

# Victory Over Fascism And Role Of Comrade J. V. Stalin

[Readers in different states expressed their wish that an article on the present subject be published in the Proletarian Era. In deference to their wishes we are publishing the article in two instalments. Editor, P.Era.]

Fifty years ago the Red Army with Stalin as Supreme Commander had finally smashed the fascist war machine of Nazi Germany and unfurled the flag of victory. This historic victory attained after long years of heroic and unparalleled fight and struggle of the Red Army and Russian people led by Stalin put an end to the

that it is this very bourgeois democracy that gave rise to fascism, the most perverse form of it in its decadent stage. And it brought this worst onslaught against mankind and civilization which was heroically repulsed by no other forces than the socialist forces led by a great man of history, Stalin.

How could Stalin succeed in defeating the then seemingly invincible military might of fascism that virtually stood at the threshold of world domination? Stalin's achievement was possible because to the extent that people were imbued with the spirit of proletarian



military might of fascism that had ravaged countless countries, annihilated millions of people and turned many more into slaves with a savage brutality whose atrociousness and extent bewilders the mind, whose horror spread gloom and hopelessness, a military might whose fanatic ideology and actions have blackened the records of history, that proved most destructive for humanity and human values, culture, that in one word, proved most destructive for the great achievements of civilization. It is to be remembered that those who extol the superiority of 'democratic system', meaning the free play of capital to exploit the working people, over socialism should recognize, if they have minimum commitment to historically verified truth,

internationalism, it instilled in them indomitable moral courage and the will to defeat fascism and with faith that made them stand behind Stalin as one man. It was the patriotic people of a nascent socialist state that emerged free from the arm and tentacles of capitalist exploitation that whole-heartedly participated in the great patriotic war under the leadership of Stalin — it was the people that no capitalist-imperialist-fascist force of the world could ultimately defeat, despite the great losses they suffered. That civilization still endures was due to this historic event to prove one of the important lessons of Marxism that it is the people and not the arms that decides ultimately the course of history.

On this historic occasion it is with

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### ON TELECOMMUNICATION EMPLOYEES' STRIKE

Comrade Prithvi Chanda, President, UTUC-LS, issued the following statement on 20th June, '95 in support of on-going Telecom employees' strike :

"The UTUC-LS extends its whole-hearted support to the on-going Telecom employees' strike against opening up of industry to the private sector in pursuance of New Industrial Policy of Govt. of India and the provisions of GATT'94. We strongly condemn the declaration of the strike as illegal by the Centre in a bid to curtail the hard-earned democratic rights of the working people.

"We appeal to all section of the employees of other public sector industries also threatened with the entry of private capital and the multinationals, to stand firmly by the side of the striking telecom employees and thus unitedly force the Government of India to retreat unconditionally."

#### LATEST NEWS

23rd June, 1995

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, has issued the following statement to the Press :

"We severely condemn the threat of the Central Congress(I) government to apply from today the draconian law the Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA) against the striking Telecommunication employees.

We are of the firm opinion that the demands of the employees are most justified and hence any attempt to crush this struggle and throw the employees out of job by applying ESMA must be resisted unitedly by all who stand for justice.

We think that this threat of the Centre is a flagrant violation of democratic norms and an attack on the trade union rights of the people.

We, however, strongly condemn the way the strike has been called off at the last moment before realisation of the most legitimate demands of the workers. We consider it a sheer betrayal to the cause of the trade union movement in general and Telecom workers' in particular.

deep gratitude that we pay our revolutionary homage first of all to the valiant Russian people, the Red Army and the democratic anti-fascist forces in general and those active in the resistance

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## Custody murder of jute worker Bhikhari Paswan

# Real face of the CPI (M)-led Left Front govt. & its police nakedly exposed

The recent report of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on the 'mysterious disappearance' of Bhikhari Paswan, a worker of the Victoria Jute Mill, Telinipara, Hooghly district of West Bengal, has created much commotion in the public and has made the CPI(M)-led Left Front government of West Bengal and its police very much shaky and jittery. Even though the CBI has not completed the whole process of enquiry and the Calcutta High Court has not given any verdict, the report that was submitted brought to light some revealing facts about the behaviour of the police and the character of the Left Front government.

### THE BACKGROUND

On October 19, 1993 a dispute arose centring round the payment of bonus and the arrear wages to the workers who were not getting it for months together in the Victoria Jute Mill under Bhadreswar police station. Barring two brief spells of United Front government of 1967 and 1969 in which our party SUCI was also a partner, as has always been the case, and more so during the CPI(M)-led Left Front rule, the management of the mill in the name of maintaining law and order called the police in order to teach the workers a good lesson. The police going by their tradition brutally lathicharged the starving workers who were struggling to achieve their legitimate dues and whose endurance crossed all limits. The unarmed workers retaliated by throwing brickbats on the police and as a result one policeman got serious injury to which he succumbed the next day. The wrath, indignation and hatred against the leaders belonging to the CITU, INTUC and the BMS who served the employers at the cost of the workers' interest, reached to such an extent that the workers also heckled the leaders of these trade union organisations and ransacked the local offices of the CPI(M), Congress(I) and the BJP.

This made the police and the CPI(M), Congress(I) and the BJP furious and the next day the police led by a top brass in a reprisal started raiding the workers' bustees beating and arresting the workers indiscriminately. However, a negotiation was reached between the workers and the management with the decision of payment of arrear wages and bonus on 30th October, 1993 a few days before the Puja. But on that fateful night the police led by the Additional Superintendent of Police, Hooghly, Mr. Harmanpreet Singh, raided the house of Bhikhari Paswan, at around 12-30 am. The Sub-Inspector Samar Datta and constable Swapan Namhatta picked up Bhikhari and put him in the waiting police jeep which immediately whisked away. After that there was no trace of Bhikhari. The hapless father ran from pillar to post to get back his son or get his whereabouts. The police all along had been saying that they did not go to Bhikhari's house, let alone arresting him. This incident created much stir among the people and even the newspapers at that time carried stories that the

police after picking up Bhikhari tortured him to death in the police lock-up and dropped his body packed in a sack in the Ganges from Bally bridge. But faced by the odd situation all the top police officers and the West Bengal Chief Minister, who also happens to be the police minister, joined in a chorus that 'the police did not arrest Bhikhari'.

