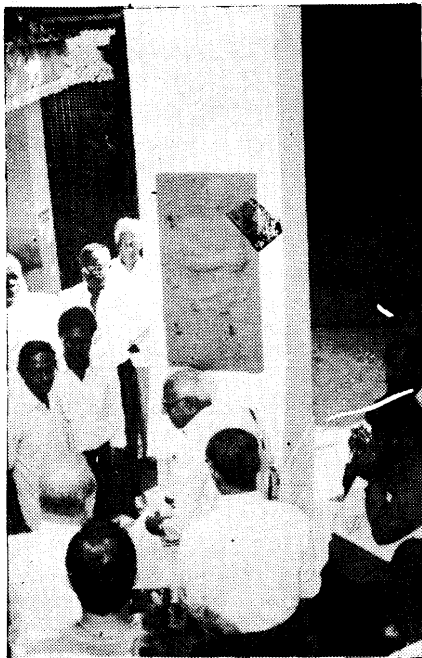


Delegate Session illumines The Path of Struggle

The call : "Save mankind and civilisation from imperialist menace", given by the Preparatory Committee of the Anti-Imperialist Convention, met with overwhelming response. Democratic and peace-loving people and eminent personalities not only from India but different countries, spanning several continents, came together to the Convention, determined to take up the struggle against imperialist menace. They came with the resolve to unite and to find out ways and means to conduct worldwide movement against imperialism. The inspiration, the tremendous enthusiasm and discipline that had gone into the making of this Anti-Imperialist Convention permeated the Open Session, that set hearts aglow and opened up a vision of emergence of a worldwide, militant peace movement, conducive to the struggles for emancipation of the toiling people of the world.

The Open Session set the tone for the three-day long Delegate Session where delegates from all corners of India and eleven other countries participated. So large was the number of delegates, that all of them couldn't be accommodated in the University Institute Hall, and separate arrangements were made for them to follow the proceedings by installing close circuit TV outside the Hall and in a pandal in the nearby park.

The Draft Declaration, outlining the international situation and ideological and organisational tasks, had been circulated among the delegates about a month back with the request for submitting amendments, if any, to the Draft within a specified period. Amendments as received from the delegates within the specified date were printed after scrutiny and circulated among all the delegates and observers. For three days the delegates deliberated on the portentous issues such as the international situation.



Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer garlanding martyrs' column on 15th November, 1995 inaugurating the Delegate Session of the Anti-Imperialist convention

The gravity of the danger of imperialist threat has to be understood against the backdrop of absence of socialist camp. In the new situation that has arisen with the dismantling of socialism in the former Soviet Union and East European countries, the aggressive and menacing attacks of the imperialists in various forms have increased manifold. Today the imperialist powers, headed by the USA, are looting the entire world with newer and newer methods of exploitation. Their old methods of direct colonial occupation have changed, and newer methods of attacks are even more ferocious and ruthless. They are using the IMF and World Bank with loans and interests as weapons to manoeuvre the weaker countries into the debt trap and through their multinationals they spread their tentacles deep and wide; even some GATT provisions and the issue of environment have become instruments in their hands to get complete domination over the concerned countries, grab their markets and squeeze them dry. While the people of the countries in the imperialists' awful deadly grip are plunged into unprecedented poverty and misery, imperialist dictates send the countries spinning into economic and political upheaval and disaster. Moreover, the imperialists, in order to obscure the issue before the people and divert their attention on the one hand and on the other to establish their hegemony and sustain their own militarized economy, foment and engineer fratricidal strifes and bloodbaths centring round religion, ethnicity, race, language, etc. The US imperialists, in particular, in their bid to impose their hegemony over the entire world do not shrink from committing whatsoever crime while hatching intrigues, engineering regional tensions and instability, in fomenting divisive forces and plunging whole regions into war and even militarily intervening on the plea of 'maintaining peace'.

But all this cannot resolve the crisis of capitalism-imperialism. On the contrary, capitalism-imperialism, not utilising the spectacular technological progress for the benefit of mankind, is today experiencing unprecedented global recession and unemployment and is plagued by ever deeper crisis and growing contradictions among the imperialist powers over

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SUCI on the tragic incident in Haryana

December 26, 1995 : The Central Committee of the SUCI expresses its deep sorrow at the tragic death of over 500 people including school children by fire in the Annual function of a school of Dabwali, Haryana and extends its profound sympathy to the bereaved families. At the same time, it demands a thorough probe to ascertain the cause of the fire and punish the guilty. It also urges the government to arrange for medical help to the injured and adequate compensations to the victims immediately and at the same time demands of the government to be truly vigilant so that such incident does not recur.

redivision and control world market. This makes the danger of possibility of a new world war real.

Yet the imperialist attack in the cultural field is still more dangerous, though more subtle. The imperialists in their attempt to dehumanize the populace, to induce consumerist mentality and build up public opinion in their favour, have resorted to unprecedented manipulation of propaganda and communication machinery by virtue of increasing control they exert over the service sector. Imperialist control over print and electronic media is leading to a situation which is eating into the very vitals of the ethical, moral and

(Contd. on page 2)



Dais of the Delegate Session of the Anti-Imperialist Convention at the University Institute Hall, Calcutta

Delegate Session of Anti-Imperialist Convention

(Contd. from page 1)

cultural fabric, destroying the essence of finer human qualities. This process of dehumanization is providing a fertile ground for emergence of fascism, apart from other political and economic factors breeding it.

Thus, today when imperialist menace is endangering peace, democracy, freedom, economic developments and security of nations and even destroying culture and sense of values, there is a crying need not only to forge worldwide unity for resisting this menace but to reach common understanding on this issue. The success of the Anti-Imperialist Convention can indeed be gauged from the fact that after three days of deliberations, after lively discussions, exchange of views, examination of earlier submitted amendments and amendments brought up on the floor of the house, unanimity was reached on this question. At the same time unanimity was reached on the common approach to be adopted in the attempt to give organized shape to the growing anti-imperialist sentiments of the people and build up mighty anti-imperialist people's movement all over the world through forming countrywise and regional anti-imperialist fora so as to thwart imperialist intrigues, interference and war machinations. The basic understanding being that unjust wars — wars of annexation and aggression — would be opposed.

