



IN VIBRANT SILENCE THE GREAT MARCH SURGES AHEAD THROUGH CITY STREETS ON 15TH OF SEPTEMBER AMIDST VAST MULTITUDE.

MASSIVE MARCH IN CALCUTTA SILENCE MARKS INDIGNATION, VASTNESS THE RESOLVE

Calcutta 15 September :

Why is there silence around ? Why do the roadside boughs look like arches merged in a row ? Why have men lined up along this empty street ?

The din has suddenly died down. There is a hush in the air and the all busy stretch of road lies clear of its traffic. In the distance is a sight of a gently swaying mass of figures. Now it is taking the shape of a stream of people. Slowly become visible banners stretched across. There are festoons, almost each individual carrying one, waving in a gentle motion. "Let tears condense into hatred. Let anger turn into resistance." These are words written in letters of blood which the marchers exhort in silence. Slowly, from behind the fore ranks, is emerging a white column on a moving carriage. A martyr's column with a splash of red on its front face, looking a splash of blood. On its rear is a picture of a martyr draped in a red flag. Martyr Madhai Halder lying in state.

COMRADE MADHAI HALDER !
RED SALUTE

In vibrant silence the Great March is on. A march down in condemnation of the savage repression of protesters by the CPI(M)-led Government in the anti-fare rise movement in West Bengal. Responding to the call of the 12 Left parties, marchers have rallied from all the districts, from all sections of the toiling people. In hundreds and thousands have they come and merged into this Great Silent March of nearly two lakhs of protesters.

Only yesterday the social democrat masquerader, the CPI(M), flexed its muscle in this same city, parading its ranks and hirelings in

trucks and buses to deceive and terrorise people. Alarmed at the massive outburst of the people's discontent against its anti-people and fascist measures against transport fare rise, price rise and barbarity to wo-

men, the masquerader put up a mock show of concern for the people, but holding out a threat to crush all resistance against its policies. Only yesterday arrogant Jyoti Basu, mocked at people's

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The great march will not stop It will turn into people's material weapon in coming days

(Contd. from page 1)
resistance movement to claim that his Government has come to stay no matter all this protest against it. Today people are marching down in silence to epitomise their condemnation and hatred. Courage has waked to face terror. Resolve is hardening against arrogance. Rejection is meeting deception. So different is this Great Silent March of the people from yesterday's parade by the masquerader.

The march has begun from Deshbandhu Park in north. Every marcher is wearing a black badge. Some are carrying pictures of Comrade Madhai Halder who embraced martyr's death in the barbaric police firing on protesters on 31st August last. Others are carrying red flags. In the front are walking down volunteers holding 18 half mast red flags to symbolise 18 years of age of martyr Madhai. Behind them are stopping along members of the Komsomol, young communist wing of the SUCI, dipping the red flag in homage. Further behind stepping along leaders of the 12 Left parties including Com. Provas Ghosh of the SUCI; Com. Kaushik Banerjee of the CPI-ML (Agami Jug); Com. Parimal Dasgupta of the CCCR; Com. Subrata Basu of the COI-ML; Com. Aloke Mukherjee of the CPI-ML; Com. Phani Bagchi of the CPI-ML (Red Flag); Com. Somnath Ghosh of the MCPI; Com. Tapan Dutta Gupta of the WPI; Com. Nagbhusan Pattanayak of the IPF; Com. Chitta Nath of the Bolshevik Party; Com. Manohar Chakraborty of the RCPI; Com. Tejen Datta of the RSPI(M).

Behind them are Com. Ranjit Dhar, Com. Prativa Mukherjee, Com. Fatick Ghosh, Com. Debiprasad Sarkar of the SUCI and other leaders of the other Left parties.

Workers are marching down alongside peasants and agricultural labours.

