

Imperialist sharks out to dominate the world — Resist it

The world faces a great danger today, a greater peril than during the Second World War when human civilization was threatened with catastrophe. It has turned into an open ground for imperialist exploitation, plunder and aggression. The conflict among the imperialist powers over their bid to expand their respective spheres of exploitation and capital infiltration has aggravated more than ever before. While exploitation and domination by finance capital go on increasing all over the world, the growing conflict and contradiction among the imperialist powers have turned the danger of war into real possibility. The absence of an organized world wide resistance movement against this growing menace of imperialist aggression makes it a matter of graver concern. People in different countries are not even aware enough of this imperialist design and role. Rather, the thrust of orchestrated worldwide imperialist propaganda, side by side with the debacle in the socialist camp, has caught people in confusion and bewilderment. In fact, people's struggle against imperialist onslaught is in a grave crisis today and the greatest challenge for mankind is now to overcome this crisis. The future of working class struggle and democratic mass movement in every country depend upon how effectively this challenge can be met.

People in every country did realize in a way that a sea-change had come over the international situation following the dismantling of the Soviet Union and the collapse of the Socialist Camp. But hardly did it strike them what dimensions this change will take, what repercussion it will have on people's life across the world, what turn it will give to the course of the international situation, and so forth. Had it struck them effectively, or at least people who think and the leaders and cadres of the Left movement in different countries had grasped correctly the real significance and implications of this change, a surge of anti-imperialist resistance movement to save humanity would have swept the world today. Whatever obstacle the Soviet Union posed before the imperialist onslaught, even though weakened under its revisionist leadership, has ceased to be there with the dismantling of the Soviet state, leaving the entire world virtually in the grip of aggressive imperialism. The freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the relatively weaker nations are almost at the mercy of the giant imperialist powers. People in all countries are falling easy prey to exploitation and plunder by imperialist capital.

On the other hand, even while the Soviet Union and the east European socialist states were in existence, contradiction had been intensifying among the giant imperialist powers over control of the world market and domination in trade and economy in different parts of the globe. However, as they all looked upon the Soviet Union as their common enemy, the imperialist powers managed to keep their conflict and contradiction in a low profile to an extent. Now with that 'enemy' gone from the scene, the possibility of the imperialist contradiction breaking out into open conflicts and warfares has increased manifold. The forces of peace have become weaker whereas the

war-mongers have grown stronger. Already, there have been some instances of naked imperialist aggression. In particular, the savage US military rampage in Iraq has exposed the nature and danger of this changed situation. Despite all this, the imperialist machinery of false propaganda has so confused the public opinion that people can neither see nor grasp this danger.

Even then, imperialist orchestration of falsehood could not have been successful on so wide a scale had this spirit of anti-imperialist struggle all over the world been alive like before, and that uncompromising struggle of workers,

(Contd. on page 3)

Proletarian Era

Organ of SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA
Founder Editor-in-Chief:
COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

Vol 29 No 3
Rs. 2.00

October 27, 1995
Air Surcharge 5 p

France Flexes its Nuclear Muscle

Within a month of a nuclear test on 5th September in the French Polenesian island Mururoa atoll the French imperialists have conducted another bigger nuclear bomb test in the same region. And the French government has done it defying all protests within the country and outside nearly all over the world before and after the first test in the series. The French government has also declared that in spite of all adverse world opinion it would go on testing nuclear bombs which may extend from six to eight tests.

As expected from every capitalist or imperialist government, the French imperialists also advanced self-defence as the lame excuse of augmenting their nuclear arsenal. But self-defence against whom? Since the counter-revolution in erstwhile Soviet Union and fall of the East European socialist states capitalism and world imperialism have, with fanfare, created an atmosphere as if the era of cold war has ended, their 'unipolar' world under the leadership of US imperialism ushered in world peace and tranquility on humanity with the fall of socialism. And now the world is free from the nightmare of nuclear destruction too! This obstinate programme of nuclear explosion of the French imperialists speaks volume of the falsity of the above propaganda. Because it is imperialism which generates war and so long as imperialism exists the possibility of war also exists. With the accentuation of crisis of market the imperialists, without exception, are getting more and more at loggerheads with each other. In a frantic bid for coming out of crisis of shrinkage of market, over production, stagflation etc. the simmering cold war amongst the imperialist-capitalist powers, is now getting reflected in growing protectionism, trade barrier and trade wars. The crisis-ridden capitalist economies of the imperialist countries, traditional and developing, big or small, are more and more resorting to militarisation and to get their stock-pile of armaments and military hardware released the ruling bourgeoisie of these states are engineering localised wars, partial wars, making intrigues, intervention and subversion in other countries. And at this present juncture of history, particularly after the collapse of a powerful world socialist system, the world imperialists, more so the US imperialism, are now out to redivide the world capitalist market among themselves which

may even lead to full scale world war. Under the guise of their fancied 'unipolar' world system the US imperialism is now striving to bring the whole world under its feet and establish its single hegemony even belittling the might of other traditional imperialists like the Great Britain, France, Germany and Japan, and this they can not allow. They are not ready to accept the self-made leadership of the US imperialism in this game of redividing the world capitalist market, establishment of respective hegemony and creating sphere of influence. France is also such a contender. More over, Germany is striving hard to establish its supremacy over the European Union which poses a danger to the imperialist interest of France in Europe. Thus in the face of growing US imperialist hegemonism and belligerency and Germany's growing might France likes not to sit idle like a mute spectator. It wants to show the US and German imperialists and the world that it possesses sufficient capability of protecting her rights in world capitalist market. The present series of nuclear testing in renewed vigour is such an imperialistic muscle flexing by France. Besides, faced with tremendous internal crisis like unprecedented unemployment problem, recession etc. the French imperialist rulers are now taking recourse to whipping up the French national chauvinistic sentiment of the common people to divert their attention from these problems. This nuclear explosion is a part of this game. Side by side, the most naked intervention of the French imperialists in the recent coup d'etat in the Comoros islands, a one time colony of theirs, is also another example of their hegimonistic design in African Continent. By this France shows her political and military presence in the region and tries to extend her sphere of influence. Thus both the nuclear testing and intervention in Comoros are manifestation of the same imperialist aspirations of French imperialism.

The worldwide protest against these French nuclear tests is no doubt very much encouraging. Both the preservationists of nature and common people have come out in various countries in protest against these sinister war mongering acts of the French government. But one thing should be kept in mind that simply protesting atomic explosion for the interest of nature will not go a

(Contd. on page 8)

Bailadila Deal

Privatisation paves the way for unhindered plunder

The Centre and different state governments vociferously advocate privatisation. The arguments are such that as if only to avoid losses they are forced to take recourse to privatisation. They try to bring home the point that due to gross inefficiency at the management level and serious lack of work-culture among the workers the public sector undertakings (PSUs) are facing heavy losses resulting in a setback to the interest of the people and the country as a whole. That is why there is no option left other than inviting private investments. For, they argue, only privatisation can restore the dampening work-culture and guarantee some work in the industries and offices.

