

Proletarian Era

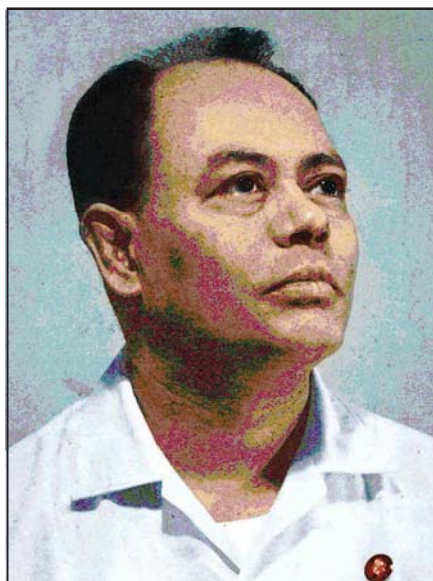
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“Outburst of people’s anger, whatever may be its magnitude, is not revolution. Agitation does not automatically usher in revolution. Revolution means a radical change of the present state structure, that means to overthrow the present state and replace it with a new state—with regard to the overthrow of a capitalist state we call it the establishment of a socialist state, thereby bringing about a total transformation of the present capitalist economic, social, political structure and in its place establishing a socialist structure. This is what we call revolution. This revolutionary change does not come about in a spontaneous way through outburst of people’s accumulated grievances. History does not say this, nor does science. Such a concept is unhistorical, unscientific. Those who represent agitation to be one and the same as revolution in this way are either ignorant simpletons or else extremely sly, they are pernicious election mongering politicians. By conducting resentment-driven agitational movements and economism-driven movements, giving these a somewhat militant posture and thereby passing these off as revolution, they misdirect the preparation of the real revolutionary movement and obstruct the course of revolution itself. They create hindrance in the path of revolution. So, bear it in mind that agitation and revolution are not the same thing. Though not today, yet the very peoplewill again burst into agitational movement as in the past. The people’s anger will

burst again into a powerful movement. But in spite of having suffered the ensuing repression and having turned against the government they will again be drawn into the arena of election politics. Capitalism as it was, exploitation, unemployment problem as it was, the way in which the education standard was declining and the moral, ethical standard sinking lower day by day—will remain as they were. You will not be able to touch even the fringe of these problems. Notwithstanding a thousand and one sacrifices, you will not be able to organize revolution simply on the basis of grievance-driven agitational movement, self-sacrifice and martyrdom. To accomplish revolution, you will have to get organized on the basis of a definite, clear-cut political goal, that is to say, an organization capable of conducting the protracted struggle of politically conscious organized people will have to be built up.”

— Comrade Shibdas Ghosh

(*Present Situation and Main Danger to Democratic Movement*, 1974, Selected Works, Vol. IV, pp. 552-53)

Nuclear Disaster In Japan : Lessons To Be Drawn

Japan is tottering on the brink of a nuclear catastrophe triggered by an earthquake of unprecedented magnitude and the resultant tsunami that devastated large areas of its east coast. The threat emanating from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant has once again put in the centre stage the question of safety and security of nuclear power generation. When the earthquake struck, the control rods in the reactor were automatically activated to shut down the reactors. However the cooling system failed because the tsunami had damaged

the power supply including the emergency generators. As a result the fuel rods and the control rods started heating up and reactor cores were damaged. Several explosions have already occurred, crippling the reactors. Even after more than a month following the tsunami the reactors are still not brought under control, radioactivity leakages are continuing and there are imminent threats of catastrophic meltdown of the reactor cores. Radioactive contamination has been detected in the air, soil, surface water, groundwater and sea water, and

contamination has entered the food chain. The magnitude of danger is now placed at the highest level 7 on the 7 point *International Nuclear Event Scale* (INES).

Nuclear power has been a source of debate for a long time. Many scientists, environmentalists and concerned citizens have questioned the advisability of going for nuclear option in power generation for a number of reasons, principal ones being the problem of radioactive waste disposal, the inherently hazardous character of the nuclear fission and particularly

the disastrous consequences of any accidents. But the governments and powers that be in general brushed away these objections and pitched in for nuclear power generation, maintaining that this is the only way to reduce CO₂ emission. The Japan disaster has once more starkly demonstrated the vulnerability of nuclear reactors. Sensing the public mood the different governments have agreed to review the safety features of their nuclear installations, and to reassess their future nuclear plans. The entire

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Nuclear Disaster In Japan

Unpredictability of nuclear disaster proved once again

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debate on nuclear energy has taken a new dimension.

Previous Accidents In Nuclear Power Plants

It is well to remember that the Fukushima disaster is not the first nuclear accident; there have been major accidents earlier. In 1957 in the Kyshtym disaster in Khrushchev-led Soviet Russia, failure in the cooling system in storage tank for radioactive waste led to explosion and release of high dose of radioactivity. In less than 12 hours the radioactive cloud travelled 300-350 km, and the fallout resulted in longtime contamination of more than 800 sq km area. But the news was suppressed for many years by the revisionist Soviet leadership. The American intelligence also knew about this, but US government did not publicize it to protect the fledgling nuclear industry from public scrutiny. In the Three Miles accident in USA in 1979 there was partial core meltdown, caused by failures in the cooling system. Mechanical failures, design defects, and human error due to inadequate training were said to be the factors behind the accident. Highly radioactive coolant leaked outside the reactor building and the authorities released 40,000 gallons of radioactive waste water directly in the Susquehanna River. The Chernobyl disaster in 1986 was a devastating accident in which explosions and fire completely breached the reactor core and sent a plume of highly radioactive smoke into the atmosphere. The plant and the nearby localities were severely affected by radioactivity. The radioactive plume drifted over large areas in western Soviet Union and Europe and severely contaminated areas in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine. About 60% of the fallout landed in Belarus, but radioactive fallout was reported from far off countries also. Nearly 400,000 people were evacuated and resettled from the most severely contaminated areas. The long time health hazards of the fallout are still unfolding. Apart from these well publicized major accidents there have been many minor accidents and near misses in the nuclear plants from all over the world, which often go unreported. There is evidence in Japan that TEPCO itself

had earlier falsified safety data to hide the vulnerabilities of the nuclear plants operated by them. In 2002 TEPCO admitted to falsifying reports about cracks that had been detected in core shrouds at reactors number 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 at the Fukushima Daiichi plant, as far back as 1993. The atomic power stations in India also have had their share of accidents. The safety violations in the Indian nuclear programme range from near



