

The Recent Indo-Pak Talk

The four day talk in New Delhi in early February between Mr. Agha Shahi, the former Foreign Minister of Pakistan and Mr. Nara Simla Rao, the Indian External Affairs Minister, ended with the decision that they would meet again by the end of the month in Islamabad to continue the dialogue initiated here for the 'no war pact' proposal mooted by President Zia ul Huq of Pakistan. The proposed talk has since been decided to start on March, 1982. This is however, the only advance, if at all it can be called an advance, in the talk between India and Pakistan at the Foreign Minister's level. The Kashmir issue, the interpretation of bilateralism as agreed between India and Pakistan at the Simla Agreement—all these marred the discussion from the very beginning. Mr. Agha Shahi, expressed his reaction that the outcome of the talk was not positive and hurried to add that the option to procure arms from outside could not be given up.

If we look into the relationship between India and Pakistan since last 34 years, we find that in spite of expressed peaceable intentions by both the sides, the two countries were engaged in bloody wars a number of times and every peace pursuit ended in war in spite of public posture of peaceful intentions of the leaders of the ruling class of these countries. This is due to the fact that the capitalist economy of both the

countries has been pushed to such an impasse that this crisis ridden economy is propped up by stimulation through militarisation and so the ruling cliques of both the countries want to continue, their public utterances of peace and friendship notwithstanding. So while Pakistan is procuring arms from the US imperialists, it is at the same time offering 'no war pact' proposal

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Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, on the Budgets

Calcutta, Feb. 24, 1982.

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI condemning the Railway Budget, has issued the following statement:-

"The Indira Gandhi Government comes out with a fresh attack on the common people by declaring fare rise in Railway Budget this year, over and above the hike in Railway freight announced before the Budget.

While the fare rise announced will be 50 paise at the minimum for 2nd class mail and express and 20 paise for ordinary 2nd class coaches along with surcharge ranging from Rs. 15 to Rs. 50 to net in additional revenue to the tune of Rs. 261.60 crore, the freight hike announced earlier would be of the order of Rs. 80 crore for the last quarter and Rs. 320 crore in a full year. Such a huge amount is going to be collected only on Railway charges from the people who would have to face fresh spurt in infla-

Calcutta February 27, 82.

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, condemning the anti people union budget has issued the following statement to the press:

"Though the Central Government has tried to give this budget a popular cloak, in reality, it is nothing but a greater deception for the people. The net effect of the budget will be further spurt in prices of essential commodities and inflationary spiral. Consequently, instead of providing any relief, it will impose a heavier burden on the poor and lower middle class people. Coming in the wake of the recent Railway budget, this union budget deals a heavy blow to them. United resistance movement should immediately be built up to resist this anti people budget."

tionary spiral due to the chain effect of the rise on all items of essential consumption.

There is absolutely no justification for forcing the people to bear the cost of inefficiency, corruption and mismanagement of an important service like the Railways. Instead of minding to tone up administration, weed out corruption and improve upon services to the benefit of the commuters and saving money from that, the reactionary Government at the Centre resorts to easy means of mounting burden on the people.

Moreover, the little benefit so far enjoyed by the people, all of which except season ticket has been withdrawn this time. Furthermore, the threat of another rise in railway fare and freight is awaited any time within the year before the next Budget as it has become the practice of the Government now-a-days.

We demand of the Government to desist from taking such anti-people, reactionary policy and urge upon the people to rise up in organised democratic movement to resist the onslaughts."

AIDSO observes All India Protest Day on 19th February throughout the Country

For the students of the country 19th February was the day to demonstrate their inheritance of the glorious tradition of student struggle in this land against injustice, oppression and exploitation. They rose to the occasion on that day. For them it was the day to demonstrate that the student and youth force conscious of its task in all countries, in all ages, never fails to rally in the battle for people's cause. They played worthily in the role expected of them on that day. They demonstrated on 19th February their resolve to resist at all cost the education and language policies of the central and state Governments the

policies which strike at the educational and cultural fabric of life of the people, threatening their existence as 'man' worthy of the name. 19th February was observed by students all over the country as the 'All India Protest Day.' In West Bengal, at the call of the All Bengal Students' Struggle Committee thousands and thousands of students from schools and colleges in every part of the State marched to Calcutta on the 19th to take part in a mass violation of law to resist this disastrous language and education policy of the 'Left Front' Government of the state. People concerned with education all over the state are stepping forward today to raise their voice of protest against this anti-people policy.

Eminent educationists, writers, scholars, scientists, doctors, engineers, lawyers are coming forward. Workers and peasants, too, are joining teachers, students, youths and guardians in the movement. One year back, on the 21st February of 1981, the student community of West Bengal had plunged into struggle against the language and education policy of the 'Left Front.' Together with the movement led by the intellectual stalwarts, the students' movement had shaken the whole country, in the face of which the Front Government had to retrace a step postponing implementation of its decision to eliminate English from primary education for the year. With utter contempt for the people's

needs and demands, flouting democratic principles and norms, this Government has taken to the field with full vengeance, ordering abolition of English from this year. While the English medium schools continue to enjoy the full patronage of the Front leaders and the Government, teachers of the ordinary schools are being threatened with punishment for any act of defiance of the Government order.

The student community has stood up roaring against this challenge and insult to the people. They have come out to the street to join strength with other sections of the people in order to defeat the 'Left Front' Government's policy in the field

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Bullying the Press— Anjiah Episode

While the radio, T. V., that is the media under control of the government were dishing out untruth to the people, under clear and unambiguous direction of the government, the Anjiah episode not only exposed the hollowness of the whole exercise but also, revealed the gravity of danger to freedom of press.