Whenever any movement is launched against privatisation the protagonists of reform in the government hurriedly stamp it as anti-people or anti-national and try to convince that while they favour privatisation for the greater interest of the country, the workers oppose it out of petty interest.

Is the government speaking the truth? What is the reality? It is not true that only the losing PSUs are being privatised. In fact the private owners who take over those few non-profit making units show little interest to run them. Rather they seem to be keen on selling out the machineries and going for real estate business with the land available there. Their crazy eyes are all set for the profit-making PSUs. The government, on the other hand, appears to sell those to the private owners, often surreptitiously through underhand deals.

The Congress government's decision to lease the profit-making 11B iron mine of Bailadila, Madhya Pradesh to the Mittal Group is a glaring example of this attitude. This mine run by the National Mining Development Corporation (NMDC), as it is known to all, is rich in high quality iron ore which is in large demand in the country's different steel industries. It has been making huge profits since 1989-90 and has a good potentiality to be more profitable. And still it was decided that the mine would be sold out to the Mittals. Then it should be examined first what noble mission prompted the government to make such a deal.

The Union steel ministry tried to drive home that there was nothing wrong in the deal; the NMDC abided by the provision of the Act and sought on its own the ministry's approval for its joint venture with the Mittal Group, and the latter only consented to it. Thus it was claimed that the ministry was never a party to the decision. On the other hand the NMDC stated that it was never in the decision making process, rather it was very much opposed to any privatisation deal for the profit making mine; the ministry, in fact, issued order to go for a joint venture with the Mittals. Now who is right, the ministry or the NMDC?

The fact is that the chairman of the Mittal Group sent a proposal to the steel ministry on 12th August 1993 for taking over the charge of the 11B mine of Bailadila. But since already the NMDC had contracts with different organisations for supplying iron ores, and change of management would presumably hamper the supply, the fact

which was known to the ministry, it was expected that the government would straightway turn down the proposal. Surprisingly, this simply did not happen, rather the ministry forwarded the proposal to NMDC for the latter's opinion.

The NMDC objected to the proposal in black and white, stating that it had been turning the mine into a profit-making one for the last 6 years and it had got the Board's endorsement for an initial investment for an amount of Rs 515 crores. In this background without agreeing to handing over the prospective mine to the Mittals, it suggested, the government might lease any other mining where work was yet to start.

This proposal of the NMDC failed to convince the power that be; the steel ministry angrily sent its directive that the NMDC would have to go jointly with the Mittals in Bailadila where the former would possess only 11% of its share while the latter would hold 89%. That is the mine would virtually be under the absolute control of the private group. It is understood that in order to hoodwink the people that entire mine was not handed over to the Denro this 11% share was proposed to be retained by the NMDC. The government at the same time directed that the price of transfer would be worked out not on commercial basis and the NMDC would have to sell out the mine at throw away price of Rs. 16 crore. Are the facts not sufficient to prove that the NMDC was not at all agreed to the deal and it was the government which forced it to accept the proposal for joint venture with the Mittal Group?

There were serious differences regarding the deal in the government circles. The union finance ministry, on the basis of government's policy of leasing government-property, worked out that the total profit would have been Rs. 1764 crore for a 20 years' lease of the mine. But the steel ministry transferred 89% of its share at a price of only Rs. 16 crore which was its 10 weeks' profit. Corruption was so vivid and naked in this deal that even the finance ministry in its first written reaction could not restrain itself from saying that it "would not be fair", although it restrained itself from lodging any complaint in the meeting of the Public Accounts Committee of parliament on the issue, even the Congress MP of the Bastar constituency within which Bailadila is situated reported against the deal before the Prime Minister and commented it to be an "absolutely irregular deal". Despite all these the Union Government is shamelessly advocating in favour of it saying that everything had been done properly, as per rules and for the greater interest of the country's steel sector.

Bailadila deal gives rise to some vital questions which need to be probed into right now. Firstly, how the steel sector would be benefited by the transfer of this highly profit making mine to private owners? Why does the government prefer to maintain silence on this vital issue? Secondly, if leasing was the only option why was it not done at the highest price through competitive bidding? Why only the Mittal Group was selected for the purpose? Thirdly, why was an order issued to work out the transfer not on

commercial basis? What greater interest was served by leasing the mine at such a throw away price? Or is there any hidden connection between the Congress and the Mittal Group? If there is at all any, obviously it is not for the benefit of the people.

It is now an open secret that the present Union government has developed close relation with the Mittal Group. That is why when the Union finance ministry noted that the NMDC had the potentiality and infrastructure to promote the 11B mine to a more profit making one and utilise its various resources, a queer reply was received from the Union steel ministry. It observed that there were many other places where the NMDC could work to use its infrastructural facilities. The intention was clear, the 11B mine must be handed over to the Mittal Group. Then why they - the steel ministry and the corporate house are so thick with each other? Is there any shade of doubt that a very naked game of corruption and malpractice is going on behind the public eyes?

It should be borne in mind that this naked game is not an isolated phenomenon and at the same time this should not be taken as only due to the role of some dishonest or corrupt individuals. Urge for extracting maximum profit by hook or by crook gives birth to corruption and so privatisation and corruption go hand in hand. All these are inevitable consequences of central government's policy of privatisation and openness. Taking advantage of this policy different private business houses are engaged in a mad race to anyhow appropriate the profit-yielding government industries for seeking maximum profit out of them. They are already hand in glove with the food and steel ministries. On the other hand the Bailadila issue, like the previous Bofors scandal, share and sugar scam, is yet another hallmark to the corrupt Congress governments at the Centre. Very recently another scandalous issue involving government's decision to lease the vast area of Chromium mine of Orissa to the Mittals and the Tatas has come to surface. When this process continues, who can say, how many scams are waiting for the people of India?

If the Bailadila deal is materialised, besides indiscriminate plunder of money and resources another serious problem would crop up in the life of the local people. Bailadila and the adjacent areas have large tribal population and the NMDC used to recruit almost cent percent of its workforce through local employment exchange. Even Madhyamik is not the minimum qualification for getting a job there. In fact, according to the General Manager, personnel of the NMDC, barring a handful of skilled technical posts all are unskilled labours hailing from the locality. In course of time they are promoted to higher technical posts through in-service training. And these are the people who reared the 11B mine into a profit making one through their hard labour. And what will be their fate after the transfer? The Mittals quite expectedly are not going to recruit unskilled labours through local employment exchanges and to make them skilled in course of time. Modern technological appliances will be used resulting in the cut of a large work force. It will be a heavy jolt to the livelihood of the local millions and the miners.

