

# Anti-Imperialist Convention Heralds A New Chapter Of Struggle

As the sun dawns upon the sprawling metropolis of Calcutta on 14th November, it heralds a fine autumn day. But it is not to be just another autumn day, for the date marks the opening of the four day long Anti-Imperialist Convention (A.I.C.) organized by the AIC All India Preparatory Committee. The Open Session of the convention is due to begin at the Saheed Minar Maidan at 3 in the afternoon. The first organized protest movement in the country against the current onslaught on the people by the imperialists in collusion with Indian monopoly capitalists through the so-called new economic policy, globalization and privatization of the Indian economy, is on the way. It would be a red letter day in the annals of anti-imperialist struggle in the country.

As the noon approaches, the whole Maidan is a scene of bustling activity. Finishing touches being put with the giant rostrum, swamps of volunteers rushing about arranging things, medical booths being set up, decorated book-stall being put up stocked with anti-imperialist literatures and Marxist classics.

Noon time passed. People start streaming into

the Maidan from north, from south, from east, from west in colourful decorated disciplined processions that seem to be endless. People from all walks of life. The old who walked with difficulty, the middle-aged, the youth, the students and the children and even women with babies in arms. People from all districts, in fact all corners of West Bengal. The pre-occupation with harvesting, the untimely monsoon could not deter them. They have started to assemble in Calcutta, coming in thousands, one day in advance, that is, from the morning of 13th. Braving the difficulties in putting up in Calcutta for night, here they come — determination writ large on their faces. The left oriented groups and circles of Calcutta have been stirred by the occasion. Many belonging to these have come deeply interested. There are very large contingents from the adjoining states of Bihar and Orissa. And squads from almost all other states of the country: Assam, UP, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat, MP, AP, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Processionists carrying poster-placards, flowing banners, raising slogans. Some processions headed by Tableaus of anti-imperialist

motive—one showing the octopus of imperialism trying to spread tentacles over the globe, another displaying white dove of peace reigning supreme atop the globe. While marching with firm steps towards the Saheed Minar Maidan, with determination sweeping away tiredness from their faces, they have inspired the onlookers thronging the long routes, eliciting comments like: "Who are they, so disciplined and determined?" And "Instead of East India Company, we have now to resist the combined strength of Indian monopolists and so-many multinationals. Surely we need more and more such people."

Well before the start of the Open Session, the whole Maidan is jampacked. Processions that still continuing to come are advised over the microphone to stop outside and sit down in the areas surrounding the maidan. The rostrum, bedecked with red cloth signifying sacrifice and martyrdom, glistens in the slanting rays of sun. The whole Maidan and its surroundings appear to be one unbroken mass of humanity. Office bearers of the Preparatory Committee, beloved Comrade Nihar Mukherjee and guest

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## Genocide in Sri Lanka Condemned

Strongly condemning bombing by Sri Lankan air force in Jaffna, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in course of a statement issued on 29.11.95 said:

"We strongly condemn the unprecedented and barbaric killing of innocent people in Sri Lanka perpetrated by the Sri Lankan army offensives including bombing by Air

force. Besides genocide, thousands of Tamil people have been forced to flee their houses and subjected to extreme hardship, disease, hunger and left without any medical or humanitarian relief.

"We demand of the Sri Lankan government to stop this massacre immediately and settle the problem politically without attaching any precondition."

delegates from abroad get seated on the rostrum. Their appearance is greeted with thunderous applause.

Slogans and rousing songs in Bengali, Hindi and English flow out of the public address system. The Open Session begins. Strains of the opening song "We

shall overcome ..." fill the whole arena, generating profound emotion. The huge gathering realizes the historic significance of the occasion. A great expectancy pervades the air.

Shri V.R. Krishna Iyer, former Justice of the Supreme Court, presides

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A part of the dais of the opening session of the Convention : (From left) Wil van der Klift, Pedro Noel Carrillo Alfonso, John Bridge, M. Haider Chowdhury, Arman Arani, Manik Mukherjee, Dr. Sushil Kumar Mukherjee, Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer, Nihar Mukherjee, Maniklal Srestha

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over the Open Session. Dr. Sushil Kumar Mukherjee, former Vice-chancellor, Calcutta University, conducts the proceedings. After the introductory speech by Dr. Mukherjee, a resolution condemning the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa, the poet and Human Rights activist and eight others in Nigeria by dictatorship there, is read out and unanimously adopted by the huge gathering. Squads of young communists of the KOMSOMOL then marched past the rostrum carrying colourful placards and banners welcoming the foreign delegates and against

## Anti-Imperialist Convention

imperialism, armament stockpiling and starvation imposed by the imperialist-capitalists: "Stop war", "Down with capitalism-imperialism", "Save humanity from imperialist attack", "Stop child labour", "No more war. Resist imperialism. We want peace." A squad carries a very appealing anti-imperialist picture. The last squad carries the tableau showing the victorious dove of peace on the globe. The delegates from abroad are visibly moved with emotion.