Both the Bombay based weekly journals, Blitz (January 30, '82) and The Sunday Observer (January 31, '82), have reported in detail the episode. Blitz wrote: The Hyderabad press corps waited for long four hours on the night of January 21 to get briefing from the Chief Minister of the Cabinet meeting. There is nothing in the published reports to suggest that the Chief Minister expressed regrets for late coming.

Be that as it may, the first thing that Anjiah did after arriving at the press conference was to throw out a senior reporter of the Deccan Chronicle because his paper had the headline "Good response to bandh." "He thundered that he would have erring journalists arrested and punitive actions instituted against them. The victims, he added, could challenge his action in court of law but I am not afraid of the consequences". What's more, Anjiah Garu, "swinging in a swivel chair, turned to the IGP, Director of Information and other officials, sitting behind him, and repeated all the threats and blandishments including stoppage of advertisements to newspapers."

Commenting on the episode, the journal wrote: The Anjiah episode exposes at least partially, the string of lies put out by the state-controlled electronic media and taunts those state functionaries who have congratulated the working class for 'overwhelmingly rejecting the call of the National Campaign Committee

comprising all Central Trade Union organisations barring the Congress (I) controlled INTUC.'

Giving the similar version of the episode, the Sunday Observer mentioned the facts that Deccan Chronicle a leading English daily though owned by Congress (I) MP, Mr. T. Chandrasekhar had to incur the displeasure of the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for the objective reporting so much so that Mr. Narasimha Rao, its reporter, having 30 years experience in journalism and a respected figure was ordered to "get out" by him along with other threats mentioned. The journalists community in Hyderabad met under the auspices of Andhra Pradesh Union Working Journalist (APUWJ) could see in the episode "nothing but the outburst of a power drunk person unworthy of one holding a high office of Chief Minister of a state."

We would ask our journalist brothers: Would not the working journalists who aligned themselves with the call on January 19, to make it a remarkable event, see how the Emergency censorship has returned stealthily, without any formal declaration? Have they not noticed that the Government had the cheek not only to direct the media by open circular to dish out untruths in favour of the Government but is demanding of the dailies and the journalists attached to them to conform to that dictate? Is it not a glaring and crude instance of robbing the freedom of press in general and the fundamental democratic rights of the journalists? The Governments whether in the Centre or states want to make the journalists bonded slaves to their wisher—will the journalist community comply? What remains of democracy other than in name if the

Ruling class of both India and Pakistan creating warlike situation as diversionary tactic amidst deepening crisis

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and Smt. Gandhi while virtually rejecting this offer initially, by saying that this proposal was nothing new and that it was first mooted by Pandit Nehru in 1949 and rejected by Pakistan, later on came out with the proposal of 'peace and friendship' treaty and also 'the joint commission'. But it can be concluded from the way the talks are going on that all these moves smack of insincerity and lack of genuine desire of peace on the part of the ruling class of both India and Pakistan and that these are primarily aimed at diplomatic manoeuvring to project each of them as champion of peace. It is apparent that both the countries want to drag on the talk, keeping alive at the sametime the tension and war psychosis in their respective countries. Whether they want to engage themselves immediately into war or not is a different question, but the ruling class of both the countries want the danger of war to float in the air so as to derive dividend for the classes they represent through massive militarisation of economy.

It is however noteworthy how the super-power politics of hegemonism is supplementing the desire of the ruling class of both the countries to keep alive tension and war psychosis in the sub continent. The Soviet military presence in Afghanistan, which is nothing but a direct interference in the internal affairs of that country, has provided a direct alibi to the US imperialists to create tension in the region, resulting in the arming of Pakistan and the reported

freedom of press, judiciary, educational institutions and administrative neutrality become extinct in the land?

Pakistani offer of naval and air bases to the US imperialists in their bid to extend their spheres of influence. This competition between the super-powers is directly helping the ruling classes of both India and Pakistan whip up war psychosis in their respective countries, which is of utmost importance because of internal compulsion of the ruling classes of both the countries. The acquisition of the US arms by Pakistan is helping India to cry hoarse over the danger of war and on this plea of Pakistani acquisition of US arms India entered into a big arms deal with the Soviet Union and successfully concluded the French Mirage deal involving millions of costly foreign exchange. But does the present defence preparedness of India warrant such a reaction because of the acquisition of a few odd F 16 planes? The statements of various military generals and also the statement of Morarji Desai, the ex prime minister of India confirm that this acquisition of the US arms by Pakistan does not tilt the military balance in the sub-continent in favour of Pakistan. The Soviet assurance of unrestricted arms help and also the Indo-Soviet treaty of Friendship and Co operation of 1971 are guarantees against any aggressive design against India. On the other hand Pakistan is also not going to face the Soviet military might in Afghanistan, where the US imperialists cannot involve themselves because of geopolitical reason. If this be the reality, what else, other than whipping up war psychosis in their respective countries, can be the motive behind such a huge arms deal by both the countries? A cursory glance into the internal situation of both India and Pakistan will provide an answer to the question.

The internal situation in Pakistan is quite desperate. After the dismemberment of Pakistan the economy of truncated Pakistan is in shambles. It is not even possible to maintain a facade of bourgeois parliamentary democracy in Pakistan. When Mr. Ziaul Huq came to power, he declared that his was a transitional government for ninety days duration only and the power would be transferred to the elected representatives of the people. But instead of ninety days, four and a half years rolled by and the promise of Mr. Zia remains unfulfilled. All opposition voice is mercilessly gagged. The other day, the Chief Justice of Pakistan resigned because he thought that the judiciary in Pakistan was stripped off all independent powers in the matter of interpretation of laws. A steam roller of oppression in the interest of the capitalist class of Pakistan is making the life of the common people completely unbearable and the people are growing restive and the whole of Pakistan is just like a volcano. Under such a situation when the ruling class wants total militarisation of economy in order to provide artificial stimulation to the capitalist economy the Pakistani people are in no mood to give any support to this move. The Afghan issue, however, provided the ruling clique in Pakistan a fresh opportunity to whip up a war psychosis in Pakistan and to keep alive this tension, entered into an arms deal with the US imperialists who are out to exploit such a situation for making a brisk business with their sinews of war.

