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Red Salute Frederick Engels



28 November 1820 – 5 August 1895

“It is the essence of bourgeois socialism to want to maintain the basis of all the evils of present-day society and at the same time to want to abolish the evils themselves...Whoever declares that the capitalist mode of production, the “iron laws” of present-day bourgeois society, are inviolable, and yet at the same time would like to abolish their unpleasant but necessary consequences, has no other recourse but to deliver moral sermons to the capitalists, moral sermons whose emotional effects immediately evaporate under the influence of private interest and, if necessary, of competition.”

—Frederick Engels

(The Housing Question—p.41-43)

Comrade Provash Ghosh on ensuing Presidential Election of India

On 12 July, 2012 Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (C), addressed a well – attended Press Conference held at the Central Party Office in Kolkata. In his address, he said: We think whatever might have been claimed in campaign or coverage about the Presidential election being an apolitical issue, the office of the President is really a political institution. The activities of the President are guided by the Constitution which itself is framed with a political approach and in all previous Presidential elections held so far, it is the political parties that have selected the candidates, that have entered into contests. If and when some independent candidate came into picture, some or other political parties must have nominated him. The cabinet which guides the President is also very much a political body. So this election cannot be viewed judged outside the domain of politics. Of course in our country, all the debates, discussions and dialogues on Presidential election are confined to the parties in power or in opposition. Common people are hardly bothering about it. They are concerned with the burning problems of their life. So, I am of the opinion that this election should be viewed in the backdrop of the prevailing political-economic-social background. I won't go into elaborations. All of you are journalists, well educated and well- informed.

The present economic situation in the country is simply horrible. Two-third of the population is either unemployed or semi-employed. A few crores of workers have been retrenched. Lakhs of industries have been closed down. The entire

rural life stands shattered. Without land and job, the multitudes of rural poor are wondering about. The term ‘migrant labour’ is now quite familiar. It means there is no stability; job-seekers are aimlessly moving around the entire country like migratory birds. Whatever long accounts of development and planning leaders may dish out, the situation is extremely pathetic and horrific. People are committing suicides in lakhs, are dying of starvation or without any medical treatment. Presently the most flourishing trade in India is women trafficking. Hundreds of thousands of women of poor families are being illegally trafficked to various parts of the country and even foreign lands. Even seven or eight year old girl children are being initiated into roaring flesh trade. No party in power seems to bother the least. They have no concern at all in these issues. The country has never witnessed such a horrid condition. The world capitalist economy, of which the Indian economy is an inseparable part, is itself in the grip of an acute insoluble crisis and mounting recession. The US economy is capsizing in the Pacific Ocean. European economy too is sinking in the Atlantic Ocean. It appears that the market of the capitalist-imperialist economy has totally run dry with nothing left of it. So intense is the economic crisis of capitalism today. When the giants are upto the neck, how could Indian capitalism survive? On the other hand, in the much-clamoured democracy of our country, there is no democratic right of the people. But, there is

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Egypt in the aftermath of Presidential Election

REVELATIONS AND LESSONS

Undeterred by the bullets and brutality of the autocratic regime and defying the long-continuing repressions that they have dreaded so far, lakhs of oppressed Egyptians from all sections of the society including women congregated at the Tahrir Square of Cairo and other parts of the country in the last week of January, 2011 to demand an end to thirty long years of President Hosni Mubarak's most oppressive rule, fully backed, geared and protected by the army, and restoration of democracy. This spontaneous militant people's protest which spread like wildfire across the country and virtually assumed the character of a mass uprising was greeted throughout the world as “Arab spring”. So powerful had been the impact of this spontaneous uprising of undaunted people with remarkable fighting zeal and uncompromising spirit, particularly characterized in the main by their secular nature and strongest anti-US imperialist feelings

that the Egyptian army hitherto considered to be impervious did not dare to use force to suppress the same. Rather, it feigned a sympathetic attitude towards this people's uprising. Even the US imperialists who initially in collusion with the Mubarak-led army-controlled government tried to pull the strings from behind to nip the movement in the bud also had to switch to a cunning ploy of pretending support for Mubarak's ouster and pitching for a ‘peaceful and orderly transition’ to democracy. Finally, Mubarak had to step down on 11 February, 2011, handing over the power to the army. Sensing the mood and fervour of the fighting people, the army found no option but to beat a retreat, find a scapegoat in Mubarak and asking him to resign, dissolve the so called Parliament, suspend the country's Constitution and commit that it would be in power for six months till the election, to form a new government.