The present issue takes one back to the days of the Janata Government at the Centre when in 1978 a similar offensive came down upon the Bailadila miners at the behest of the union
(Contd. on page 8)

Intense Intra-Imperialist Contradictions Aggravate Danger of War

(Contd. from page 1)

peasants and other sections of the toiling people in each and every country against capitalism-imperialism, which had grown so intense after the Second World War, been kept alive. But it was not kept alive, because revisionism - reformism - opportunism in communist and working class movement in the international sphere have made inroads to cast their influence in different countries and ideologically disarmed the class and mass struggles of the working class and all other sections of the toiling people. In other words, a vacuum had come to form in the sphere of ideological struggle against capitalism-imperialism. The imperialist powers and the reactionary ruling bourgeoisie of countries like India, have taken full advantage of this situation, and they have taken off the cloak of 'the welfare state' or 'democratic socialism' to deny any obligations of the state or the government to the common people. The reactionary forces have reared their head side by side. The capitalist owners are openly threatening the workers with repressive measures. National chauvinist and rabid communalist forces have come out in the open with threatening cries.

'New World Order' of the U.S.

The US has been talking about creating a 'New World Order' since the eighties. In fact, it is the decline of the US economy, compared to Japan and Germany, which has led to the US calling for a 'New World Order'. In simple terms, the US is claiming the lion's share of the world market for itself and a free entry not only to the markets of Japan and Europe but of the other countries as well. It proves any way that the US has no longer the economic power it had acquired after the Second World War to expand its market through competition in trade with Japan and Europe. But in terms of military power, the US still maintains unquestionable superiority. Germany, too, when it had demanded its share of the world market from Anglo-French and the US imperialism before the Second World War, had similarly raised a cry for a 'New World Order'. Thereby Germany had thrown a challenge on the soil of Europe to Anglo-French-US imperialist domination, with Japan as its ally in Asia. If history were to exactly repeat itself, which it really does not, the demand for a 'New World Order' should have come forth from Japan, with Germany its ally in Europe. But it is the US which has raised the demand instead. The reason is that out of the Second World War, the US had established its economic and military authority in the world imperialist camp. But after the sixties the US domination in economy started receiving jolts. On the other, Japan and Germany were raising their head as contenders of the US in the world market. But they did not possess the military power to challenge the US superiority. So, contrary to the situation obtaining the US has raised the demand of 'New World Order' and started demanding additional privileges from Japan and Germany. For this, the US relies on its military superiority. The US felt it incumbent on itself to leave a few terrible examples of its military might in this part of the world or other immediately after the downfall of the east European socialist states and during when

disintegration of erstwhile Soviet Union appeared imminent. Iraq's annexation of Kuwait came handy to US imperialism at that moment.

So-called cold war

Why the US needed it as a pretext can be understood if one takes a look at the US policies in the post-Second World War period. The glorious, heroic role of the Soviet Union and the Red Army under the leadership of Comrade Stalin in the Second World War had saved the world from the rampage of the fascist German military machine. It provided an inspiration unprecedented in history to the anti-colonial liberation struggle and the anti-capitalist revolutionary movements of the working class all over the world. It aroused a deep sense of love and respect among people everywhere for communism and the socialist states. Alarmed at this popular upsurge the world over, US imperialism started raising a hue and cry that the Soviet Union was planning to foist communism over the entire world with its military might which imperiled 'democracy and freedom' of the nations and even the 'security' of the US itself was at stake. Thereupon the US took on itself to protect the 'security' of the world against the 'danger of soviet aggression' and started establishing military bases in Europe, Asia and Africa to encircle the USSR. 'Cold war', was the coinage which the USA devised for its war preparations on the plea of 'Soviet danger' everywhere.

When USA declared itself as the champion of democracy and freedom around the world, the distinguished British historian Arnold Toynbee while giving a series of lectures in USA (1961) challenged this view: "... America is today the leader of a worldwide anti-revolutionary movement in defense of vested interests. She now stands for what Rome stood for. ROME consistently supported the rich against the poor in all foreign communities that fell under her sway; and, since the poor, so far, have always and everywhere being far more numerous than the rich, Rome's policy made for inequality, for injustice, and for the least happiness of the greatest number. America's decision to adopt Rome's role has been deliberate, if I have gauged it right. (Quoted in the book, *YALTA TO VIETNAM* by David Horowitz)

Another noted historian AJP Taylor said in 1966: "The detailed records ... destroyed the accepted legends completely. They show perhaps almost too emphatically, that the cold war was deliberately started by Truman and by his advisers." (*Ibid*) There are many other accounts by western historians and journalists which document numerous facts to corroborate that the US cry of the so-called cold war was a calculated measure although there was absolutely no provocation from the Soviet side. But the US ruling clique on the plea that 'democracy and security are in danger in the face of Soviet threat' went on with conspiracies one after another to carry out their imperialist design. For instance:

1. The US rulers suppressed all progressive movements in their country by calling them 'communist conspiracies' that were 'dangerous to the security of the nation'. All those in the administration with an element of democratic consciousness

whatsoever were witch-hunted and weeded out. The US communist party was banned. The Rosenbergs were branded as 'Soviet spies' and put to death. Charlie Chaplin was suspect to them and they extradited him. They did everything to suppress the trade union movement of workers in America.

2. On the pretext of 'national security' military production was continuously pushed up. To come out of the crisis of recession the US ruler took to the artificial course of effectively militarizing the economy, that is making the country's economy virtually dependent on military production.
3. To open outlets for the stockpile of armaments they engineered local and partial warfares in many corners of the world.
4. In countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, they simply branded the movements for freedom and democracy as 'communist conspiracies' and deployed the CIA to carry out secret missions of assassinations, in some instances even launched direct aggression.
5. Even bourgeois democratic rules were not allowed to be established in any country of

central America. At the sight of any such possibility, the US rulers resorted to subversion on the plea that 'American security is at stake'. They propped up autocratic rulers and engineered civil wars in those countries. Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua are some naked instances.

6. To maintain their control over the rich oil-fields of West Asia, they have been extending all help and support to the autocratic rulers of these countries against the anti-imperialist democratic mass movements there. With their machinations from behind Israel, they repeatedly launched aggression to undermine the anti-imperialist role of the Arab countries. To pursue this goal they are constantly maintaining a war like atmosphere in the Arab territories.
7. They have not allowed any anti-imperialist democratic government to remain in power in any African country. Anybody who stood for free development and welfare of the poor people of his country has been branded a 'communist conspirator' and physically eliminated with the help of CIA. Congo and Ghana are two naked examples.
8. In Latin America they propped up dictators as their stooges in most countries to put down democratic movements of the people with savage repression. Even with this, when they failed to prevent the uprising in Cuba, they took to military encirclement and economic blockade ever since the revolution in Cuba.
9. After the Second World War, they partitioned Germany into two so that capitalism could survive in the western part. They set up a permanent US military base in West Germany and set up the military alliance of NATO on the plea of ensuring 'permanent security in Europe

(Contd. on page 4)

Fight Revisionism and Remove Confusion

(Contd. from page 3)

against Soviet aggression'. And they stationed 300,000 US troops in West Germany alone. This way the whole of Europe has been meant to depend on the US to prevent Germany and Europe as a whole to rise as contenders of the US.