April 10 Anti-Nuclear power rally in Tokyo: Poster urges not to trust government

meltdowns, heavy water leaks, turbine-blade failures, moderator system malfunctions, inoperable emergency core cooling systems, coolant pumps catching fires, structure failures, to flooding incidents. At Kalpakkam, in 1999 an accident resulting in spillage of radioactive heavy water exposed seven workers to high radiation. Again in January, 2003, a serious incident took place there, when a valve separating a high-level radioactive liquid waste tank and a low-level liquid waste tank malfunctioned and started leaking. This resulted in high-level radioactive waste mixing with low-level waste. The incident was serious enough to close down the main plant for six months. The plant at Narora experienced a devastating fire in 1993. But for the presence of mind and bravery of some workers the accident might have given rise to another Chernobyl. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) Report on the accident has not been made public. The Kakrapar Atomic Power Station was inundated by flooding in 1994. The floodwaters entered the turbine building, solid waste management facility and other parts of the complex, and nuclear waste canisters were floating out into the open. Fortunately the plant was shut down when the flooding happened,

otherwise the effect could have been devastating. Cracks, tube leakages always plagued the Rawatbhata plants, which developed such serious defects that one unit or another had to be shut down for years. Dr A. Gopalakrishnan, Chairman of the AERB said, "The DAE wants the government and the people to believe that all is well with our nuclear installations. I have documentary evidence to prove that this is not so. A national debate is

down leading to a failure in the cooling system. As a result the fuel rods and the control rods started heating up and the possibility of the reactor core meltdown loomed large. Nobody could foresee that such a situation could arise. Japan is technologically a very advanced country; its nuclear safety standards are thought to be among the best in the global nuclear industry, and it is reputed to have one of the most efficient machineries to tackle such disaster. If in spite of that such a crisis situation could arise in Japan one can well imagine how catastrophic the effects would be if this had happened in a country which is not so well prepared.

Nuclear power generation is inherently hazardous, and well-meaning people had always expressed concern about the possibility of accidents in nuclear reactors either because of human error, natural calamity or faulty design or a combination of these. Praful Bidwai, a distinguished journalist and social scientist, quoted in an article in Frontline (March 26 to April 8, 2011) from Charles Perrow's book *Normal Accidents* that nuclear reactors are both systemically complex and internally tightly coupled. A fault or malfunction in one subsystem is quickly transmitted to other subsystems and gets magnified until the whole system goes into crisis mode, often in seconds or minutes. There are instances when malfunctioning of a small part led to unknown and unpredicted consequences leading to crisis situation. Accidents in nuclear power station cannot be bracketed with accidents in other industrial plants. They are incomparably more catastrophic and affect not only the population over a very large area and even over the entire globe, their effects are transmitted to many generations.

Lessons To Be Drawn

The disaster in Japan has once more demonstrated that it cannot be predicted exactly when and with what force a natural disaster would strike and that human beings do not have the combative power to control the disaster. Industries are generally built to withstand the common expected intensity of the natural event, but not the maximum possible intensity. The Japanese plants were indeed built to withstand earthquakes and tsunamis, but the actual magnitudes exceeded the expected limits. Often the disasters lead to consequences that could not be predicted. At Fukushima the reactor buildings did survive the earthquake and the tsunami, and the emergency system did close down the reactors, but the power system was destroyed and the diesel back-up system also broke

needed." He had compiled more than 130 nuclear issues affecting the safety of the nuclear establishments in the country. In 2001, S P Sukhatme, another former Chairman of the AERB had warned after an accident, in which tritium-contaminated coolant leaked from a reactor, that unless the very design of some of the nuclear reactors is drastically modified, India must be ready for the worst to come. His warning has been ignored.

In a recent article (The Hindu, April 11, 2011) Professor K. S. Jacob of CMC, Vellore has rightly drawn attention to the fact that nuclear technology developed in the context of World War II, and the later advancement and innovation related to nuclear energy also took place in the military context. Naturally when the context is the ability of nuclear energy to annihilate the enemy, the safety

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Dastardly imperialist aggression against Libya