India, too, is trying to whip up war psychosis for the same reason of deep rooted crisis in the capitalist economy. When Smt. Gandhi came to power in early 1980, she

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Mrs. Indira Gandhi's Claim on Price Front

Mrs. Indira Gandhi, for some time past, has been claiming the success of her government on the economic front in general and in the matter of bringing down the rate of inflation in particular. At her address in the public meeting of Calcutta on 16th, not only did she repeat the claim but even quoted figures from government wholesale price index as if as a proof to show that the inflation rate which was 22 p.c. when she took up the rein of the government has since been brought down step by step to 15 p.c. then to 9. P.C. and now to near around 5 to 7 p.c. So what more proof is required to tell the people who are experiencing in their daily life the unabated skyrocketing of prices of essential consumption items that what they experience is simply *Maya*, the truth is in the government prepared wholesale price index! This may be one more example of shocking disregard for truth and people's dire miseries from persons holding high office in governance but what else other than resorting to untruths be bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties and politicians can do in their job of defending an absolutely bankrupt moribund capitalist system?

Wholesale Price Index Is it the correct indicator?

The first question that comes up is whether the wholesale price index prepared by the government can be taken as the real indicator of the price situation in the country. This question requires to be examined for some interesting revelations that will uncover the untruths now being dished out not only by the Prime Minister but even in the prepared text that the President delivered in the joint session of parliament, otherwise one would have told like the Blitz: "No one can convince a housewife of the declining wholesale prices when she had just returned home after paying higher prices for the same goods that she bought last week" (Republic Day Special January 23, '82). True, incontrovertible. That is to say, even assuming that the wholesale price index prepared by government shows a declining trend, fact is that it has no reflection in the prevailing market prices with which people are concerned. And this truth had to be given admission to even by the former Finance Minister of Mrs. Gandhi's cabinet when he stated in a mellowed voice that fall in wholesale price index had not 'percolated' down

to retail price! What then can there be consolation for the people if the government prepared wholesale index numbers show a declining trend? Does it mean in any way that the inflation has been checked or that its rate has been brought down by the policies of the government as is the claim of Mrs. Gandhi, the Prime Minister?

Therefore, the comment on this aspect in the same article of Blitz, referred to earlier, becomes relevant. It reads: "There is nothing like price control in the country. As long as there were divergencies between wholesale and retail prices the tall claims of having curbed inflation can only increase the credibility gap between official assertions and objective realities."

That is the reason why the Reserve Bank of India in its Annual Report for the preceding year commented: "The price situation remains difficult" and suggested the toning up of administrative machinery "for regulating trade practices to curb blackmarketing in crucial inputs and essential consumer goods." It is well to remember in this connection that it is our party SUCI that has been insisting on the government to move along this line for more than two

decades with the concrete suggestion of taking over trade, both wholesale and retail in essential items of consumption so as to introduce all out State trading that can, to some extent, save people from speculative manipulation of prices. But as it is a question of bringing some relief to the people to the disfavour of traders and businessmen, the hoarders and blackmarketeers, the governments whether in the Centre or in States have always fought shy of implementing it thereby showing where lies their real allegiance.

Be that as it may, while the Prime Minister is waxing eloquent on the achievement of her cabinet in bringing down inflationary trend in the economy, facts are overwhelming to prove that not only the claim is a false claim but it is also mischievous, laden with sinister design. Let us come to those one by one.

Kamala Suri of the Research Bureau of the Economic Times (December 30, 1981) has clearly shown that:

"The official claims of moderation in the rate of inflation are not borne out by facts. The average wholesale price index for April—November 1981 advanced by 11.1 p.c. over the corresponding period of 1980. On the other hand the consumer price index which is a far more appropriate measure of the trend in prices, spurted by 13.9 percent on an average basis during April-October 1981 as compared to the index for the same period of 1980. This is higher than the increase of 9.8 percent recorded during the first seven months of 1980 over the same period of 1979. In other words, the inflationary rate continues to be of a double digit order."

Consumer Price Index or wholesale Price Index

This brings us to the crux of the matter that there is no correspondence in the movements of the wholesale price index and the consumer price index which has been rising continuously. As everyone is aware that compilation of index figures is the government's business. Serious complaints as to the fraudulent character of indices rose again and again from the workers and their trade union bodies as a result of which some rectifications had to be made on the suggestions made by different expert bodies appointed by the government. The government even did not give full effect to the suggestions many times, the most glaring example being the denial of dues to the jute workers. However, even this faulty consumer price index for the working class, assumed to reflect rise in cost of living due to inflation shows a completely different picture to what the Prime Minister claims.

The Economic Times Research Bureau shows (December 30, 1981): "Studied on an average basis, the trends in wholesale price index show inflationary pressures in the economy. This is also supported by the continuous rise in the consumer price index in recent months... the all India working class consumer price index (1960=100) hardened by 9.5 percent between March and October 1981 as against an increase of 4 percent in the wholesale price index during this period. The seriousness of the price situation can be gauged by the fact that the consumer price index for October 1981 at 460 has risen by whopping 40 point in the span of just seven months."

So rise of 40 points within seven months in the consumer index is being tried to be wished away by flaunting the figure of fall in wholesale price index by 7 or 8 percent! But can they really? No, because they are to sit

with the Central Government Employees' Federations to suggest impounding of arrear amounts of three instalments of DA fallen due last year and assuage their feelings at the same time by holding the promise of paying the current instalments of DA. How is it then that inflation rate is falling down but DA linked with consumer index also increases? How the Prime Minister can reconcile these contradictory things?