Turn of events after Mubarak's ouster

It is, therefore, clear that the people's movement rose to such a peak that it had all potential of not only replacing autocracy by democracy but even ensuring materialization of people's latent desire to be freed from the ongoing excruciating economic exploitation materialized. From this very intent of emancipation, the fighting Egyptian people had called their struggle as ‘revolution’, of course not being clear what exactly the term connotes and warrants for being accomplished given the fact that they are pressed under the yoke of ruthless oppression of ruling capitalism perpetrated through the bourgeois state machine armed to the teeth. Had the necessary pre-conditions for overthrowing the ruling capitalist class by revolution been fulfilled, there of course was every possibility of this people's uprising ending up in anti-capitalist revolution. But, such

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Egypt

Change of regime does not mean change of oppressive capitalist rule

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has not been the case. Though people spontaneously rose up in demand for democracy, various bourgeois and petty-bourgeois forces including fundamentalist outfits as well as camouflaged agents of the army rule sneaked into the movement and tried to see that the movement does not escalate beyond a point and is withdrawn once Mubarak was ousted and an election agreed upon. Exactly that happened. Hailing Mubarak's exit as a thumping success and seeming to be on the cusp of a new dawn, the movement was called off and people were made to believe that the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) which took over the reins would roll out the process of promised restoration of democracy. But the euphoric mood which swept through the country for a few days with that fond hope soon subsided into despair. In the midst of doubts and dilemma about the SCAF living up to their commitment, a constitutional referendum was approved on 19 March 2011 to ease the process of electing a president. Following that, a new electoral law was approved by the caretaker government. Finally, after a spate of incidents, a parliamentary election to the People's Assembly of Egypt was held from 28 November 2011 to 11 January 2012 in which the Democratic Alliance for Egypt that included Freedom for Justice Party (Muslim Brotherhood) won a majority by capturing 235 seats in House of 508. 'The Revolution continues' alliance of the leftists, it may be mentioned, received 2.8% votes and 7 seats.

But just before the presidential election and adoption of a new Constitution by the elected parliament, the highest court of the land, in a stunning judgment, dissolved the elected parliament and opened the door for SCAF to take pervasive control of both legislative and financial powers. The court also ruled that Ahmed Shafiq, Mubarak's last Prime Minister and his most trusted lieutenant, would be allowed to run for the presidency despite the passage of an earlier law by parliament, endorsed by SCAF, having prohibited members of the former regime from contesting the presidential poll. Moreover, lest the court ruling should trigger a revival of people's protest agitation which might well bring back the days of Tahrir Square, SCAF decreed that the army could carry out arbitrary arrests and haul detainees before military courts. This clearly

indicated inevitable infringement on civil liberties and basic human rights by the army and aided by the country's judiciary to quell a possible rebellion against the SCAF's naked intervention to disrupt, if not derail, Egypt's transition to democracy. Allegations flew thick and fast that an unholy collusion between the army and judiciary has led to a 'military coup' and the high judiciary, gelled during the Mubarak era, had become a tool of the military top brass to siphon off power from a democratically elected parliament. It was also alleged that the court's ruling was part of a larger plot hatched by SCAF to bring back the remnants of the Mubarak regime to power.

Even that was not all. When counting of presidential poll was in progress, it could be seen from the exercised franchisee that the country's people were almost equally divided between Shafiq, the protégé of Mubarak and the army and Mohammed Morsi of Muslim Brotherhood. Taking note of the fact that there was a sharp division among the people over presidential choice and a sizeable section of people was against the Brotherhood, the military generals of SCAF sought to resurface and began to reassert themselves through promulgation of another decree which sapped the power of an elected president and stated that the president would have no jurisdiction over the army. The decree also proclaimed that the generals could oversee drafting of a Constitution. In other words, it was proclaimed that a civil administration had no right to curtail the hefty powers and privileges which the military had accumulated over decades. Even the intention of the army to prune the longevity of Egypt's first elected presidency was not kept a secret. In an interview with Al Jazeera TV, the head of SCAF's advisory council, said that the incoming President would last only until the time a new Constitution was drafted and authority to civilians would not be ceded until a Constitution was written. It was obvious that SCAF would ensure drafting of the new Constitution in such a way as to defend its core interests. A section of the Egyptian jurists now say that the generals have effectively planted a booby trap in the parliamentary elections by leaving them vulnerable to judicial negation at any time. The military generals also activated a dormant National Defence Council packed with military personnel so that the