The Association for the Protection of Democratic (APDR) first took up the case and the father and wife of Bhikhari filed a habeas corpus petition in the Calcutta High Court on November 24, 1993. The HC then ordered the police to produce Bhikhari in the court but they failed to do so. Then the court directed the police to submit necessary documents regarding disappearance of Paswan. But the documents were forged by the police, thought the Division Bench of the H.C, which on 8th June, 1994 ordered an enquiry by the CBI to find out what really happened behind Bhikhari's disappearance. The CBI started its enquiry in July 1994 and submitted its report to the Court on 12th June, 1995. The report revealed the whole affair of how the government and the police in a most dangerous and despicable way tried to hush up the whole matter and frustrate the CBI probe.

### DANGEROUS GAME

(1) The Advocate General of West Bengal Mr. Nara Narayan Gooptu appealed to the Court to dismiss the habeas corpus petition by Bhikhari's father and wife. But Mr. Gooptu's appeal itself was rejected outright.

(2) When the High Court ordered the enquiry by a third party i.e. the CBI, the two police officers named in the petition, ASP Mr. Singh and SI Mr. Datta in their individual capacity appealed to the Supreme Court to nullify the CBI enquiry order by the High Court and that too rejected by the apex court. Surprisingly, though it was an individual appeal, so many IPS officers of West

Bengal accompanied them to Delhi and even were present in the Supreme Court.

(3) When the CBI enquiry appeared inevitable the police first tampered the FIR in the Bhadreswar police station. The tampering was detected by the CBI which sent the FIR to the Central Forensic Science Laboratory, New Delhi, to ascertain overwriting. It was revealed by the experts through microscopic test that the police struck off the name of Bhikhari and overwritten the name of some Nizam.

(4) The police in a got-up case in another court brought one woman who claimed to be the first wife of Bhikhari. She said that Bhikhari off and on used to come to her and demand money as Bhikhari was heavily addicted to liquor. On 30th October, 1993 night Bhikhari under the influence of liquor came to her and demanded money. Being refused he beat up her and went away. Since then there was also no trace of Bhikhari. That case was outright dismissed as false.

(5) With the progress of the CBI enquiry the police employed 3 persons Ganesh Chowdhury

and Sunil Sau both workers in the Victoria Jute Mill, as also Pratap Sau to issue threat to Bhikhari's family to withdraw cases. All these three were hand in glove with the local police headed by SI Datta and constable Namhatta in illicit liquor trade in the Bhadreswar area. The threat could not deter the Paswan family from remaining firm in their decision. Ganesh Chowdhury was found murdered in July, 1994 and Sunil Sau was killed by unknown assailant in November the same year while Pratap Sau was found missing since August last year. All this mysterious murder and disappearance might be linked with Bhikhari's case, doubts the APDR which conducted an independent enquiry into the murder and disappearance.

(6) Long before the CBI enquiry, the criminal investigation department (CID) of West Bengal had investigated into the case of Bhikhari Paswan. Mr. C. M. Jatua, Special Superintendent of Police (CID) conducted an on-the-spot enquiry and submitted a report squarely blaming the local police for "mishandling the Paswan case." But that report was hushed up by the Director General of Police, West Bengal, Mr. S. C. Gossain as reported in the Press. He prepared his own report corroborating the report of the Deputy Inspector General of Police (Burdwan Division), Mr. Sarvesh Chandra, instead of making further investigation. The report, according to legal experts, was full of misinformation. It was sent to the Chief Minister Mr. Jyoti Basu who made a statement in the West Bengal Assembly denying any role of his police behind Bhikhari's disappearance.

(7) The state police did not only not co-operate with the CBI for a smooth enquiry but instead created obstruction at every step to stall the finding. During the process of CBI enquiry the main person indicted by the CBI, Mr. Harmanpreet Singh, was sent to far away Mozambique in Africa as a member of the international panel to observe the elections there and could not appear before the CBI in spite of repeated request by it. It was only after the High Court issued order to Singh to depose before the CBI that he was brought back to India. Apart from this, the counsel for the petitioners was not allowed to cross-examine the ASP Mr. Singh and was deprived of the police log book even after the court issued order to do the same. Instead the court was supplied with several forged documents which strengthened doubt of the court.

(8) The Director General of Police Mr. Gossain also submitted a report to the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, in which he clearly stated that "No attempt of hunting after Bhikhari by the police occurred. Neither the police went to his house in the night of October 30/31, 1993. Hence the question of taking him into custody does not arise at all."

(9) To create an alibi for the police and especially for SI Samar Datta and constable

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# Serving capitalists the CPI(M) govt. became alienated from people and dependent on police

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Swapan Namhatta the then Additional Superintendent of Police, Hooghly told the CBI that Mr. Datta was in the mill till 2-30 am. on October 31 while Namhatta was on a stand-by duty at Telinipara outpost during the same period. But the record in the 'in and out' vehicle register of the mill clearly proves that all police officers left the mill by 10-40 pm on October 30. Whereas the log book of the police vehicles and one used by the District Magistrate showed they returned from the mill after 1 am on October 31 though the mill staff had received their wages by 10 pm.

## THE CPI(M) POLITICS

All this clearly proves to what extent the police of the CPI(M)- led government can stoop down to frustrate the revelation of truth. They first tried to reject the habeas corpus petition, then the CBI enquiry, i.e. an enquiry by a body not subservient to the CPI(M) or its government. When this attempt failed they tried every bit to mislead the CBI. Had they been innocent what was the necessity of going through all these nefarious, dangerous and complicated exercises? The party, the whole government apparatus, specially the police moved in unison and in an autocratic way. Eighteen years of CPI(M) rule has totally shattered the principle of administrative neutrality and made the administration utterly partisan and subservient to the party and its interest. This is a danger signal for the proper functioning of democracy and the democratic norms and values. It ultimately paves the way for fascism which thrives under these circumstances to serve moribund capitalism.