In the process of the three-day long deliberations many a confusion and difference were successfully resolved. The Convention called upon the people of all countries to unite, irrespective of religion, caste, creed, colour and language and to launch mass movement against imperialist aggression. Apart from the analysis of international situation and approach and modalities to be adopted in building up of resistance movement, the delegates agreed upon ideological and organizational tasks ahead, resolving, among others, to try and create their own propaganda and communication machinery. The objective of such machinery would be to create revolutionary ideological-cultural movements all over the globe, to create public opinion in favour of socialism, peace, democracy and revolution and to combat and expose imperialist misinformation, illusions and designs.

The successful Convention sent a new ray of hope into worldwide gloom spread by imperialist aggression. It marked a new beginning; a turning point in the international situation obtaining now. It generated great enthusiasm and a deep sense of fraternity among the delegates who returned, strengthened in their resolve and determination to build up worldwide movement against imperialism.

Glimpses of Delegate Session

The 3-day long Delegate Session of the Anti-Imperialist Convention started at 10 AM on 15th November with the garlanding of the Martyr's column in front of the University Institute Hall, by Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer, the President of the Delegate Session. After the opening song "We shall overcome..." Prof. Sushil Kumar Mukherjee, General Secretary of the Preparatory Committee, read out condolence resolution on the demise of Srisu Ram Ekkundi,

eminent poet and litterateur of Karnataka and Mahendra Dev Barma, journalist of Tripura, members of the Preparatory Committee. The delegates observed one minute silence in memory of the departed members. Then Justice Iyer delivered his inspiring inaugural speech and Prof. Sushil Kumar Mukherjee placed the Draft Declaration before the House.

Messages received from GFTU (Iraq), MLCP (Turkey), Communist Party of Germany, Organization of Democratic Action (Palestine-Israel), Central Committee, AKP (Norway), Socialist Party of Australia, NDFP (Philippines) and individuals like veteran freedom fighter and educationist Prof. A. Sankarnarayanan of Tamil Nadu, Adel Samara of Palestine were read out.

A 6-member scrutiny committee was constituted to go through all the amendments on the Draft Declaration prior to the deliberations.

The deliberations were lively when large number of delegates including delegates from abroad participated during three day long session. The deliberations were rich in content and helped in arriving at a unified position in unanimously adopting the Draft Declaration with amendments.

a common platform and building up mighty resistance movements against imperialism.

All the delegates and Observers numbering 1286 and attending the Delegate Session could not be accommodated within the Hall and so special arrangement with close circuit TVs was made for them outside the Hall and also in the College Square, a nearby Park. A large number of public also gathered before the closed circuit TVs to watch the proceedings with keen interest.

The delegates who attended included K.P. Kosalarandas, the veteran trade union leader of Kerala, Marpu Balakrishnanna, teacher and a leading organizer of teachers' movement in Andhra Pradesh, Prof. G.Haragopal, educationist, Aminderpal Singh, educationist from Punjab, Dr J.N. Sen, Scientist and Prof. Sunanda Sanyal, educationist of West Bengal.

Some of the committee members and also some of those who became close to the Preparatory Committee at a later stage but who could not attend the convention because of some difficulties despite their eagerness and earnestness include Prof. H.G. Pant, educationist of Rajasthan, C.K.Garg, Lawyer of Rajasthan,



A view of the delegates of the Anti-Imperialist Convention within the University Institute Hall

Along with the delegates from abroad including those from Cuba, Belgium, Russia, Great Britain, Germany, The Netherlands, etc., those who spoke in support of the Draft included Vavilala Gopalakrishnaya, the nonagenarian freedom fighter from Andhra Pradesh, Yashwant Shukla, former Vice-Chancellor of Gujarat University, H.S. Doreswamy, the veteran freedom fighter from Karnataka, Prof. M.D. Misra, freedom fighter and educationist from Madhya Pradesh, Ajit Singh Bains, the former Justice of Punjab High Court and prominent Human Rights activist, P.A. Pouren, an eminent lawyer of Kerala.

The main Declaration urged for building up an international platform for waging worldwide militant peace movement, particularly against the monstrous attacks, hegemonism and war-mongering of imperialist forces. The main spirit voiced by the delegates was to thwart the acts of naked aggression, policy of hegemonism, conspiracy of war hatched by imperialists and neo-colonial attacks through unifying all democratic, peace-loving forces of the world on

Prof. K. G. Garg, educationist of Rajasthan, Dr. N. A. Karim, former Pro-Vice Chancellor of Kerala University and one of our Vice-Presidents, Poulouse Mar Poulouse, Bishop in Kerala, Ratan Lal, social worker, Chandigarh, N.Sudarshan, trade union leader, Prof. D. P. Singh, former Vice-chancellor, Bhagalpur University, Prof. A. N. Murthy Rao, litterateur, Karnataka, Babu Rao Dhote, veteran freedom fighter from Maharashtra, Malati Chaudhuri, veteran freedom fighter from Orissa, Dr. Sanatan Ratha, Physician, Orissa.

Inaugural Speech of Justice Iyer

Justice Iyer said : We are here to speak on behalf of humanity and, I believe, we shall overcome. This is the message I like to convey to you.

The imperialists are trying to have things their way. Today it is not the threat of another Hiroshima that stalks us, it is 'Globoshima' I may say. All profits are amassed by a few — the MNCs. Economic colonialism is already there in many countries. The evil empire of WTO is emerging. We face now 'Gatstrophe' and the

Convention Outlines Tasks

graveyard is the alternative to us. You must know the great dimensions of the calamity that is in store for us.

What is at issue today? The issue is that imperialism is coming over in a new garb. World War II was not fought to free mankind. After the war, American imperialist domination began. The U.S. President had said: Soviet Union is the evil empire. Today, if you take a referendum, people will say: Washington DC is the evil empire.

This Anti-Imperialist Convention is really not an Indian event. It is an international and epic event. Imperialism shall meet here a Waterloo. We begin our fight from here.

It is a fact that Washington DC governs the world today. But there is dispute between the US and Japan, between US and European Union. But pressure from American multinational corporations resolve the disputes. Thus the WTO is born.

There is, in fact, a Fourth world within the Third world, where the people are in abject poverty, they face starvation, destitution and desperation.