PEOPLE MUST RESIST WITH ALL STRENGTH

The entire Middle-East and parts of North Africa are aflame with people raising their voice against the oppressive regimes of the respective countries. Breaking prolonged silence and inertia against severe repression, curtailment of all basic rights of showing dissent, denial of even fostering a sense of self-identity, people, refusing to calm down on receipt of some shreds of freebies or sops as palliatives, have taken up cudgels in their hands. The accumulated grievance against the anti-people rulers is bursting forth in spontaneous agitations which have been considerably shaking the autocratic rulers. Hosni Mubarak of Egypt has been forced to step down, Tunisia's president Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali fled the country after sacking his government and declaring a state of emergency, tens of thousands of people are calling for the Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh's ouster, suffering people of Jordan and Bahrain are out in the streets demanding end of the prevailing exploitative rules. Like a wildfire, it spread among the various countries. Inspired by these people's outburst in the neighbouring countries, there has reportedly been a mass upheaval in Libya, a tiny oil-rich North African country, against the oppressive rule of Colonel Gaddafi. Gaddafi retaliated by descending upon the protesters an armed attack with the help of the military loyal to him. A gory clash ensued between the Gaddafi administration and a section of the protesters and the country was virtually pushed to a kind of civil war. The imperialist camp headed by the US imperialists keen to establish total hold on the oil resources of Libya was hitherto not that successful in their attempt to bully the Gaddafi regime by either flexing military muscle or pursuing neo-colonial policies. But now with the outbreak of people's agitation and country being in turmoil, these vultures, under the pretense of a "humanitarian" mission to protect civilian lives and establish democracy, and wearing the cloak of NATO, have swooped down on Libya after as usual managing to secure a rubber stamp of UNO in support of such a direct military intervention. After Iraq and Afghanistan, the world is now witnessing a barbaric military assault in which thousands of innocent civilians are dying, sustaining grievous injuries and finding their houses, buildings and other properties razed into rubble. Even the missiles tipped with depleted uranium are being applied to that country causing not only instant death but as effect of such lethal weapons generations after generations are going to be victim of permanent deformity, incurable tormenting diseases like cancer etc. The words "humanitarian intervention" frequently deployed by the imperialist countries before asserting their power over any sovereign country through large scale military operation have indeed been a cover for the horror being unleashed on the Libyan people. The situation is alarming and hence calls for a serious view.

Libya and Western imperialist powers

Before focusing on the current scenario, it is necessary to recall in brief the recent turns of socio-political events of the country. Fighting against successive colonial rules of the US, Britain, France and finally Italy, the people of Libya gained freedom 41 years back. But simultaneously with freedom, this country was eclipsed by the military rule led by Mummar Gaddafi. Since then Libya has been under the siege of autocratic dictatorial rule for over long four decades. It was a dark autocratic rule with all its repressive character, during which he reportedly stashed away huge wealth of the nation to fill in his own coffer, both in the country and abroad. Gaddafi knew that Western imperialist powers had been having a hawk's eye over its oil resources

constituting 4% of the total supply throughout the world. Moreover, its oil is of high quality and is called 'sweet oil' which made those oil fields a much sought after destination of the imperialist sharks. In order to keep the Western imperialist powers at bay and keep alive a strong bargaining capacity with them, Gaddafi befriended the then Soviet Union and showed definite tilt towards it. As a sequel to that, he had adopted an anti-imperialist particularly anti-US imperialist posture playing on this anti-US imperialist sentiment of the people, backed by the USSR, guaranteed his rule for such a long period of time. He had supported many anti-imperialist liberation movements in Africa. He had even wanted the African countries to merge into one country — the "United States of Africa."

However, collapse of the USSR and its constituent states including Russia turning into capitalist states through counter-revolution, was a major setback for the Libyan President as his policy of bargain lost relevance. Forced by circumstances, he had to backtrack from his hitherto exhibited anti-Western imperialist posture and make friendly overtures to them. He introduced the US-imperialist designed globalization-liberalization-privatization policy in Libya and opened up the country to the foreign investment and allowed the US imperialists and their allies to enter into the country's oil resources. The Libyan rulers even started giving concessions to them. Many multi-national oil companies of Europe, Asia, the US and elsewhere have already "taken over" millions of acres of Libyan oil fields, some are already pumping and exporting oil and gas and are reaping hefty profits for almost the better part of a decade. MNC "exploitation by invitation" — from Gaddafi to the biggest oil companies — is an ongoing process from the early 1990's to the present day.

Mounting dissent within

On the other hand, after introduction of this globalization policy in 2003, the scarcity of jobs became acute. As a result of adopting the so-called neo-liberal economic development model, in fact an imperialist model, following globalization policy that stipulates jobless growth, privatization of all the state industries, ensuring of maximization of profit to the capitalists, slashing of subsidies from the items given to the poor, in the sheer interest of the capitalist-imperialists but brazenly detrimental to the interest of the working class, Libya led by Gaddafi was swamped with joblessness, retrenchment, high prices and so on, as backlash of this imperialist policy. Gaddafi privatized 100 odd state companies, developed close friendship with the imperialist rulers of the world, not excluding those of the US. (Source — The Statesman — 22-03-11) All this taken together, an all-pervasive crisis gripped the country bringing economic hardship and unparalleled autocratic rule. Unable to bear with this continued pauperization, deception and

autocratic oppression, the Libyan people rose against Gaddafi demanding his immediate relinquishment of power. Gaddafi came down on them with heavy hand and tried to crush protests by employing the army. With this high-handed army repression against the demonstrators and agitators, even killing them in scores in its attempt to smother the movement, people became more furious, and declared their determination to end Gaddafi's regime.