On being invited by Dr Mukherjee, the speakers

addressed the mass rally one by one: Prof. A.P. Barychev from Russia, Comrade Pedro Noel Carrillo Alfonso from Cuba, Comrade Michael Opperskalski from Germany, Comrade Lena de Schepper from Belgium, Comrade Wil van der Klift from the Netherlands, Comrade Haci Bozkurt from Turkey, Comrade Arman Arani from Iran, Comrade Selma Yeter from North Kurdistan, Turkey, Comrade Kinkela Vi Kencey from Zaire, Comrade John Bridge from the UK, Comrade Kabir Chowdhury from Bangladesh, Comrade

Khalequzzaman, also from Bangladesh, Comrade Manicklal Shrestha from Nepal, Shri V. Gopala-krishnaya, a nonagenarian freedom fighter from Andhra Pradesh and lastly, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee. The speakers speak with sincerity and emotion. They passionately exhort the people to foil imperialist machinations by developing broad-based struggle against imperialism from country to country, to work for worldwide solidarity against imperialism. Bengali translations of speeches by many of the

delegates are read out. Messages are then read out from Iraq regretting inability to send delegates due to visa restriction. The Messages are translated in Hindi.

Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer delivers the presidential address, analytical and yet rousing.

The Open Session draws to an end. Slogans rend the sky of the balmy autumn evening as the assembled multitude start dispersing, the strains of "We shall overcome ..." still haunting them. The day ends, but the present phase of anti-imperialist struggle in India has only begun. People leave with a new sense of purpose, a new determination

# Build Worldwide Militant Anti-Imperialist Movement — Comrade Nihar Mukherjee



At the call of the Preparatory Committee of the Anti-Imperialist Convention brother delegates from several countries abroad and from different corners of this vast land have come to attend the Open Session here today. I should acknowledge in the first place that without the unstinted help and cooperation extended by the common people of this land — workers, agricultural workers, landless peasants, middle class and all other sections of the toiling multitude — holding this convention would not have been possible. It is under inspiration of the long tradition of anti-imperialist struggle in this country that they have come forward to wholeheartedly help the Preparatory Committee and made the convention a success.

With the collapse of the socialist camp, imperialism, in particular the US imperialism, has been nakedly launching attacks on one country after another across the world. For thirty long years it has kept Cuba

under economic blockade. It is bullying the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It has sought to raze Iraq to dust with unprecedented savagery.

Brother delegates, who spoke here from experience of struggles in their own countries against both the bourgeois rulers and imperialism gave us valuable accounts of the bloody course of their struggles to enrich knowledge not only of us who are here but also of the people of our country. We have among us today Comrades, who are themselves activists in the bloody struggles in their own countries. In my consideration, this convention will go down as the historic beginning of the struggle to develop a worldwide mighty movement against imperialism.

It is a first step. Next year an anti-imperialist international meet will take place in Brussels in Belgium in the month of May. Many comrades who could not make it to Calcutta for different reasons are expected to attend the Brussels Meet. We are rallying not merely to attend conventions or meets and to resist our protests against the imperialist machinations and onslaughts, we are rallying to build up a militant peace movement in course of

conducting anti-imperialist struggles, one which will be conducive to the liberation and emancipation struggles in every country round the world against the respective capitalist rulers, against imperialism, for liberation and emancipation. We must not flinch from this basic objective.

A new world will emerge, overthrowing capitalism-imperialism in all the countries. It is no fanciful idea of ours. Students of social science know that the present setback of socialism is but temporary. History reveals that the present capitalist imperialist stage which society has reached through change and successive social revolutions from the primitive communist society is not the ultimate. We should realize, too, this debacle is not merely due to capitalist-imperialist machinations and attacks from outside. It is primarily due to attacks by revisionism and neo-revisionism from within.

I should also emphasize that while we shall be fighting the capitalist rulers in our respective countries, we shall try at the same time to remove all confusion creating obstacles in the struggle against imperialism. We should make people aware, especially in the relatively backward

countries like India, of the naked attacks now being launched by the imperialist powers, especially the US imperialists, who availed of the opportunity created by the collapse of the socialist camp. In the course, we should try to make people realize the heinous design and monstrous character of imperialism. In connivance with the imperialist powers, the capitalist rulers, as in India, are taking recourse to economic liberalization and globalization in a bid to extend the lease of life of moribund capitalism. In India, for example, the capitalist rulers are acting as junior partners of the big imperialist powers to secure a share in the global market to the extent possible. So, we should realize, we cannot hope to build a struggle against imperialism on a firm base, let alone lead it, to a successful culmination, without fighting the capitalist rulers in our respective countries.

It cannot escape our notice that whatever palliative measures the capitalist-imperialists may take, the crisis of capitalism will not stop rocking them. Even the economy of the mighty US is tottering. It will be seen, too, that the capitalist rulers in every capitalist country are scuttling welfare measures

for people and robbing people of their democratic rights. Their vicious attack comes in every sphere — economic, political, social, cultural, educational — in particular on the moral fabric of society. With the whole array of media in command, they are out to vitiate the entire ethos and dehumanize man lest human spirit should rise in revolt against their conspiracy.

But with all this the capitalist-imperialists are not able to overcome their all-out crisis they are enmeshed in. They are trying to find a way out. They have now engineered the GATT '94, an arrangement of managed trade, in a bid to avoid the avoidable irritations in trade and commerce, control and regulate the perennial crisis in the world capitalist system, foster an understanding among themselves for division and re-division of the world market, and force the developing countries to open up their markets to the multinational corporations. But this crisis management bid can at best be temporarily effective. Peter Sutherland, the GATT Director General, had himself to admit that the GATT was not the end of the road, but the beginning of a trade war. With the contradiction among the

## Build Militant Peace Movement Conducive To Liberation Struggles

imperialist powers over sharing and capturing the world market sharpening fast, this trade war can very well turn, under suitable conditions, into a real hot war. Whether or not imperialism can engender another world war, so long as it exists, it will go on engineering local and partial wars and war psychosis.