Without asking her power in this regard to question, may we just remind her that the latest figure of Consumer Price Index for Industrial workers at 462 shows an increase of 12.4 P.c. increase over the last year as also the fact that even at the beginning of this year, the bank employees will also be entitled to two slabs of DA increase (over 8% quarterly increase). Surely she has taken note of it and is moving on a line, we will mention here after.

But for the present let us remind her also that the Planning Commission under her chairmanship has been very recently, busy with revising the Sixth plan estimates by drastic cut in expenditures because of paucity of resources caused by cost escalation due to inflation. Writing on it the Economic and Political Weekly, February 6 1982 in its editorial note refers to the fact that financial outlay during the first three years has been anything but satisfactory in real terms because of cost escalation and the Planning Minister's admission of price increase to the consultative committee of Parliament to the extent of 20 to 30 percent. "The planning minister also conceded that it had therefore become necessary to make changes in the sectoral allocation of outlay to provide more funds for vital projects and programme to make up for the rise in costs." Why this rise in costs? Is it due to lowering down of

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AIDSO Observes All India Protest Day

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of education. Hundreds of Students' struggle committees have been formed in schools, colleges and universities of the State as the instrument of a protracted struggle against the anti-democratic attitude and measures of the Government.

The processions came from all directions and converged at the lawns of the Calcutta University. The campus gradually turned into a sea of youthful spirit whose fervour overflowed to kindle enthusiasm among the people around. Barefooted children had come from distant village primary schools. Many a school had gone on strike to protest against the Government's policy. They had sent their detachments in the face of threats and intimidation to join strength in the rally. School students formed ranks side by side with the college students. As numbers swelled the rally spread on to the streets adjoining the campus. The air was full of fighting slogans.

Comrade Bhaskar Gupta and representatives from the districts addressed the rally. They called

upon the student community to fulfil what was expected of them at this hour. Holding portraits of Vidyasagar, Bankim Chandra, Visakananda, Netaji Subhas and Saratchandra in the fore front, a huge procession started from the university campus. Citizens were drawn on to the pavements on either side of the streets down which the march paradaded reaching in the end Esplanade East in front of Raj Bhavan. The police of the Front Govt. stood in rows here wielding batons to block the marchers' way. Thousands of members of the public had thronged the area to witness the mass violation of law by the students. Sanjit Biswas addressed the demonstration explaining the object of the movement asking them to break the police cordon in a disciplined manner befitting the fighters. As wave after wave of students violated the prohibitive law, members of the public clapped in enthusiasm. The police arrested the violators and took away in dozens of buses to the jail gate. The mass violation continued for more than an hour and still there were many

thousands more waiting for their turn. At this point police officials requested the leaders of the demonstration to discontinue violation, expressing their inability to cope with the huge numbers.

In the dusk the long waiting column of demonstrators began the journey back. When students and youths rise in protest against injustice, the Government's jails are incapable of conjuring this tidal force. The police cannot block their way. No force on earth can resist them for long. These students who came on 19th February to register their massive protest against the language and education policy of the 'Left Front' Government of West Bengal are pledged to carry the struggle to the goal of final victory. Preparations are going on today to organise the next phases of movement toward that goal. The coming days will decide who will win the battle—the perpetrators of the anti-people design now saddled in the Governmental power at the Centre and the States or the people's own power. For the self respecting students, for the youth force conscious of its historic role today, the task ahead is to develop their

West Bengal wing of National Campaign Committee observes All India Protest Day

Responding to the call of National Campaign Committee of Central Trade Unions to observe 23rd February, 1982 as All India "Protest Day", the West Bengal wing of National Campaign Committee of Trade Unions represented by Comrade Fatick Ghosh (UTUC-Lenin Sarani), Rash Behari Moitra (BMS), Bhajan Das Gupta (HMS), Saugata Roy (INTUC-Dara) and Phani Bagchi (IFTU) met the Governor of West Bengal Shri Bhaichab Dutta Pandey, on 23rd February

with a memorandum demanding, inter-alia, immediate stoppage of repressive measures let loose at the industrial floor levels and repeal of Black Acts, NSA and ESMA.

Governor Shri Pandey assured the delegation that the memorandum will be forwarded with his comments to the Government of India

Throughout the State, the 23rd February has been observed as "Protest Day" in different industrial belts.

own instrument of struggle and organise a protracted battle side by side with the other sections of the people to defeat the anti-people policies and measures of the Governments

Delhi

In pursuance to the decision taken at the All India student conference, held at Trivandrum, Kerala the Delhi unit of AIDSO also observed 19th February as the "All India Protest Day."

Students from Delhi University, JNU and other colleges and schools joined the rally which

started from Ferozshah Koila ground to meet the union Education Minister at Shastri Bhawan and submit a memorandum with sixteen demands which included allotment of 10% of the Central Budget for education and for expansion of education at all levels—primary, secondary and higher; withdrawal of all policies curtailing education; withdrawal of job-oriented education system and introduction instead, secular, scientific and democratic education providing equal opportunities for the free and spontaneous development of all vernaculars
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Portion of the massive Student Procession Proceeding towards Esplanade East Calcutta, on 19th February, the All India Protest Day, where they defied the law

AIDSO Observes All India Protest Day throughout the Country

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banning publication and production of all sorts of obscene literature, film etc.; to stop police entry inside the campus of educational institutions, to stop provocation of casteism, communalism, provincialism and linguistic fanaticism and to take stern measures against all parochial forces; to provide employment to all or give unemployment allowance etc.

