

Presidential Election exposes CPI(M)'s betrayal of people's cause

Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma has been elected the ninth President of India. We feel it necessary to have a critical assessment of the roles played by the parliamentary Opposition parties including the CPI and CPI(M) in the Presidential election vis-a-vis nomination of Vice-Presidential candidature. Despite total understanding, initially, among the parliamentary Opposition parties including the CPI and the CPI(M) to nominate a consensus candidate for the post of President of India, exercise in consensus deliberations ultimately broke off in the process of bargain as to who could extract maximum concessions. Thereafter, in the contest between the Congress(I) candidate, supported unconditionally by the CPI and the CPI(M), and the candidate of Janata Dal-BJP combine, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma came out victorious as the Congress(I) candidate.

Two characteristic features are discernible from the roles played by the main bourgeois Opposition parties—the CPI and the CPI(M) included—centring on the just completed Presidential election.

First, efforts were on to muddle the political angularity of the Presidential election which is as much a political battle as that of any other election. That is to say, Presidential election has been posed as an issue above politics and class interest.

Second, casteist issues have been so attached as to render the people's unity largely damaged by fomenting divisive nasty politics on casteist line between the so-called forward and backward communities.

This heinous role was not at all unexpected of the most trusted and principal bourgeois party, the Congress(I), the so-called Opposition Janata Dal and the BJP. In a characteristic fashion of bourgeois politics, they all were busy to maximise their parliamentary gains by befooling the people at large. At the root of the tug-of-war among them, the Congress(I) was lacking in absolute majority in the electoral colleges for Presidential election. In the candidature of Dr. Sharma for the post of President of India, neither the Janata Dal nor the BJP had any reservation like that of the CPI(M) and the CPI. But the BJP struck the same posture, of grabbing the post of Deputy Speaker in lieu of its full-fledged support to Congress(I) candidate for the speakership, in the Presidential election too, following which the post of Vice-President would have to be awarded to it.

The Janata Dal, posing itself as the saviour of backward community, raised the demand for either the candidature of the President or the Vice-President being given to a person belonging to the backward community. But the Prime Minister

Narasimha Rao declined to come to such an understanding. Keeping the choice of Vice-Presidential candidate in abeyance, Mr. Rao engaged himself in the bargaining process. In such a developing scenario, when deliberations about nominating a national consensus candidate for the post of President fizzled out, the Janata Dal-BJP combine appeared in the contesting fray not out of any principled consideration.

The BJP in its anxiety to have a foothold among the backward communities, left aside its upper caste Hindu shell, temporary though, and following the footsteps of the Janata Dal, took part in this election making the defence of the backward communities as the main plank of its election campaign.

The Left and democratic people of the country expected that the CPI and the CPI(M), claiming themselves to be Leftists and champions of defending people's interests, would tear to shreds the deceptive politics of these branded bourgeois parties, combine all the Left and democratic parties surrounding the Presidential election against the ruling Congress(I) to present a definite pro-people political line and set up a candidate unitedly having honesty, integrity and pro-people attitude in order to enhance the people's cause and interests. Belying all these hopes of the Left and democratic people, the CPI(M) and the CPI did not only participate in the deliberations of evolving a national consensus candidate, but even after the consensus efforts failed, they held out unstinted support to the Congress(I) nominee, thus reducing themselves to appendages of the Congress(I). Our party aptly described the stand taken by the CPI(M) as a 'betrayal of people's cause'.

The hot haste and manner in which the CPI(M) announced its all-out and unconditional support to Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma as soon as the Congress(I) nomination for him was announced, one is apt to think as if the CPI(M) was waiting just to endorse the Congress(I) nominee of which the Prime Minister, on his part, was taken into confidence beforehand.

To assuage the strong Left-oriented public opposition as well as to dispel the apprehensions and big question mark hovering round the lower ranks of its party about endorsing unconditional support to the Congress(I) candidature, the CPI(M) Politburo (PB) leader, Jyoti Basu, has come out with an article in their central English organ, *People's Democracy* dated the 5th July '92. In vindicating the stand of the CPI(M), the thrust of Mr. Basu's argument was that there was no question

(Contd. on page 2)

Proletarian Era

Organ of SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA
(Fortnightly)

Founder Editor-in-Chief is:
COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

Vol. 25 No. 22 August 5, 1992
Price : 40P Air Surcharge : 5 P.