We should remember, monopoly capital gave birth to finance capital and financial oligarchy through merger of industrial and banking capital. It is the export of finance capital, as one distinct from export of commodities in the earlier stages of capitalism, which

distinguishes imperialism. This basic feature of imperialism has to be kept in view in order for the imperialist menace to be understood and fought out. By exploiting the cheap labour and natural resources of the developing countries, imperialism has pushed people of these countries to the brink of a total disaster. To save mankind and civilization from this catastrophe you must organize and conduct anti-imperialist struggles side by side with the liberation and emancipation struggles in all capitalist countries the world round. The imperialists wield lethal

arms, but that will not decide the fate of this struggle—not even their nuclear armament. Their terrible army of mass destruction is not the last word.

We shall have to combat imperialism by organizing mighty broad-based struggles with conscious social, political, economic and cultural objectives. We shall have to rally all democracy-loving, freedom-loving and peace-loving people on this platform, not only to voice our protests but more so, to organize worldwide mighty resistance movements, giving birth in its wake to a militant peace-movement — one

conducive to the liberation and emancipation struggles of people all over the world. On this depends how long this moribund capitalism-imperialism, whatever its recourse to secure a fresh lease of life, will be able to survive. Side by side, we shall have to go through several more rounds of conventions and international meets to exchange our experiences and views and sort out our ideological differences. This is the historic and objective course out of which the platform of worldwide mighty anti-imperialist movement and militant peace movement will grow and develop. Should we accomplish this task before long, it will act as a deterrent to the imperialist war machinations; and if they

will unleash a war they will be only digging their grave.

As I said, capitalism-imperialism is not the ultimate reality. The road of history lies through the transitional socialist stage and leads to communism, where mankind will have emancipation from exploitation, oppression and discrimination of all forms, in opening up the door to all round progress and development through struggle with nature. To that end, we shall have to conduct our liberation struggles, our anti-imperialist struggles,

I would appeal to you to organize the anti-imperialist struggle with irresistible might. Build a militant peace movement across the world. Rally people to unleash a tide of liberation struggles the world round.

## World Hunger has Become The Big Business of Multinational Corporations — Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer



Friends and Comrades,

I would like to declare from this Saheed Minar that the beginning of the end of world imperialism is demonstrated by this gathering. We give notice to imperialism to count its days, we will resist and we will fight back. If somebody asks the question, "the Soviet Union has collapsed and therefore socialism has collapsed", I would say, this audience of hundred thousand people perhaps declare that socialism is very much alive. If you again ask me whether imperialism has a future, I like to point out that your presence itself proves that imperialism is on its decline. It is well that this Anti-imperialist Convention is held in Calcutta, which was once the imperial capital of British empire in India. A second opportunity arises for Calcutta and India to tell world imperialism to quit. I am not speaking only of India now; I am speaking of

the entire world, because American multinationals want imperialist order, a new world slavery order, a new world dominant order and more than all, a new unitary military control order. Now that the Soviet Union has collapsed — but it is coming back, coming back strong and refined, and there is no doubt whatsoever, and the Americans know that very well. But then that unitary superpower militarily controlled the world including the developed nations like Japan, Germany, Britain, etc., which are only playing the underdog role of the United States because it has all the nuclear bombs concentrated in its hands. The US is asking for nuclear non-proliferation treaty. But is it willing to destroy one nuclear bomb? The US is asking, preaching to other people not to make nuclear bombs. This is only to ensure monopoly on nuclear bombs by the US. While the US is having a monopoly on nuclear bombs, it is asking others to sign nuclear non-proliferation treaty and it is the biggest global hoax in this century!

So, in fact it is the military power, the military nuclear power of America, which is used for the domination of the world. Therefore, the first demand

we shall make is that there must not be any nuclear power at all, and the US must be the first to set an example by putting the nuclear bombs in its possession in the Pacific Ocean or in the Atlantic Ocean.

The second point that I like to mention is the slavery in the world, which the US has created. The multinational corporations want only maximum profit. Whatever happens to the rest of the world it does not matter. They do not mind even the American people suffering.

There are betrayers in this country who are going after the Kentucky Chicken, and consumerism. Look at the little children in the streets, they have no clothes to wear, they have no right to smile, they have no food, they are miserable, their mothers are wretched. Now this is typical of the whole of mankind in its destitute sectors. You see there is the affluent sector, and there is also the poverty line. There are people still below that, the destitution line. Half of mankind belongs to that category. World hunger has become the big business of multinational corporations. Why does it happen that there is a destitution sector? Why does it happen that big business is exploiting the

world hunger? Because, we are not resisting them. And they are talking of social clause! What a paradox! They are talking of social clause that is, our children should not work. It is right that child labour must be objected to. But I ask the American Government — have you cared to sign the International Covenant of Social, Economic and Cultural Rights? In 1966 the UN, but the US has not signed till now the Social Covenant, and it is asking the other people about social clause. What I would like you to remember is that the multinational corporations are trying to impose conditions on others — the weaker sections of the world to make more profit. They want to squeeze you. They want cheap labour, and for that they are trying to come to third world countries. And they are coming to third world countries when the American labourers are crying, 'we are here, we are hungry, you are going outside!' What a contradiction! ... Not the common people of the North, not the common American people get any benefit, they are also suffering. And look at the world. Eighty million children are labouring in this country! What a horror! And

why should they? Only because of exploitation.