The great handicap today is that there is no information available; because all information is with them. In fact, the great need today is somehow to abolish the falsification. There is no truth coming up. Our Fourth Estate has gone blind; they only see what is glittering in the West. The imperialists are seducing the creamy layer of young and talented people, who are turning propagandists in favour of MNCs. This is Murdoch Syndrome. People are fed all sorts of misinformation and kept out of light of truth.

Innocent people of Iraq have been butchered, and the multinational corporations reaped 21 billion dollars as profit out of Gulf War. The US MNCs have a genius of making profit by killing innocent people. World prosperity is at stake for US prosperity. This is not a crisis of the Third World; it is a global crisis. No self-respecting Indian will say that IMF loan is decent and acceptable to the country. Many countries have gone bankrupt and India is awaiting the same fate unless we rise in revolt against structural adjustment.

People of the world need unity, a new militant solidarity. This is time to organize ourselves. We should bear in mind that nothing which affects humanity is alien to us. My appeal to you: Understand the dimension of the imperialist menace, strengthen the anti-imperialist movement, organize, educate, agitate and only then we shall overcome. We are the masters of history. We begin here today. I believe, a nucleus organization will appear from the three days of deliberations.

Deliberations

The inaugural speech of Justice Iyer was inspiring and set the tone. Soon after the formal presentation of the Draft by Prof. Sushil Kumar Mukherjee the deliberations started in right earnest.

V. Gopalakrishna initiated the discussion by reminding the delegates that they must not be keepers of history but makers of history and

advised them to think globally but to act locally in villages.

Yaswant Shukla posed the question how the present form of imperialism was to be fought out and he, at the same time, answered that it was to be fought out by educating, organizing and agitating the masses simultaneously. He also reminded that without fighting the policies of our own government imperialism could not be fought out. Referring to the influence of corrupt Yankee culture on the youth, he lamented that the youth of our country did not think about the hungry millions, and so, more and more youths should be drawn to this right cause of anti-imperialist movement.

Speaking on the resolution H.S. Doreswamy, the veteran freedom fighter from Karnataka highlighted the misdeed of the US imperialists, and the attempted moves of the multinationals to capture Indian agriculture; they wanted to convert the agricultural land into horticulture, floriculture and pisciculture purposes. He apprehended that with more horticulture the number of landless peasants would rapidly increase. He also referred to the peasants' stir in Karnataka against the manipulation of Hindusthan Coco products by suddenly reducing the price of tapioca.

Michael Opperskalski of Germany lashed out at the so-called New World Order and showed that with the sharpening of contradictions in the political, economic, and military fields among the imperialist countries the danger of war had increased. He pointed out that with the crisis of capitalism deepening, the imperialists had intensified neo-colonial attacks. Analyzing the US designs behind Gulf War, he said: Iraq had become a strong regional power, and thus the balance of power that Washington had been trying to create and influence in its own interest in the Middle East, with the help of massively armed Israel and conservative Arab states such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia, seemed to have slipped out of control. US dominance in the Middle East was being threatened. He showed how by deliberately pursuing a double deal and instigating both Iraq and Kuwait the US led Iraq into a trap. He concluded: the outlook 'New World Order' is fairly clear: the imposition of US hegemony in the so-called Third World through violence, if need be. Wars are once again lightable. The Vietnam syndrome has disappeared. He concluded by quoting from Che Guevera.

Pedro Noel Carrillo Alfonso of Cuba said: After collapse of the Soviet Union there was a great debate all over the world on how to approach the new situation of unipolarity. The imperialists want to rule people all over the world. US attacks come on Cuba and other revolutionary movements. The US Government launches a two-pronged attack on Cuba — one is economic blockade and the other is ideological war against Cuba. Most nations in General Assembly of the UN, though we consider the UN undemocratic, condemned blockade of Cuba, even in this unipolar world. Cuban people are facing a serious economic situation as 80% of the trade was lost after the fall of Soviet Union. But we have kept social justice, equality, public welfare, free education and all those things for which people fought. The unity of the party and the masses is

the condition for preserving socialism. The US did not like us as we chose socialist system and so they have adopted criminal policy against us. For us, it is very important to have this kind of exchanges. Many countries expect that Cuba will win the battle. Everywhere there are people supporting the cause of the Cuban people and even a small movement of solidarity is a big support for us.

Dr. H. N. Prasad from Bihar stressed the necessity of unity among people to fight imperialism. He further stressed that we must not depend on foreign assistance. He advocated self-reliance even if it meant poverty for sometime.

Prof. Alexander Barychev of Russia at the outset conveyed the congratulations from Nina Andreyeva, Secretary General of All Union Bolshevik Party to the organisers of the Preparatory Committee. Citing some of the great crimes of the imperialists Prof. Barychev said that after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Treaty Organization, the US imperialism was clearly preparing itself to make decisive leap in the struggle for world domination. He continued: It is equally worthwhile to unmask another pro-imperialist conception that the defeat of socialism in the Soviet Union and East Europe have contributed to normalising situation in international relations. But this propaganda tricks are in flagrant contradiction to reality. World is rocked with wars and international conflicts. He further continued: The scientific and technological revolutions has brought about a growth of productive forces and rapid scientific progress unprecedented in human history. But imperialism is doing all it can to slow down the pace of introducing scientific and technological achievements to the developing countries. Using the catastrophic situation in Russia, the monopolies of imperialist countries are actively plundering the priceless raw materials. One cannot also help observing the most flagrant manifestation of imperialist tendencies of Russian foreign policy. Prof. Barychev expressed satisfaction as the Declaration of the Anti-Imperialist Convention expressed solidarity with the people inhabiting the region constituting the former Soviet Union in their struggle against restoration of capitalism and for establishment of the socialist state as a voluntary union of peoples and a mighty bulwark of peace and democracy.

Haci Bozkurt of Turkey said: Our country is under secret occupation by imperialism, in particular the US imperialism. Despite all persecutions with all kinds of support from imperialism, the liberation struggle of our people is gradually rocking the state. The imperialists hungry for market are fanning the flames of regional wars for making the bourgeoisie of those countries dependent on them. Coming to agreement with imperialism means approving slavery. We have a basic duty to struggle on an uncompromising line against imperialist menace which threatens the future of mankind.

