congratulated the students for making the conference a grand success and called upon the delegates and leaders to shoulder higher responsibilities in building movements against all anti-student and anti-educational policies.

During the two day session, the Politico-Organisational Report, Main Resolution on Important Educational Problems, other resolutions on lack of infrastructure facilities in schools and colleges and hostels; on problems of universities; on cultural degeneration; on South Korean Students' Movement and On Students' Union Rights were passed unanimously. Over 100 delegates enthusiastically participated in the deliberations.

Later, a powerful 36-member State Council was elected with Comrade K. Uma as President, K. Somashekar, T.V.S. Raju, Dr Hemadevi B.N. as Vice-Presidents, Comrade M.N. Sriram as Secretary, Comrade G. Sudha as Treasurer and Comrade B.N. Rajshekar, Comrade Gurulingameti, Comrade Veerabadru, Comrade Veeresh as Secretariat Members.

In the end, Dr B.R. Manjunath addressed the gathering.

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee demands granting of asylum to the Sison family to save their lives

Strongly condemning the imperialist conspiracy against Comrade Jose Maria Sison Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary of our party said in a statement on 20.09.96:

We, on behalf of struggling people of India strongly condemn series of orders of the Netherlands Government denying asylum to Comrade Jose Maria Sison, the struggling leader of the Philippines and to his family, and ask the people to raise their voice of condemnation. We demand of the Dutch Government to grant asylum to the Sison family and save their lives.

We firmly hold that this conduct of the Dutch government is inhuman, barbarous and against all canons of civilized society. It is clear that the Dutch government is hatching this conspiracy in collusion with the US imperialists and the dictatorial regime of the Philippines.

Comrade Sison is a leading figure in anti-imperialist struggle and the struggle for the emancipation of the common people. So, all the democratic and well meaning people of different countries must voice their protest against this barbaric act of the Dutch government, and they will have to forge complete solidarity with the worldwide campaign movement for the just demand for granting asylum to the Sison family. They will have to build up this movement in their respective countries as well.

Anti-Imperialist Forum, Orissa protests US attack on Iraq

Protesting against the wanton US attack on Iraq, All India Anti-Imperialist Forum, Orissa, organized a meeting at Rajmahal Square, Bhubaneswar on 7th September, 1996 at 6 PM. The effigy of the US President Bill Clinton was burnt at the meeting place. The meeting was presided over by Dr Ramesh Nayak and Mr P.C. Bahera, member, Anti-Imperialist Forum, Mr Narendra Mohanty, the youth leader and Prof Biswabasu Das delivered their speeches in the meeting.

The speakers, one after another condemned in one voice the wanton attack of the USA on Iraq and the US gangsterism on the weaker especially the developing countries. They all expressed their solidarity with the peace loving people of the entire world who aired their voice of protest against this barbarous attack of the US imperialists.

The speakers gave a call to the peace loving people of India to raise their voice of protest and press the Government of India to protest strongly against this attack on Iraq at the UN Assembly.

Anti-Imperialist Forum, Tamil Nadu protests US attack on Iraq

An hour long protest demonstration was held on 10th September 1996 in front of the US Consulate General Office, Madras under the banner of All India Anti-Imperialist Forum. The demonstration was conducted near Anna fly-over, a main junction on the Mount Road, and attracted many passersby.

Comrade R Vaskaran led the demonstration in the name of the All India Anti-Imperialist Forum, Tamil Nadu State Committee.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : NIHAR MUKHERJEE