SUCI demands effective steps by Centre in Ayodhya

Demanding immediate and effective steps by the Central Government in Ayodhya and strongly protesting against the communal politics of the BJP-VHP combine, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI on 27th July last has issued the following statement to the Press :

The dilatory tactics of the minority Congress(I) Government at the Centre led by Mr. P V Narasimha Rao over the long drawn temple-mosque controversy at Ayodhya and its covert and overt policy of pandering to the patently fundamentalist forces like the BJP, VHP among others, have only contributed to vitiating further the socio-political atmosphere of the country.

The reported 'agreement' between the Prime Minister and the saints is ominous indeed as it is fraught with the danger of a chain reaction for 'searching out' the so-called origin of every place of worship of any religious community and is sure to intensify further the rabid communal passion and lead even to bloodbath.

In the temporary postponement or shifting of site by the Kar Sevaks no sane man can heave a sigh of relief since there is no indication of any change of decision on the part of the BJP-VHP combine.

The sole aim of the pedlars of communal politics—be they of the majority or minority community—in this or that part of the country, is to derive maximum dividend in parliamentary politics by dividing and misleading the people and diverting their attention from the basic problems of life, namely price hike, unemployment, etc., taking advantage of the absence of a democratic movement worth its name.

We urge the Central Government to do whatever is needed to immediately stop trading in communal politics by all concerned and appeal to the well-meaning people to raise their strong voice of protest to ensure good sense to prevail in the country.

To Serve Parliamentary Objectives CPI(M) Sides With

(Contd from page 1)

of compromise with the 'resolute struggle', being waged against the anti-people industrial policy of the Centre. Still, why did they support the Congress(I) candidature of Dr. Sharma? Because, in the words of Mr. Jyoti Basu, "Firstly, the tenth Lok Sabha elections held last year threw up a completely different political situation... the main gainer from these elections has been the BJP which emerged as the biggest Opposition party in Parliament". That is to say, communal forces have gained in strength significantly.

To this, Mr. Jyoti Basu writes, "The P B ... had to work out its tactics with this background in mind. The posts of President and Vice-President have their own importance in the Constitution. In a period of political instability, when the constitutional norms and institutions are themselves being subverted and eroded, the Party cannot remain impervious as to who occupies these positions. It had to intervene." (Ibid) Going afar he said: "... The P B wanted that those occupying these two posts should be persons of stature, who have a background of upholding democratic and secular values." (Ibid)

Surely, in the eyes of the CPI(M) the Congress (I) candidate Dr. Sharma is such an able person of 'stature' who, let it be known, never involved himself in the vortex of freedom movement in the country. Subsequently joining the Congress in free India, he emerged as a leader and, above all, all along maintained his allegiance to Nehru-Gandhi family.

To extend their all-out support to such a Congress(I) candidate, Mr. Jyoti Basu had to search out for a lame excuse. He pens, "For the present, constitutional norms and institutions are themselves being subverted and eroded." (Ibid) Who are subverting that constitutional dignity? Which of the governments runs ordinance-raj, time and again amends the Constitution to centralise autocratic power? Who are they that resorts at their sweet will to horse-trading in MLAs and MPs? Again, whose government at the Centre dislodges the constitutionally elected state governments by sheer force? Admittedly, almost all the bourgeois parties are involved in these nasty game, no doubt, but decidedly the Congress (I) emerged as the chieftain of butchery of democracy. Did Dr. Sharma ever play any different positive role worth emulating inside the party in his individual capacity? History speaks in the negative. This apart, during the black days of Indira regime, Dr. Sharma, as the General Secretary of the AICC, directly involved himself in the robbing of democracy, making his hands black in its wake. Yet, Jyoti Basu is as apologetic as to say, "...if the Party's tactics leads to persons becoming the President or Vice-President known to be ambiguous on secularism or soft on impe-

rialism—will it help the Left and democratic forces?" Naturally, the question is bound to arise whether the Congress(I) or its nominee is at all anti-imperialist and firm in upholding secular values?

Then why did the CPI(M) extend support to the candidature of Rao government, which was succumbing to US-controlled IMF and World Bank dictates and abandoned to a great extent the policy of Non-alignment as the basis of the foreign policy formulation of Government of India? Has ever, from the chair of Vice-President, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma raised his voice of protest or displeasure against soft-peddling of Narasimha Rao government towards imperialist powers? Mr. Jyoti Basu had expressed his annoyance and anxiety. Casting a shadow of doubt in his article he appreciatively says, "...the CPI(M) extended support to such policies of successive Congress (I) governments in the sphere of foreign policy which concerned anti-imperialist issues or support to national liberation struggles." (Ibid) Then where lies the anti-imperialist role of the Congress (I) Vice-President Mr. Sharma? Will then the PB leader Mr. Jyoti Basu enlighten us about the sort of 'ability' and 'person of stature' of Dr. Sharma in whose 'anti-imperialist role' the PB of CPI(M) reposed full confidence?