Supporting the Declaration Prof. Monoranjan Mohanty from Delhi, a Human Rights activist, expressed his desire to join as a soldier in the struggle against imperialism. He said,

(Contd. on page 4)

Anti-Imperialist Convention

(Contd. from page 3)

revolution against capitalism-imperialism would emancipate the mankind from all bondage. He stressed that the imperialism was to be fought every day, every moment and at every place.

Lena de Schepper of Belgium, analysing the present European situation said : I would like to speak about imperialists' New World Order in Europe, and more specifically, about imperialist intervention in former Yugoslavia. With the collapse of the USSR, increased rivalry between the various imperialist powers was brought to the fore. Finally, the rivalry for the control of the former socialist countries started. The annexation of the German Democratic Republic by the Federal Republic of Germany started a process by which the German imperialism tried to recover all territories occupied by the German Nazis during the Second World War. Long before the collapse of socialism in the East, Germany has prepared this aspect of the New World Order on the European continent. So, the decision that Yugoslavia had to explode was taken in Bonn. Cosmopolitan big capital encourages divisions and Balkanisation of the countries which they want to control. Cosmopolitanism of big capital and the localism of the mini-nationalities are two faces of the same reality — the dictatorship of the big bourgeoisie. Today, Marxists use the slogan of self-determination only in the struggle against imperialism. People must define their self-determination against their main enemy, the imperialism and in the anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist struggles. The people must raise the flag of unity and solidarity.

Wil van der Klift of The Netherlands said: The Declaration is clear and politically sharp enough to work with, to accept as a common base for many groups and parties. The Communist Parties in the advanced countries are very much weakened by revisionist ideologies. But we must start again by organizing a genuine communist party. Because of the cosmopolitan character of capitalism today we have to coordinate our struggles. Many Dutch enterprises are working all over the world and, I am sure, there are some in India. We have to find common ways of attacking these enterprises. We need to exchange our experiences because most part of our working people is confused. So, it is a difficult job to build up mighty anti-imperialist people's movement all over the world. It is specially true for the richest capitalist countries. I think, an international coordination centre is absolutely necessary. We have to fight inhuman beast called imperialism. Imperialism is afraid of two things: a united people and a broad international solidarity. If we are able to unite and able to organize international solidarity we are invincible.

Maniklal Shrestha from Nepal characterized the IMF and the ADB as tools of international imperialism. He referred to the danger posed by the regional super powers, which though they themselves were being exploited by big imperialist powers, tried to dominate and bully their small neighbours through hegemonistic manoeuvre. He suggested to reunite the anti-imperialist forces all over the globe and through their unity try to create their old propaganda and communication machinery, the object of which would be to create revolutionary

ideo-cultural movements all over the globe, to create public opinion in favour of socialism, peace, democracy and revolution and to combat imperialism and expose imperialist misinformation, illusions and designs.

Prof. G. Haragopal, educationist from Andhra Pradesh exposing the hypocrisy of the imperialists on Human Rights, asserted that Human Rights were being trampled by the imperialists themselves, and opined that restructuring was needed first in the USA.

Prof. M.D. Misra, the educationist and freedom fighter from M.P., expressed the hope that movement against imperialism would grow and widen. He commented that present imperialism was worse than old imperialism and attacked all spheres of life.

Dr. P. K. Sen, Physician from MP, referred to fierce trade wars between imperialist countries. Referring to nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a device to maintain monopoly of nuclear weapons by the imperialists stressed the necessity of united action against imperialism.



Kinkela vi Kan'sy from Zaire, inter alia, stated that imperialism did not oppress us with only arms. It at the same time spread doubts and confusions to lead our struggle astray. He stressed that the slogan of Proletarian internationalism must not be an empty slogan and emphasized the necessity of generalizing international experiences. He enlightened the delegates about the activities of the Patriotic Front of Zaire which had taken up from where the bourgeois nationalists had left. He strongly advocated the Draft Declaration and suggested that the genuine communists alone would be able to act as the core of the broad based front.

Prof. S. Khandewale, the educationist from Maha-rashtra explained the imperialist design and how it dominated by controlling the world resources. Imperialists try to minimise the contradictions among them by dividing the world market. But at the same time, each of the imperialist powers has the desire to dominate through intricate modalities in economy, politics and culture.

Khalequzzaman from Bangladesh recalled the glorious anti-imperialist struggle of the sub-continent and the struggle by the people of Bangladesh against Pakistani military junta backed by the imperialists in 1970. He said that

the divergent views, antagonistic and non-antagonistic were to be thrashed out dialectically in order to come to a conclusion for our future course of action. He advocated for a broadbased anti-imperialist platform and suggested creation of standing funds, standing organization and regional centres.

Prof. R Pandey, educationist from Bihar stressed that fight against imperialism must take global dimension. He advocated that the goods produced by MNCs should be boycotted. He further stated that fight against imperialism must be combined with fight against native capitalism.

Dr. Sudha Kamath, physician from Karnataka, dealt on the influence of imperialist culture degrading our society. As a result, atrocities on women are increasing and women are being used as fashion commodities. She also added that as a consequence of GATT, Indian researches are being destroyed.

S.K. Sinha from Assam said that because of failure to detect the roots of decadence in time the Soviet Union collapsed and so it was no use

Kokolonga ye ! Victory will be ours !

Comrades Wembo Ossako and Kinkela Vi Kan'sy enthraling the delegates with a revolutionary song in Lingala.

mourning now. He termed the US as decadent and advised to develop an ever vigilant system in our organization.

Ajit Singh Bains, former Justice of the Punjab High Court and a renowned Human Rights activist said : Capitalism-imperialism is now a dying force and is now trying to survive through oxygen in the form of downfall of socialism in the Soviet Union. Their only weapon is terror tactics and violence. Our country's rulers too, are trading similar path trying to gag the dissenting voice of the people through ruthless repression using draconian Acts like TADA, NSA, etc.

Prof. Narendra Sharma, educationist from Delhi, called for investigation of the inflow of dollars to the non-governmental organizations. He suggested that people all over the world were to be enlightened and made conscious of all the ramifications of imperialism in their lives and the danger posed by it.

(Contd. on page 5)

Delegate Session

(Contd. from page 4)

Dr. V. Venugopal, physician from Kerala said : How to resist imperialism and how to achieve the broadest unity ? First we should sort out points on which all of us agree though other differences will be there. If there be some traitors among us, history will throw them into dustbin. Now human existence is in danger and so main emphasis would be on unity.