Forces operating within people's stir

There is no denying the fact that people are seeking redress from the gruelling oppression perpetrated by the Gaddafi rule. At the same time, they are equally opposed to any espousal for neo-liberal policies and hence evidently against the Western imperialist powers. But unlike Tunisia or Egypt, people's grievance did not burst forth explosively at the outset. Rather, as per available information, people's protest had been in the form of unarmed democratic movement. However, at a later stage, sensing mounting discontent of Libyan people against the incumbent regime, a group or forces calling themselves as "rebels" launched a parallel armed struggle with an objective of capturing power. We have no clear information as to who they are, what is their character and antecedent and what is driving them to be involved in anti-Gaddafi stir. It is also not known from where they are receiving supply of arms. Whatever could be gathered so far does also not indicate that they have overwhelming support of the Libyan people behind them. As reported in a section of the media, these forces are backed by the CIA and are receiving arms supply through the countries like Saudi Arabia and Israel, known to be the stooges of the US imperialists. It has also come in the media that the root base of the recent armed uprising against Gaddafi is Benghazi, a hotbed of tribal backers and clients of the deposed King Idris who ruled with an iron fist over a semi-feudal backward state, who gave the US one of its biggest air bases (Wheeler) in the Mediterranean basin. Among the feuding leaders of the "transitional council" (who

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Dastardly imperialist aggression against Libya

People rise in protest against oppressive Gaddafi regime

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purport to lead but have few organized followers) are neo-liberal expats who promoted the Euro-US military invasion and can only envision coming to power on the basis of Western missiles. These self-appointed leaders of the “rebels” are reported to be staunch backers of Euro-US military intervention just as they previously were long-term backers of Gaddafi’s dictatorship and promoters of MNC takeovers of oil and gas fields. Another report indicates that there is a strong presence of Al Qaeda, an arch fundamentalist force, among the ‘rebels’. The greatest geographical concentration of Al Qaeda terrorists is precisely in the areas dominated by the “rebels” (Cockburn: Counterpunch, March 24, 2011). For over a decade Gaddafi, in line with his embrace of the Bush-Obama “anti-terrorist” agenda, has been in the forefront of the fight against Al Qaeda. So a section believes that Al Qaeda have now enlisted in the ranks of the “rebels” fighting the Gaddafi regime. (Source— Euro-US War on Libya: Official Lies and Misconceptions of Critics by James Petras. Axis of Logic, Mar 28, 2011 and Frontline 09-22 April, 2011).

What is noteworthy is that when Gaddafi administration unleashed military operation to counteract the “rebels”, the Western imperialist superpowers led by US imperialists hurriedly moved UNO Security Council to obtain a sanction for launching counter military offensive in the name of NATO action to stall any possible success of the Gaddafi troops in overpowering the “rebel” contingent. If one carefully glean the media reports, it would somehow be evident that NATO forces are in general targeting areas the “rebels” are beating a retreat. If that be true, these self-proclaimed “rebels” cannot be friends of the people. Rather one would be led to believe that these “rebels” have some connivance with the US-led imperialist forces. One, therefore, cannot rule out an apprehension that some vested interested groups are masquerading as “rebels” to take advantage of the people’s wrath and working towards installing a client regime of the US imperialists. On the other hand, if fundamentalist Al Qaeda elements are active within these “rebels”, the consequences

would be equally disastrous. That is why, the question of leadership so supreme an importance in any mass struggle. Even when there is a people’s agitation for bringing democratic reforms and if such struggles are armed as well, these ought to be led by tested and tried soldiers of democratic movement for reaching their logical culmination. Otherwise, the people’s movements are led astray and glorious sacrifices of countless people become fruitless.

So the common Libyan people who are staunchly anti-imperialist and opposing Gaddafi regime for establishing democratic rule must ensure that their just struggle is based on true democratic values and uphold all essential human rights and conducted under such a tested leadership. If some anti-people or pro-imperialist elements have sneaked into the movement with an ulterior motive of misdirecting it, people must identify them and isolate them forthwith. Otherwise, the flames of stirs might well be dipped halfway entailing despair and frustration as has happened in many a case round the globe.

NATO offensive

Coming back to the issue of the Western imperialists led by US imperialists undertaking a full scale military attack on Libya on the pretext of supporting people’s movement, it may be added that after Iraq war in 2002, Gaddafi mellowed down to the imperialists and their policies and offered them more concessions and at the same time used all diplomatic and other means to fall into direct clutches of the US imperialists. Gaddafi also threatened that he will support and join Al Qaeda if the Western countries interfered in the domestic affairs of Libya. The Western imperialists led by US imperialists were caught between the devil and the deep blue sea. They did not want Libya to fall into the hands of anti-West Islamic forces at any cost. At the same time, they could not turn Gaddafi’s into a pliant regime like those in many other Middle East countries. Rather, theirs has been a policy not to antagonize Libya till there is an opportune moment to turn the table in their favour. And when the moment arrived, they moved troops and missiles in the name of NATO operation to

shamelessly meddle into the internal affairs of Libya and bully the country to their submission. It may be added that in the run-up to the US military assault, Treasury led by Israeli super-agent Stuart Levey, authored a sanctions policy freezing \$30 billion dollars in Libyan assets claiming Gaddafi was a murderous tyrant (Washington Post, 3/24/11). Yet precisely seven years earlier, Cheney, Bush and Condoleezza Rice took Libya off the list of terrorist regimes and told Levey and his minions to lift sanctions. Every major European power followed suite: Gaddafi was welcomed in European capitals, prime ministers visited Tripoli and Gaddafi reciprocated by unilaterally dismantling his nuclear and chemical weapons programmes (BBC, 9/5/2008). It is thus clear that despite a flurry of compromises by Gaddafi, the Western imperialist superpowers could not take him into full confidence. Nor did they opt to rub him on the wrong side. They were lying in wait for an opportune moment and found the situation ripe enough to act when Gaddafi faced massive people’s agitation in his home turf.