Furthermore, Mr. Basu contends that the way the communal and fundamentalist forces are rearing their ugly heads is a dangerous development. Undoubtedly so! But could it be forestalled simply by joining hands with the Congress (I) instead of resorting to powerful united movement of Left and democratic parties and forces? Who are responsible for emergence of the BJP in a big way? Is not it the Congress? Can the Congress (I) be regarded as a democratic and secular force? Did not the Congress, during the regime of late Indira Gandhi, pave the path for emergence of the BJP by fomenting Hindu communalism on the pretext of safeguarding majority community interest?

In the last Lok Sabha polls what had the gentlemen in the CPI(M) to say during the electoral fray along with its new-found ally, National Front, on this issue? In the 'electoral campaign material' published in their Bengali daily, *Ganasakti*, they showed through laborious exercise that during the Congress regime in the period between 1954 and 1989, communal riots were on the increase. "Facts corroborate, during the Congress(I) rule, communal riots were a regular feature." Continuing, it said, during the short span of the National Front rule, "Congress directly involved in engineering riots at Benaras, Hyderabad and Karnataka." "In the dreaded Bhagalpur riot, direct abetment came from the Congress(I) leaders including even the then Chief Minister, Mr. Bhagwat Jha Azad." Will Mr Jyoti Basu and his

ilk speak out concretely what role the Congress (I) leader Dr. Sharma, now characterised by his party as 'able and secularist', then played to thwart that perilous communal carnage? Not only that. In the last Lok Sabha polls, the CPI (M) adducing profuse evidences showed how the Congress (I) provided all sorts of encouragement to the bids of the VHP and the BJP to engineer communal riots.

In 1982, in Rajasthan, direct Congress(I) aid and abetment helped the VHP trustee More Panth Pingle to start *Ekatmata Yajna*. The late Indira Gandhi graced the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of Bharat Mata temple by her active and emulative presence at Hardwar sponsored by the VHP in 1983. The same year Daudayal Khanna, minister in the UP state government run by the Congress(I), for the first time demanded in the open that authority of the temples in Ayodhya, Benaras and Mathura must be handed over to the Hindus. In 1984, in the Municipal elections of Maharashtra, the Congress(I) entered into alliance with the Shiv Sena. Further, the Late Rajiv Gandhi in 1986 arranged to unlock the controversial Babri Masjid door at Ayodhya and in a step ahead, in 1987, accorded approval to Silanyas ceremony of Ram mandir. Then again, during the reign of National Front government, the Congress[I] as the Opposition party headed by Rajiv Gandhi moved hand-in-glove with the BJP, maintained a studied silence towards Advani's Rathayatra, and stood behind the Kar Sevaks who were sent to dismantle the Masjid at Ayodhya in 1990. Even the Congress[I] MP Mr. Banwarilal himself participated in the Kar Seva—all these vivid episodes were portrayed by the CPI[M] in the Tenth Lok Sabha poll campaigns. Since the CPI[M] was in alliance with Viswanath Pratap Singh's National Front, hence the outcry of the unholy alliance between the Congress[I] and the BJP. Before hardly a year passed by, since then, the CPI[M] had decided to enter into an alliance with the Congress. Hence, the necessity of change of political stance, posing communalism as the main danger so as to make the people forget the old story of their political stand to suit their present right about-turn in the narrow parliamentary interest. And waxing eloquent with these slogans on the theme just quoted above, the CPI[M] has provided all-out support to the Congress[I] candidate in the Presidential poll. If, on the other hand, they decide tomorrow to enter into an alliance with the BJP to cash in on parliamentary dividends—the way they did in Haryana Assembly polls or continued to enjoy the Calcutta Municipal Corporation Board with the indirect support of the BJP, or went whole hog with tacit understanding with the National Front and the BJP as against the Congress[I] in

(Contd. on page 3)