It is the experience of the people of West Bengal of how during the 18-year tenure the police have been protecting the CPI(M) government in all sorts of its anti-people steps and policies, against just and legitimate democratic movements and in corruption, nepotism, criminalisation of politics, violence, murder, rigging in elections, attack on other party bases etc. while the police have been given a free hand to do whatever they like. Anybody who goes through the records of barbarity and criminality of the police, especially during the CPI(M) rule in West Bengal, will be astounded to find that holding the imperialist tradition the police have virtually appeared as the most organised gang of criminals licensed by the state. Murder, rape, lock-up killing, firing on the people indiscriminately in order to kill, torture, harassment of people by implicating them in false cases, bribery and all sorts of corrupt practices have become synonymous with the police.

A statistics of death and injury due to police firing in West Bengal will suffice to prove the murderous brutality of the West Bengal police. As per the statistics of the West Bengal Police 1021 persons were murdered and 1453 were injured only in police firing in West Bengal excluding Calcutta during the period of June 1977 to December 1993. (*Ananda Bazar Patrika*,

26.9.94) The West Bengal Chief Minister in a statement on the floor of the state Assembly said that from 1st January 1993 to 31st July 1994, 85 people were killed in police firing. From August 1977 to January 1995 183 persons were killed by the police in lock-up alone. And the irony of the whole affair is that all the parliamentary parties raise hue and cry against all these misdeeds of the government and the police only when they are in Opposition. Whenever they are in power they indulge in the same practice and the Opposition starts crying. This is a vicious circle going on without end and the victim has been the common man. Being anti-people and pro-establishment they are unable to restrain the police and force them to behave in an impartial way conforming to democratic norms. To protect this out and out anti-people exploitative capitalist rule they are bound to suppress with the help of the police and the military any movement led by the oppressed people. Besides, the ruling parties in order to remain in power have been nakedly using the police in winning elections and also in ruthlessly suppressing the opponents. And for this interest they will have to protect the police and give them clean chit every time. So the police have appeared as one of the most notorious forces in the hands of the ruling parties to help them stay in power, come what may.

The Bhikhari Paswan phenomenon has once again nakedly exposed the utter criminal character of the police and their protector government led by the CPI(M). To shield their misdeeds the police did not hesitate to give false statement and produce false affidavit in the court of law, to tamper the FIR and the police log book, to resort to threat and intimidation and even to murder their own accomplices with a motive to destroy evidence. Sensing danger the government is pleading innocence and putting the whole blame on the police. The Left Front government will have to answer as to why its police have become so murderous and blood thirsty? Has the government in a single instance condemned the behaviour of the police highhandedness and trigger-happy behaviour? On the contrary it is the practice of the CPI(M) government to shield the police and support their actions and to believe the police report as a Gospel truth. To the police and the CPI(M) government the only way to protect the so-called law and order is to kill the people by firing in order to suppress and repress the people's just and legitimate democratic movements. Is it anything expected of a democratic government, let alone a leftist one? Wherefrom do the police of the Left Front got the audacity to behave in such a reckless and autocratic manner? The answer lies in the attitude and behaviour of the CPI(M) and its government towards the people and their struggle. They employ the police to perpetrate any sort of nefarious act with the assurance given that all their actions would be firmly defended by the government. And when the police feel that there is none to touch them and nobody to hold rein they

cannot but be reckless and their criminality is bound to grow alarmingly. Exactly this is what has been happening in West Bengal now a days. They never enjoyed this sort of free rein and hence gratefully reciprocated by conferring the title *Bangabir* (Hero of Bengal) on Mr. Joyti Basu, the police minister. A unique honour indeed which no man in West Bengal can boast of!

Now that the government is in a difficult situation because of indictment of the top police officials of Left Front government by the CBI, the acting police minister Mr. Buddhadev Bhattacharya is trying to paint it as a case of 'rare exception'. Posing his government as a great believer in democratic norms and values he said the 'Left Front government has always been alert about such incidents' and "never tried to underplay or undermine them." But as soon as the CBI report was published this acting police minister in a futile attempt to mislead the people instantly issued a statement saying "the Government would abide by the verdict of the judiciary". See, how 'innocent' and 'law-abiding' the Left Front government is! Will anybody believe this statement to corroborate truth?

The history of the Left Front government is the history of utter betrayal to the people and despicable capitulation to the capitalists both Indian and foreign. The CBI Report is only a tip of the iceberg of the long CPI(M) regime the very small portion of it has come to light whereas almost the entire portion is kept hidden. If impartial enquiry into all the lock-up death is done, the result of the finding will definitely swell the number of hapless Bhikharis.

## THE CONGRESS(I) PLOY

The Congress(I), particularly in West Bengal, is out to take advantage of the situation arising out of the CBI report. Has it any moral right to create any row centring round the incident? The track record of the Congress(I) government in West Bengal, even if we recall only the days of Siddhartha Sankar Ray's regime since 1972, leaving aside other Congress regimes of the past, is no less dictatorial and deplorable. The horrid incidents of police torture and brutality of that period in galore are still fresh in the public memory which is generally said to be proverbially short.

And what happened in 1976 in Achutha Menon regime of Kerala? On the night of 1st March, 1976 the police of the Kerala state government run by Congress(I) picked up a Naxalite student P. Rajan from the Calicut Regional Engineering College Hostel and since then there was no trace of him. The police denied the arrest of Rajan and the then police minister K. Karunakaran gave a statement on the floor of the state Assembly that "Police never arrested Rajan". Rajan's father appealed to the Kerala High Court and the HC gave an order of CBI

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## MAKE ANTI-IMPERIALIST CONVENTION IN CALCUTTA A GREAT SUCCESS

In the background of the growing imperialist menace and threat to peace, security, freedom and democracy especially following restoration of capitalism in the former Soviet Union and east European socialist countries, an anti-imperialist convention has been planned to be held in Calcutta from November 14 to 17, 1995, under the aegis of a Preparatory Committee. Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer, former judge of the Supreme Court, and Professor Sushil Kumar Mukherjee, former Vice Chancellor of Calcutta University are its President and General Secretary respectively.