The demonstration was stopped by the police at Boat Club where Comrade O. P. Suman and other AIDSO leaders addressed the gathering. After the meeting Comrade O. P. Suman, Pratap Samal, Satyawrat, Virendra Prakash and S. Banerjee on behalf of the demonstrators went to submit the memorandum to the Education Minister who did not meet the deputation, but instead, Joint Secretary of Education Department Mr. D. S. Mishra received the memorandum.

The demonstration received wide admiration from the public.

Kerala

In Kerala All India Students' Protest Day was observed in all the important cities and towns through demonstrations, picketing, courting arrests etc.

In Trivandrum students parading the main thoroughfares reached the secretariat where they courted arrest led by Comrade Venugopal, Secretary AIDSO Kerala.

In Cochin, students paraded through the streets with banners and festoons and raised slogans on various demands on problems of student life.

In Quilon, Alleppey and Calicut also students observed 19th February

as the 'Protest Day' through picketing and courting arrests in different administrative centres.

Tamil Nadu

On 19th February, a demonstration was organised in Madurai city of Tamil Nadu. Sensing an under current of response for this movement, authorities of many colleges fixed final internal assessment on that day in a bid to foil the move

Students in Trivandrum, raising slogan against anti-people education and language policies of the Government. Below: Students courting arrest

ment. In spite of this several hundred students joined in a procession. Before the procession started on its way, Comrade Karunanidhi Comrade Baskaran, leading organisers of the AIDSO in Tamil Nadu, addressed a rally emphasising the object of the movement. After parading along the main thoroughfares, the procession reached the Madurai Collectorate and a delegation comprising Comrades Gopalakrishnan, Baskaran and Palanisamy, respectively President Secretary and Treasurer of the AIDSO State council and Comrade Sasi

Rajasthan Unit where a mass meeting was held on 19th February in the grounds of Chirawa College.

The Meeting was addressed by Comrade Mihesh Chomal who dwelt on the importance of developing mighty student's movement on the burning issues of life.

KARNATAKA, YADGIRI

In pursuance to the call of the All India Committee of AIDSO at the All India Students' Conference, 'All India Protest Day' was observed on 19.2.1982 by



holding Protest Rally and Public Meeting here.

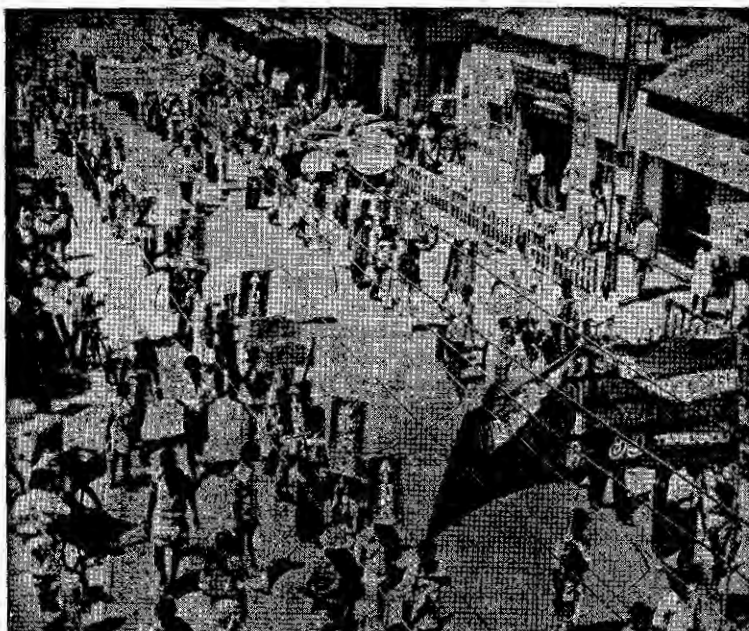
On 19.2.1982 morning at 10 A.M. Protest Rally was taken out from Mailapur Base here to the Assistant Commissioner's Office.

In the evening at 5:30 a Public Meeting was organised at Gandhi Chowk here, where Comrade K. Surendra Babu, President AIDSO Karnataka, was the main speaker. Comrade Kannappa, President, AIDSO, Yadgiri presided over the meeting.

Comrade K. Surendra Babu, in his main speech elaborately dealt on the schemes of the Government to curtail the opportunities of education and the attack on the legitimate movements of the students, youths and workers of the country by the capitalist class.

Bangalore

In pursuance to the call of the All India Students' Conference organised by the AIDSO at Trivandrum 8-10 January, '82 the Bangalore (Contd. to page 8)



A portion of the Students Demonstration at Madurai, Tamil Nadu, on 19th February, the All India Protest Day.

Kumar, member of AIDSO State Executive met the Collector and presented a memorandum containing a charter of demands. Afterwards, a meeting was held where Comrade Maharajan and Comrade Gopalakrishnan addressed highlighting the need for lifting the movement to higher stages.

The well decorated procession and disciplined marchers drew attention of the public who were enthused by the slogans raised. Before 19th a month-long programme was undertaken to make the All India Protest Day a grand success.

RAJASTHAN

All India Protest day was observed at Chirawa Tehsil by the AIDSO,

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the rate of inflation or just the reverse—only the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi knows best!

Summing up the position caused by high inflation so much so that the planning commission has to cut back announced allocations in vital sectors like power, coal, railways etc, the Economic Times wrote recently in its editorial comment (February 3, 1982): "It is not as if central resources have only been less buoyant than expected.....but expenditure buoyancy has been overwhelming and not only in the shape of larger dearness allowance payments. Defence for example has been absorbing a substantially larger volume of resources than had been visualised not inconsiderably because of inflation.....despite the best estimate, however, the cost escalation will have touched 25 percent during the two years ending 1981-82. This figure is derived from the wholesale price index. The pattern of weight assigned to different commodities under the wholesale index is different from the pattern assigned to them in consumer price index which has shown a sustained buoyancy. Over all, the assessment is that there has been a price rise of the order of 40 percent." Need we comment any further excepting pointing out that even this Consumer Price Index does not reflect the black-market price prevailing on each and every item, people are to pay daily in absence of any intervention by the government or of any protective measure taken by it.