Even the Government of India has itself said that 20 million children are forced to work against their will. What a shame! What a shame! And all of us are speaking of good terms with America and the multinational corporations coming into this country are welcomed! What a pity! Slaves are hugging their chains. The one decision that we must take here is that we shall break the chain — we shall struggle to break the chain, at this anti-imperialist movement started today.

The anti-imperialist movement must have a purpose. All of us, whatever our interest, whatever our occupation and profession, if we realize that imperialism is crushing life, we must unite to resist it.

My complaint is that all over the world they are promoting consumerism to capture that market. They will not build India's basic industries. And we have got in this country a class of people who are willing to associate themselves with multinational corporations to devalue the Indian people themselves. They are called Judases, betrayers of the people. Similarly we have quislings. American

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# Speeches at the Open Session by delegates from abroad

**Prof. A. P. Barychev  
Russia**



Prof. Alexander Barychev from Russia observed that the anti-imperialist convention was a manifestly worthwhile endeavour at the current world situation, which would give real stimulus to thought, imagination and action.

Recalling the history of imperialism Prof. Barychev pointed out imperialism's close relationship with fascism, militarism, neo-colonialism, the two world wars, nuclear holocaust and the deadly arms race imposed on mankind. Prof. Barychev observed that today nothing was more essential than to create a worldwide front of struggle against imperialism and the threat of unleashing a new war for durable peace and progress.

Prof. Barychev appreciated the Draft Declaration of the convention as an excellent document which fully corresponded to the tasks of fighting imperialism and setting up of a militant worldwide peace movement with a concrete programme of action. He said that shelling of Russian parliament and the monstrous war in Chechnia had fully unmasked the Yeltsin regime and expressed satisfaction for the unstinted solidarity to the struggling people of his country. He called for giving guarantee to the inalienable rights of the people for self-determination and for free choice in choosing a social order according to their own aspiration.

Continuing, Prof. Barychev demanded the lifting of imperialists,

sanctions against Yugoslavia, Cuba, Iraq and Libya and resolutely condemned the policy of imperialism, particularly the US imperialism in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. He called for an immediate stoppage to the war in the Balkans, the dissolution of all military blocs and liquidation of all means of mass destruction.

Concluding, Prof. Barychev said that it should be reaffirmed that only unity of action of peoples of all continents could stop imperialist and neo-colonialist expansion, curb the warmongers and ensure peace on our planet.

**Comrade Schepper  
Belgium**



Comrade Lena de Schepper from Workers Party of Belgium drew attention to the fact that even though Belgium was a small country with only 10 million inhabitants, its ruling class had nonetheless a history of cruel colonial domination over Zaire, Rwanda and Burundi, and was continuing to exploit these countries by other means after their attainment of so-called independence in 1960.

Exposing the role of the Belgian imperialists in Rwanda she pointed out how the Belgian imperialists during colonial rule had conspired to divide the oppressed people along ethnic line and instigate massacre along that line. After independence Belgian capitalists bribed leaders of the Hutu group, that had been installed in power in order to get their full collaboration

with Belgian imperialism and to secure further imperialist exploitation of the country. During the seventies and the eighties the Hutu ruling class organised ethnic clashes to divide and to weaken the Rwandan people. From the end of 1993 the racist Hutu leaders planned a genocide against Tutsi people and moderate Hutu people. Comrade Lena de Schepper pointed out that "Belgian military were at that moment present in Rwanda as a part of the United Nation's so-called peace keeping force. But, she added, even though the Belgian Secret Service was fully in the know of these plans and informed the Belgian government and the United Nations, "everyone remained silent about the approaching murders. French soldiers even gave military training to the racist Hutu militias who were preparing the genocide." They massacred Tutsi people and even Hutu people who refused to collaborate with the racist Hutus." The United Nations' so-called peace keeping forces were the spectators of this genocide.

"This genocide is an example of the 'New World Order', she stressed. "By all means of ethnic and religious hatred the ruling classes try to divert peoples' attention from their main oppressors—the sole cause of their misery, mainly capitalism and imperialism. Instead of fighting capitalism and imperialism people fight each other and increase still more their misery." She concluded with a call to unite in anti-imperialist movement.

**Com. M. Opperskalski  
Germany**



Comrade Michael Opperskalski from Germany

drew attention to the increasingly sharpening political, economic and military competition between and contradictions among the main imperialist powers after the counter-revolution in former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. "The consequence of this is a new neo-colonial division of the world, especially the so-called Third World and the former socialist countries of Eastern Europe. Europe is confronted by a reinforced and increasingly aggressive German imperialism. The strengthening of extremely reactionary, nationalist, chauvinist and even fascist forces and tendencies is a concrete expression of this development, representing moreover a growing danger for the democratic, revolutionary and communist forces in Europe," he said.