Imperialist, especially US imperialist, aggression and assault on democracy, peace and security in one country after another in the last several years pose a grave threat to the entire world. For long the USA has been carrying on aggressive activities by various means to establish absolute

domination over the world and pursue its imperialist design. With this aim the US rulers started setting up military bases in different parts of the world since the end of the second world war. They engineered coup d'état in Iran in 1954, in Guatemala in 1956, in Indonesia in 1965 and in Chile in 1973. They assaulted Cuba in 1961, Santo Domingo in 1965, Grenada in 1983 and Panama in 1989. They launched aggression in North Korea in 1950 and waged destructive wars in Vietnam from 1960 to 1975 and in Cambodia from 1970 to 1975, besides engineering local and partial warfares in many other countries.

It has to be kept in view that the present international situation has doubtlessly been tilted against peace democracy and socialism in favour of war and reaction. On the plea of protecting 'democracy', 'freedom' and 'human rights', the US ruling clique is interfering nakedly in the

internal affairs of other countries and trying to direct the economy of the entire world in the interest of all-out exploitation and plunder by the imperialist capital in the name of so-called free trade, and unhesitant to even launch direct military intervention on the pretext of giving relief or protecting life and property.

The more the US economy gets entangled in its insoluble crisis, the more reckless and aggressive becomes the US imperialism. That the assertion by the USA after the setback of the world communist movement, of establishing peace on earth was nothing but a clever ploy to conceal its aggressive design has now been fully exposed. To carry through its design, the USA has reduced the UNO to a puppet, a mere rubber stamp to endorse its machinations, and, under the UN umbrella and in the guise of UN peace-keeping force, it has organised military interven-

tion in Somalia, Haiti, Rwanda. Through continuing economic blockade of the socialist Cuba, it is out to force her to submit to its dictates and design. Economic blockade, or sanction is the lever today with which the US imperialism bullies, but with impunity, any country which refuses to bow to its dictates, as it did with Libya, Iraq and North Korea.

Other imperialist powers are also not lagging behind. Germany, France, Japan, UK, Yeltsin's Russia, all are busy carrying out their respective spheres of influence in Asia, Africa, former Yugoslavia, etc. The danger of outbreak of war lies in this growing scramble for redivision of the world market and economic advantages among the imperialist powers in the changed world situation where socialism has been greatly weakened and the mighty socialist camp exists no more.

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## Comrade Stalin masterly handled contradiction among imperialists & foiled their design

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struggle in particular, and above all to Comrade Stalin, the great leader.

Throughout the world the 50th anniversary of victory over fascism is being observed. Some countries, particularly of West Europe, observed this occasion as victory in Europe (or VE) Day. But in doing so, we find that in some of these celebrations the historic role of Stalin, is being ignored while in others it has been downplayed. Taking advantage of the temporary setback in the international communist movement, and in a curious twist of facts, the victory over Nazi Germany has now been attributed mainly to the war efforts of the Allies in order to minimise the glory of the Soviet Union; and the media owned by the imperialists has been circulating such reviews of history.

At the same time, to the old slanders of the imperialists who have all along painted Stalin as a cruel, blood-thirsty dictator depriving people of all freedom and entering into a pact with Hitler in a

cynical game of power politics to grab Balkan territories, have been added calumnies and vicious propaganda by the revisionists and renegade cliques. Admittedly, some confusion and questions exist among some people over the role of Stalin in above issues; especially the Ribbentrop-Molotov or non-aggression pact (1939) with Hitler has been questioned by some as unprincipled, as impermissible for a socialist country. Let us examine the abovementioned issues with a mind to search out truth and take lesson from history. To do so let us take a glance at some facts of history to refresh the memory of our readers, and to examine the role played by Stalin and different countries before and during the war.

After the First World War, Germany was plagued by the ills of a war-ravaged capitalist economy confounded by the most harsh and even humiliating conditions of the Versailles Treaty imposed by the victor states. Germany was then experiencing unprecedented unemployment, hunger, destitution and

social unrest, leaving democracy in a most shaky and unstable condition. The newly emerging fascist force under Hitler then started to emerge with its strong fanatic anti-Bolshevik and anti-Jew orientation, because of which the bourgeois class helped Hitler to come to the forefront, to prominence and to gain a position of power, to tide over the crisis and stave off the threat of workers' rebellion.

Hitler operating under the garb of social democratic slogans was able to deceive the masses and manipulate their deep sense of national humiliation. Thus he could rouse them and rally them behind the idea of revenge. After Hitler's rise to power in 1933, he began to rearm the country in open defiance of the Versailles Treaty, and through this a drastic militarization of the economy was able to give it a temporary boost. Hitler never made a secret of his aggressive and dangerous expansionist designs.

By that time the Soviet Union had successfully emerged from the ravages

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# Anglo-French imperialists wanted to direct Nazi onslaught against the USSR

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caused by the First World War, followed by civil war and international aggression and intervention against the young Bolshevik state. Despite the fact that it was the sole socialist country, surrounded by capitalist countries intent on destroying what they regarded as the Bolshevik or Communist threat, the Soviet Union had successfully completed its first five year plan without outside help under the leadership of Stalin, and had started to make rapid advance in socialist construction. The USSR was then in the process of being transformed from a most poor and backward country into a modern, advanced nation whose voice could not be ignored any more.