10. Following defeat in the war, Japan was made to declare that it would not go for building her own military power. The US itself took on the 'security task' for Japan and built military bases in that country. Further, raising the bogey of 'Soviet danger', the US went into aggression in Korea and Vietnam. It built military bases in South Korea, Philippines, Australia and Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

Clearly, all these pleas of 'cold war', 'Soviet threat' and 'US security' were made to conceal the two real targets: 1. destroying the liberation struggle of the colonies and semi-colonies of Asia, Africa and Latin America and undermining free development of the relatively underdeveloped capitalist countries; 2. suppressing the revolutionary working class struggles in the industrially advanced capitalist countries and preventing possible rise in future of any other imperialist power to challenge the supremacy of US imperialism.

Needless to mention, it was the interest of the US imperialist economic and trade domination, that is, capturing the world market for US finance capital and commodities, which prompted the US ruling clique to make all these military plans, preparations, aggressions and interventions. The US used its leverage of military power in the competition with Japan and Europe, especially Germany in trade. Claiming that 'only US could safeguard security and no other state could', they always got the better in trade bargain with the countries of Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America and US companies secured extra privileges than could Japanese or European companies.

In fact, the US flexing of muscle after the Second World War compelled the Soviet Union to go for its own military preparations. In this Soviet Union had two main objectives. First, to protect other countries of the socialist camp besides protecting itself. Second, to protect liberation movements and revolutionary struggles of different countries from military threats and interventions of US imperialism and also to protect the free development of relatively underdeveloped capitalist countries from imperialist pressures and machinations. But the Soviet revisionist leadership headed by Khrushchev being guided by its wrong concept of world peace, capitulated before the nuclear blackmailing by the USA, much to the help of US piracy across the world. Later, changing this Khrushchevite stand and in the name of firm anti-imperialist role, the Soviet leadership headed by Brezhnev pursued a militarist path which only facilitated the anti-Soviet false propaganda by US imperialism. The contradiction between the USSR and the USA was in reality the contradiction between socialism and capitalism-imperialism, that is the contradiction between freedom, peace and democracy on the one hand and subjugation, war autocracy on the

other hand. Imperialist camp, however, took advantage of the revisionist course and conduct of the Soviet leadership to falsely paint the USSR-US contradiction as the contradiction between two super powers. They carried on the false propaganda that all the local and partial warfares, interventions and aggressions around the world were the outcome of the 'contradiction between the super powers' and that the danger of world war stemmed from this contradiction. With this false propaganda the US rulers could not only mislead the anti-war sentiments of the American public but also confused the world public opinion and carried on its piracy with the old bogey of 'Soviet threat'.

On the other, in the name of working to weaken the world capitalist-imperialist camp, the revisionist Soviet leadership pursued a policy of capitulation to the bourgeois rulers of the relatively underdeveloped capitalist countries. This created a serious ideological confusions in the Left and communist movements in these countries. Added to this, the revisionist idea of peaceful transition to socialism along the parliamentary path broke the backbone of the communist movement, weakening the anti-capitalist imperialist movement all over the world. Despite the deep crisis in world capitalism and prevalence of conditions conducive to emancipation struggles against capitalism-imperialism, these movements could not be built up because of this ideological weaknesses. And the anti-imperialist peace movement, losing its militant character, degenerated into pacifist pious intentions and begging for peace. Consequently, it failed to perform any effective role in resisting the US imperialist piracy and aggression.

Need for a New Plea

In this background, the collapse of the USSR in fact put US imperialism in a disadvantage. There was now a real danger of receiving jolt to its interventionist and aggressive design on the plea of 'communist conspiracy' and guaranteeing security against 'Soviet danger' or to securing extra privileges in trade bargain with Japan and Germany or France on the strength of its military superiority. The fact is that much of the former economic power of US has got eroded. Recession has gripped its economy, budgetary deficits both at national and international levels have multiplied manifold and unemployment is constantly on the rise.

Whereas, Japan and Germany have emerged as strong contenders in trade and capital export in the world market. Already, German capital has taken a plunge into the markets of former east European socialist countries to bring entire East Europe under its control and stake its claim as leader of Europe. On the other, not only Japanese capital has made deep inroads into US internal market, it is making bid to bring entire south eastern Asian market under domination of its capital. In Europe, France, Germany have started clamouring for their own military preparations outside of NATO, that is, outside of the US control. There is even a suggestion that the NATO has lost its utility with the collapse of Warsaw Pact. Japan, on its part, has amended its Constitution to make budgetary provisions for undertaking military build ups and sending troops abroad, if necessary. There are no doubt attempts by these imperialist powers to set up challenge

against military-economic domination and to carry out aggression against weaker countries.

The situation thus circumscribed the US to set some frightening examples of its military superiority and it was looking for some pretexts to that end. The pretext came handy when Iraq, more or less at this time, annexed Kuwait. On the pretext of saving Kuwait, the US came down on Iraq with a savage show of its awesome military power. The US attitude clearly revealed that freeing Kuwait was not its real object. Its main object was to give a demonstration of its terrible military might to 1) maintain its full control on the rich oil fields of West Asia; 2) send message to the relatively underdeveloped capitalist countries that no power on earth could protect them should they invite the US aggression; 3) make it clear to Japan and Germany that it was the US who reserved the right to speak the last word on any issue of its interest and they would have to accept US domination if they wanted regular supply of oil. President George Bush echoed it when he asserted: "What we say goes".

As a matter of fact, the US did not have to declare war against Iraq for withdrawal of Iraqi soldiers from the soil of Kuwait. The awesome display of firepower was not really necessary. Because, Iraq's military strength is by no means such that she can challenge the US. Yet the US raised war cries, because it urgently needed to create an atmosphere to start war. The orchestration of propaganda raised a hue and cry about Iraq's military buildup and war preparations to suggest as if Iraq had secretly built up enough power to challenge the US and a fierce war was ahead. After feeding this idea the US wanted to give a demonstration of its invincible military power by giving a crushing defeat to Iraq. That would be enough also to put down the spirit of the anti-imperialist struggle the world over. At the same time, it would go to prove that the world would have really to depend on the US for freedom, peace and democracy. Precisely for this the US did not stop it pushing out Iraqi soldiers from the soil of Kuwait but went ahead to raze to ground towns, villages, schools and hospitals in Iraq by indiscriminate bombing. Were it truly a 'war', as the US propaganda media would have people believe, there would have been many casualties on either side. That did not turn out to be the case. Only Iraqi soldiers died, and in big numbers. The fact is that under the smokescreen of 'war' the US launched a naked aggression on Iraq. That aggression continues today, albeit, as economic blockade sans bombs. The blockade brings death to the young and old in increasing numbers. And heedless to world public opinion the US rulers are determined to continue blockade. The US propaganda machinery is fabricating stories on Iraq's military build up, and the USA is making troops build up again and again on one or another pretext. The US rulers have declared that the blockade will not be lifted till overthrow of Saddam Hussain. Which means, it is not the people of a sovereign country who will decide whom to elect to rule the country, but the US administration will decide it. Else, those people will have to starve to death. Is the US laying down this condition because it considers Saddam Hussain an outcast? Why then the blockade against Cuba? In Nicaragua, the democratically elected Sandinista came to government power after overthrowing the autocratic rule of Somosa. At the 1989 elections,

(Contd. on page 6)

The 'Champion' of Freedom and Human Rights and its Deeds around the World

Excerpts from the speech given by President Comrade Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, at the closing session of the World Solidarity with Cuba Conference, held in the Karl Marx Theatre on November 25, 1994.