P. R. Tuladhar, former Minister of Nepal, enlightened the delegates on some of the burning problems of Nepal where the people needed immediate relief. He also cited one example of the high-handedness of IDA (an arm of the World Bank) when he was in the Ministry.

Others who spoke included John Bridge (UK), Kabir Chowdhury (Bangla- desh), Arman Arani (Iran), Prof. Sunanda Sanyal (West Bengal), Selma Yeter (Turkey/N. Kurdistan), Samar Bagchi (W.Bengal), R Rajesh (Delhi), George Joseph (Tamil Nadu), Sudarshan Pradhan (Nepal), Ved Pal Dang (Haryana), N. Ravi (Karnataka), Vismay Shah, Gujarat, K.A. Gopalakrishnan (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Hardev Singh (Haryana), Dr. Balkrishna Thapa (Nepal).

The deliberations over, Manik Mukherjee, the Vice-President of the Preparatory Committee summed up reflecting the mood of unity and firm resolve. Before the valedictory speech of Prof. Sushil Kumar Mukherjee, Michael Opperskalski delivered an emotionally rousing speech on behalf of the delegates from abroad.

In between deliberations the delegates were presented with revolutionary and anti-imperialist songs in different languages and anti-imperialist play "AHATO HANGOR" (Wounded Shark) was staged in the evening by CHARANIK and a Mime show was presented on the last day of delegate session.

Speech by Michael Opperskalski

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Dear Friends and Comrades,

First of all, I am very honoured to be called again on the floor by the friends of the Preparatory Committee. And I think that all the foreign delegates will agree with me in telling you that we were and are very much impressed, also emotionally touched by this Convention. We are impressed and emotionally touched by this convention because we could see, we could hear and could feel your dedication, your revolutionary discipline and your motivation. I think this was like a university also, a university to listen, to learn and to exchange views. A university that our class enemy is never able to offer us. I think this has also proved the fact that all of us belong to one army, we may fight in different battalions. I think this convention, this discussion as well as the Declaration just adopted equipped all of us with a programme, with a platform and I would also like to say, with arms and ammunition to march forward. I think and I am convinced you would be able here in India to develop an anti-imperialist movement, to deepen it, to broaden it, and come into more actions, into more struggle against imperialism. I am convinced and I think it is our task together to broaden it, and deepen it internationally together with the national committee and the international provisional committee. And we will try our level



KOMSOMOL presenting mementos to the delegates from abroad

best to work towards this goal. I think the tasks are very clear and they were discussed. I also think that the struggle, victorious struggle of the Vietnamese people against Yankee imperialism, the heroic struggle of the Cuban people show us as well as the Convention that a united revolutionary people cannot be defeated. Therefore, let us march forward together. Let us again as soon as possible meet to exchange views and experiences about the first victories. *La lotta continua, la victoria certa.*

The struggle continues, victory is certain.

Valedictory Speech by Prof. Sushil Kumar Mukherjee

Friends and Delegates,

A fighter against imperialism cannot afford to be sentimental. But I am ashamed to say that I have become sentimental. After what has happened over the last quarter of an hour, it has overwhelmed me. But that will not deter me from being a stern anti-imperialist, rather it will strengthen my nerves. Therefore, the rest of my days I will be an anti-imperialist through and through. There is no other way. You cannot allow what is going on at this moment. We cannot allow humanity to go down like this. Friends and Delegates, you have given me the responsibility to conduct this meeting. I do not know if I have failed in my responsibility. But if I have done so, I beg to be excused. It was not intentional. The proposed committees will begin their work, in particular the National anti-imperialist forum will begin their work from tomorrow. There is no respite and as soon as possible other committees' composition will also be decided upon after consultation with the respective countries and this will be made known to all of you. We have taken a big stride. The delegates from abroad are a great inspiration for us. I at least never realized that so many people are engaged in the fight against imperialism. I feel that our fight will never go in vain. We will win, we shall overcome.

Delegate Session Concludes

The Draft Declaration along with amendments was unanimously adopted by the House. The convention also set up an All India Anti-Imperialist Forum and agreed to form regional centres to build up movements against all sorts of imperialist machinations. The Convention further resolved to coordinate these movements on an international plane, exploring the possibilities that would arise in course of time.

The close of the delegate session was indeed emotionally surcharged. The Komsomol and Art

Age, the organizations of revolutionary young people and artists respectively presented mementos to the delegates from abroad and other delegates. Haci Bozkurt presented the flag of revolutionary organization of Turkey to the Preparatory Committee. The entire House was emotionally moved. The Convention ended on a rousing note. The strain of the closing song bidding farewell to Ho Chi-Minh at the graveyard sung by Dipankar Ray was reverberating in the auditorium of the University Institute Hall, Calcutta.

The Convention over, the delegates returned with firm resolve — now that a correct line has emerged through exchanges and deliberations with fellow-fighters — to continue, to intensify and to coordinate the struggle against imperialism throughout the world.

Movement at Sagar, MP

The Sagar District Organizing Committee of Madhya Pradesh of our party, the SUCI, has strongly protested the government's permission to multinationals and national companies to open casinos in tourist places of the state and has demanded to scrap these permissions with immediate effect. The district organizing committee has also protested the present electricity crisis in the state. The Committee has demanded stern action against corrupt officials of the State Electricity Board and their political bosses who are close to the state power.

In two separate memorandums to the Chief Minister of the State through the District Magistrate, Sagar on 6 December, 1995, the Committee has demanded not to open the tourist places to the nefarious activities of the unscrupulous profiteers, corrupt officials and politicians. Condemning the government's arguments that the step would bring in revenue in large quanta the Committee observed that while the government was turning a blind eye towards the corruption and tax evasions of big businessmen, industrialists, high officials and politicians, in the name of revenue it was opening the state to the lure of unscrupulous profiteers which would result in the corruption of the minds of youth and exploitation of the womenfolk by so-called tourists.