Dark design of manipulating further the consumer Index

So, while the Prime Minister is taking pride in bringing down rate of inflation, her government is pruning the plan expenditure because of cost escalation caused by inflation and she as Prime Minister, has refloated the 20-point programme as a substitute for planning

Falsity of the claim of bringing down rate of inflation is proved by facts and experience

and what is more her government has been trying various means for wage freeze either by open declaration or through backdoor process like the present suggestion of crediting arrear amount of the three instalments of central government employees in PF. But she and her government know for certain that all these manoeuvres will not work everytime, resentment of the employees even though they are under the snare of bourgeois and petty-bourgeois trade union leaderships will burst out. So, Smt. Gandhi's Government is trying on another method of bringing the consumer price index at par with the wholesale price index by devious means. For this, it appointed the Seal committee named after Dr. K. C. Seal, director general of the Central Statistical Organisation for reconstruction of the consumer price index taking 1980-81 as the base year in place of the present one.

Now this Seal Committee was urged to use the blackmarket price in compilation of data because the price at which people purchase any commodity is blackmarket price which has got no connection with either the wholesale or the retail prices announced. But this just suggestion has been rejected by this committee. Can you guess on what ground? You cannot; because the so called reason adduced is that of 'practical difficulty'. What practical difficulty? First, the committee holds that the shops which sell commodities at black-market price 'change places' and so "continuity of price collection cannot be ensured." What can however be ensured is that people will continue to pay blackmarket prices whatever may be the change of places! Secondly as 'no record'

regarding such sales are available supervision of price collection will almost be "impossible." Why Sir, even the dailies will give you the record of prevailing market prices and actual purchase as people do, will bring to you, the 'continuity' of the data if you so mind! But, these are the type of 'reasoning' that this 'selected' Committee has presented to the government, the rest will follow. It's time, organised trade union movement should take up the issue and a vital issue at that.

Bankrupt System Bankrupt Policies

Before concluding, we would like to pinpoint two things. First, it is the Indira Gandhi Government, followed slavishly by the state governments whether 'left' or 'right' that is stroking the fire of inflation by raising the prices of vital inputs to industries like oil, coal, steel, cement etc. and service charges like railway freight and fares; postal tariff etc. besides raising indirect taxes to the tune of thousands of crore of rupees all of which are passed onto people by the capitalists. When the Prime Minister was addressing the people to show the mirage of advancement the people had already known that fresh burden to the tune of Rs. 180 crore was already imposed and taxation in whatever form to the tune of hundreds of crore was in store for them in the budgets to come. The revision of prices of increase in wholesale price of Vanaspati to the tune of 10 to 12 p.c. already announced inputs coupled with the hike in power tariffs and railway freight are bound to push up the cost of production of a wide range of industries. The cumulative effect is the persistence of inflationary pressures, completely

contrary to the assertion of the Prime Minister. The continuous increase in tax burdens, fare rise of bus, tram, railways, price rise of every commodity, rampant corruption and black-marketing make hell of their existence and still the leaders of these bourgeois and petty-bourgeois parties are holding out bright prospect to them, exhorting more tightening of belt when they have hardly anything like the bliley. Isn't it a fact that the planning Commission Chaired by Mrs. Gandhi, admits that 30 crore of people in India meaning 45 percent of the population have no purchasing power to buy adequate food? Does it not mean, even if the figure shown deliberately low, that had these people the purchasing power for daily adequate consumption, then the Prime Minister's claim of achieving self sufficiency in food production also would have been a cruel bluff? So, even when the Indian Council of Medical Research says in its report that nearly two-thirds of the population in India are unable to have a nutritionally balanced diet the Indian government takes pride in self-sufficiency in food production, may even more, 'surplus in food production'. And this is the price that common people have been paying over decades and will continue to do so while hearing the soothing words from the leaders whose life missions have been to defend and consolidate the bourgeois rule, of helping the Indian monopoly capital to prosper to the position of regional giant as imperialist capital fended by top grade military might but all this at the cost of starving, emaciated millions of Indian working people.

This is one side of the shield. The other side

is no less interesting. While the Prime Minister is bragging, for so called success in bringing down the rate of inflation the monopolists urge her to make room in coming budget for large deficit. Is it not a contradictory suggestion, coming as it does from FICCI the forum of leading monopoly houses? Yes, it expresses the inherent contradiction of capitalism. That is why when the Prime Minister in her bid to draw applause from the uninformed masses talks of containing inflation and places false claim of success, the monopolists urge her through written resolution to make room for expansion of money circulation by 11 to 12 percent and budgetary deficit at least to the extent of Rs. 2800 crore. They write that this inflationary measure is vital "to keep growth of production and generate necessary demand and prevent the economy from sliding into unavoidable recession." Not only this, it says, that industry faces 'demand squeeze' that is to say further fall in purchasing power for which industries like cotton textiles, jute, tea, paper, durable consumer goods including engineering goods have been gradually pushed to recession. It has lamented that: "It is paradoxical that in a poor country like ours industry should curtail production for lack of demand". So a boastful Prime Minister claiming success for bringing down inflation by citing wholesale price index and exhorting the working people to harness them in more production, in a year coined by her 'a year of production' suddenly faces a rude shock from an entirely unexpected side—the monopolists who prick the balloon of her propaganda by telling her plainly that the industry is faced with recession and production will slow down unless inflationary measures are taken to inject purchasing power to the people. They call it a paradox. Yes, this is

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CPI (M) and CPI outbid even the bourgeois parties in helping crisis-ridden bourgeoisie