Students are marching shoulder to shoulder with teachers, youths and women. Children are marching along with the aged. Physicians are walking alongside writers, engineers, lawyers, educationists and professors. The placards they carry speak out the people's anguish, anger and resolve. "I am mother of a martyr. I have lost my Madhai, but thousands of Madhais do I have." These are words which the mother of Comrade Madhai Halder has uttered. "Down with anti-socials-police collusion". "Pull down this police-gooda raj"; "We will not pay enhanced fare"; "Withdraw enhanced bus-tram fare"; "Stop this barbarity to women"; "Stop price rise of essential commodities"; "Social security and women's dignity must be ensured"; "Red Salute Comrade Madhai Halder". Slogans in silence look more resplendent in this fading light of advancing evening.

People have thronged the pavements to witness the Great March. Pedestrians have crowded the road-crossings. Passengers have come down from stalled vehicles. Shops have been deserted by customers. Residences have emptied their inmates on the balconies. All people have lined up to watch this silent march down. In reverence they whisper: "This is a different march. I saw yesterday's, the CPI(M)'s. This one touches me so deeply!" Someone says: "Silence is so eloquent in condemnation. Nothing could better express people's grief and anger." "Where are the CPI(M) cadres and police today? Where have they disappeared to?", asks another man. "Does it not look genuinely people's when compared to the Congress(I) rally on 12th September last? This one is the people's march, not the other two staged by the Congress(I) and the CPI(M)", murmurs a fellow pedestrian. The

Congress(I), when it was in Government, itself increased transport fare so many times. In Karnataka it has increased fares. Now thrown out of power it is trying to befriend the people to invest for electioneering. Experience is a stern mistress.

From Bidhan Sarani into College Street, and now through Nirmal Chunder Street the Great March is advancing. Red banners, placards and festoons in thousands are moving ahead. Banners of the SUCI are mingled with banners of the CPI-ML (Agami Jug), IPF, COI-ML, MCPI, CPI-ML (Red Flag), CPI-ML, CCCR, RCPI, Workers' Party of India, Bolshevik Party and RSPI(M). Mass fronts of these parties are here, too. The placards they wield exhort the people to build up mass movements against the unjust transport fare rise. They remind that the change of government itself cannot bring solution to the basic problems in people's life. That the task is to give an organizational shape to the people's discontent through developing passanger committees and people's committees and lift the resistance movement to a protracted struggle. "Jyoti Basu should come and see for himself this Great March", says one pedestrian. "No, he sees through the police eye", says the man next to him. "I am standing here for almost an hour and a half. I am yet to see the tail of the procession. How long is it?", people ask themselves in wonder.

Through Lenin Sarani on to Jawaharlal Nehru Road — the Great March is advancing on its course to Deshapriya Park in the southern quarters of the city. From front to rear a 9 km long stream of people moving along in silent condemnation of the barbarity and arrogance of the CPI(M)-led government in West Bengal. This is the one mov-

ing counter to the other current in which parliamentary parties of all stripes have mingled in. If this current for the people's cause lacked in strength, it has gained strength now. If leadership is what the people are looking for, this one has the leadership capable of conducting people's battle against the class enemy and its collaborators. This is the rising tide, the mainstream now to which all other streams from the people's life ought to merge now.

Will this blood of
martyr go in vain?
Will tears of mothers
drop on dust
uncared and
unwatched?

Will oppressor's arro-
gance smother the dig-
nity of man? If history
of man has taught him to
rise against humiliation
and oppression, it is time

the people should arise now itself. If history has taught man not to endure deception and treachery lying down, now is time the people should rise to resist.

This march will come to a stop in this city tonight. The Great March will not stop, it will resound throughout the land, through million hearts. For, history's foot-falls ring in the steps of the marchers. History exhorts to rise against the oppressor, against the anti-people policies of the Government — whether at the Centre or in the States, against the masquerader who befriends the people to betray their cause. So will grow one day, this Great March, into a material weapon in the hands of the people to fight the ruling class and its collaborators, to become an irresistible force to storm the bastion of tyranny, oppression, deception.