[Translation of the transcript of the Council of State of Cuba, published in Granma International. Year 20 Number 49, Havana, December 7, 1994.]

We don't have to look back in history. In contemporary times, since the start of the Revolution, what has been the history of the foreign policy of the United States, that "champion" of freedom, the "champion" of human rights? A close alliance with the most repressive and bloody regimes in the world.

If we turn to Europe, we can recall that immediately after World War I the United States became the ally of Spanish fascism, which was supplied with weapons from Hitler and Mussolini and which cost millions of lives.

We cannot overlook the US alliance with South Vietnam and its genocidal war against the Vietnamese people in the south and north of that country. We cannot overlook the Korean war, because Korea was completely demolished, reduced to dust. We cannot ignore Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the unnecessary use of nuclear weapons — a completely unnecessary use and which, in any event, could have been used against military installations but which fell on civilian populations of hundreds of thousands of inhabitants. It rang in the era of atomic terror in the world.

We cannot forget the alliance with South Africa and apartheid. Neither can we forget that the apartheid regime built its own weapons, and when we were fighting in southern Angola against the apartheid army, alongside the Angolans, South Africa already had nuclear weapons, various nuclear weapons! The United States knew that South Africa had nuclear weapons and that those nuclear weapons could have been used against Cuban and Angolan soldiers. Ah! But this was the South Africa of racism and fascism.

The United States has created a great fuss and has even threatened war against North Korea, due to its assumption that the North Koreans were developing nuclear weaponry, but it tolerated, allowed and indirectly facilitated South Africa's building of nuclear weapons.

But if we come closer to our continent and to recent times, who could forget the dirty war in Nicaragua, orchestrated via armed mercenaries, which cost tens of thousands of lives and the mutilation of thousands and thousands of Nicaraguans? Who could forget that? (APPLAUSE) The "champion" of freedom! The "champion" of human rights!

Who could forget the dirty war in El Salvador, the US government support for a genocidal government to which it gave billions of dollars in sophisticated weapons to trample on the people's rebellion, a war that caused over 50,000 deaths?

And why did the Malvinas War happen? Simply because the United States had been using Argentina's 401st special forces battalion for its

dirty war against Nicaragua and El Salvador, and it provided such exception service to the United States that the battalion felt it could occupy the Malvinas Islands.

This has nothing to do with Argentina's right to the Malvinas, which we have always defended. (APPLAUSE) But the Argentine military felt that the moment had come to collect from the United States for services rendered in Central America, so that the former would back them in their military adventure. It was an adventure, in fact, because in the final analysis that is not the way to wage war. You either wage war or you don't. And if you wage war you take it to its ultimate consequences, if it's a just war. (APPLAUSE) And they invaded the Malvinas Islands. But when the United States was put into the position of choosing between its allies and its British forebears, they chose and backed the British.

Who can forget what has happened in Guatemala since Arbenz' government in the 50s. (APPLAUSE) when a popular government chosen by the people was trying to carry out agrarian reform to help campesinos and indigenous communities? Immediately the dirty war broke out and they were invaded by mercenaries. And what has happened since then? What has happened up until now? Over 1,00,000 people have disappeared. This is a country where for decades there were no political prisoners because everyone disappeared.

To this day, who supplies this government, who trains it, who prepares it? The "champion" of freedom, the "champion" of human rights!

And what happened in Chile with Salvador Allende's government, which had great popular support? (APPLAUSE) They plotted against him, the economy was blocked in many ways and conditions were gradually created for a coup which gave the country thousands and thousands of disappeared persons and murders.

Movement against Police Atrocity

Many years back Justice N. N. Mulla of the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court, while giving judgement in a case indicted the Indian police in general and the UP police in particular as an 'organised gang of criminals who help the criminals and generate the criminals.' But very few now remember that Justice Mulla made this 'famous observation while delivering his judgement in an infamous case involving the Badlapur police of Jaunpur district of UP.

It seems the Badlapur police has not bothered to take any lesson from this indictment. Otherwise, it would not have committed the same type of heinous act it did on 18 August last.

On that fateful day Ali Hassan of Fatterpur village under Badlapur police station was rounded up by the Badlapur police at the behest of local antisocials and touts, beaten black and blue till he lost his consciousness and thrown into the lock-up. On the next day when Ali Hassan was produced in the court he could barely walk. The mark of police brutality was so evident that it

And what happened in Argentina with that military government I mentioned? They say at least 15,000 disappeared (THE AUDIENCE TELLS HIM "30,000!") I say "at least," because I don't want people to think I'm exaggerating and yet many say there were 30,000; and some people here are saying even more. But let's take my figures as the minimum. Are 15,000 disappeared really a small amount?

And who provided weapons to this government, who backed it, who gave it political support, who made use of their services in Central America? The "champions" of freedom, the "champion" of human rights!

And what happened in Uruguay? And what happened in Brazil? And who supported the coup leaders and those who tortured and killed people and made them "disappear"? Who invaded the Dominican Republic at the time of the caamano rebellion? (APPLAUSE) Who invaded Grenada? (APPLAUSE) who invaded Panama? (APPLAUSE) The "champions" of freedom and human rights!

Hike in Air-fare protested

Tripura is a land locked state surrounded by Bangladesh on three sides. Railway has only touched the state. The state is linked to the country through only one road. Finding no other alternative the people are forced to perform air-journey to go outside the state for medical treatment, education and other purposes. Many essential commodities like life-saving medicines which are in short supply have to be brought by air. In these circumstances the frequent increase of air fare already affect the common people of the state.

The Tripura State Organising Committee of our party, the SUCI, while strongly protesting the recurrent increase has demanded reduction in air-fare through a memorandum to the Chairman of the Indian Airlines and has warned that if the airfares are further increased without improving the living conditions of people, which force them to perform journey by air the people will be forced to undertake agitational programmes.

agitated the common people. On the same day four agricultural labourers who were working in Hassan's field were rounded up by police and were forced to work in the police station premises.

Our party along with mass organisations like AIDSO, DYO, AIKMS and the all party Jan Sangharsh Samity have given concrete shape to the growing indignation of the people against the rising atrocities of police-anti social clique.

The movement against police atrocities culminated in rally organised by our party on 20 September in Badlapur. The meeting was presided by Comrade Hiralal Maurya, member, Jaunpur district committee, SUCI. The meeting was addressed by Comrade Dinesh Kant Dube, member, state committee, AIKMS and Comrade Surendra Nath Maurya, member, district committee, SUCI. The meeting was also addressed by R. K. Shrivastava of the CPI(M) and Ran Pratap Tripathi of the CPI. Comrade V. N. Singh, Secretary, UP State Committee of our party who was the main speaker urged the common people to get organised to prevent atrocities perpetrated on Ali Hassan from recurring in future.