Congress(I) or BJP on Different Pleas

(Contd. from page 2)

the Ninth Lok Sabha polls—then the CPI[M] rending the air with slogans, 'Congress[I] autocracy', 'semi-fascist terror of Congress[I]', etc. won't hesitate to pull the rope of the BJP's marauding Rath! These are all specimens of the CPI[M]'s catchy opportunist lines pursued for long under the garb of strategy: Highlighting Nehru as progressive in the tussle for power and pelf between Nehru and Patel, branding Indira Gandhi as progressive against the Syndicate Congress, they have all through rescued from the impending peril the Congress, the most dependable political agent of the moribund Indian capitalist. They went so far as to raise the slogan, 'the rightists and the imperialists, the main danger' in tune with the preposterous policy of Indira Gandhi to anyhow stick to power during the black days of Emergency. The CPI[M] discovered progressiveness and forward-looking steps in the much hated 20-Point Programme of Indira Gandhi. In defence of their continued support to the Congress[I], Mr. Jyoti Basu writes: 'On the vital questions of national unity, the CPI[M] has not been wanting in offering cooperation to the Congress[I] governments, though it is another matter that these governments have thwarted such cooperation because of its narrow and sectarian outlook in dealing with such problems. The results of such a partisan Congress[I] stand are there for all to see—the continuous worsening of the problems in Punjab, Kashmir and elsewhere.' What an unhappy misfortune befell Jyoti Basu & Co! What a great saviour and a friend-in-need waits in the lurch among the 'Leftists'! Alas! the Congress could hardly see this because its 'narrow and sectarian outlook' blurs its vision! Along with it, neither did they realize the acute crisis in which Indian capitalism was enmeshed today as a result of which why all the servitor political agents of capitalism, especially the Congress, time and again, had to face grave crisis and splits, reducing itself to minority force at the Centre. And to cap it all, the CPI[M] yearns for the proper care and help of the Congress[I] so that it becomes incumbent on both of them to forge a grand alliance in order to grant a lease of life to the moribund Indian capitalism. But the Congress[I] is so ungrateful that it does not look back who is its real friend in need! The cat is out of the bag at last!

The undivided CPI, subsequently the CPI and the CPI(M), never lacked in picking up ploys to stand in defence of the Congress in its period of dangers. So also, throwing to the four winds the determined course of united Left and democratic movement, the only antidote to danger of communal virus, following

the past legacy of employing ploys to satisfy its petty parliamentary gains, the CPI (M) has now jumped upon to use the plank of 'danger of communalism' while making common cause with the Congress(I) to defend the candidature of Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma.

Mr. Basu went on further to write, "In the case of the elections of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the National Front rejected the Congress (I) offer of Deputy Speakership and decided to contest the post of the Speaker. The Left went along with this decision. This resulted in the Congress (I) and the BJP reaching an understanding, with the BJP getting the Deputy Speakership. We consider the tactics adopted in this case to be a mistake which helped the BJP. We did not want this mistake to be repeated. A Congress(I)-BJP understanding in any sphere is not in the interest of the country, (Ibid) Who can then protect the interest of the country, meaning the monopoly capitalists? Yes, the Congress(I)-CPI(M) alliance can. Again, this grand alliance on the other, is the sole guarantee of the CPI(M)-led Left Front Government remaining in power in West Bengal. The twin interest of defending the cause of Indian capitalist class vis-a-vis the urge and aspiration of leaving behind the BJP in the fray of all India politics, to be a de facto alternative to the Congress [I] and that of keeping full sway over the gaddi of West Bengal government guided the CPI [M] to repose its unconditional support in the Congress [I] candidate in the Presidential election.

When the CPI [M] took the decision of extending support to the Congress [I] candidate, possibility of nominating their own candidate or of any Left and democratic parties was no more there, as a result of which our party in its Central Committee meeting held on July 7 last, decided to abstain from voting in the Presidential election. For, to safeguard the cause of Leftism and in defence of people's interest, on no account can we support the Congress [I] candidate. Neither do we extend our support to the candidate sponsored by the rabid communalist BJP and the National Front, the defender of casteist politics.

An apt question may therefore arise as to why the CPI[M] did not abstain itself from voting? Mr. Jyoti Basu replied thus, "The argument to abstain was not even considered as it would have meant losing all political initiative." [Ibid] So the CPI [M] took up 'political initiative' in their own hands to ensure victory of the Congress [I] Presidential candidate.