Victorious Movement in Sukinda, Orissa

The plantation workers of Sukinda Forest Range achieved victory after a powerful protracted movement against Orissa Forest Corporation, a State Government undertaking. Led by the SUCI the workers compelled the Corporation to pay the minimum revised wage of Rs. 25/- per day fixed by the government. The workers numbering about 200, struck work for over a month and on 5th September the Corporation authorities were compelled to pay the outstanding revised wages.

Sukinda Bihan Farm Shramik Sangh (affiliated to the UTUC(LS)) has been fighting against the Farm for the implementation of the minimum revised wage of Rs. 25/- daily. The workers, about 1000, are being

paid at the old rate of Rs. 11.00 violating government decision. This rate is less than the general wages the peasants get in the locality. The Shramik Union has resolved to continue the strike till victory is achieved.

Mishrilal Mines Pvt. Ltd., the owners of Saruabil, is again alluring the workers with Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) to extend its machine mining operation. In the above manner, in 1986-87, the company, only giving a nominal sum, retrenched more than hundred workers, most of whom now are unemployed and turned destitutes. Sukinda Upatyaka Mines Workers' Union has ripped open the nasty design of the mines authorities and has called upon the workers not to fall a prey to it.

Grasp the teachings of Comrade Mao—combat the disaster in communist movement

—Comrade Nihar Mukherjee

A meeting of the party workers' was held at the Study Centre of Marxism - Leninism-Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's Thoughts at Ghatshila, Bihar, on the occasion of Comrade Mao Zedong Memorial Day on 9th September, 1990. Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, our beloved General Secretary was the main speaker of the meeting which was presided over by Comrade Amriteswar Chakraborty, the Bihar State Secretary of the SUCL. A brief text of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee's speech is given hereunder.

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee said in course of his speech that Comrade Mao Zedong accomplished the task of revolution in China which was vaster and more populous than our country by conducting successful struggle along with the entire party for applying in life the teachings of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin after correct realisation of them. Pre-revolutionary China was a backward medieval country where thousands perished every year in famine, flood, epidemic and poverty. As a result of the evil effect of imperialist rule and feudal oppression, China was then identified as the famine-stricken and opium addicted country before the world. There was no largescale industry in China at that time and the number of industrial workers was meagre. But by building the Chinese Communist Party Mao Zedong organised this unorganised working class which was to play the leading role in Chinese revolution. Side by side he built up organisations of the vast section of peasants, urban and rural petty bourgeoisie, i.e. the allies of the proletariat and through these organisations he conducted struggle against all sorts

of feudal exploitation and oppression, superstitions and evil practices. By organising all the people who assembled on the platform of freedom movement under the leadership of the party, Comrade Mao conducted protracted political uprising against the imperialist powers, feudal lords and reactionary Kuomintang. In the process of this political uprising, he brought the Chinese Communist Party amidst the common people in the economic, social and cultural fields.

Comrade Mukherjee continued that in the era of imperialism and proletarian revolution, i.e. the era as defined by Lenin, if the leadership of the freedom movement was not in the hands of the working class then it was bound to end in a half-baked and truncated way. Comrade Mao concretized this teaching of Lenin on Chinese soil and termed the Chinese revolution as new democratic one. Despite the term of new democratic revolution, the Chinese revolution was essentially anti-feudal, anti-imperialist democratic revolution under the leadership of the working class. As the next stage of this revolution, the Chinese society turned towards socialism. And in organising this socialist revolution Comrade Mao built up a massive movement in establishing a socialist economic base and socialist consciousness in social, political, cultural and various other fields. Comrade Mukherjee reminded the necessity of meticulously studying the history of the Chinese revolution as despite dissimilarities in many instances, there were similarities with our country in various social and moral aspects. Comrade Mukherjee continued that we must draw lesson from the fact how the pe-

sants and even the mothers and sisters of the villages were roused and organised against the imperialists and the feudal lords in such a backward country.