Build up Militant Peace Movement Conducive to Liberation Struggle

(Contd. from page 4)

the US rulers issued a threat that if the people of Nicaragua supported Sandinista instead of voting for the US backed candidate, Chomora, a blockade would be imposed on Nicaragua. Similarly, the US branded North Korea as war mongers and threatened to wipe her out if she refused to allow the inspection by UN observers of North Korea's nuclear projects.

Its old bogey of 'Soviet danger' now useless, the US has embarked on a new plea of 'peace and security'. Targeting one or another country in each continent, it is bringing up against it charges of endangering peace and security of the world only to prepare grounds for military intervention. At the UN, the US decision is sought to be imposed as the final word, thus subordinating the diplomatic roles of other states. Sending peace keeping armies under the UN banner is now the chief plank for indirect intervention and aggression in other countries. The ground is first created either by engineering ethnic riots or by exploiting famine conditions to engineer civil wars and then bringing in the US troops in the name of peace keeping missions. In all these the media play a special role. In fact, the printing and electronic media of the world are largely controlled by a handful of US companies. To confuse the world public opinion by false propaganda through orchestration of the media is now an easier task for the US imperialists. In every instance, for example, in the case of Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Cuba, Somalia, Rwanda, Haiti, and Bosnia, news have been catered in a way to make the US intervention look justified and US rulers look 'angels of peace' and 'welfare workers of people'. Sanction is built up in this way in favour of imperialist piracy with the result that whereas in the past every such instance of imperialist aggression and intervention inevitably aroused worldwide protest similar incidents today go unopposed in most cases. The world is indeed heading for a dark future.

The essence of the 'new world order' sought after by the US is that US capital, commodities and services are to be allowed free entry in each and every country; priority is to be given to US companies; world trade has to be regulated in compliance with the US interests and the fiscal and trade policies of each country are to be framed in accordance with the US interests. Otherwise, world peace will be at stake and in the name of keeping peace the US will take the field with the club in hand. So through liberalisation in the less developed countries the US finance capital, commodities and multinationals are infiltrating there and the US military is closely following them in the name of 'security' of the US interests. In some countries the US trade minister is visiting first, and he is closely being followed by the US defence minister. Again in some other countries after concluding a 'military cooperation pact with the US defence secretary, the trade minister is visiting for a trade pact. The more the bourgeoisie of the Third World Countries like India are getting eager to tie knots with the imperialist capital for having a share of the world market the more the multinationals are getting unhindered opportunity for trade with the country and side by side the more close the Indian ruling class is becoming with the US militarily. Indo-US military cooperation pact has been concluded. The US military presence in the Indian Ocean is

increasing. In the past the government of India strongly opposed the building of a military base in Diego Garcia in Indian Ocean, but it is no more opposing now. Moreover joint exercises involving the military, navy and the air forces of India and the US are being conducted within the country. By virtue of the Indo-US military cooperation pact the US gets the right to use the airports and the naval ports of India in case of 'necessity'. The US has entered into similar pacts with Thailand, Malaysia and Philippines. By these pacts the US is creating opportunity for permanent military presence or military intervention at any appropriate moment within these countries. Side by side the US military budget is being increased, the US Senator has voted to start the programme of Star War again. When the Soviet Union is no more there, against whom the US is making such a war preparations ? After the downfall of the Soviet Union the capitalist media was propagating that 'peace' would now dawn on the world and each country will proceed along the path of peaceful development. If it be so, then why this military preparation and arms race ? The US imperialists have now targeted the entire mankind. The US wants to enchain the entire world in the slavery of the imperialist capital by flexing its military muscle. Will the human civilization kneel down before this imperialist menace ? Or will it build up conscious and organised resistance against it ? Can any conscious man of any country avoid this question today ?

Danger of War

After the Second World War the main interest of the US imperialist aggression and intervention in different countries of the world was to secure and expand the market for the US multinationals. This interest works even today behind the US foreign and military policy. Because, as the US capitalist economic crisis becomes sharper the necessity of increasing the market has become even more urgent. But just after the Second World War the US had no competitors, and this position has however changed now. Imperialism is no more unipolar. Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Russia and others are now in the fray for getting a larger slice of the world market. As a result the contradictions between the imperialist countries have sharpened, and are creating condition for the outbreak of war. The present world situation can be compared with condition obtaining in 1900-1914. After 1870 the British imperialists dominated the world scene. Nobody thought that there would be any challenge against British imperialism. But German imperialism emerged as a competitor in the world market by rapidly increasing the export of finance capital. A sharp competition for colonization of the entire world ensued. The German monopoly capital increased their competitive powers through merger and various types of restructuring, but the British counterpart failed to match the German move. As a result, trade war ensued. The disputes centring round free trade and protectionism - the dispute which was the internal conflict of the monopoly houses of the imperialist countries took the form of trade war initially, and ultimately led to the First World War. Now also, the contradiction between the imperialist countries, which manifested itself as trade war during the GATT negotiation, is certainly leading to another war. In this contradiction the US is determined to retain

its domination with the help of its military power. As a result, the US intervention and aggression in different parts of the world will continuously increase. The US will continuously try to create opportunities to demonstrate its military power in order to prove before the world that the say of the US imperialists is final. On the other hand, France by detonating a series of nuclear explosions in the French controlled islands in the south Pacific region by totally ignoring the worldwide protests is throwing not only a challenge against the attempted German hegemony in Europe but also a challenge against the US dominance. French intervention in Comoros, the British decision of raising 20,000 Rapid Deployment Force and Russia's reported contemplation of countering NATO show the intense intra-imperialist contradictions. Side by side, each imperialist power is eager to build up economic union in the various regions of the world. The US has developed the NAFTA along with Canada and Mexico, in Europe European Union has come up, and Japan is also attempting to form such an economic union in South East Asia. Even within these blocs, there are contradictions among the member countries centring round their respective self-interests. All these events point to intensification of intra imperialist contradictions. All these are struggles for determining which of the imperialist countries will establish hegemony in the new world situation—and under capitalism this question cannot be resolved without war.

Again, the common people, the workers and the peasants are bearing the burden of the present intense capitalist crisis from which has developed this present world situation in which the entire world is confronted with the twin danger—imperialist domination and war.