Highlighting the main characteristics of the so-called 'New World Order' Michael Opperskalski pointed to the increasing danger of war in all corners of the globe, increasing exploitation of the people everywhere. With devastating effects especially in the so-called third world and former socialist countries as well as attacks by various means on pro-socialist forces and every form of anti-imperialist and democratic resistance. He concluded:

"Since socialism in Eastern Europe, especially the former Soviet Union, has been destroyed by counter-revolution, imperialism — and US imperialism in particular — is developing without limits like a monster threatening the whole world with barbarism, exploitation, fascism and war.

"I would therefore like to finish quoting the revolutionary hero, Comrade Ernesto Che Guevara:

"... This is the hour when we must let our differences retreat into the background and put everything we have at the service of the struggle.

And if we were capable of uniting so that we could deal our blows more firmly

and more precisely, in order to give the struggling peoples every kind of help even more effectively, how great would the future then be..."

**Com. Pedro Alfonso  
CUBA**



Comrade Pedro N. C. Alfonso from Cuba said because the Cuban people had chosen a socialist system more than 35 years ago, to have real democracy and justice they were being punished by the strongest imperialist power of the world, the USA by means of a criminal blockade. They were trying to use the weapon of hunger in order to change the democratic will of Cuban people. He emphasized: "Our strategy is to resist the US imperialists and to save our revolution. ..."

Cuban people, he said, among others, knew that socialism alone could provide a high and free level of health care and education for every member of society, and that only with socialist revolution they had been able to experience and taste real democracy and the meaning of the real people's power.

Pointing to the imperialist onslaught against people, he said: "Capitalism has shown that it is not able to solve any problem for humanity and can't be an alternative of the working class of the world. In this regard we know very well the value of the international solidarity among the revolutionary people who fight against imperialism. We believe in the need of the anti-imperialist struggle and because of that we are here to learn from the different

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# Imperialism in a new garb poses greater menace to mankind

—Prof. Sushil Kumar Mukherjee



to mankind. Earlier, imperialism meant colonial rule and exploitation by military might. Today, its recourse is economic domination, that is rule of finance capital. This convention will seek ways to free ourselves from the shackles of imperialism.

On behalf of the Preparatory Committee and on my own behalf I welcome all who have travelled from abroad and from different corners of this land to attend the Open Session of the Anti-Imperialist Convention.

We are anxious to hear your views on the issue which is a matter of grave concern for all of us. This convention will deliberate for the coming 3 days on this issue and will try to dispel the confusion which clouds it.

Imperialism, in a new garb today, is different from its old way of functioning, but poses a greater menace

The US is the bulwark of this neo-imperialism. Germany, Japan, France, UK, the Netherlands, etc., are its imperialist allies. They have interests in common but have also conflicts among them. We are apprehensive that the trade war to capture the market may very well erupt into a hot war. It is the common man who suffers most in conflict and war. This convention will decide its programme of action, keeping in view the interest of the common man.

Money wields the greatest power today and this

money comes from the industries. Industrial development and diversification are today dominated to a large extent by science and technology. Science, to which mankind owes so much, has also produced lethal weapons of war. These are the twin aspects of science. So, all who pursue science also own the responsibility of raising their voice against the murderous face of neo-colonialism which appropriates science and technology for its monstrous preparations.

Neo-colonialism has a common pattern in every country—it gives loans and insists not on repayment of the principal but on payment of the interest. To the poor, underdeveloped countries, the imperialist powers hold out hopes of development, but sap them of whatever

wealth they have in the end. We have assembled here to launch a struggle against this neo-imperialist design. The convention is aimed at deciding a course of action to that end.

The industrially advanced countries have made the poor, underdeveloped countries virtually a backyard for the dumping of wastes and scraps. They then provide expertise in the name of developing these wastes into usable products. But nothing happens in the end. The World Bank, the IMF and many of the multinational corporations are engaged in these operations. Their design is clear, they have unmasked themselves, but we must note that they are powerful forces in the guise of friends. So, to fight against them we must close our ranks and sink petty

differences, because the issue is a mighty one. You must not lack in unity, to the extent we need it. Our task is to build a united struggle.

I wish every success to this convention, believing as I do that we will find our way out. If we succeed in adopting the right course we will be in a position to successfully put up our struggle against neo-colonialism. Cuba is the glorious example before us of how to combat US imperialism. On behalf of this convention let us extend our heartfelt greetings to the Cuban people. We cannot also forget how the US launched a savage attack on Iraq and assaulted Libya. That imperialist monster is trying to take the whole world into its grip with its sucker arms. I am fortified in my belief that we must win. We shall overcome.



A section of the mammoth gathering at Saheed Minar Maidan, Calcutta at the Open Session, Anti-Imperialist Convention on 14-11-95

# Speeches at the Open Session by delegates from abroad

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experiences of our comrades all around the world but specially to learn about you, about the experience of the revolutionary people of India."

## Com. Wil van der Klift The Netherlands



Expressing his heartfelt pride and happiness in joining this anti-imperialist convention, Comrade Wil van der Klift in his speech, inter alia, informed that though the standard of living in the Netherlands was comparatively much higher, the gap between the rich and the poor, between the capitalists and the working class in his country too, was sharply widening in recent time, particularly with the ever growing onslaughts of the capitalist-imperialists in the changed international situation. He pointed out that now-a-days imperialism was growing more international and global in character spreading its tentacles much deeper everywhere. Comrade Wil van der Klift expressed his deep concern particularly regarding the Yankee cultural invasion of imperialism. He said that the Yankee imperialists were 'controlling radio and TV all over the world. Their concocted news and rotten cultural programmes can be heard or viewed in the smallest villages of the world!' They are destroying the rich cultural heritage, the moral values of the people of his country and people of other countries too including that of India. He fervently urged to fight back this menace with all might.