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promised to solve many of the vital problems confronting the life of the people. But what is the position to-day? Let alone solution of these problems, the life of the toiling people has become totally unbearable because of galloping inflation, high dose of taxation, mounting unemployment, retrenchment, lockout and closure of factories, eviction of the poor peasants, etc. etc. A large number of existing industrial units are becoming sick. All the major industries in the country including steel, textile, jute, tea etc. are facing glut. The workers of many industries are facing the grim prospect of retrenchment, starvation and death because they have worked more and produced more. When one tenth of the Union budget is spent on giving subsidies and subventions to the capitalist class and a lion's share of the budget is earmarked for the defence spending and when this huge expenditure is met by everincreasing taxation on the people, it is quite understandable that there will be stiff resistance by the people on any attempt for further increase in defence expenditure for giving artificial stimulation to the capitalist economy. As a result of stiff dose of taxation, ever increasing inflation and price hike, a vast section of people are restive against the exploitative capitalist system. There is intensification of class struggle both in urban and rural areas. The workers in industrial establishments are protesting against the erosion of their real earnings and organising movements for higher pay packets, bonus etc. In the rural areas also the poor and landless peasants are organising and demanding their just share of the land and crop. The ruling class is crushing all these movements with iron hand.

What is depicted as caste war or murder of Harijan is nothing but the result of intense class struggle between the landowning class and the poor and landless peasants. In order to crush the legitimate democratic movement of the toiling people in the interest of the monopoly capitalism, the Congress(I) led Government at the Centre has enacted such black Acts like NSA, ESMA etc. More over in order to keep the people divided and disunited, the ruling class is fanning up all communal and divisive forces. It is because of the intensification of the crises of capitalism because of the lack of home market owing to the poor purchasing power of the people on one hand and severe competition with the powerful imperialist countries in the foreign market on the other, that the ruling bourgeoisie of our country are shedding all facade of democratic norms and practices and trying to concentrate more and more power in the hands of the executive. And at the same time to provide artificial stimuli to the sagging capitalist economy, a huge defence expenditure is being incurred. But even this huge defence expenditure cannot avert the crisis of capitalism and so Sm. Gandhi wants to increase the defence spending still further in order to further militarise the economy. But in a country where more than seventy percent of the population lives below poverty line public opinion will surely go against her if she goes on increasing military budget without any plausible reason. Moreover when the capitalist economy is in deep crisis and when the attempt to evolve a two-party system which can be effectively used to defuse an otherwise exploding situation, failed with the failure of the Janata Government the ruling class is making

a contingency plan of presidential form of Government and the whipping up of a war psychosis will definitely help in switching over to the presidential form on the plea of national emergency. This is why in order to stage a counter revolutionary upsurge for establishing fascism in the country Sm. Gandhi is whipping up a war psychosis and posing the question of national security—the usual bourgeois trap of fomenting ultra nationalism to divert the attention of the people from the real issue that is the root of all evils.

The toiling people of both India and Pakistan will have to realise the situation. The other day Smt. Gandhi said that the Pakistani rulers were raising the bogey of Soviet threat in order to divert the attention of the people of Pakistan from the real issues which President Zia had failed to solve. Smt. Gandhi is telling nothing new, because this is the tactic, bourgeoisie of different countries adopt not only to hoodwink the people but also to create condition for militarisation of the economy, which would provide artificial stimulation to the sagging capitalist economy; and Smt. Gandhi's policy is also no exception to it. Here in our country Smt. Gandhi is trying to create a war psychosis from the same standpoint and the national press controlled by the monopoly houses has taken the cue.

Now under the present situation when the bourgeoisie are trying to create war psychosis with the ulterior motive of militarisation of economy for artificially stimulating the crisis ridden capitalist economy, resorting to stiff dose of taxation on the common people for the mobilisation of resources for the same, cracking down heavily with draconian acts on the democratic mass movements which are being

organised for resisting these anti-people policies of the government and hatching conspiracies to impose a presidential form of government, it is the bounden duty of all those who speak of democracy and leftism to forewarn the people about this bourgeois design and build up massive movements to thwart this evil move. But what the parties like CPI and the CPI(M) are doing to-day? Let alone discharging this responsibility of providing timely caution to the people about the danger of this bourgeois design of whipping up war psychosis in the country, these parties have become a party to this conspiracy when they too help in creating this psychosis. Not only the CPI, in tune with the Soviet revisionists is vocal about the Pakistani danger with Sinc-US collaboration, the CPI(M) in its political resolution at the Vijayawada Congress has supported the theme of the danger of imminent war as is being dished out by Smt. Gandhi. The CPI(M) leadership has no doubt spoken against the attempt of imposing presidential form of government; but do they realise that by

extending support to this bourgeois conspiracy of whipping up war psychosis within the country, they are in reality helping in creating the necessary condition for imposition of presidential form of government? One can easily understand to what extent the CPI(M) has become a party to the bourgeois conspiracy.