UTUC-LS Censors Government at 32nd Indian Labour Conference

The Indian Labour Conference (ILC), the apex tripartite institution comprising central trade unions, employers' organizations and the Governments (both central and state) met in its 32nd session under the chairmanship of the Union Labour minister on 23 and 24 November 1995 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi to discuss and decide on 1) central government's proposal to exempt hospitals, nursing homes, dispensaries, educational and scientific organizations, department-run defence, atomic energy and space research activities, agricultural operations, cooperative societies, khadi and village industries, etc. from the purview of Industrial Dispute (ID) Act 1947, 2) central legislation on workers' participation in management, and 3) social security for unorganized labour.

The UTUC (Lenin Sarani) was represented by Comrades Achintya Sinha, Sunil Mukherjee and Badsha Khan, three of its All India secretaries.

All the trade unions including the UTUC (LS), came heavily down upon the government for unilaterally and arbitrarily deciding the agenda, thereby violating the long standing practice of fixing the agenda by the Standing Labour Committee, the second biggest tripartite body within the country.

In the face of mounting criticism of the combined opposition the transaction of business of the ILC could only start after a firm assurance from the Labour Ministry that such arbitrary digressions would not be repeated in future.

Though the Pension Scheme for Provident Fund Subscribers, formulated by the Labour Ministry, was not in the agenda before the ILC, the issue came to the fore for the fact that the Central Government before the conclusions of discussions with the central trade unions, commenced on 10th October, 1995 had already brought in the scheme with effect from 16th November 1995 by two ordinances promulgated by the President. The Labour Minister informed the ILC that the government would not seek approval of the Parliament for the ordinances in its winter session unless the scheme was unanimously cleared by all the central trade unions.

On behalf of the UTUC (LS) delegation Comrade Achintya Sinha addressed the ILC.

Lull before the storm

The UTUC (LS) censored the government for not including the Industrial relations obtaining in the country in the agenda for discussion. The UTUC (LS) observed that though the 'Reform process' initiated in the industrial scenario of the country after 1991, which was backed or endorsed both covertly or overtly by forces from within the trade union movement had been successful in imposing an apparent peaceful situation in the industry, it had been the peace of the graveyard. This must not be confused with real peace. Discontent, the UTUC (LS) observed, was simmering and would burst into a violent explosion in any time.

There were discontent in the coal sector, for though the 5th Bipartite Agreement would come to an end in this December, the workers were still in the dark about the future.

Workers at the grass-roots level in the Banking sector were pressurizing the unions to prepare for a sustained struggle against the recommendations of Narsimham Committee and Rangarajan Committee though the leaders wanted to confine the struggle only to the issue relating to disparity in wages amongst officers and workmen by reopening the charter.

Though the telecom strike was crushed with the help of betrayers in the leadership, anybody who felt that was the end of the workers' movement in the telecom sector was living in a fool's paradise, the UTUC (LS) warned.

The UTUC (LS) condemned the crushing of anti-privatization stir in the Haldia Port in West Bengal with the help of central industrial security force (CISF) and demanded an immediate and honourable settlement of the demands of the striking jute workers of West Bengal.

The UTUC (LS) observed that the reasons for the grave and alarming industrial relations was that the legitimate hopes and aspirations of the working millions of the country were increasingly in conflict and confrontations with the so-called reform era concepts, policies and measures.

On Pension Scheme

Citing the example of the Pension Scheme for provident fund subscribers formulated by the government, the UTUC (LS) observed that the government was trying to sell the idea that pension was neither the responsibility of the government — be it central or state — nor of the employers; it was the responsibility of the workers! According to the new scheme it would be funded by diverting 8.33% from the employees' provident fund, which meant that PF benefit was almost withdrawn and contributory provident fund was turned into a non-contributory one. The UTUC (LS) opposed this and also the concept of pension to be contributed equally by workers, employers and the government in the name of a third retirement benefit. The UTUC (LS) reiterated its demand for immediate introduction of a pension scheme entirely funded by the government and the employers not curtailing in any way the existing provident fund and gratuity benefit or imposing any additional burdens on the workers. The UTUC (LS) made it clear that this was their principled stand where they stand apart and differ basically from other trade unions.

Under the garb of democracy

The UTUC (LS) also exposed the seemingly democratic postures of the government as far as its attitudes to trade unions' views and tripartism. Though the government allowed exchange of views of trade unions, invariably it never shifted from its own stand. Illustrating, the UTUC (LS) showed that though they had submitted their written views and suggestions relating to the improvement of the pension scheme way back on 26 July, 1993, on 3 November, 1995 and again on 10 November, 1995, the government had neither accepted these points nor had it cared to consider the views of other trade unions.

Similar was the experience regarding accepted decisions of tripartite bodies. Though in the last ILC it was decided unanimously that comprehensive legislations on agriculture and

construction workers would be enacted shortly in consultation with trade unions and a tripartite committee would be set up to look into the problems faced by women workers, the legislation was still under 'consideration' and the tripartite committee on women was yet to see the light of the day. The decision to constitute an 'implementation committee' for implementing ILC decisions had not been honoured. This was how the government of India honoured tripartite decisions, the UTUC (LS) remarked.

On amending the ID Act

As regards exemptions of certain categories of institutions like hospitals, educational, research and scientific institutions, UTUC (LS) had been voicing its consistent opposition for quite some time. The motive of the government became clearly exposed when on the subject of comprehensive amendment and restructuring of ID Act in conformity with restructuring of the economy and the reform process, the Labour Ministry commented that it was becoming 'difficult' in view of the sensitivity of the issue. Probably, it was for this reason that the government had decided to swallow the trade unions step by step, part by part, through retrograde amendments to the ID Act. The UTUC (LS) refused to swallow such changes and be a party to a conspiracy hatched by the Central Government against the working people of the country in the interest of monopoly capital of home and abroad.

On workers' participation in management

As regards legislation on workers' participation in management, it appeared that UTUC (LS) was the lone voice among the trade union participating in the ILC. All except the UTUC (LS) had welcomed the government's proposal and only demanded that workers be given equal seats in the Board of Directors in the companies. Some of them also hailed 'co-determination' scheme that was in force in Germany when it was known very well that the German brand of workers' participation in management had only helped massive retrenchment of work force in concurrence with the 'labour directors'. How a trade union could welcome such a nefarious scheme which was designed to arrest working class movement within the four walls of legalism and ultimately to destroy the same, the UTUC (LS) asked.