While moving the UNO, they had their pretense up the sleeves. They demanded that in view of Gaddafi’s armed attack on the agitating people, Libya should be declared a ‘no fly zone’ so that Gaddafi army cannot undertake aerial sorties on the rebellious countrymen. At the same time, they pleaded for aerial campaign to monitor this ‘no-fly zone’. And then they have openly flouted the stipulations concerning ‘no fly zone’ to launch full scale aerial offensive on that country not so much to threaten Gaddafi but to exhibit their destructive power to the Libyan people lest they should dare oppose them in their domination. As per latest information, Gaddafi too are sending feelers to the NATO powers particularly the US imperialists to strike a compromise, stop armed attack and in exchange receive more concessions from his end. This is how the imperialists have been cunningly operating with both peace and war maneuvers to buttress their sinister agenda of expansionism, overlordism and brigandage in order to further imperialist economic interest. Such a dastardly act of the powerful Western imperialists led

by US imperialists must be condemned in no uncertain a term by one to all democratic minded people round the globe. Who has given the right to the US imperialists and their cohorts to arrogate to themselves all power to do whatever they want, pounce upon any country that refuse to obey them, protest their loot and plunder, oppose their pursuit of brigandage? Even if rulers of a country perpetrate genocide in a country, the need is to develop worldwide strong public opinion against those rulers and force them to refrain from committing such a heinous crime. If need be, other countries may use all diplomatic means to dissuade such despotic rulers. But that too cannot be a plea for initiating military action or intervene into the internal affairs of that country by any foreign power. It is upto the people of that country to decide the fate of their motherland, the kind of rule they like to have. Same is true for Libya also. The so-called claim of the NATO allies that they have started military operation to stop mass killings by Gaddafi is nothing but a subterfuge to shield an altogether different motive.

It is pertinent to comment on the treacherous role played by Russia and China in the entire episode. Instead of applying the veto power to prevent US-led NATO powers from mounting such a unilateral unjust sophisticated armed assault on a sovereign country, they chose to abstain on Resolution 1973 that ratified NATO offensive. Thus they have virtually facilitated the illegal brutal attack of the NATO allies and genuflected before US diktats and overlordism. It once again shows to what low these two countries have stooped after dismantling of socialism. The present capitalist rulers of Russia and China by such a despicable act of theirs proved beyond doubt that they from their class interest do not want to sound a discordant note with the US imperialists which have become a terror to the entire world. In their overzealousness to appease the US imperialists, they forgot that if they acquiesce in such a brigandish move, any other country even their own countries may become target of such military invasion in the days to come. Equally condemnable is the role of the Indian bourgeois rulers.

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Nuclear power generation promoted from bourgeois class motive

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issues and human impacts were considered unimportant. The mindset persisted when nuclear energy started to be used for the peaceful purpose of power generation, and the potential hazards and risks did not receive the required attention. Furthermore, the secrecy, usual in the military context, is extended to the civil arena of nuclear power generation. That is why we see so frequently the suppression of the hazard related issues, cover-up of safety violations and minor accidents etc.

In the wake of the Fukushima accident under people's pressure the governments of most countries had to order reviews of their nuclear power programmes. Britain, Finland, China and Bulgaria called for a nuclear safety review. Italy and Switzerland put on hold plans for new reactors and Venezuela cancelled plans for nuclear power generation. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton expressed concern about the costs and risks associated with nuclear power. In Germany even an ardent supporter of nuclear energy Chancellor Angela Merkel had to declare a three-month moratorium on a decision for extending the life of the existing reactors, and to shut down 7 of Germany's 17 reactors. Even so, popular revolt against her nuclear policy led to poll defeat of her party in Baden-Württemberg in the wake of Fukushima disaster. But the Indian nuclear establishment has always denied the possibility of any safety-related crisis in India's reactors. When the first news about the accident in the Japanese reactors came, the nuclear officialdom in India went on a denial mode on the possibility of such accidents happening here. Only after the media highlighted the world-wide concern about the safety of the nuclear plants, did India's nuclear chief acknowledge the need for evaluation and review of the safety features of the reactors. What is particularly worrying in this context is the government's decision to import untried reactor models that are yet to be operated in any country. These include the French company Areva's European Pressurised Reactor for Jaitapur,

Maharashtra and the General Electric-Hitachi's Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor for Chhyamithi Virdi in Gujarat and Kovvada in Andhra Pradesh. India also plans to import four different types of new Light Water Reactor Technology. Thus the Indian reactor complex would be the most diverse in the world. As the safety issues in the different types of reactors are different the reactor diversity would make India's safety responsibilities extremely arduous and complex. It is well known that it takes a long time to train and create safety engineers for any model. To have so many different types of reactors is just inviting disasters.

Bourgeois Class Motive For Promoting Nuclear Power Generation

In an earlier article in Proletarian Era (August 1, 2010) we had clarified that our Party is not averse to the introduction of any new advanced technology if it serves people's interest. Viewed in this perspective, governments could have opted for nuclear power to the extent they like, if adequate and full-proof safety measures could be devised and if scientific solutions to all the hazard-related problems were available. But science has so far not been able to devise any safe way to store the hazardous radioactive waste for long periods or to permanently dispose them off. As we have seen at Fukushima the spent fuel rods have proved to pose as much radiation problems as the reactor cores. In India at present the wastes are stored at site and they are a great source of environmental and safety hazards. An accident would lead to a Fukushima like situation exposing the people to grave radiation hazard. The fact is, moribund capitalism has least concern for people's welfare, so nuclear safety has no value for the capitalists and their subservient governments. The only motive which drives them is earning profit and maximizing it. The authorities violate safety norms with impunity, placing the workers and the people in great danger. Often they betray criminal negligence, and if an accident occurs they downplay its importance or pass it off as 'human