Curiously enough, the very same CPI [M] conveniently became oblivious of pursuing this 'political initiative' when it was called upon to exercise vigorously by way of voting against the Narasimha Rao Government's out and out anti-people, pro-monopoly,

pro-MNC economic and industrial policy on the floor of Parliament. They preferred, instead, abstaining from voting thereby helping smooth passage of this ruinous policy of the Centre thanks to the line formulated by the PB as indicated by Jyoti Basu: '...to abstain...would have meant losing all political initiative...' [Ibid]

Their so-called 'political initiative', for all practical purposes, boils down to all support to anti-people Congress[I]-sponsored Presidential candidate to ensure his victory but to keep mum, rather walk out of the Parliament, to avoid embarrassment for abstention from voting thus ensuring smooth passage of the out and out reactionary anti-people economic and industrial policies of the Congress[I]. What a glaring manifestation of political bankruptcy of the CPI[M] in the guise of Leftist verbiage! The opportunist line of the CPI[M] becomes vivid in yet another point of Jyoti Basu when he writes, '...given the general feeling that a scheduled caste candidate in one of these positions will be fulfilling the aspirations of the socially most downtrodden sections, the Left Parties decided that they would support a scheduled caste candidate of suitable stature for Vice-Presidentship.' [Ibid] No doubt, nominating Dr. G.G. Swell as the Presidential candidate from the minority community is in keeping with Mr. V P Singh's known tactics of playing with casteist card. In a situation like this, fear of adverse reaction as well as isolation from amongst the backward communities for supporting the Congress[I] candidate instead of Dr. Swell, moved the CPI[M] to going for a scheduled caste candidate for Vice-Presidentship on casteist line with an eye to refurbish their electoral prospects. To safeguard the interest of the ruling class, needless to say, playing with casteist card is no less a dangerous potential than the spread of communal virus for driving a wedge in the unity and solidarity of oppressed toiling people. These two, in reality, reflect the two sides of the same anti-people disruptive politics. By virtue of their support to a scheduled caste candidate for Vice-Presidentship, the CPI[M], not only has aligned itself with disruptive casteist politics, but more than that, it has maligned the dignity of Leftism in its wake.

The pursuit of social democratic vile politics of overt and covert understanding with the Congress behind the facade of open anti-Congress verbiage is standing as a stumbling block towards developing true anti-Congress Left and democratic, mass movement in the country.

Throwing cold water on the extra-parliamentary mass movement vis-a-vis collusion with the Congress inside the Parliament is giving a fillip and encouragement, to the mischievous design of the Congress [I] to implement unopposed, the ruinous exit policy and anti-people economic and industrial policies; while on the other by

(Cont. on Page 4)

Disruption by CPI(M)-CPI in TN Jt. demonstration

Madras, 16 7 92 : The SUCI volunteers took the initiative to participate in the demonstration called by the National Front and Left Front parties in Madras on July 16, 1992 to protest against the ordinance promulgated on June 18, 1992 by the Tamilnadu government, after amending the Tamilnadu Open Places Prevention of Disfigurement Act, 1959. The ordinance prohibits the pasting of posters and wall writings on walls of private and public buildings or structures open to public view. Contravention of the ordinance would fetch punishment of imprisonment upto one year or a fine upto Rs. 5000 or both.

The DMK, Janata Dal, CPI and CPI(M) were the other participants in the large hour-long demonstration in front of the City Police Commissioner's Office. But the disruptionist and sectarian politics of the CPI(M) and CPI came to the fore when they did not allow our party speaker to address the gathering on the plea that SUCI was not a partner of either the National Front or the Left Front thus contravening the spirit of opposition unity.

People's resistance in Jaunpur village

Jaunpur (UP) 22. 7. 92 : In protest against the reign of terror and murder spree of Lalit Singh the Gram Pradhan of the village Haripur under Patti P.S. of Pratapgarh district of UP a protest meeting was held under the banner of Jan Kalyan Samiti under the presidentship of Thakur Ganesh Singh, most respected person of the area on 21st July last. It may be mentioned here that Lalit Singh unleashed a murderous assault on Mr. Harilal Pal, professor of Daudpur Inter College. Lalit Singh is such a notorious criminal that he changed the deeds of Sukhu Yadav of Amisarai village showing him deceased and the case was now sub judice in the court. The same Lalit Singh resorted to forgery regarding the lands of Gangadin Maurya and his neighbour Thakur Ganesh Singh of Haripur village.