Discounting some of the trade unions views that through this arrangement workers would be able to play a meaningful role, the UTUC (LS) questioned whether this move would be meaningful for workers or employers. The UTUC (LS) made it clear that it was not possible for the workers to play any 'meaningful role' for the workers and for the society when the workers were neither the masters of the means of production nor were allowed to change the capitalist order that operated in the country. Ills of capitalism were beyond recovery, the UTUC (LS) commented, and it would be foolhardy to invite workers to assist the capitalist

(Contd. on page 7)

DECLARATION OUTLINES

... imperialism today is posing a great threat to world peace, freedom and democracy. So the need of the hour is to build up a mighty anti-imperialist people's movement all over the world in order to thwart imperialist intrigue, interference, intervention and war machination, which in its wake should give birth to a militant peace movement conducive to the struggles for emancipation of the toiling people of the world.

The ray of hope is that popular opinion against imperialist aggression and war machination, interference and subversion is growing stronger everyday and everywhere. It is, therefore, incumbent on the progressive forces to rise to the occasion and take up the task of giving organised shape to the growing anti-imperialist sentiments of the people.

It is also the bounden duty of the progressive forces that they express solidarity with the people inhabiting the region constituting the former Soviet Union in their struggle against restoration of capitalism and for establishment of the socialist state as a voluntary union of peoples and a mighty bulwark of peace and democracy.

It is important to remember that while conducting the anti-imperialist struggles, we shall have to identify the peculiarities and particularities of different countries in the present changed international situation :

1. That the problems of the toiling people of the traditional imperialist countries cannot be mitigated without fighting the anti-people policies of their respective governments ; to make these struggles successful as well as to save humanity from imperialist onslaughts the people of these countries will have to strive to defeat the imperialist designs in fraternity with the fighting people of the world.
2. That the governments of the relatively developed ones among developing countries have entered into the GATT accord or have joined the WTO on their own for the benefit of their monopolists against the interest of all sections of the toiling masses of their countries ; so, to defeat globalization, liberalization and other imperialist designs the people of these countries will have to develop movements against their respective governments even while fighting imperialism.
3. That the countries which are under the threat of direct imperialist armed attack or are facing economic blockade, or countries which are backward and are compelled to join the WTO, are in bitter contradiction with imperialism ; this contradiction has to be utilised in favour of the anti-imperialist struggle, but in these cases, too, the toiling people of these countries will have to play a leading role.

This convention calls upon the people of all countries to unite, irrespective of religion, caste, creed, colour and language, and to launch mighty mass movements demanding that :

- i. military presence in any form in land, water and space of other countries under

- ii. whatsoever pretext be put an end to ;
 - ii. imperialist interference and intervention of all sorts in other countries be stopped ;
 - iii. economic blockade against socialist Cuba, which is condemned by the overwhelming majority of the members of the UN General Assembly during the last three years, be immediately withdrawn ;
 - iv. trade sanctions and economic blockades against Iraq, Iran, Libya and other countries using the UN as a rubber stamp be immediately withdrawn ;
 - v. all stockpiles of nuclear arms be destroyed and a total ban be strictly imposed on production of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and genocide, including gas and chemical warfare ;
 - vi. provisions and conditionalities of World Bank and International Monetary Fund, as also of the GATT, designed to ensure undue advantages for the imperialists to exploit the human and natural resources of the underdeveloped countries and capture their markets be scrapped forthwith ;
 - vii. NATO, the aggressive military bloc, posing a grave threat to peace and security in Europe and the Middle East be immediately dismantled.
4. to identify, expose and fight the agencies and organisations which are operating in different countries under the garb of public welfare and philanthropic ideologies, receiving huge funds through the multinational corporate sector and from other imperialist agencies, with a view to entrenching their position and power, and defending at an appropriate time the interests of the imperialists ;
 5. to organise worldwide resistance movements whenever the imperialists interfere or intervene in the affairs of other countries ;
 6. to force the belligerent nation or nations, in case of wars, to stop war as well as to see to it that the industrial workers of the belligerent nation or nations stop production, particularly production of war materials, and stop transport of these materials ;
 7. to develop a strong volunteer corps in each country, which will play the role of vanguard fighters against imperialism ;
 8. to organize militant mass movements against arms purchases from the imperialist countries and military pacts with them ;
 9. to organize a vibrant movement to put an end to local wars or preparation of local wars.

This Convention sets up an All India Anti-Imperialist Forum and agrees to form regional centres to build up movements against all sorts of imperialist machinations.

It further resolves to co-ordinate these movements on an international plane, exploring the possibilities that arise in course of time.

Organisational Tasks

This Convention calls upon the progressive

and peace-loving people of different countries to take initiative to form anti-imperialist fora through suitable means. These organisations should be made as broad based as possible and their programmes drawn up on common agreed bases. The basic approach should be that we are opposed to unjust wars — wars of annexation and aggression.

The anti-imperialist organisations of different countries should strive towards giving shape to an international organisation to coordinate and guide all anti-imperialist struggles through mutual consultation.

Tasks Ahead

The tasks of the anti-imperialist organisations should be :

1. to create awareness in all sections of people against the danger and designs of the present-day imperialism by holding discussions, seminars, conventions, publication of information bulletins, journals, etc., as well as through literary campaigns ;
2. to unite anti-imperialist forces all over the globe and through their unity try to create their own propaganda and communication machinery. The objective of such machinery will be to create revolutionary idea-cultural movements all over the globe, to create public opinion in favour of socialism, peace, democracy and revolution and to combat and expose imperialist misinformation, illusions and designs ;
3. to organise movements involving all sections of people to force their respective governments not to submit to any design of imperialists, particularly to the imperialist war designs ;

UTUC-LS

(Contd. from page 6)

employers in treating these ills. The clear design of the government to force workers to take equal responsibility for capitalist ills and exploitation

Employers' organizations and the representatives of the State Governments also placed their views. After the deliberations were over a draft resolution to be adopted by the 32nd Session of ILC was placed for consideration. Sharp differences arose on the question of welcoming the pension scheme. The government, employers' organizations, INTUC, AITUC, BMS, HMS, TUCC, NLO insisted on welcoming the scheme in the resolution while the UTUC(LS) and CITU opposed. Lastly, in the formal resolution adopted the differences of UTUC(LS), CITU and UTUC were recorded. It was also resolved that the Union Labour Minister would hold another meeting with the central trade unions on 25th November, 1995 with a view to reaching unanimity before going to the Parliament for seeking its approval in favour of the scheme. It was also decided and the minister agreed to constitute a review committee to ensure implementation of ILC decisions. Exclusion of certain establishments/institutions from the purview of the ID Act and workers' participation in management were deferred to the next meeting of Standing Labour Committee.