error', thereby shifting the responsibility on to the shoulder of the workers. A report in the New York Times (The Hindu, April 12, 2011) reveals how untrained, itinerant, temporary contract workers who work against less pay, have less job security and receive fewer benefits, handled the bulk of the dangerous work at the Fukushima plant, a practice common in Japan and other countries. They are routinely exposed to radiation, though they carry a dosimeter and when the exposure reaches the cumulative dose limit they are taken off the job. Such labour practice both endangers the health of these workers and undermines safety of the nuclear reactors. At Fukushima most of the workers were evacuated after the tsunami struck. Since then those who have returned have been strictly shielded from the news media, but it is they who are playing a big role in tackling the crisis at the plant. According to the New York Times report, as of April 7, 21 workers had each been exposed to cumulative radiation level of 100 millisieverts, the usual limit for workers during an emergency. This limit has been raised to 250 millisieverts after the crisis, so that the hazardous emergency work can be carried out without raising the number of workers. Such is the sinister way capitalism works. We cannot expect that in a capitalist set-up the interests of the workers and of the common people would be protected. It is from their own class interest that the capitalist class is vociferous about the necessity for expansion of nuclear power generation capacity, lauding the latter's efficacy for reducing CO₂ emission, but downplaying its risks and hazards. The people must see through the ploy of the capitalist class and comprehend its real design for promoting nuclear energy. A move that would expose the people to a hazardous technology or make them its victims must be stoutly opposed. That is why along with concerned people all over the world we are demanding that, as things stand now, the governments adopt the policy of vigorously developing alternate, environment-friendly methods of power generation, like



Massive anti-nuclear power rally in Tokyo, throwing caution (in Japanese) 'no nuclear power in land of earthquakes and tsunamis'

solar power, wind power, mini hydro power, clean coal technology, etc.

But in India in spite of people's concerted opposition the Manmohan Singh government is adamantly sticking to its decision of setting up a large number of nuclear reactors, importing them from USA, France and Russia. Four chosen foreign vendors have been each gifted with an exclusive seaside nuclear park to build reactors. It was for this that the Indo-US Civil Nuclear Deal was passed in Parliament and endorsed by the IAEA and the Nuclear Supplier Group. Of course, the purpose is to promote the interest of foreign and Indian monopoly capital. The foreign monopolists are excited at the prospect of a huge and lucrative nuclear trade with India, which would stimulate their crisis-ridden economy. As the construction of nuclear power plants is declining in the developed countries, the industry is turning its attention to markets like India for selling nuclear technology. The Indian monopolists, on the other hand, are waiting to get their share in the pie and are viewing this as an investment opportunity, as an opportunity to gain access to the national and international nuclear market. The government's policy is also linked to its desire for nuclear

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weaponization and its aspiration to emerge as regional superpower and to establish its hegemony in South and Southeast Asia. It is being observed that when powerful demands are raised by saner sections of society for overall review of the entire gamut of nuclear power generation in the wake of the disaster in Japan, the Indian monopolists are advising the Government not to be deterred by these. The subservient media is a party to such efforts. The real issues are carefully camouflaged and most newspapers cleverly drum up popular support for the government's nuclear policy, and giving big publicity to the assurance of the powers that be that Indian reactors are much better designed and such accidents would never happen here.

Fukushima disaster has glaringly demonstrated the vulnerability of nuclear power plants. The brunt of any nuclear accident is borne by the common people and the plant workers and the rescue staff. But for the

capitalist class these are no considerations. When an accident occurs they get busy in harping on how unlikely it is for such an accident to happen elsewhere and in churning out statistics to show how small is the number of victims, covering up the long term effects on a large population. But the people are refusing to be fooled by these propagandas. There is already a mounting swell of public opinion against nuclear power. In one country after another, including our country, people are coming out on the streets with the slogan of "No to Nuclear Power", demanding of their governments to give up the nuclear option. The need of the hour is to coordinate these movements in the different countries and build up a mighty united militant movement to resist the nuclear policy of the capitalist class that is so disastrous for humanity. We appeal to scientists, environmentalists, educators and well-meaning people from all sections of society to come forward in accomplishing this task of averting any further nuclear catastrophe.

Anti-Nuclear power rally in Japan



The devastating nuclear crisis that developed in Japan following the strong earthquake and accompanying tsunami, brought forth series of protests from people of Japan. The biggest anti-nuclear protest (photograph above and also on page 2 and 5) was held by people on Sunday April 10, 2011, when in Tokyo there were two rallies in which several thousands people took part to demand the shutdown of nuclear power plants. The rallies were reportedly organized by local shop owners and were reported online with a call. There were people with their young children making comments "I want to do what I can do for these kids"; there were youth, generally considered apathetic to political activities. Led apparently without any organized leadership, the rallies held unequivocally that for earthquake- and tsunami-prone Japan, nuclear power plants were always dangerous for people.

National Seminar on Impact of Liberalization-Privatization and Globalization on Women held in Ahmedabad on 15 March 2011

Independent India has shown a drastic rise in crimes against women. This has definitely taken a worst turn after the implementation of Globalization-Liberalization-Privatization policies in the 90s. The decadent capitalist culture which has made inroads into India has only aggravated the situation. In this backdrop of the national scenario the National Seminar on Impact of Liberalization-Privatization and Globalization on Women was held at Sahitya Parisad, in Ahmedabad on 15 March 2011 to commemorate 100 Years of International Women's Day. The programme was organised by All India Mahila Sanskritik Sangathan (AIMSS) Gujarat chapter in association with Cultural Educational Forum and the Ankalav Arts and Commerce College. Participants from Delhi, Hariyana, Jharkhand, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal attended the National Seminar and took active part in the discussion. A good number of

lecturers, teachers, students and concerned citizens from different parts of the state too joined the seminar.

Dr Nivia Patel welcomed the participants in the seminar. In the inaugural session Comrade Meenakshi Joshi gave the introductory speech. The Seminar was inaugurated by eminent women activist Ms Ilabehn Pathak.