elected President though announced as the head of the said Council could not take any decision of his own but only nod to what the military generals propose. Thus, the people found while they had fought to terminate the autocratic military rule and elect a civilian government, the real power continued to be concentrated in the military notwithstanding election of a civilian president in the form of Morsi who won by a slender margin (51% as against Shafiq's 49%). What could be more of a mockery of democracy than this! It is also worth noting that while there was a high turnout of voters in the parliamentary elections, the percentage of voting came down drastically in the presidential poll to around 50%. After such a massive movement for restoration of democracy, this marked drop in voting only indicates disappointment and frustration among the people at the turn of events, particularly the drastic curtailment of the President's power and backdoor entry of the army.

Why this tragic fallout of a glorious struggle

Surely, this tragic fallout of a glorious struggle has baffled not only the gallant Egyptian people but the thinking persons of the whole world. Apparently, this is baffling no doubt. But if viewed in the light of Marxian science and its methodology of analysis, it would be evident that such an outcome was simply inevitable. If one has to put an end to the peril, misery and penury plaguing the toiling masses, one must smash the root. What is that root? The root is the exploitative decadent moribund crisis-ridden capitalist system steered and protected by the bourgeois state under the oppressive capitalist class. As shown by Lenin, "the state is an organ of the rule of a definite class" and "bourgeois states are most varied in form, but their essence is the same: all these states, whatever their form, in the final analysis, are inevitably the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie." He also analyzed how "in capitalist society... democracy is always hemmed in by the narrow limits set by capitalist exploitation, and consequently always remains, in reality, a democracy for the minority, only for the propertied classes, only for the rich. Freedom in capitalist society always remains about the same." This coercive state has three permanent organs—the army, the judiciary and the executive. And in the final analysis, it is the army

which protects the state. In other words, the oppressive ruling class secures its state through the army. Likewise, the judiciary too cannot but ultimately serve the aggregate interest of the ruling capitalist class. Egyptian bourgeois state is no exception. So if one does not understand the nature and characteristics of the state, one cannot understand the role of the army. In some of the capitalist states, there are civilian rules. But, if that rule for any reason whatsoever is found to be causing any threat or inconvenience to the operation of the capitalist order, the army intervenes and takes over the power. Even the civilian governments led by bourgeois petty-bourgeois outfits also finally bank on the army for functioning in the class interest of the ruling bourgeoisie. In other words, the state and the army are entwined. So, there ought not to be any illusion that the army of a capitalist state could become the architect of articulating people's aspiration and act against the class rule and class interest of the exploiting bourgeoisie.

The next point is about restoration of democracy. Realizing this imperative need of people's emancipation and drawing lessons from developments in various countries and penetratingly analyzing the emerging world situation in the light of the science of Marxism-Leninism, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Founder General Secretary of the SUCI(C) and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era had drawn attention of all to the fact that the bourgeoisie today is historically stripped of all its progressive role it once possessed in the days of rising capitalism. But following the inexorable course of history, capitalism is now in its decadent moribund stage, mired in insoluble crisis and gasping in the death throes. So, it has become avidly reactionary, utterly corrupt, phenomenally deceptive and ruthlessly coercive in extending its decaying decomposing rule. Even no unfulfilled task of bourgeois democracy can be shouldered by it today as even that poses a serious threat to its mutilated existence. Haunted by the fear-complex of anti-capitalist revolution, it is cultivating curtailment of even the basic tenets of bourgeois democracy which the reactionary bourgeoisie is now fostering to survive. Parliamentary democracy has virtually been turned into a farce with various

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Press Conference on Presidential election