A portion of the gathering at Maida, Joy nagar, 24 Parganas (South), welcoming the delegates from abroad.

Meeting at Maida, 24 Parganas (South) to Welcome Delegates from abroad

The 24-Parganas District Committee of the SUCI, in a meeting held at Maida, Jaynagar, greeted the delegates of the Anti-Imperialist Convention who came from abroad in a tumultuous ovation. The meeting was held on 20th November last. On their journey from Calcutta to Jaynagar, a long band of volunteers riding Red Flags decorated motor cycles led the bus carrying them from Baruipur to the meeting place. As the convoy entered remoter parts of countryside, the environment getting more and more peaceful, and more green, the delegates, at different points on road, were greeted by jubilant village folks, including women and children, with slogans for peace and against imperialism. As the delegates reached the Maidan, it was a scene of bursting humanity charged with emotion, men and women of all ages, all greeted them with rare warmth of comradeship. The delegates were visibly moved and they mixed freely among the happy crowd exchanging eager glances and now and then a happy smile and sometimes shaking hands with them.

The dais was decorated with portraits of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao tse Tung and Shibdas Ghosh. The delegates barring a few who left after 17th November, the concluding session of the Anti-Imperialist Session, present in the meeting were Comrades Prof. A. P. Barychev (Russia), Haci Bozkurt, D.H. K.C. (Turkey), Bazlur Rashid Feroze, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Wembo Ossako, Patriotic Front (Zaire), Wil van der Klift, New Communist Party (The Netherlands) and Lena de Schepper, Belgian Workers' Party. Also were present Comrade Manik Mukherjee, Member, Secretariat, West Bengal State Committee of the SUCI, Comrade Yakub Pailan, Secretary, South 24-Parganas District Committee, Comrade Renupada Halder, Member, District Sectt. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Devaprosad Sarkar, Member, West Bengal State Committee and M.L.A.

The meeting started with an inaugural speech by Comrade Amir Ali Haldar, State Secretary,

AIKKMS (All India Peasants & Agricultural Labourers' Organization). The Music Squad of the Democratic Youth Organization (AIDYO) presented revolutionary songs.

Comrade Manik Mukherjee introduced the delegates to the people present in the meeting and said: The delegate comrades from abroad guided by Marxism-Leninism, are engaged in battles against capitalist class and imperialists under the leaderships of their communist parties in their respective countries. Here you, too, are building up organizations sacrificing life and blood. So, this meeting between you and them is historic. At this historic moment they will say something before you.

Comrade Yakub Pailan then greeted the delegates with bouquets.

Among the delegates Comrade Prof. Barychev spoke first. He said: We are struggling with an objective to bring back socialism in our country. And the Soviet Union will again be established by a strong and unflinching struggle of the people of our country.

Charmed by the lively environment of the meeting Comrade Barychev presented a revolutionary marching song in Russian.

Comrade Haci Bozkurt at first conveyed his greetings to the SUCI members and supporters for the huge gathering. He said: People of each and every country throughout the world is fighting against capitalism-imperialism. It is certain we will smash capitalism-imperialism.

Comrade Bazlur Rashid Pheroze of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal said: The All India Anti-Imperialist Forum that is formed at the Anti-Imperialist Convention held from 14-17 November, 1995, will act as a milestone before the worldwide struggle against imperialism. And we consider the revolutionary party that took initiative to make this convention successful will remain for ever in the pages of history.

Comrade Wembo Ossako of Patriotic Front of Zaire said: The leadership which is behind this

RED SALUTE COMRADE BIMAL MONDAL !

Comrade Bimal Mondal, an organizer of the SUCI and member of Merigunge Panchayat of 24-Parganas (South) district of West Bengal was brutally murdered by RSP-backed anti-socials on 20th November, 1995. The local people were much aggrieved at the incident and have burst into protests against the inactions of the police. Under mounting protests of the people the police was subsequently forced to arrest some of the miscreants.

On 27th November a large meeting was organized in the memory of Comrade Mondal in Kailashnagar Primary School grounds of Merigunge where a large number of people gathered to pay homage to the martyr and took pledge to stand unitedly against the miscreants. Comrade Probodh Purkait, member of West Bengal State Secretariat of AIKKMS and MLA addressed the gathering as the main speaker. Comrade Tarani Mondal presided over the memorial meeting.

vast gathering has increased our enthusiasm to struggle. Comrades, I have come from far off Africa. The inhuman exploitation that is going on in Africa has a striking similarity with exploitation existing here in India. So, the way you have united the youth, women, peasantry — the people as a whole, has enriched and inspired us.

Comrade Ossako sang a revolutionary song on Anti-Imperialist struggle in Africa.

Comrade Wil van der Klift of The Netherlands said: All of us have come from different parts of the world. And more days I am passing with you, I realize, your party is a very powerful party and, comrades, you should be proud for that. Believe me, coming today here, among you, mixing with you I have learnt many a thing. To night, I shall take flight to my country the Netherlands bearing with me rich experience. What I have learnt from you I will apply to organize the masses to build up movements. I will say about the SUCI to our people, I will say about you and I will tell about the movement that you are conducting here and in other parts of India. I will go back to my own country and unity that developed between us and the foundation of united movement that is led here will help us to advance to the greater struggle. We can develop united movement together against imperialism-capitalism throughout the world.

Comrade Lena de Schepper, Workers' Party of Belgium said: This is for the first time I came to India. Coming here I see around beautiful countryside, friendly people and lively children. Simultaneously, I see wonton poverty created by capitalism-imperialism. At the same time, I see your great support and struggling enthusiasm for revolutionary movement and the leadership of the SUCI which moved me deeply. All these, I will convey to my country and I will show the photographs of gatherings and programmes. People of the whole world today face a grave crisis but throughout the world people are rising and will rise under the banner of socialism led by communist party. The path of struggle is very arduous but victory is a certainty overcoming every obstacle.

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