The people of both the countries will have to understand that war will bring immense sufferings in the life of the common people and the democratic mass movement will be the first casualty in such a situation. The disputes between the two countries can be solved through mutual negotiations if there is genuine desire on both the sides. But in order to serve the moribund capitalist economy the ruling cliques of these countries are never sincere in their peace talks. So we find that when a public show of discussion on 'no war pact' proposal is going on, inflammatory speeches are daily issued by both the sides. Under such a situation will the people fall prey to the bourgeois trap of national jingoism? Or they will unite to give defeat to

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I, Sukomal Dasgupta hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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A government that suppresses the working class, denies their rights has no right to ask for their co-operation

—Comrade Prithish Chanda, General Secretary, UTUC (Lenin Sarani) to the Finance Minister

Mr. Pranab Mukherjee the newly appointed Finance Minister in the Indian cabinet called the representatives of industry, trade and commerce, economists and the central trade unions in separate rounds of what he called 'consultation' before formal presentation of central budget. This he did when two of his colleagues in the cabinet—the minister of railways and telecommunication had already imposed further burden on the common people by announcing increase in railway freights and postal tariffs and the framework of the central budget outlined. Not only this, he was asking for co-operation from the trade unions in the background of resorting to savage means of suppressions of the all-India Industrial strike on January 19 including the use of NSA, the order of shoot at sight' and pressing to service the government controlled media to dish out untruth by his government as also the spate of victimisation and vindictive measures against the workers for participation

in the strike still going on. What then was the purpose of this call of cooperation to the trade unions? Was it to assuage their feelings? Was it to dilate the main issue of withdrawing anti-people authoritarian measures like the ESMA? Was it to interpret, as a shrewd device the acquiescence of trade unions before launching further and fiercer fiscal attacks on the people? Or was it a ploy to divide the unity of the NCC that presents the possibility of emerging as a broad front of unity of the working people to stand up against the severe challenge thrown by the government against the vital interests of the working class and the trade union movement as such?

These are the most pertinent questions. For this reason, Comrade Prithish Chanda, General Secretary of UTUC (Lenin Sarani) asked the Finance Minister, the very purpose of such invitation. Trade Union leaders have been invited for discussion without the government giving them any prior intimation as to subject

matter and purpose of this discussion other than vaguely mentioning that policy matter will be taken up. "What policy matter" Comrade Chanda asked. That is why, Comrade Chanda made it clear, this meet with the Central Trade union leaders should not be exploited by the Government to show that whatever the Finance Minister had in his budget proposals got the nodding of the trade union leadership. This tactics would not pass.

Giving a retort to the Finance Minister when he in his laboured exercise, was trying to show that inflation problem was a global one, meaning no difference between the capitalist and socialist countries, Comrade Chanda just reminded him that problems of two distinctly different systems are not alike.

Comrade Chanda spelt out the deep apprehension of the working people that by this oft-repeated untruth, the government was trying to create the ground for wage freeze and other methods to put

further constraints on the living standard of the toiling people which has already become pathetically low and causing recession in wide range of industries particularly the consumer goods industries. So, to argue that inflation in India is due to so-called wage-price spiral is to deny bare facts and elementary knowledge in economic laws in a capitalist country. The bogey is simply to conceal the facts that common people are fleeced by the governments by means of taxes to the tune of hundreds of crores of rupees, most of which go to defence build up, wasteful administrative expenditure and subvention and subsidies to the capitalists.

The government tells the working class and trade union leaderships not to go to a collision course against the government. But the boot is in other's leg. To take the collision course, suppress the workers, legitimate movement with draconian measures like the ESMA, to continue with the spate of vindictive measures against the worker for their participation in January 19 strike, as also the policy of feeding the unsatiable lust of the monopolists by means of economic and fiscal policies that are bringing ruination to the toiling millions and at the same time asking for co-operation of the Central Trade Unions can be anything but sincere.

The Recent Indo-Pak Talk

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this bourgeois conspiracy. People of both the countries will have to remember that even for ensuring peace, they will have to fight, they will have to organise themselves and build up waves of mighty mass movements to get rid of the bourgeois design of keeping them enchained for the benefit of the death merchants of these countries.

—While going to the press, we came to know that India, overreacting to Pakistani criticism against India at U.N. human rights commission at Geneva on Kashmir, unilaterally postponed the talk scheduled to be held in Islamabad on March 1, and this vindicates our analysis how the ruling cliques of both the countries are insincere in their peace talks and how they are trying to keep alive the tension in the interest of the bourgeoisie of their respective countries.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi on Price Front

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the paradox of capitalist productive system which robs the people of their purchasing power but cannot move, in the ultimate analysis, without sufficient of it as it is on profit motive. But as the economy is under the severe crisis of recession as a result of which sickness of industries has become endemic, the monopolists urge the Prime Minister to come in rescue of industry by means of deficit spending and providing market through government order, that is to say by artificial stimulation of market. The Prime Minister's claim of containing inflation proves its worthlessness from this bare fact.

AIDSO Observes All India Protest Day

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City Organising Committee of AIDSO observed February 19th as All India Protest Day.

Responding to the call of the AIDSO, apart from the AIDSO members a number of other students from various colleges and schools assembled at the Malleswaram Playgrounds, from where the procession to the Raj Bhavan started, exactly at 10 A.M. The procession was a colourful sight to watch. Disciplined students, both boys and girls, with dedication and tenacity of purpose writ

large on their faces marched to the Raj Bhavan. The procession was led by Comrade Gouthama, Secretary of the Karnataka State Organising Committee of AIDSO.

On reaching the Raj Bhavan the charter of demands to be submitted to the Governor was read out both in Kannada and English. Then a delegation of student leaders comprising of Comrades Rudregowda, B.R. Manjunath, K Uma and Prakash led by Comrade Gouthama met the Governor of Karnataka,

Sri Govinda Narain and placed the Memorandum before him.

The students resolved to carry the movement to higher and higher stages which alone could pressurise the Government to concede to their legitimate demands. The students afterwards marched to the NGO Bhavan where a public meeting was arranged at 2 P.M. Comrade Gouthama presided over the meeting. Prof A.M. Dharmalingam Professor of Law and one of the Advisors to the "Save Language, Education

and Autonomy Committee of India" was the Chief Guest. Comrade K. Radhakrishna Secretary of Bangalore City Organising Committee of SUCI was the Main Speaker.

Comrade Gouthama in his presidential address gave a detailed description of the meeting with the Governor point by point.

Comrade K. Radhakrishna delivering the main speech on the occasion congratulated the DSO for successfully observing the All India Protest Day.

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