Globalization

The entire world is now in the vortex of an unprecedented economic crisis. In all countries of the world, be it developed or underdeveloped, the capitalist economic crisis in the form of recession, inflation and unemployment is strangulating the entire people ; no formula, be it state controlled market or free market economy can show the path for overcoming the crisis. No positive result is also obtained by increasing production, which has been dished out as panacea of the present crisis. Because, there is no effective demand i.e. the market in the country, which is the pre-condition for increasing production. Secondly, though the production increases by increasing the productivity of the labour through application of modern technology the market is not expanding, rather it is getting further shrunk. Because, this increase in production is not creating any new employment, rather the number of employed persons is decreasing because of retrenchment. As a result, let alone expansion of market, the demand recession is intensifying. It is because of this demand recession within each of the industrialized countries that the finance capital is being pushed to seek investment opportunities abroad, and these countries are desperate for world market. It is because of this reason that imperialist capital is clamouring for globalization, and the rate of flow of imperialist capital to different countries is increasing. In the capitalist world the globalization of the imperialist capital is nothing new -- but what is

(Contd. on page 7)

An International Platform — Urgent Need of Hour

(Contd. from page 6)

new is its present speed and character of investment. Previous character and the law of exploitation of the imperialist capital have not changed, these remain the same even now. Rather, through centralization and concentration of monopoly capital giant multinationals are formed and these control the production and marketing in most of the world market. To defeat the rivals in the competition they are frantically searching for cheap raw material and cheap labour from country to country. To go ahead of others in the competition of technology they are trying to have a grip on their respective technology. It is because of this that major changes have been brought about in the Patents Act through GATT. By enabling free flow of finance capital and commodities through the GATT or later the WTO, industrial, agricultural and service sector productions are so patterned that maximum profit is ensured to the multinationals. There has undoubtedly been shrinkage in the world market because of recession, inflation and unemployment. The shrunken and limited world market cannot cater to the productive capacity of the giant multinationals. So despite globalization industries are not coming up, and newer and newer industries are not developing in a massive scale. Because finance is flowing more in the speculative areas in shares, debentures, etc. Again, the character of goods produced in the industry, agriculture, has been changed by large scale modern technology in such a way that massive profit can be obtained on the basis of purchasing power of the limited number of people. So in the name of industrial production, these monopoly houses are investing in the production of consumer goods and agro-business has been introduced in agriculture. The nature and character of the agricultural produce of those countries where imperialist capital is penetrating have been altered to make them fit for a limited market. As a result, the poor and the common people are facing acute food problem, and millions of people are rendered surplus in agriculture, but they cannot be absorbed in industries too. Because let alone industrialization, existing industries are closing their shutters. The service sectors are also patterned in the similar way so that they can cater to the needs of the rich people in the limited market, and ensure additional profits to the different service sector companies.

So this globalization is not helping industrialization in different countries, not solving unemployment problem nor increasing income of the common people. On the contrary, there is more concentration of wealth of the country in the hands of a few, more retrenchment in the name of modernization, and more poverty and hunger in the lower rung of the society.

Imperialist Culture

Imperialism is, on one hand increasing its military power and globalizing arms market, and on the other there is also worldwide penetration of imperialist culture. The perversion of sex and violence is spread throughout the world by the information technology over which imperialists

have established their absolute control. As per the service sector clause of the GATT telecommunication system has become open and this helps in the export of imperialist culture. Because of the control over the information technology the world situation is appearing before the people in such a distorted way as desired by the imperialists. Thoughts of men are also controlled in such a way as it appears to one that it is the capitalist system which is the last word in the process of evolution of civilization, and there exists no more any enemy to the human civilization. At the setback of the socialist system class struggle has, as if, ceased and there is as if no further necessity of judging truth and untruth, just and unjust from class angularity. Despite all these attempts of the imperialists people will have to turn around by confronting the hard reality. That is why, by spreading the culture of sex, violence and drug, by propagating the concept of 'free sex' and 'living together' the moral and cultural backbone of the children and youth is attempted to be broken. The net result is that human society and civilization are fast losing the minimum strength of self-defence against the worldwide military and economic onslaughts of capitalism-imperialism. The war that imperialism is waging against the mankind in economic and cultural arena is no less deadly than the armed imperialist intervention.

In this way the entire world is entangled in the cobweb of imperialist intervention and is plunging deeper and deeper into darkness. Chauvinism, communalism, neo-Nazism are raising their ugly heads. Will it then be the future of human civilization ?

Tasks of the real communists

During the First World War the birth of the socialist state through socialist revolution in Russia and the presence of a leader like the great Lenin illumined the path to the world proletariat, helped it in realizing the class character of the war, and anti-war role of the socialist Soviet Union had an important contribution in ending the war. In the Second World War, the Soviet Red Army under the leadership of Stalin fought against the German fascist aggression to protect socialism and the entire mankind; Soviet Union, the source of inspiration to the anti-war and pro-peace forces of the different countries, helped in developing anti-fascist and anti-imperialist people's fronts in different countries, and at the inspiration of the Soviet Union there rose a tide of militant peace movement whose role was not limited only in opposing war but it while opposing the imperialist war, supported the just struggle of the people against imperialism and encouraged the great revolutionary struggles for the emancipation of the working class from the tentacles of capitalism. This happened as the communists worked as the main driving force of this militant peace movement in different countries. As a result, after the Second World War socialism was established in a large part of the world after overthrowing capitalism.

But at present that Soviet Union, Lenin and Stalin are no more. The leadership of those

socialist states including China which still exist today has plunged into revisionism-reformism; they, instead of opposing capitalism-imperialism have themselves taken to the capitalist role. The socialist states are in effect playing no role today in building up militant peace movement throughout the world against worldwide imperialist intervention and aggression, and against the danger of another war.

It is because of this situation that the genuine communists of all the countries are face to face with a grave question. Will the genuine communists sit idle as the Soviet Union is dismantled and the socialist camp is virtually non-existent ? Can the real communists neglect the task of building up of a militant peace movement against the danger of imperialist war ? None other than the real communists can shoulder the task of uniting anti-imperialist and anti-war forces, and building up militant peace movement conducive to liberation struggles. Today, there is no international platform for mobilizing and loudly ventilating world opinion against imperialist aggression and interventions. The communists will have to come forward to build up that platform. But it is impossible to discharge this task without the unity of the world communists. As a result of devastating influence of

revisionism-reformism ideological confusions of gravest magnitude has permeated among the communist forces and in the international working class movement. Without removing this confusion and establishing Marxist-Leninist ideology on a firm footing communist movement cannot advance even a step further. Even for that it is necessary for the real communists of the world to assemble on a platform. And it can be initiated only by attempting to build up militant peace movement against imperialism.

So, the historic task, not only for resisting the danger of imperialist war but for establishing the movements of the exploited masses against economic exploitation, dominance of capitalism-imperialism, and liberations struggles of different countries, on the firm foundation of ideology, has been interoven with a building up of militant peace movement against imperialism. Ruling class of capitalist countries like India has signed the GATT and become member of WTO, opened the internal market of the country to the foreign multinationals with the object of creating opportunity for the Indian monopoly capital to enter into collaboration with imperialist multinationals, and is entering into pact with the US imperialists for military cooperation. On the other hand, taking advantage of the setback of the socialist movement it is crushing the movements of the workers, peasants and other sections of the toiling people, and demolishing the unity of the people by fostering and fomenting chauvinism, communalism and other divisive forces. In such a situation the main thrust of the anti-imperialist movement must be directed against the national bourgeoisie.

Side by side, it is to be borne in mind that this peace movement of today must not be pacifism but it must be militant peace movement, the main aim of which is to open the path for unhindered development of human civilization by removing the main cause of war through overthrowing capitalism-imperialism for good in course of building up struggle against the danger of war.