Referring to the Indian new economic policy he said, "Here, in India they speak about a new economic and industrial policy. But the new in it is that imperialist forces are breaking open the national market. The last protection for their own economy and market is being

pulled down. More of such economics means more unemployment and poverty for the masses and only for a few rich still more profits.

Lastly, Comrade Wil van der Klift said, "I am highly impressed. We all know how difficult it is to organize such a big meeting. I think this is a grand success ... even as I have come from abroad, I am impressed by the organizing power of the communist party that took the initiative for holding this conference. I think having a communist party like the SUCI is not only important for the members but for the working class as a whole here in India. This anti-imperialist convention is not only important for the Indian working class, but the working classes across the globe. With this convention, we open a new chapter of international cooperation. The convention means a step towards international unity. Long Live International Working Class Solidarity!"

## Com. Haci Bozkurt Turkey



In his speech, Comrade Haci Bozkurt of DHKP-C, Turkey, said that currently, world imperialism led by the US, in the name of democracy, peace and a New World Order, was perpetrating savage onslaughts upon the people of many a country. With every passing day, they were committing fresh crimes against humanity and terrorizing people who demanded freedom, independence, equality and democracy, people who were fighting against imperialism and for a better world.

In many regions of the world, people were actively fighting imperialism. Armed struggle was going on in Kurdistan, Turkey against imperialism and bloody fascist dictatorship. The effort of the SUCI to bring

together anti-imperialist forces through the convention was very timely. The convention should deliberate to work out guidelines for this which could then be applied in concrete practice.

## Selma Yeter Turkey

### North Kurdistan

Addressing the gathering, Comrade Selma Yeter of Bolshevik Party of North Kurdistan, Turkey said that internationalization of capital had reached its highest level. World imperialist system was now pushing the majority of mankind to poverty and worst misery. Capitalist exploitation, national oppression, fascism, racism and male chauvinism were now rampant. So, the vital task of the hour was to unite the struggles of all the working and oppressed peoples against the highly organized international capital and world imperialism in order to smash the imperialist-capitalist system.

## Comrade Arman Arani Iran



In his speech Comrade Arman Arani of Rah-E-Kargar, Iran said that globalization had brought with it financial restructuring downsizing and cutting work force, redundancies, cuts in government expenditure in education and social provisions, increased flexibility in the work schemes which means short and part-time work with no security. Capital is using all these measures in order to avoid a general world economic crisis, to checkmate the power of the working class in the productive process and to keep wages at an absolute minimum. Workers everywhere are against all these measures and they are uniting to resist these onslaughts. Comrade Arani cited the strike struggle of

France, Turkey and India. He confirmed that the dismantling Breton Woods, the creation of IMF, the World Bank, the European Union, NAFTA, GATT, etc., were institutional arrangements created by capital to enslave workers everywhere. The only alternative is workers' unity for a revolutionary overthrow of the capitalist order and establishment of a truly democratic socialist workers' state.

## Com. K. Vi Kencey Zaire



Comrade Kinkela Vi Kencey from Patriotic Front, Zaire said that as continuator of Patrice Lumumba's work, the Patriotic Front was trying to bring about united anti-imperialist struggle. Unity was a must in order to crush the imperialist monsters. By destroying freedom, people's welfare and self respect and by shattering the cultural-moral backbone of the African peoples, the imperialists were trying to destroy them. But despite this, the peoples of Angola, Mozambique, Rhodesia, Namibia, South Africa, Congo, Kinsasa and Cameroon took up arms against the imperialists. Even after attainment of freedom, the imperialists have imposed neo-colonial exploitation on these countries in the name of providing technical assistance and aids and loans from the World Bank and the IMF and through backing up fascist puppet governments. The African people did not lack the spirit and courage to fight against this. What they needed was the expression of solidarity by and support of the democratic forces of the world.

Comrade Vi Kencey strongly condemned the ghastly genocide perpetrated

in Rwanda by the French imperialists killing over a million people, the imperialist blockades against Iraq and Libya and the recent French nuclear tests in the Pacific in utter disregard of world public opinion.

He concluded by reminding that death was not desirable, but to keep living while accepting imperialist oppression was equivalent to everyday death pang.

## Comrade John Bridge Great Britain



Comrade John Bridge of Great Britain observed: The British bourgeoisie has turned the British common people into a class of modern wage slaves who are compelled to labour in the new factories and work places ten, twelve, fourteen, sixteen hours a day and all for a pittance; they barely keep them and their families from the door of starvation and destitution. Our countries are separated by thousands of miles of geographical distance, we are joined by having the same capitalist exploiter

He appealed to the working people of this country to become master of their own destiny, to become master of the world, they must grasp the future with bold hands. Freedom lies not in defending the doomed past. We must move with the grain, move with the globalization of world exploitation in order to conquer capitalism and liberate humanity once and for all from the shackles of exploitation and want.

With voice choked with emotion he concluded his speech saying: Communism did not die with the collapse of Soviet Union. It was bureaucratic socialism and opportunism that collapsed. By daring to criticise our past, by daring to organize them on the highest level internationally we will win. The future belongs to us.