Comrade Mukherjee mentioned how Comrade Mao stressed the necessity of knowing the country, learning the history of the country and mental makeup of the people. The more we understand the people and their mental makeup the more we would be able to make Marxism creative and effective. The people could not be roused and transformed by parroting the bookish knowledge of the teachings of Marxism. Comrade Mao meticulously studied the historical characteristics of China and that was why he was able to present so lucidly the general truths of Marxism to the millions of illiterate masses of such a vast backward country.

Coming to the question of rise of revisionism Comrade Mukherjee said that Stalin died after the start of the socialist construction in China and revisionist Khrushchev came to the leadership of the CPSU in the 20th Party Congress. Mao realised that when the first socialist state built by Lenin and Stalin, after consolidating the socialist system and crossing the first stage was going towards communism, the revisionist attack came down upon it at that very moment. Mao organised the workers, the peasants and the middle class of China, against this revisionist deviation and organised the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution which was hailed as 'magnificent' by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Mao realised that in order to protect the Chinese state against revisionist deviation the floodgate of which was opened by Khrushchev, the correct



party line alone was not sufficient and it was necessary to organise the entire people of the country to uproot any anti-socialist revisionist thought within the society or even within the party. So he called the people to resist the wrong policy of even those who were enthroned at highest seat of power of the state.

In this connection, Comrade Mukherjee referred to the call of Chairman Mao to the workers, peasants and common people of the country "to bombard the headquarters". Comrade Mukherjee cited the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution of China as the fitting rebuff to the capitalist-imperialist canard with which the present Gorbachev leadership had joined recently in the chorus regarding the alleged absence of democracy and individual freedom in socialism. In bourgeois democracy, the democratic rights of the common people were assumed only in words whereas any move against the exploitative system would surely land one in jail with the charge of treason. In bourgeois democracy, the democratic rights were enjoyed by the bourgeoisie, i.e. the democracy for only five per cent of the people whereas the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution revealed before the entire world how the common people were bestowed the right to organise movement against the wrong line of

even the leader holding the highest position.

Comrade Mukherjee said that if every revolution was not preceded by a complementary cultural revolution, it would not be able to reach the desired goal. Again even after the capture of the state power, even after dislodging all feudal or capitalist orders through political uprising, the working class along with its allies had to intensify class struggles in order to root out the hangover of capitalism, feudalism both in base and superstructure. Herein, Comrade Mukherjee stressed, lay the importance of the dictatorship of the proletariat. Before revolution the working class had only one instrument, i.e. the Party, but after revolution the Party and the Proletarian State, i.e. dictatorship of the proletariat at were the two instruments at the command of the proletariat to root out the remnants of capitalism in mental makeup, forces of habits and in various other fields both in base and superstructure. Recalling the teaching of Lenin that those who recognized class struggle but did not recognise the dictatorship of the proletariat were not at all Marxists Comrade Mukherjee stressed that the dictatorship of the proletariat was necessary for ensuring proletarian democracy, i.e. democracy of the ninety-five per cent of the entire people.

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Uphold correct base political line—Fight revisionism

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Comrade Mukherjee said that it was Marx who for the first time proved by concrete analysis of history that of all the stages of human civilization from primitive society to slave society, then to feudal and then to capitalist society to socialist society which was to precede communism — the dictatorship of the proletariat alone through intensification of class struggle could make the society attain the desired goal of classless society. In other words, even in socialist society protracted struggles had to be conducted to root out the hangover of the capitalist society in every field embracing social, political, cultural, ethical and moral life of the people. Comrade Mukherjee stressed that while remembering Mao, we must realise these teachings, particularly at this time when we were faced with this great catastrophe of the international communist movement and a new challenge to combat that disaster. It was the purpose of the great proletarian cultural revolution that the capitalist influence was to be done away with if not by one stroke but by continuously conducting cultural revolutions these influences were to be uprooted. So Mao said that twenty, twenty-five or thirty such cultural revolutions might be necessary. Because even if capitalism was completely wiped out in economic field, the influence of capitalism remained embedded in thousand and one way in the superstructure of the society.