Contest is between two trusted representatives of the ruling class

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unbridled 'democratic' right of the corporate sectors, monopolists, the MNCs to plunder the country, to loot the people with alacrity. However, the common people have no democratic right to protest against injustice or resist onslaught. Each and every movement is being brutally crushed. Fake encounter killings have become rampant in the country. Under the facade of democracy, an autocratic, fascistic rule is clamped on the country. All the ruling political parties are utterly degenerated and submerged in corruption. They are minting money freely. A few ministers may not be accepting money in person, may even be personally honest. But everybody, including them, is fully aware that their party leaders and members are looting money, amassing fabulous wealth to float on it. In reality, these political parties do not consider the people anything else but voters. To create their own vote-banks they are fomenting all kinds of divisive mentalities centering round religion, caste, sub-caste, ethnicity, parochial and racist thoughts and so forth to disunite people. Thus, they are exploiting the toiling masses simply to buttress their narrow sectarian electoral interest. The moral scenario of the country is polluted to the core. How wretchedly women are being raped, gang-raped; none, not even children, are being spared. Spectacle is same throughout the country. Looking at the present condition, it becomes hard to believe that luminaries like Vidyasagar, Vivekananda, Rabindranath, Saratchandra, Subhaschandra, Chittaranjan Das, Bhagat Singh, Premchand and others were once born in this very same country.

The Presidential election that is being held in such a situation have two contesting sides, which are nothing but trusted representatives of the bourgeoisie, the monopolists. One is the Congress in power with its few adjuncts while the other is the BJP in opposition. BJP too has some associates. Politics of both these parties are the same — how to anyhow grab power and serve the interest of the plundering by the domestic and foreign monopoly capital. This Presidential election is nothing but a dress rehearsal of the forthcoming parliamentary polls in 2014. All the parliamentarian parties are viewing this presidential election from that angle only.

Under the circumstances, it was necessary to place an alternative to these two, that is a third, contestant,

representing workers-peasants-poor and middle class people. Such a contestant was badly needed today.

It is a tragedy that today there is no longer anything like a powerful left and democratic movement in India. The CPI (M), known as a big left party, never had anything to do with Marxism. Even then, to whatever extent it practiced leftism and participated in the leftist movements have also been abandoned by them since the mid-sixties of the last century. The

people are out on the streets in protest. Though there is no leadership, yet people are spontaneously bursting forth in movement. The kind of people's agitations now going on in America is unprecedented. In Europe, there is one after another surge of massive strikes. In our country, however, the so-called 'communist' parties like CPI (M) are not only taking no initiative to build any movement; they have already shattered the pro-movement mental make-up in

would the CPI(M) leaders tell to the people ?

One of the arguments put forth by the CPI (M) leadership is: The Congress is secular and the BJP communal. But, it was this very communal BJP they had supported during the regime of Vajpayee government. They joined hands at least twice. In 1977, knowing fully well that the Jan Sangh was a constituent of the Janata party, they had supported the latter. Later too, the CPI(M) joined hands with the BJP to support the VP Singh. May be they are of the opinion that Jan Sangh-RSS-BJP was then "secular", but has now turned "communal".

We have never considered the Congress as secular. The concept of secularism had evolved during the days of advent of Renaissance in Europe. It connotes that there is no divine world, no supernatural entity. In Europe this idea evolved in course of struggles to free politics from the domination of the churchdom and stranglehold of religious thoughts to establish democratic republic by giving defeat to the monarchy. It meant that in the quest for truth, in the cult of science and epistemology, in the governance of society there should not be any domination or influence of religion. It would be scientific democratic thoughts and reason which should govern them. Religious faith, if any, should remain exclusively in the domain of one's individual belief and in the places of worship. This was secularism. In our country Vidyasagar was the pioneer of this idea. It was he who said that the *Sankhya-Vedanta* were false systems of philosophy. He upheld true spirit of secularism. Later it was Saratchandra who upheld it, so did Nazrul. Bhagat Singh had upheld secularism in the field of politics. All of them were non-believers. On the other hand, even a believer himself, Rabindranath was against dragging religion into politics. Subhaschandra too was against invoking religion in politics. They were secular in the fields of politics. But the National Congress even when it was leading the Swadeshi movement or the independence struggle, was a religion-based institution. Behind the slogan of 'equal encouragement to all religions', the Gandhite leadership was under the domination of Hindu religion and even the upper castes. The outcome was the partition of the country. As a result of that, even today the country often witnesses violent communal-parochial-casteist conflagrations. The Congress after assuming power has been instrumental behind