(Contd. on page 7)

# Historic Anti-Imperialist Convention

(Contd. from page 6)

**Prof Kabir Chowdhury  
Bangladesh**



Respected Chairman of this Open Session of the Anti-Imperialist Convention, distinguished delegates from India and abroad, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Let me convey to you all at the outset warmest greetings from the anti-imperialist forces of Bangladesh, specially from its writers, cultural workers, students and teachers. The people of Bangladesh know from their bitter and painful experiences what type of inhuman cruelty imperialism perpetrates, especially the US imperialism, which is the ugliest of all imperialisms. We vividly recall the days of our liberation war in 1971 when millions of civilian population and thousands of heroic freedom fighters laid down their lives for the liberation of Bangladesh. At that time, the US government acted as an ally of the autocratic genocidal Pakistani military junta and tried to thwart our freedom struggle by threatening to send its 7th Fleet in support of Pakistan against our freedom fighters.

At present, we find Bangladesh being systematically bled and exploited by imperialism, not in the old traditional manner, but in new forms, through the machinations of the IMF, the World Bank, the World Trade Organization and big Transnational Corporations. The imperialistic exploitation carried out by mass media through dissemination of motivated false information and the distortion of the rich indigenous culture by harmful alien mores are serious menaces which we must fight effectively.

**Com. Khalequzzaman  
Bangladesh**



Comrade Khalequzzaman observed that the imperialists were taking full advantage of the tilting of balance of power in world politics and were bringing in unhindered attacks in various ways.

Comrade Khalequzzaman recalled the prolonged exploitation of the poor people of the sub-continent by imperialism and the long tradition of anti-imperialist struggle of this sub-continent. He remembered the names of the martyrs of their uncompromising trend of the anti-imperialist struggle in this sub-continent.

Recalling the surge of anti-imperialist struggles in the whole world after the rise of the Soviet Union and inspired by Lenin, Comrade Khalequzzaman observed that the flames of inspiration was kept burning by Stalin afterwards and that was greatly undermined by the Khrushchev. Later, the counter revolution in the USSR through the policies of Gorbachev changed the balance of power in favour of the imperialists who were strangling each and every voice of protest against them.

The imperialists were degrading culture and increasing their neo-colonial exploitation manifold, Comrade Khalequzzaman said.

Commenting on the destitution of Bangladeshi people Comrade Khalequzzaman said that the GATT agreement had reduced the probable industrialization of Bangladesh to almost an impossibility. Moreover, the existing industries were being closed down and lakhs of workers were being

retrenched.

He said that though the Bangladesh market was flooded with imported goods including those from India the purchasing power of the people remained almost near a zero state. The devaluation of Taka had only made matters worse. To free themselves, the people of Bangladesh had to fight resolutely against imperialism and its partners inside the country.

He noted that the democratic, patriotic and freedom loving people of Bangladesh viewed with concern that the imperialist powers were not allowing Bangladesh to pursue even an independent capitalist path.

This pathetic condition of the people had made it incumbent upon the delegates from Bangladesh to attend this convention and to extend their hands of solidarity for a united anti-imperialist struggle.

**Comrade M. Shrestha  
Nepal**



Condemning imperialism as the greatest threat to world peace and progress of mankind, Prof. Shrestha observed that imperialism

would not abandon its oppressive nature until its death.

Prof. Shrestha observed that the US imperialism was the most barbarous and heinous of all in the modern age. He enumerated its misdeeds from the 50's in Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Cuba and condemned the US's role in obstructing the reunification of Korea and forcibly keeping Taiwan separated from China.

The new situation after the dismantling of socialism in former Soviet Union and east Europe had facilitated the US to play the role of international bully.

Commenting upon the particular experience of Nepal, Prof. Shrestha observed that Nepal was suffering from the semi-colonial subjugation and exploitation by the expansionism of Indian monopoly capital besides imperialist machinations.

As the crisis and contradiction within world imperialism grew it had adopted itself to a trend of general understanding, co-operation and unity among various capitalist imperialist powers. This had given rise to internationalization of capital which must be met by international solidarity and joint action of the anti-imperialist forces of the world including the working people within imperialist countries.

Prof. Shrestha closed his speech by calling for solidarity with the struggle of all peoples who are fighting against imperialist interference.

**Vavila  
Gopalakrishnaya,  
veteran freedom fighter,  
A.P.**



Vavila Gopalakrishnaya, the nonagenarian freedom fighter from Andhra Pradesh greeted the gathering in the name of ninety million Telegu people and martyrs like Alluri Sitarama Raju murdered by the British imperialist in the cause of the anti-imperialist struggle against the British.

Recalling the long history of imperialist exploitation of the people of the colonial countries Mr Gopalakrishnaya observed that in the new international situation after the end of the so-called cold war, the imperialists were waging two world wars simultaneously — one directed against the poor people of the less developed countries and one against socialism.

### Message

Comrade Fadhil M. Sharib, President, GFTU of Iraq conveyed the following message on 28.10.95 regretting their inability to attend the Anti-Imperialist Convention.

"We regret for being unable to attend due to  
(Contd. on page 8)



Peace March by KOMSOMOL at the beginning of the Open Session

## Battle against imperialism is basic humanism

(Contd. from page 3)

imperialism has many quislings in many of the countries including India. It is time, therefore, that we awaken to this great peril.