Even before Hitler had time and opportunity to start and put his dangerous designs into action, Stalin in his tireless and consistent struggle against the menace of war and for maintenance of peace, tried to build up collective security, or a peace front, in Europe to put a curb on Hitler's expansionist designs. To this end, already by the end of 1933 Stalin tried to bring about a conclusion of a regional agreement on mutual defence with Poland and France—the countries bordering Germany and most immediately threatened — as well as Czechoslovakia and Belgium and the Baltic States, viz. Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia as well as Finland. And to guarantee the independence of any European nation to the east and west of Germany, threatened by Hitler, Stalin was prepared to make maximum contribution to come to their assistance. Such an alliance would thus have forced Hitler to fight on two fronts, which Germany was in no position to do at all, even at a much later time, not to speak at that time. But for such an alliance to become effective, the role of Poland was pivotal, since the Soviet Union had no common border with Germany and in order to come to the aid of its allies needed the right of passage for its troops through Poland. Yet, whereas some French politicians advocated such an

alliance, the reactionary ruling clique in Poland, blinded by its hatred for Bolshevik Russia and feeling more affinity with Hitler, was vehemently opposed to any sort of cooperation or alliance with the USSR. And before long it signed a declaration of friendship and non-aggression offered by Hitler, who had grown apprehensive about these developments and quickly tried to disrupt the talks. Thereafter the reactionary ruling clique in Poland was to continuously make plans for attack on Soviet Russia to capture the Ukraine, the granary of the

USSR, for which it not only tried to enlist Nazi support but to rope in Rumania as well, to the very last. Stalin on the other hand kept up talks undaunted and with endless patience all through the year, until in 1935 he was able to conclude at least a treaty of mutual assistance with Czechoslovakia and France, which unfortunately the latter was soon to disown by its actions. These facts, however, find no mention in imperialist propaganda and media coverage of those days: it would of course be unrealistic to expect them to highlight these.

Again and again, Stalin renewed his efforts to bring about an alliance and put a curb on Hitler's growing aggression to prevent him from carrying out his dangerous designs. Thus, after Hitler's annexation of Austria, known as the 'Anschluss', that took place with France and Britain looking the other way, disowning their obligations, Stalin tried to renew the negotiations, this time with Britain too. But all his proposals fell on deaf ears. It was only after Czechoslovakia had been invaded by Hitler to be wiped off the map as an independent country soon after the infamous Munich agreement, that France and Britain under the pressure of growing public opinion, especially in Britain, reluctantly agreed to talks. In Britain some statesmen like Churchill who was then in the Opposition, clearly realized the advantage of and openly advocated an alliance with the Soviet Union, despite his strong anti-Bolshevism. Moreover, 92 per cent of the voters were in its favour, as shown in a Gallup poll, in April, and published in *New York Herald Tribune* on May 4, 1939. But neither the ruling clique in France nor Britain, under Daladier and Chamberlain, respectively, were serious, they kept up a pretence of talks merely as a sop to public opinion and to tie down the Soviet Russia, while they themselves had different plans.

There is no reason to believe that the poison of fascist ideology had remained confined to the boundaries of Germany or Italy. The truth is, it spread its tentacles deeply among the ruling cliques and some politicians in many countries. Besides, the role the Fifth columnists played in one country after another is too well-known to need repeating. Many statesmen were so blinded by fanatical hatred of Bolshevism and pro-fascist leanings that they even sacrificed or were ready to surrender their own country's and their own people's interests to Hitler, on the eve of the Second World War, in their attempt to attain a rapprochement with Hitler and turn his aggression towards the USSR. And at

times they acted even as Hitler's instrument in carrying out his aggressive designs on this or that country, with the same object.

This was true of most western capitalist countries, and particularly the Anglo-French ruling clique. This is clearly revealed the way the Anglo-French ruling clique helped Hitler in his aggressive designs regarding Czechoslovakia. Thus, the same France that had promised mutual assistance in its treaty with Czechoslovakia, threatened and pressurized the Czech government, in which it was followed by Britain, to hand over the Sudetenland and sell out its national interest to Hitler. And excluding both Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Russia, also in violation of its treaty obligations, the French President, Daladier and Chamberlain, the then British Prime Minister, sat with Hitler and Mussolini to sign the infamous Munich agreement on the most atrocious terms dictated by Hitler, that sealed the fate of Czechoslovakia. Hence with the sole object of turning Hitler's aggression eastward towards the Soviet Russia, the Anglo-French imperialists signed the death sentence of Czechoslovakia in one of history's worst incident of treachery. It was alone Stalin who stood at the side of the Czech government. But the USSR's offers of military help, offered even though its treaty obligations were conditional on the rendering of French assistance, became redundant: the resistance of the Czech government, feeling basely betrayed by its western allies, had crumbled. These actions of France and Britain not only put the USSR into a dangerous isolated position, but greatly strengthened Hitler's hands, enabling him to gain a more dominating position in Central Europe and favourable conditions to launch further aggressions, all the more so as he had gained now one of the best armament plants in Europe, the Skoda Works. Worse still, their actions enabled Hitler, who shrewdly seized up the Anglo-French ruling cliques, soon to successfully stake some military gambles on their weak response, that would catapult him to a position of overwhelming economic and military might.