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Comrade Provash Ghosh addressing the Press Conference. Seated on his left Polit Bureau members Comrades Asit Bhattacharyya and Ranjit Dhar. On the right Central Committee member Comrade Soumen Bosu and Polit Bureau member Comrade Manik Mukherjee

central focal point of their politics also is the same as that of the Congress and the BJP i.e. to anyhow grab governmental power — either to be in power or to remain in the corridor of power. They are confined within the precincts of this vote-based power politics.

Holding aloft the banner of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought and militant leftism it is our Party which is continuously developing movements in different states based on our own strength. Though there is hardly any coverage of our movements and efforts in the media, you as journalists must be having knowledge of that. On 14 March last, we held a rally of more than a lakh of people in Delhi and submitted signatures from more than three crores of people from each nook and corner of the country on the burning demands of their life. None of the other parties including the CPI (M), either singly or jointly with others, could ever organize such a massive demonstration in the capital city of the country. But still we have not been able to reach that position at all India level as to build up a countrywide movement on our singular strength. But the oppressed people, the suffering multitudes, the molested women, all of them without exception are sincerely desiring movement, protest, struggle. This is the cry of the hour. Even in the western countries

people at large. West Bengal was the bastion of leftist movement. Since the days of the British rule, there was the leftist trend led by Subhaschandra as alternative to the rightist politics of the Congress under Gandhi. Later this state became the citadel of leftist movement. Remaining in the governmental power for the long 34 years in West Bengal, these so-called communists have broken the backbone of leftist movement. We can only add that we are trying our best to bring it round and revive the leftist movement.

In such a situation, we are of the opinion, it was required to build up a powerful left and democratic movement in the interest of workers-peasants and the exploited people, and to contest the Presidential election in continuity of that. This was desired and necessary too. But, since it did not happen, now the option rests between the two bourgeois contestants. And by deciding to support the Congress nominee, one of the two bourgeois contestants, the CPI (M) have not just played an opportunistic role, they have utterly betrayed leftism. The arguments the CPI (M) leaders are dishing out in defence of their stand are not convincing even their cadres. There is a revolt among the CPI (M) workers, in JNU and other places. When there is discontent among their own activists, what

Powerful movement — the only way to retrieve peasants' land at Singur

After coming to governmental power ending the 34- year rule of the CPI(M) Front government, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) in its bid to go by its electoral pledge passed an Act to help the unwilling farmers of Singur in West Bengal to get back their lands snatched away and doled out to the Tatas by the said CPI(M) Front government. The Tatas challenged this verdict in the Calcutta High Court but the High Court cleared the Act as valid. After this the Tatas appealed to the Division Bench of the same High Court against the verdict. The Division Bench after a long hearing nullified the Act as illegal and thus in favour of the Tatas raising many points, shortcomings and inconsistencies. This verdict of the High Court Bench pushed the fighting people of West Bengal in general and the farmers of Singur in particular into despair and despondency.

To recall, in 2006 after 31 years of their uninterrupted rule, the ruling CPI(M) Front government suddenly woke up to the awareness that West Bengal was lagging in industrialization and felt its need to be met immediately. In their enthusiasm to 'do it now', the "mantra" (slogan) coined by the

then Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya fondly nicknamed as "brand-Buddha" by the monopolist industrialist houses, both domestic and foreign, the said government instantly snatched away 1000 acres of multi-crop most fertile lands from the peasants of Singur in the district of Hooghly. They performed this 'great task' by killing Rajkurmar Bhul, a protesting peasant son whom the police lathi-charged to death and Tapasi Malik, also a protesting peasant daughter who was brutally mass-raped before being murdered by the CPI(M) criminals. These were coupled with scores of peasants being severely injured in brute police attack on the first day of the resistance movement in September 2006. Then the government doled out these lands to the Tatas at a throwaway or no compensation. That sparked a militant mass movement in protest. It is to be noted, as the people of West Bengal will unambiguously admit, that it was our Party which initiated the movement first with whatever strength we had at our command then. Finding the tremendous mass support behind the movement, the TMC joined it later. True to the sentiment of the people of Singur, there developed a united movement