We see the consequence when anybody resists the US imperialists. Let us say, Iraq occupied Kuwait unjustly. But how does it justify the innocent civilian population of Iraq being wiped out. Do you know how many tens of thousands of people were killed, completely wiped out, and there was a call to charge Bush as war criminal by none other than Ramsey Clark, who was the one time Attorney General of the United States. The American imperialists are war criminals, they will perpetrate anything, anywhere, if it only serves the interest of the multinational corporations.

The G-7 countries do not want justice in economic order and want us to be starving. Our government is saying that inflation rate shows decline, but ask the housewives who will tell you how the prices are soaring. There are various ways which the common people do not understand, the mysterious methodologies adopted by the imperialists to see that people are kept impoverished. There is, however, a creamy layer of 20% people. But what about

the poor in a country like India. The same situation is in Dacca. According to the UNDP rating we are 134th out of 173 countries. Poor Bangladesh is worse, Pakistan is somewhere near them. South Asia is in great destitution and misery. There is no food or medicine in Iraq. Though Saddam has complied whatever was asked, even then America has not allowed the embargo to go. The situation is same

I would like to emphasize the point that this is an Anti-Imperialist Convention to fight imperialism, and so if you are against imperialism, which is instrumental in ethnic cleansing, communal battles or clashes, linguistic quarrels and making people fight each other, we must unite in this broad anti-imperialist front despite differences among ourselves on many other issues.

**If somebody asks the question : The Soviet Union has collapsed and therefore socialism has collapsed, I would say, this audience of hundred thousand people perhaps declare that socialism is very much alive.**

—Justice Iyer

for Iran, US is turning its third eye of Shiva against Iran. It has been trying to crucify Cuba for so many decades. All these years they are putting embargo upon Cuba. The Cuban people have a right to choose their government. But the Americans do not want that. There is a big conspiracy of all these imperialist powers with the multinational corporations enjoying their confidence, because they depend upon the multinational corporations even for their electoral success.

Let us fight to the last. So I say to the world—the oppressed world, the suppressed world, mankind, humanity, come together, the women, the women particularly, come together —men, women and children —the world humanity come together and fight back these imperialist powers, particularly the multinational corporations which are cannibalistic. To battle against them is our basic humanism, and if we do let down the people of this generation, we have played false to history. Therefore, I

say, you, Marxist or non-Marxist or even anti-imperialist—do you want imperialism to flourish or imperialism to fail? I say, imperialism must be crushed, and for that purpose let all join together. This international alliance must begin today from this significant hallowed place, the martyrs column. From here we shall march, march forward. Thank you.

## Message

(Contd. from page 7)

extreme difficulties arise as a result of the vicious economic embargo imposed by the oppressive imperialist US-led aggressive forces which denied our people the access even to food and medicine."

## Fishermen's movement in Nagpur

The fishermen and tribal people of Totaladoh of rural Nagpur are on the war path against the banning of fishing in Totaladoh lake of the so-called 'Pench National Park'.

As a first step of their struggle on 2nd October, 1995, they organized a civil disobedience movement by fishing in the lake.

The programme was led by Shyam Thakur (Advocate), Hari Aney (President, High Court Bar Association of Nagpur), Sunil Joshi, Comrade P.R. Harney, Benode Gajbhiye, Sarasha Aiyer (Advocate) and others.

On 7th October, 1995, a huge procession of fishermen and women, tribal people and peasants treaded the 2 km long stretch from Totaladoh to Paoni along Nagpur-Jabalpur highway defying barriers at several points.

On 29th October, a massive convention was held at Deolapur village which was addressed by Comrade P.R. Harney as the main speaker, Shyam Thakur and the convener of the "Adivasi Jan Van Andolan Samity" and was presided over by Comrade Ram Tike Taluka of CPI.

## SUCI expels Fatick Ghosh

The following resolution was adopted unanimously in the Central Committee meeting of the Socialist Unity Centre of India on 21st November, 1995 :

"For gross deviation from Marxism-Leninism

Shibdas Ghosh Thought, degeneration, flagrant violation of party discipline, taking recourse to utter falsehood and for anti-party activities, Shri Fatick Ghosh has been expelled from the party by the Central Committee."

## UTUC (Lenin Sarani) expels Fatick Ghosh

Comrade Tapas Dutta, General Secretary, UTUC (Lenin Sarani) issued the following statement on 19th November 1995 :

"For corrupt and unethical practices, gross violation of organizational decisions, discipline, norms, conduct and ethics, practice of keeping organization in the dark of his activities and movements, ego-centricism, individual style of functioning, hobnobbing with the employers and pro-employer activities as well as for acting contrary to the interest of working class movement and unity and

cohesion of the organisation and in view of the fact that he refused to rectify himself, the All India Working Committee of the United Trade Union Centre (Lenin Sarani) in its meeting held on 18th November, 1995, at its Central office, Calcutta, under the chairmanship of Comrade Prithvi Chanda, all India president of the organization, as per a resolution adopted in the said meeting, expelled Comrade Fatick Ghosh, one of its all India Secretaries and President of West Bengal State Committee from UTUC (Lenin Sarani), with immediate effect."



Police indiscriminately lathicharging SUCI volunteers who were protesting against soaring price rise and malaria epidemic before the Writers' Buildings, Calcutta on 27th November last. More than 100 comrades including women sustained severe injuries of whom most were arrested.

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