Comrade Mukherjee said that because of such a deep consciousness and Marxist understanding Mao laid supreme importance on the correct base political line at the 10th Congress of the CPC, despite having such a big party, so much of administrative power,

such a big defence force and almost every thing at command. He maintained that if the base political line was not correct, everything would collapse like a house of cards and if the base political line was correct, a real working class party would march forward with its leading role. Along with that onward march of the real revolutionary working class party the standard of political and cultural consciousness of the society would be uplifted and the socialist order would gradually wither away yielding place to communism. Comrade Mukherjee said that the reactionaries, counter-revolutionaries and the revisionists had been trying to retard by force this historically determined march of human society. But as the truth of science could not be denied, so also the wheel of history could not be turned backward by force. They might create some temporary obstacles. But how soon we could overcome the obstacle depended upon our understanding of Marxism-Leninism which Mao enriched to a certain stage.

Comrade Mukherjee said that it was yet to be seen whether the present leadership of China, pursuing the revisionist line would rectify after taking proper lesson from the experience of Tienanmen Square incident, though it was gratifying to note as they said that they would not introduce Perestroika and Glasnost of Gorbachev and they opposed them.

Comrade Mukherjee said that it was the immediate task of the communists of all countries to intensify ideological and political struggles against revisionism particularly against the counter-revolutionary clique of Perestroika and Glasnost which stood as the main stumbling block before the international communist



On 9th September, the memorial day of Comrade Mao Zedong, a meeting, recalling the teachings of the great leader of the international communist movement, was held under the auspices of the WB State Committee of the party at Mahajati Sadan Hall, Calcutta. Com. Sukomal Dasgupta, president of the meeting and member, Central Committee was on the dais, among others. Com. Provash Ghosh, member, Central Committee, and Secretary, WB State Committee of the party speaking.

movement. On the other hand, their duty was, as the vanguard of the world peace movement, to build up revolutionary movements in different countries as complementary to anti-capitalist-imperialist and particularly anti-US imperialist struggle. The counter-revolutions of Soviet Union and Eastern Europe were the sad end result of the influence of revisionist thinking of different countries, which had been striking the communist movement from within. Comrade Mukherjee opined that though these developments were very painful, such a heavy blow was perhaps necessary as it might help the communists of the world to open their eyes. But it would be helpful only when they would engage themselves anew to build up the communist parties after conducting relentless struggle for freeing themselves from the influence of revisionism as Mao did to build up a genuine working class party in China.

Comrade Mukherjee asserted that there was no other historically proved and scientific course for the onward march of human civilization. He continued that this was no self assertion as Marx-

Students achieve victory in Karnataka

The student community of Karnataka burst into powerful movement

ism was that philosophy which appeared as science of all sciences after generalising and coordinating all branches of science. And herein lay its superiority. The more we could make this understanding of Marxism deeper and deeper, the more we would be able to emerge as true Marxists and discharge our historic role. This was the real way to pay respect to the great Marxist leader. Comrade Mukherjee concluded his speech by expressing his hope that all of us would come forward to actively play this historic role.

against the Congress(I) government which decided to withdraw bus pass for evening students.

'The Evening College Students' Struggle Committee was formed comprising student representatives of various evening colleges and the following student organisations — AIDSO, SFI, ABVP and AISF, which carried forward the movement. A massive protest meeting and a central level law violation programme was carried out. And the government was compelled in Sept. to retained the facility of bus pass.

CORRIGENDUM

In the statement on reservation issued by the Central Committee and published in the Proletarian Era of 15th September '90 a correction has to be made. To the portion appearing on page 5, column 3, lines 55-59 which reads as "belonging to scheduled... other backward communities." following words should be added :

"as also downtrodden people belonging to other castes and communities."

The error is regretted. —Ed. P. ERA

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