under the banner of a people's committee namely the *Krishi Jami Raksha Committee* (Save Farmland Committee). Under the banner of this Committee the peasant movement at Singur gained momentum and overwhelming support that swamped not only the district of Hooghly but spread throughout the state of West Bengal as a whole. However, the TMC shifted the resistance movement from the spot of Singur to a hunger strike at Esplanade East, Kolkata. This absence of any movement at Singur, gave the Tatas the opportunity to finish erection of the boundary wall around the occupied lands at Singur. It also told upon the intensity of the movement to be scaled down. Had the movement continued at Singur, the Tatas might not have been able to build the wall.

Almost simultaneously, there surfaced the Nandigram movement in March 2007. At Nandigram of East Medinipur also, the CPI(M) front government, in the same way as Singur, conspired to forcibly occupy vast tracts of thickly populated and richly cultivated village lands and give those virtually as gifts to the foreign multinational Salim group to set up a SEZ (Special Economic Zone). It

is to be noted, the SEZ is an extortionist centre of the imperialists, where extreme exploitation and deprivation of the toiling people, economically, socially and politically by the industrialists is the rule. In Nandigram too the movement against the land grabbing was initiated by our Party and the TMC joined it later hesitatingly. It requires noting that our Party was relatively stronger in Nandigram than in Singur. Hence, armed with our well-planned strategy and tactics and massive popular support for the TMC, all sections of people were assembled under the banner of a public committee named *Bhumi Uchchedh Protirodh Committee* (BUPC) and launched a heroic uncompromising long protracted battle. This movement roused up not only the people of West Bengal but gave impetus and inspiration to the democracy-loving people all over India and even in different parts of the world. Despite inhuman tortures, numberless killings of women, teenagers and even the old and more menacingly mass rapes, with the help of police and the party-hired anti-socials, the movement could not be smothered

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CPI(M)'s stand is utter betrayal to toiling people

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precipitating so many communal riots. This is an open fact. And the BJP has certainly done the same. The only difference is that while the BJP is nakedly practising Hindu communalism, the Congress is doing the same wearing a cloak of secularism; Congress too instigate the riots as and when they need so. So the argument the CPI(M) leaders offer is frivolous, childish and does not stand reason or facts at all.

Their second argument is rather a true confession on their part. They deserve appreciation at least for that. The CPI (M) leaders are themselves saying that they want to use the conflict between the Congress and the Trinamool Congress and that they can not gain strength in all India level too, if their party remains weak in West Bengal. On analysis, it means that having been ousted from powers they are not in a position to stand up erect. Government power is their backbone. If they are in government, have grip on the administration, police, anti-socials, have access to public money, then their party becomes very strong. And

now that those enablers are no longer with them, the leaders can not bring the party round to stand erect. For them to stand up, they badly need blessings from the Congress.

The Congress-CPI (M) understanding is nothing new; it dates back to the days of Indira Gandhi. We have shown it time and often. In 1966, it was they who raised the slogan that Indira was progressive and Morarji reactionary. Later too, on different issues they invented 'healthy progressive trend' in the Congress. Though when they found the electoral prospects of Jan Sangh-RSS brighter, they immediately rallied behind them raising slogan of fighting autocracy of the Congress. And again when the swing seemed to be reverse, they in a *volte face* lent support to the Congress in the name of fighting communalism. And lastly they supported the Congress-led UPA-I government on the plea of its being progressive. To justify their location of progressive trend in the Congress, the CPI (M) set up a 'theory' too. The so-called revolution they speak of is Peoples'

Democratic Revolution. By that theory, the national bourgeoisie is considered to be an ally of revolution, whereas Indian capitalism itself has acquired imperialist character by giving birth to monopoly capital, finance capital and MNCs, is exporting capital, acquiring mines and industries overseas as an imperialist power. Though a relatively weaker imperialist power compared to US imperialism, Indian capitalism is building up ties with US imperialism to buttress its class aspirations. CPI(M) leadership is characterizing this Indian bourgeoisie as progressive. So their leaders try to convince their cadres that the Congress represents the progressive section of the national bourgeoisie which by their theory is the ally of revolution. What the exact nature of the kind of revolution CPI (M) leaders are espousing for, is also evident from this explanation. In fact, this very theory of People's Democratic Revolution is a theoretical camouflage to justify the opportunistic policies of reaping electoral benefits by entering into an

understanding with the bourgeoisie. If this be the theory, then neither developing friendship with the Tatas, Birlas or Ambanis, nor entering into an understanding with the Congress or be nearer to the government for pelf and power, becomes any problem.