At the same time the Munich agreement sealed the fate of France itself: it not only brought about a cheapening of moral values that followed from these actions, but deepened and worsened the political rot to such an extent that she proved unable to stand up to Hitler's subsequent attack at all, despite her

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# Imperialist slanders against Stalin cannot hide historical facts

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military might. Thus, Coulondre, the French Ambassador in Moscow, was to write later on: "Munich tolled the bell for a certain France, *la grande France* of former times and even of 1914... The tolling bells do not kill a sick man they announce his death. The accord of Munich did not provoke the fall of France. It registered it." (*The Collapse of the Third Republic*, William L. Shirer, p-402)

Even more desperate than France was Britain under Chamberlain to come to an understanding with Hitler that was directed against the Soviet Russia. The same British finance capital that had strangled democracy in Germany and kept the country on its knees by demanding impossible reparations, now generously helped Hitler with large loans and some investments. Even though with Czechoslovakia things had not worked according to the full expectations of the Anglo-French imperialists, Chamberlain who at that time had signed a declaration of non-aggression and mutual consultation with Hitler still continued his secret negotiations with Hitler, and tried his utmost to come to an understanding with him at the Soviet Russia's cost. The only purpose behind his negotiations with Stalin, i.e. the Soviet Union was to pacify the growing opposition to his policy at home as mentioned before and to use the negotiations as a leverage to put pressure on Hitler to come to terms with him. Characterizing Chamberlain's foreign policy, Edward Raczynski, the Polish Ambassador in London wrote: They thought that Central and Eastern Europe could become the object of German expansion without major detriment to Britain. "Matters were expected to reach a point of a Russo-German war, which would weaken both the belligerents -- not without indirect advantage for the Western states." (*Europe on the Eve of the Second World War*, pp.13-14, Vilnis Sipols).

It was in such a situation, with the three major imperialist powers in Europe nearing a rapprochement with Hitler that Stalin tried to forge an alliance with Britain and France in realization of the supreme need of the hour in order to save the world and the Russian people from the ordeal of a new world war, and protect the sole socialist state. To guarantee the success of the negotiations Stalin even entrusted his close Comrade in arms, Molotov, who was also a member of the politbureau, with the talks. But no matter how skilled and accommodating he proved, one after another of his proposals were cold shouldered by Britain and eventually

rejected. French policy too, fell more or less in line with that of Britain. Even in the beginning of August 39, when all foreign offices in Europe were in the know of Hitler's plans to attack Poland the same month, and he had already started to mobilize his troops for the coming war, the British and French teams sent to Moscow to conclude a military agreement on the form and scope of the immediate and effective aid to be afforded by one another, not only took more than 15 days to reach Moscow, but arrived without authority to sign an alliance treaty. Rather, Admiral Drax who headed the British team had secret instructions to sound out the Russians and prolong the negotiations. As before, talks floundered on Poland's unwillingness to allow the right of passage to the Soviet troops even in well specified areas and during well specified periods, for the purpose of the Soviet military assistance to its allies in case of need, on which hinged the concrete question of an alliance. Yet the USSR's sincerity and interest in guaranteeing the independence of its neighbours was never in doubt. Thus we find the German Ambassador in Moscow, Friedrich von Schulenberg, who naturally closely scrutinized the Soviet Union's every move writing in this connection that "the USSR was interested in maintaining the status quo in Eastern Europe, that is in preserving Poland and the Baltic states as buffers isolating it from Germany." (*Zentrales Staatsarchiv* (Potsdam) referred to in *Europe on the Eve of the Second World War*, Vilnis Sipols, p.24) Similarly, the French charge d' affaires in Moscow, Payart, stated on March 29, that the Soviet Union did not strive for territorial changes, did not want a geographical rapprochement with Germany but was interested in promoting the defence of those states which played the role of a buffer between Germany and the USSR.

Even though France and Britain could easily have brought the ruling clique in Poland to its senses or put pressure on it in its own interest not to speak of theirs in this grave hour of crisis when war for them, as guarantors of Poland, was imminent, however, chose to do nothing of the sort. With Hitler's planned attack on Poland only a few days away the Anglo-French imperialists were clearly unwilling to conclude an alliance with the Soviet Union. Stalin's consistent struggle for maintenance of peace and prevention of outbreak of the Second World War, started years ago with the attempt to forge an Eastern Pact, as mentioned before, failed on the western imperialists' appeasement and anti-Bolshevist orientation, on their unending attempts to switch the war and turn Hitler's aggression towards the Soviet Union. Already at war with Japan while discharging her treaty obligation towards Mongolia, and with Japanese troops amassed threateningly on the Siberian border she was in mortal danger of being dragged into a war on two fronts against Japan and Hitler, a war not only on two fronts against the fascist axis but supported directly or indirectly by the entire capitalist-imperialist camp. It is in this critical situation that the foremost duty of saving the first and only socialist state, that is to save the world revolution based on proletarian internationalism, the only hope and future for the exploited people everywhere, fell on Stalin. Stalin in a brilliant handling of the contradictions among the capitalist-imperialist forces on the one hand and the fascist forces on the other, was able to drive a wedge between Hitler and his western backers, and contain a possible united attack by Japan and Nazi Germany by concluding a non-aggression pact with Hitler.

(To be concluded)

## Two SUCI comrades murdered by CPI(M) marauders & police

In a combined attack launched by the CPI(M) anti-socials and the police two SUCI workers were killed and three others seriously injured in the Chaltaberia-Bamungachi area under Joynagar P.S., South 24-Parganas district on 13th May last.

The police have been camping at the house of Subal Naskar, the CPI(M) mafia leader and the kingpin of so many murders and loots, to protect him from people's wrath. These policemen are regularly joining hands with the CPI(M)

anti-socials in organizing armed attacks on the nearby villages, the strongholds of the SUCI or playing the role of silent spectators to CPI(M) vandalism.

On the fateful day, i.e. on 13th May '95, more than 100 armed gangsters of CPI(M) led by the notorious Subal Naskar attacked Sardarpara, hurling bombs and showering bullets, but had to flee in the face of resistance by the villagers. The policemen at nearby police camp at Kashipur also turned a deaf ear and blind eye to all these acts of vandalism. But

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## Assam SUCI on recently held Rajya Sabha Poll

The decision of the Assam State Committee of the SUCI to vote for the AGP candidate in the Rajya Sabha election was briefly reported in the last issue of the *Proletarian Era* dated 3rd June, 1995. The full text of the statement is published below.