Comrade Chhaya Mukherji, President AIMSS and member, Central Committee, SUCI(C) and Comrade H G Jayalakshmi, General Secretary, AIMSS delivered speeches followed by Comrade Ritu Kaushik from Delhi and Comrade Krishna Sen from West Bengal.

In the second session Shri Prakashbhai Shah, delivered speech followed by Dr Mehurinisah Behn Desai. The introduction was made by Comrade Bharati Parmar. Comrade Lalitha from Andhra Pradesh, Comrade Nandini Bhone from Maharashtra, Comrade Binapani Das from Orissa, Comrade Jayanthi from Tamil Nadu, Comrade Sarala

Mahato from Jharkhand, Comrade Rachana Agrawal from Madhya Pradesh also participated in the seminar.

Dr Nivia Patel started the seminar in the third session. Prof Rohitbhai Shukla and Prof Damini Shah delivered speeches.

Comrade Aparna from

Karnataka, Comrade Kanta Sharma from Haryana, Comrade Sadhna Mishra from Bihar were the other speakers. In the beginning of the National Seminar tribute was paid to the victims of Tsunami in Japan. A resolution was passed supporting the Mahua Movement against the Nirma Cement Plant.



Demonstration by SUCI (C) at Jamshedpur, Jharkhand in demand of drinking water on 7 April last

Dastardly imperialist aggression against Libya

US imperialists flout all norms to launch military attack on Libya under flimsy pretext

Contd. from page 4

Going against the glorious tradition of protracted anti-imperialist struggle of the country and prevailing strong anti-imperialist sentiment of the toiling millions of Indian masses, the capitalist-imperialist rulers of India too joined Russia and China in this conspicuous absenteeism and thereby held out proof of their increasing submission to the US imperialists. Such increasing tilt towards US imperialism, the biggest enemy of the mankind today, portends a grave danger to the country.

Task imperative on the part of struggling people

Thus, we can see that if the US imperialists and their allies are allowed to carry out such war of aggression successively, freedom and sovereignty of each and every country will be under severe threat.

This has to be thwarted at any cost. In the circumstances, our appeal to the fighting Libyan people is that let them attribute maximum importance to the question of leadership of the movement. Unless their most legitimate movement against autocratic Gaddafi rule, as we have stated above, is conducted under correct leadership, it might well be aborted midway and another vested interest might usurp power to run the same steamroller of worst repression and oppression. To the democratic minded peace loving people of the world who are visibly disturbed at the turn of world events, our appeal is not to remain passive onlookers. Today it is Libya, Iraq, Afghanistan or Syria; tomorrow it can be any other country which these imperialist sharks might target if they find that country unbending before their diktats. In absence of mighty socialist camp, the imperialists led

by US imperialists are unbridled today. Wicked is never starved of subterfuge! On one pretext or the other, they will flagrantly violate all established norms, rules and practices to overrun the countries they think are 'recalcitrant', mercilessly kill innocent people, betray all kinds of devilry and despotism in pursuit of hegemonistic aspiration and expand sphere of influence. So, this murderous run of the imperialist vultures must be combated and stopped. If the imperialist sharks are in possession of sophisticated arms of destruction, people too have an invincible weapon in their armoury—the invincible philosophy of Marxism-Leninism. People must rise up imbued with the noblest ideology of the time. It is the organized people's movement under the correct revolutionary leadership which can provide effective bulwark against this imperialist onslaught.

Conducting people's struggles under correct leadership is imperative for taking the movements to their logical culmination. Immediate task is to build up worldwide powerful anti-imperialist militant peace movement involving all sections of the anti-imperialist freedom-loving patriotic masses and forces. Genuine communists must work as the core of this movement. In fact, such movement has already started getting crystallized. Momentum must be added to that. As a part of that movement, powerful movements against this dastardly US-led military attack on Libya needs to be developed in right earnest. People of every country must view this attack on Libya as an attack on their own motherland. Let everyone stand by the fighting Libyan people and raise the slogan in unison — US imperialists, hands off Libya.

AIUTUC protests against Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Bill

Playing the Central government for introducing Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Bill in Lok Sabha, Comrade Sankar Saha, General Secretary, AIUTUC issued the following statement on 25 March, 2011: The New Pension System (NPS) is in force for almost 7 years. The BJP led NDA Govt. formulated a Contributory Pension Scheme in 2003 for its own employees appointed on and after 01-01-2004. The Scheme was implemented in 2004 by Congress led UPA Government, when its survival was solely dependent upon the support of CPI(M) and its allies. Subsequently 27 state governments irrespective of political affiliations have introduced similar scheme for their employees from different dates. According to this Scheme pension is neither the right of employees nor liability of the government or employers. Contributions which are required to be paid by employees and their employers would be credited to the Pension Fund Managers nominated by PFRDA – an independent

authority which was originally constituted by NDA Government and reconstituted by UPA Government in 2004 through an Ordinance that was subsequently lapsed. But still this authority though non-statutory has been functioning for more than 6 years with full authority and all contributions paid to the Pension Fund from 2004 stand credited to it for investment in Share Market. The Central Government has introduced the Bill in Lok Sabha to give this illegal body a legal entity which would supervise, manage and monitor all matters relating to pension as well as promote and develop pension market, open to private players, both domestic and foreign. As per this scheme, pension ceases to be a right, as it is defined. Whether employees would get pension or not and if they get at all how much they would get - all these depend on the speculative market which is volatile.

It may be added in this connection that the Government is most unscrupulously pushing this scheme in different sectors and

expanding area of operation of PFRDA in collaboration with established social democratic leadership in trade union. The latest in the series is the Banking Sector where CPI(M) and CPI led Federations along with others have signed 9th Bi-partite Agreement sacrificing the right to defined pension to the employees. The situation is indeed alarming.