And what to speak of their fight against communalism! In reality, nowhere the CPI (M) is putting up any fight against communalism. Rather, a careful observation would reveal that like other bourgeois parties, CPI (M) is not hesitant to use communal-religious divides for the purpose of creating vote bank. Their occasional fuming against the BJP's communalism is aimed at tying knots with the Congress and wooing minority votes. I have already stated that from the lure of being in the rendezvous of power, the CPI (M) had no problem in extending support to the BJP. Moreover, everyone would understand how hollow is their argument of defeating the BJP nominee in the current presidential election. In this election, the

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Legitimacy and not legality should guide movement

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nor even let down. The government was forced to finally surrender and retreat. Before the movement, the government had to ignominiously bow out of Nandigram accompanied by its imperialist cohort Salim. The movement in Nandigram became victorious.

This victory of Nandigram movement provided added and tremendous inspiration to the people of Singur. They were extremely rejuvenated. In consonance with their longing we proposed to the TMC at that time to launch the movement again. The TMC agreed to this second phase of movement, though not without hesitation. There began the sustained squatting movement at the gate of the Tatas project-area. With the movement getting intensified with massive response and participation from the people all over West Bengal, it generated such overwhelming pressure that the Tatas were forced to give up the project and leave West Bengal but without returning the lands to the unwilling peasants. At that time we repeatedly emphasized to continue with the movement and take it to the higher stage so as to retrieve peasants' lands, which was possible in the background of the vibrant atmosphere generated on account of the high-pitched movement. But the TMC refused to pay heed to it. They only kept on promising to return the lands on their coming to power. So their sole stress was then on the elections. After the Panchayat and Lok Sabha elections, the people of West Bengal finally thrust a landslide defeat to the CPI(M) Front government in the Assembly elections. The TMC scored a landslide victory in this election of 2011. After formation of their government, apparently in their bid to go by their promise the TMC enacted a law at the first instance. But as has already been stated above it received a jolt from the judiciary.

We cannot miss that in a class-divided society the judiciary upholds the aggregate interest of the class in power. The Acts and laws are all framed and essayed in the interest of the ruling class itself. The courts interpret them in the interest of this class. This is the real character of the judiciary. And the TMC went after elections and on coming to power drifted away to legalism completely and solely depended on the judiciary, all at the cost of the movement. But we firmly believe that fulfillment of people's legitimate demands cannot rest upon this judiciary. We

repeatedly warned then that exclusive reliance upon legalism cannot yield the desired result. It is impossible to defeat the Tata-Birla-Ambani through legal ways and means. It is unrealistic; it is, as if, living in fool's paradise, it is a wishful thinking, or deceptive. It is designed to create confusion. It has a *malafide* intention to stray away from the movement. Or at best it can be said to have stemmed from ignorance. Those who are acquainted with the *abc* of economics and politics of the capitalist society, will not fail to appreciate all this.

The Calcutta High Court nullified the Act proving the veracity of our contention. It is not that there is no point in fighting a legal battle if necessary. But that cannot be prior. Priority should be laid upon the extra-parliamentary peoples' movement, extra-legal movement, that is, the mass movement developed through active participation of the people. This mass movement should be the main source of strength. In the background of mass movement, the legal fight would have also been strengthened. The TMC ignored this truth. Not only this, having been saddled to power, they stubbornly opposed movement itself, let alone revive it. They pose serious obstacle to this movement. Instead of developing people's democratic movement, they stressed that everything would be done through law with the help of the government. As a result, an illusion about legalism, utterly false though, was created in the minds of the peasants of Singur in particular, which in its turn destroyed the determination and fighting mental make-up that it is only the movement through which their demands can be achieved.