Regarding the ensuing Rajya Sabha election, the Assam State Committee of the SUCI, having discussed the issue at its meeting held on 1st June, 1995, issued the following statement:

"It is evident to all, i.e., in the context of prevailing strong and widespread resentment of all sections of the people of Assam against the Congress(I) government at the Centre and the State, the ensuing election to Rajya Sabha has assumed greater significance. Clearly, the task of defeating the Congress(I) has become more urgent also because of the fact that, the ruling Congress(I) in total disregard of the legitimate expectation of the people of Assam, and also in violation of the constitutional provision and democratic norms, once again set up Dr. Manmohan Singh, who not only is an outsider but also the architect of the out and out anti-people new economic policy, as its first candidate.

"Having felt that to ensure the defeat of the second Congress(I) candidate, unity of all Opposition parties and groups was of paramount importance, the State Committee of the SUCI, called upon some selected, prominent individuals and other Left parties, like the CPI(M) and the CPI, to sponsor an eminent person who apart from being known as the pro-people, democratic man, wedded to legitimate aspirations of all the sections of the people of Assam, would be acceptable to all Opposition parties and groups. Although, this correct proposition was emphasized by us at all the meetings of the Opposition parties held in this regard, it was however, a matter of regret that no one, neither the CPI(M) nor the CPI, took it seriously. The State Committee of the Party notes with deep concern that because of this callous attitude, because of the prevailing disunity and dissensions within the Opposition camp, the task of defeating the second Congress(I) candidate has become difficult indeed.

"The State Committee of the Party notes that there is now only an AGP candidate opposed to the Congress(I). All right-thinking people are aware of the politics of AGP, it being the progenitor of the 'Assam movement', which, instead of bringing any relief to the common people, wrought havoc and caused severe type of fratricidal conflicts resulting in killings of thousands of men, women and children. Its clamour for identity of Assamese speaking people has clearly turned out to be a boomerang, giving birth to similar

type of parochial and divisive thinking and similar type of clamour for ethnic identity amongst other groups of people, which in the cumulative effect is threatening not only the territorial integrity of Assam but the very existence of Assam as a distinct and a colourful state. Its recent underhand machinations resulting in massive disenfranchisements of lakhs of Indian citizens belonging to the religious and linguistic minorities is such a big offensive against the minorities which cannot be easily forgotten. Everybody knows that this heinous move, along with continuous discrimination of the minorities is the direct outcome of the AASU-AGP's venomous campaign against the minorities, which they are conducting since the days of beginning of Assam movement. Apart from this highly anti-minority stance of the AGP, its five years of extremely corrupt, inefficient and anti-people rule on one hand, blurs any distinction with Congress(I) rule and, on the other hand, points its glaring attachment to the ruling capitalist class, their ideas and thinking.

"The State Committee of the SUCI being aware of this anti-people character of the AGP, with whom it has got severe difference at the ideological and political plane, found it extremely difficult to support the candidate as against the candidate of the ruling Congress(I), which, no doubt, is the principal enemy of the people of the country, in a straight way. It, therefore, through a letter, called upon the AGP leadership to clarify the following three points:

1. Whether they are ready to state it publicly (a) that foreign nationals can be detected only through judicial process and judicial scrutiny and for that matter, by the tribunals already set up for the purpose and that only after that their names can be deleted from the voters' list; (b) whether they are ready to do everything possible to the extent of developing powerful movements against the Election Commission to ensure the re-inclusion of names of genuine Indian citizens, mostly belonging to the minority community who had their names included in the 1966 Electoral Rolls, and for the inclusion of the names of their eligible offsprings who were deliberately excluded from the final voters' list as published in December, 1994.

2. Whether they are ready to develop powerful mass movements against the Centre and state governments demanding (a) further extension of broad gauge railway lines in different parts of Assam and for their electrification; (b) concrete scheme for setting up of major industries in the state mainly on the basis of natural resources as available in Assam.

3. Whether they are ready to fight vigorously within and outside Parliament for making the present official language status of Assamese permanent without linking it in any way with the change in the pattern of population, retaining at the same time all the constitutional rights of all the linguistic minorities, big or small, either through adoption of respective resolution in Parliament or through amendment of the Constitution.

"But it is unfortunate that the AGP leadership failed to realize on the one hand the urgency and importance of these three burning issues and refused to commit themselves as was sought for in the letter, and was demanded by the situation, and on the other, the eagerness of the party to defeat the second Congress(I) candidate. The evasive nature of the reply and our subsequent futile attempt through bilateral talks to convince them about the imperative necessity of these three demands clearly demonstrate extreme insincerity and lack of concern for the common downtrodden people which is typical of a bourgeois or a petty bourgeois party.

"The State Committee of our Party also cannot forget AGP's affinity for BJP, as manifested through pursuit of anti-minority political line and different overt and covert overtures and deeds.

"Under the circumstances, we are faced with the situation in which we can abstain from voting thereby giving a chance to the treacherous Congress(I) to win the second seat which obviously we cannot do as notwithstanding the anti-people character of the AGP, the Congress(I) undoubtedly is the principal enemy of the Indian people. Therefore, while in the overriding interest of defeating the Congress(I) candidate, the State Committee of the SUCI decides to vote in favour of the AGP candidate Shri Paragdhara Chaliha, in the ensuing Rajya Sabha election, it at the same time, calls upon the people of the state to be vigilant against the anti-people stance of the AGP and bring pressure upon it, whenever required to pursue pro-people policy, to force it to consistently pursue anti-Congress(I) and anti-BJP political line."

### CPI(M) kill SUCI workers

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again at 1 pm on the same day the CPI(M) anti-socials launched attack on Sardarpara along with three armed policemen camping at Subal Naskar's house. Comrade Jahangir Sardar, only 17-year old was killed, and three others including a girl reading in class III were injured by the police. Despite initial casualty the villagers boldly chased away the criminals and encircled the murderer policemen who were however ultimately saved by the local SUCI leaders from the villagers' wrath. On the other hand, about a mile away while fleeing the CPI(M) criminals shot dead an SUCI worker Comrade Latif Halder.