Two years earlier Lalit Singh forcibly occupied the land of Professor Harilal Pal but the villagers in a body re-occupied it. This incident enraged Lalit Singh and he retaliated when he and his accomplices got Ramraj alone, who was in the forefront of resistance against Lalit Singh, and assaulted him severely and left him unconscious. The local police in spite of FIR did not take any step. Hence the protest meeting on 21st July last. Those who addressed the gathering were Sri V N Singh, Vice President All India Krishak O Khet Majoor Sangathan, Sri Dinesh Kant Dubey, Advocate, Jt. Convenor, Jan Kalyan Samiti, Sri Mahanaran Upadhyay, noted person of Bhagwanpur village, Sri Ramyash Maurya,

Protest movements in Haryana

Rohtak : The Haryana State Organising Committee of the SUCI organised protest movements against the increase in power tariff in the state. On 6th July the Rohtak District Unit of our party organised dharna and demonstration before the D.C. office of Rohtak. A similar dharna was organised by the SUCI city unit Rohtak on 29th June for proper supply of drinking water and solution of other civic problems.

The AIKKMS also held a dharna at Ateli power house in the district of Mahendragarh on 17th July last.

At Sonapat a joint demonstration and dharna was organised on 3rd July last by the district units of the SUCI, CPI, CPM and Janata Dal at the District Collectorate on the same issue.

Victory

A 24-hour round the clock dharna was organised by "Struggle Committee Against Wine" at Dharampur village in the district of Gurgaon against wine shop, the DYO & Arya Samaj being partners. The women folk joined in this dharna and forcibly locked the shop. The police later resorted to heavy lathi charge. After that the women took out a black flag march at Gurgaon and ultimately the government was forced to close the shop as per the demand of the people. It may be mentioned here that similar victory was achieved by the MSS, Kurukshetra unit at Kamoda village previously.

Condolence Meeting

The memorial meeting to condole the death of our two young comrades—Madan Lal and Sarvan Kumar—was held in Sarsa village of Kurukshetra on 1st July. Comrade Balwant Singh, convenor of the Haryana state organising committee attended the meeting.

WE REGRET

We express our deepest regret as we failed to bring out the *Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Issue* of the *Proletarian Era* on 5th August.

We are striving to publish it as early as possible.—Editor, Proletarian Era.

CORRIGENDUM

We regret the printing errors crept in the report of 'International Marxist Convention', London and a write-up on 'Tin Bigha' in the P. Era dated 17th July last.—Ed. P, Era.

renowned social worker and Sri Veer Singh, student leader of Lucknow University.

Revolutionary songs were presented by Benoy Kumar Dubey, student leader, Bechan Ali, renowned social worker and Gram Pradhan, and Trilokinath Upadhyay, a social worker. Braving heavy rain the people of the villages made the meeting a grand success by their attendance.

Presidential Election

(Contd. from page 3)

maligning and degenerating the dignity of Leftism, the CPI(M) is paving the way for the emergence of rabid communal and fundamentalist forces including the BJP.

Let dedicated workers-supporters of the CPI(M) and the left-oriented people at large pause, ponder and deeply realise the significance of the repeated call of our party for joining us in our consistent efforts to develop powerful Left and democratic mass movement as the anti-dote to the anti-people reactionary policies of the Congress [I] and dangerous development of communalist forces including the BJP and others. Because, on gaining strength of the course of mass struggle depends the emergence of people's alternative political line. And this is the only guarantee of safeguarding people's interest and the only ray of hope before them.

March to promote communal harmony

Eminent citizens of Ahmedabad took out a rally from Indulal Yagnik's statue at Roopali to Mahatma Gandhi's statue on July 9 last in support of communal harmony. At the end of the march, a meeting was held in which the speakers condemned the communal frenzy and demanded judicial enquiry into the incidents of riots. Well known litterateur, Yashwant Shukla, Prof Waries Alvi, Prof Abid Shamsi and others expressed concern at the recent disturbance in the city and urged for communal peace and unity.

The participants in the peace march included Mr Hashmukh Boradi, Ms Nandini Joshi, Prof Jitendra Dholakia, Dwarikanath Rath and Vismay Shah.

Kerala SUCI's appeal to people

Cochin, 22.7.92 : Severely condemning the BJP-VHP-RSS combine for creating communal tension and violence in its attempt to create a countrywide communal atmosphere in support of its unlawful construction in the disputed site in Ayodhya, as well as strongly criticising the total inaction of the Congress(I)-led state government in the face of a communal violence in the state, the Kerala State Committee, SUCI appealed to all sections of the toiling people to remain firmly united in spite of provocations created by the communal forces and demanded of the government to bring to book the culprits responsible for such communal violence that claimed six lives.

The SUCI appeals to the people to develop democratic movements, the only guarantee to safeguard the life and property of the people, particularly of minority community.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : COMRADE NIHAR MUKHERJEE

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