ORISSA NEWS

**Massive Demonstration
at Baipariguda**

Jeypore, 23-9-95 : Four thousand peasants including 1800 women from 11 panchayats covering 48 villages of Baipariguda block of Koraput district in south-western Orissa staged a militant demonstration before the Baipariguda Block Development Office on 21-9-95 under the auspices of our party, the SUCI. A massive procession of the demonstrators moved through the main streets of the town before a posse of armed policemen stopped them near the Block Development Office. A delegation of the peasants handed over a memorandum to the BDO which demanded among others, distribution of consumer cards to each family, supply of a minimum of 30 Kg of rice at Rs. 2/- per Kg to each family, installation of lift irrigation points on Pollagard and Kurlugard streams, provision of drinking water and minimum health care for all villages, issue of *pattas* to cultivators who have been cultivating so-called forest land for the last 25 years, taking immediate measures for conservation of soil & rapid afforestation, making arrangements for agricultural loans, distribution of fertilizers and pesticides and above all to create employment opportunities for 8 thousand unemployed youth of the region. Later, a public meeting was held where besides the demonstrators large numbers of town's people also participated.

**Peasant Demonstration
in Bhubaneswar**

Under the leadership of the All India Krishak O Kshet Majdur Sangathan (AIKKMS) more than three thousand tribals, peasants and agricultural workers — both men and women from Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur and Dhenkanal districts staged a demonstration in Bhubaneswar on 26 September. The demonstrators went in a procession which started from the railway station and marched through the main thoroughfares of the city before armed police obstructed their way at PMG Square. The procession transformed into a public meeting there under the presidentship of Comrade Mayadhar Nayak, member, Secretariat Orissa State Committee, SUCI. A memorandum addressed to the chief minister was read out by Comrade Raghunath Das, assistant secretary of the Orissa State Committee of the AIKKMS. Discussing problems faced by the peasants and agricultural workers Comrade Shambhunath Naik, MLA, said that the present Congress (I) government is unable to solve these problems.

Comrade Balaram Sahu, Secretary, AIKKMS, Orissa State Committee called upon the people to develop militant mass movements against atrocities being perpetrated on tribals in Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur and other districts of the state by the administration and the police. Comrade Sahu observed that in the present situation the only way for a dignified existence is through development of democratic mass movements.

A five point memorandum was submitted to the chief minister by a delegation comprising of Comrades Balaram Sahu, Sambhunath Naik, Biswanath Chatar, Sanga Palia and Bhajaman Raut.

Sukinda**UTUC (LS) Demands Scraping
of Private Mining Operations**

Sukinda has again hit the headlines as capitalists fight to get hold of the rich chromite mines of the valley.

The controversy is on leasing out the mines to the Tatas or to other concerns like the Indian Charge Chrome Ltd., the Ferro Alloys Corporation Ltd., the Jindal strip Co. and the Ispat Alloys of the Mittals. The controversy deepened as some MPs - including some from the so-called communist parties pleaded for the continuation of the lease of the Tatas while the central government favoured other Industrial groups, particularly the Mittals. 98.6% of the total 186 million tonnes of chromite deposit of the country lies in the Sukinda valley. From this the Tatas have rights over 118 million tonnes (63.44%) lying in its leasehold of 1261.476 hactores. The market worth of this deposit is a whopping Rs 40,000 crores.

The Tatas in 1993 got their third 20 Yr consecutive lease over the chromite mines which together would run into 60 uninterrupted years beginning 1952.

Unbridled Loot

In fact for more than the last 40 years since independence private mine owners and monopoly houses like the Tatas have raised chromite worth

hundreds of crores of rupees from Sukinda without doing anything for the people of the state and the miners working there — most of them are tribals. Rather during this period these operators have reduced the workforce from 40 thousand to a mere 5 thousand by introduction of heavy machinery. Through rapid deforestation these profiteers have taken away the source of livelihood of the tribals. The refuse of the chromite mines which is dumped has grown into some 20 hillocks on which not a single blade of grass grows and the run off from these hillocks pollutes drinking water sources and also hinders agricultural activity. Still worse, these private mines operators have created a reign of terror through patronising a criminal mafia in order to thwart workers' legitimate movements and protect the earning of super profit. Readers of these pages may recall the brutal killing of trade union leader Comrade Shyamapada Rout of the UTUC (Lenin Sarani) who was working in the mines leased out to the Tatas in the hands of these elements.

Our party the SUCI and the UTUC (Lenin Sarani) which together have organised many a glorious movement in the valley to protect the legitimate rights of the working people there, for a long time, are demanding that private mining operations should be done away with and all the mines of the state should come under the control of the state government under the Orissa Mining Corporation (OMC).

In a letter to the chief minister of Orissa on 27.9.95 Comrade Tapas Dutta, Secretary, Orissa State Committee, SUCI and General Secretary UTUC (Lenin Sarani) reiterated this long standing demand and the amelioration of the pitiable living condition of the people of the valley. Comrade Dutta has also demanded that OMC should stop engaging any contractor and give direct employment to all the workers in these mines.

**Danger posed by
Privatisation**

(Contd. from page 2)

government and another government appointed private owner namely Jain Vanotars Co. This company at the dictate of the Janata ministry retrenched thousands of labours by one stroke. At that time the police unleashed a reign of terror to suppress the workers' movement launched in protest against the lay off. Today the Congress led Central government, in order to extend favour to the Mittals, is taking a step for which large chunk of workers will be thrown out of job. The workers who had been laid off in 1978, were reemployed subsequently in the 11B mine. But now, the tragedy is, from that 11B mine thousands of workers will be thrown out of job. This time also as in 1978 the workers have come out to the streets in protest, and against them there is the Union government along with one of its favoured private owners. As if it is the repetition of the history that occurred 17 years back.

Bailadila has now become a battleground of not only the miners of the 11B mine but also the labours of all other local mines irrespective of their political beliefs. For the common cause of 'save Bailadila' the workers have joined hands to organise dharnas, rallies, bandhs through out the district and the common people also extend their support. The workers have vowed to a do or die movement to resist the entry of private owners into Bailadila. The vast mining area is in the fervent mood of a fiery resistance movement. Situation has reached such a pass that the Central government has either to revoke its order or it will have to take entry into the Bailadila mine with its favourite Mittals over thousands of corpses of the 11B mine workers.

Nuclear Testing

(Contd. from page 1)

longway in stopping such acts against humanity unless these protests are consciously directed against imperialism the generator of war, the main culprit in the issue. Mighty people's movement all over the world is the only deterrent to this crime and every such movement need be conducive to the development of anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist movement in every country. This is the need of the day. It is to be noted that Indian Government is totally silent in this question. It is an affront to the glorious anti-imperialist tradition of the Indian people. So it is the duty of all wellmeaning and democratic minded people of our country to put effective pressure through movement on Indian government for exerting necessary pressure against France. Finally we urge all well meaning people of all countries on earth to come forward to put sufficient pressure on the imperialists, particularly here the French imperialism, to stop this nasty game of nuclear brow-beating.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : NIHAR MUKHERJEE

Edited & Published by Sukomal Dasgupta from 48 Lenin Sarani, Calcutta 700 013 and printed by him at Ganadabi Printers and Publishers Private Limited 52B, Indian Mirror Street, Calcutta 700013.