## MAKE ANTI-IMPERIALIST CONVENTION A SUCCESS

(Contd. from page 1)

Whereas, making a plea of 'free trade', the USA is out to regain her commanding position in the global economy, the GATT and its successor WTO regulations have been framed precisely to help the US-led imperialist powers to redivide the world capitalist market among themselves and freely plunder it. This will certainly result in further tightening of the grip of ruthless exploitation and plunder by a handful of monopoly multinational corporations over the world, further concentration of wealth at an accelerated pace and consequent further aggravation of unemployment, hunger and destitution of hundreds of millions of people across the world.

The Indian ruling class, in its bid to secure a foothold for the Indian monopolists in this scheme of globalization and redivision of the world capitalist market, has entered into collusion with these imperialist forces and opened its home market to the giant multinationals. As a result, the stranglehold of the concerted imperialist exploitation is tightening round all strata of

the Indian masses in the spheres of economy, education, commodity prices, ordinary and lifesaving drugs, scientific research, social outlook, moral values and all that. The burden is enormously increasing on the people. This imperialist onslaught, therefore, cannot be fought back without fighting the ruling capitalist class of the Indian State which itself has acquired an imperialist trait already.

In the present changed situation, the USA has also stepped up efforts to enforce its old design of nuclear non-proliferation with aim to foist its own nuclear hegemony over the world. It threatened to wipe out North Korea from the face of earth when the latter refused to submit to its dictates.

Similarly, the US aim behind launching the most brutal and barbaric war against Iraq was to secure the latter's submission, since it was Iraq which obstructed the US design to perpetuate monopoly control over the oil resources of entire West Asia. After it failed to fully achieve its goal by military power, it engineered economic blockade

through the UN with object of ruining Iraq economically. With Iraq and some other countries now raising their voice against this blockade, the USA is again rushing to this theatre with a fresh war plan.

Any opposition to the US imperialist design in any form whatsoever inevitably meets with US retaliation by attack on the plea of protecting freedom, democracy, security and all that. Which means, it is a question whether or not any country which refuses to obey the US dictates has the right to independent existence, right to develop its economy independently. The big question before humanity is if at all human rights can be ensured in this situation. Anybody who cherishes democracy, peace and freedom cannot remain indifferent to it.

The silver lining of hope is that in every land, including in the USA itself, popular opinion is growing stronger and vocal against imperialist aggression and war. In many countries militant movements are developing against the US imperialism and against governments subservient to it, upholding freedom, democracy and socialism.

In this situation an urgent need has arisen for giving this growing anti-imperialist popular opinion and resistance an organizational shape, rallying all who stand against war and for democracy, freedom and peace, to build protest and resistance movements against all sorts of interference, intervention, aggression and war machinations of imperialism, more particularly of US imperialism, and release a worldwide militant peace movement conducive to the struggle for emancipation anywhere in the world.

The Anti-imperialist Convention in Calcutta is going to be held with this object in view. The Preparatory Committee, representing all sections of people and including distinguished citizens, educationists, lawyers, scientists, teachers, professionals and working people, has taken up a programme of fund raising and campaigning among people of all walks to enlist their support to organize a mass base for the convention. The committee appeals to the people for financial support, all sorts of cooperation and active involvement.

## 18 years of CPI(M)-led rule in WB has made the police reckless & murderous

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enquiry which revealed that Rajan was arrested and murdered by the police. In the meantime Karunakaran became the Chief Minister and had to resign and the guilty police officers sacked following the verdict of the High Court.

Besides, numerous cases of murder and torture were perpetrated by the Congress(I) government and its police both at the Centre and in the states. The dark days of Emergency are still fresh in the people's mind in which hundreds of people were murdered in the Turkman Gate and their houses razed to the ground by bulldozers in Delhi alone. The Nellie massacre in Assam in 1983, the Delhi riot in 1984 following the assassination of Indira Gandhi, the brutal murder of hundreds of Naxalites in West Bengal and elsewhere in the seventies in false encounters, the massacre of countless Sikh youths in Punjab also in false encounters besides lock-up murders, the barbaric blinding of helpless prisoners in Bhagalpur jail in Bihar are a fraction of history of their blood-stained regime. To throttle any voice of dissent the Congress(I), the most trusted agent of the ruling capitalist class, introduced Black Acts one after another and armed the police administration with wide powers, the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act being

the most dreaded among them. The police taking advantage of these draconian laws behave like despots and do whatever they like. They are confident that the Congress(I) government will defend them against all odds.

Has the Congress(I) government instituted enquiry commission in all these? Why has not the report of the enquiry commission on Delhi riot been published? Has a single person behind the perpetration of all these massacres been brought to book or punished? The motive behind the present move of the Congress(I) in West Bengal has really nothing to do with people's interest. It is a power game in which the Congress(I) is trying to fish in the troubled waters to make capital for the next elections.

In fact, all the parliamentary parties serving this moribund capitalist system, be that the Congress(I), BJP, CPI(M), Janata Dal, Telugu Desam, or any other, use police in this way in order to perpetuate their rule. It means that in parliamentary democracy all the parliamentary parties enjoy 'democratic rights' to trample upon the people's right to live as human beings and subvert the democratic norms and values. Nobody can forget that the police force in our

country was raised and trained by the British imperialists in order to protect their imperialist

exploitation and oppression. They used the police in crushing ruthlessly any sort of protest and in torturing the Indians who dared to even raise their voice against the British domination of India. People of our country can still remember the

inhuman cruelty on the revolutionaries who cherished the dream of freeing their beloved motherland through uncompromising struggle and dedicated their life. This imperialist heritage of the police and even the infamous police code which vested autocratic authority in the police are still continuing. Who will change it? Definitely not the parties that defend this system based on injustice and exploitation. Can it be allowed to go unabated? How long the country and the people would remain a mute spectator to the silent burial of the "message of justice" unsung, unwept and unnoticed going on all over the country, particularly the kind of sorry tale of what happened recently in the case of Bhikhari Paswan in West Bengal where the government itself rode roughshod over whatever remnants of democratic norms were there! This is a serious question tormenting the minds of those who still feel concern for the future of our country.

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