In this backdrop we on behalf of All India United Trade Union

Centre (AIUTUC) strongly protest against this anti-labour, pro-capital conspiratorial design of the government which strikes at the very root and concept of social security and hence call upon all sections of working people in general and government employees in particular to stand united against this design and build up united movement on the demand of withdrawal of this BLACK BILL.



Demonstration by AIDSO in Cuttack, Orissa on 8 April against black-marketing of text books and other corrupt practices

Police firing kills agitators during movement against forcible eviction at Ranchi

Jharkhand state is stirred today with growing movement involving slum-dwellers. Our Party SUCI (C) taking up initiative to build up Bustee Bachao Sangharsh Samity (Struggle Committee to Save Slum-dwellers) to wage a serious battle against demolition of bustees and eviction of impoverished slum-dwellers. In one such movement against demolition of Bansi Bustee along with Nagababa Khatal in Ranchi, in the name of beautification — empowered by the High Court order, the police opened fire at Islamnagar in Jagannathpur Chowk on 5 April, thereby killing Golden a youth and a few other demonstrators, and injuring several others. Though government claims that only two people have died, unofficial sources claim the number to be five.

In protest against the police atrocity Jharkhand Bandh was declared on April 7, by the SUCI(C) Ranchi District Organizing Committee. Condemning the police firing, our Party has demanded that the family of the deceased be given 10 lakh in compensation as also a government job and those injured be given Rs. 5 lakh each in cash and all their medical expenses be met. The response to the bandh call was unique with the busiest areas of the city viz. Main Road, Albert Ekka

Road, Purulia Road, Karbala Chowk, Ratu Road, Kantatahi Chowk, Kachari Chowk completely deserted on the day. Common masses of the city played a remarkable role in making the bandh a grand success. After a lot of scuffle, the police forcefully arrested the party leaders including Comrades Siddheswar Singh, Party's Ranchi District Secretary, Keya De, Ashok Singh, Binoy Kumar, Swarup Kumar, Mintu Paswan, Manju Devi, Sachin Kumar, Virendra Kumar, as a protest march was organized. Congratulating the people for such a spontaneous support to the bandh call, Comrade Siddheswar Singh said that the only alternative to defeat the government policy of demolition of slums and eviction of the bustee-dwelling people was to build up strong and protracted mass movement giving shape to people's committees as instruments of struggle. He also demanded that the government should stop demolition of slums in the name of beautification, the slum-dwellers be allowed owners' right and compensation be declared.

Earlier two condolence meetings were held on 6 April under the auspices of the Bustee Bachao Sangharsh Samity in Jagannathpur and Airport area.



At Joy nagar in West Bengal in support of the SUCI(C) candidate Comrade Tarun Naskar, intellectuals including eminent theatre personality Bibhas Chakraborty, social activists Dilip Chakraborty, Sujato Bhadra, Rupashree Kahali and others took part in the huge campaign rally on April 10 last.

SUCI(C) vehemently protests tax exemption granted to International Cricket Council by Government of India

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C) issued the following statement on 2 April, 2011 :

We strongly protest and condemn the decision of Government of India to give tax bonanza of nearly Rs 45 crore to the International Cricket Council (ICC) by exempting part of its income generated in India during the ongoing World Cup from Income Tax. While the people of India are dying of starvation and malnutrition, hundreds of thousands of peasants are committing suicide for not being able to repay loans because of non-availability of remunerative prices for their produces, the government is on a borrowing spree to finance huge budget deficit and allocations and subsidies towards various welfare sectors are being systematically curtailed on the pretext of lessening burden of expenditure, it is utterly shameful that a tax waiver is granted to ICC, one of the richest international organizations, which is stated to have generated a net revenue surplus of Rs 905 crores besides additional income of Rs 1062 crores from broadcast rights. This once again proves that this Government is committed to give subventions to the rich and affluent from the public exchequer while the poor and have-nots are being pauperized day in and day out. We call upon the people of the country to rise in organized protest against this most despicable decision of the Congress-led bourgeois Government.

SUCI(C) on Anna Hazare's anti-corruption movement

In view of Shri Anna Hazare's anti-corruption movement, Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(Communist) issued the following statement on 8 April, 2011:

We express our full support and solidarity to the just demands of the anti-corruption movement launched by social activist Anna Hazare. It can be well understood that a regime ridden with allout corruption cannot willingly concede to the legitimate demands of the movement and even if compelled, would do so only to hoodwink the people. It should be noted that our country which has been witnessing shameless corrupt and hypocrite politicians of both the rightist and leftist varieties seeking space in the corridors of power, had, in the days of freedom struggle, seen politicians of high moral values and ethics. The subsequent degeneration is not accidental. The existing capitalist socio-economic system based on the law of profit and wealth to a few while exploitation-oppression-hunger-deprivation-destitution to the toiling millions is itself the breeding ground of immorality and degeneration. It is this capitalist system which is pushing the whole country to ruination. This moral degeneration has pervaded the entire state apparatus, that is, bureaucracy-police-administration-military-judiciary and every other socio-political institution. All the ruling parties who serve this corrupt capitalist state cannot but be corrupt and morally degenerated. So long capitalism exists, the country's political scenario will remain the same. So the fight against corruption cannot succeed if not linked with the fight against capitalism. In order to put an end to the exploitative capitalist set up, the urgent need is to organize anti-capitalist revolution armed with the ideology of scientific socialism and revolutionary morality. Until then the task of the working class struggle is to organize democratic mass movements on the demands for enactment of preventive acts and their implementation. We firmly believe that in the present capitalist socio-political setup democratic mass movements alone can act as deterrent to all the social evils like corruption and immorality.

Observe 24 April SUCI(C) foundation day with due solemnity

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