But the TMC failed to realize it. Treading the legal path the TMC has, after the High Court judgement, landed the people of Singur in utter frustration, as said earlier. Had the movement continued, this would not have occurred. The TMC shoved the legitimate movement based upon most justified demand into the alley of deception and confusion, though the same movement had once inspired not only people of our country, but also left an imprint upon people of the world. By taking this legitimate movement to legalism, the TMC has brought down a great shock on the people. To emphasize again, reliance on legalism in a class-divided country like ours does never go in favour of the toiling people nor does it bring

the desired result, which can be achieved only through powerful legitimate movement even if it is declared illegal. This is what Comrade Shibdas Ghosh said while discussing about the 'gherao' movement during the first United Front rule in West Bengal in 1967. A hue and cry was raised about this 'gherao' which the toiling people may have to take resort to without finding any other way to realize their just demand. The owners, the capitalists with their vested interests, domestic or foreign, opposed it as illegal and the courts gave their verdict accordingly. When this 'gherao' was viewed from the legalist perspective, Comrade Ghosh said, "... Whatever is legal may not always be just, rational and humane. Again illegality in the eye of the prevailing law does not automatically render a thing unjust, irrational and inhuman." Today its veracity is proved beyond doubt.

So, Acts or laws cannot help redeeming the lands of the peasants of Singur. Even if further Act is passed with sincere objective of returning lands to the peasants from the monopolists, the Tatas in this case, this Act would never stand the test because of the very involvement of the capitalist-monopolist here. By landing the case into labyrinth of legalism they would ultimately win their case with the help of administration and judiciary, both being the pillars of the capitalist state machine. On the anvil of complex legality, the capitalists through their resources, material and human, would raise this flaw or that of the passed Act, and would undo the case at least by sending it to the alley of procrastination for indefinite period. Also, by transferring the case from this court to that, with their renewed appeal each time, on strength of their overwhelming money power, they would finally post the victory. So the just demand cannot be achieved only depending on the law.

Now, how to come out of it? How the peasants of Singur can be disentangled from this web of legalism to get their purpose served, to retrieve their land? We firmly believe that to get back their lands, the peasants of Singur shall have to create waves of sustained powerful movement and without depending upon anybody, on the strength of the movement itself, must recapture their occupied lands. The Tatas occupied the lands by force with the help of the police provided by the CPI(M) Front government. Now the retrieval should follow the same path i.e., by asserting people's

power. But the movement must not remain confined to Singur only. To draw sustenance and strength it has to be spread throughout the state of West Bengal organizing all sections of the people of the state into people's struggle committees formed for the purpose. Snatching away lands from the peasants is unjust, so recapturing them by force of the movement even if it may be in contravention of the law can never be unjust. This recapture may be illegal at the first call. But, it is certainly legitimate, and so just and natural. To repeat once more, the retrieval can be achieved by force of the movement alone. The people of Singur should take recourse to this. They must have this mental preparation. It has to be instilled in them as well. And as precondition, powerful movements have to be developed not only in Singur, but in the adjacent areas and even in all other districts of West Bengal, as indicated above. Volunteers drawn from the peasants, workers, students and youths, unhesitatingly prepared to embrace any pains and sacrifice, have to be enlisted. Sustained movements have to be conducted through people's struggle committees so that nothing could stand in its way. And if the TMC government really wants that the peasants of Singur should get back their lands, it should not repress the movement by deploying police and administration and should stand by the fighting people of Singur.

The peasants of Singur have no other alternative but to reoccupy their lands. For, it is these lands which were the sole means of their livelihood. Without them the peasants of Singur with their families are now at the point of total ruination. Starvation stares in their faces; their children are forced to give up education; a minimum decent life eludes them. The peasants of Singur by and large have been rendered almost beggars. An official alms of Rs.2000 and 2 kg food grain to these poor struggling peasants are a pittance particularly in face of the back-breaking price rise of the recent times. So, once again we emphasize that getting back their lands is possible only by forcible reoccupation of the lands through movement of peasants forging unity with all sections of people and thus giving a fitting reply to the Tatas and their former crony mentors, the CPI(M).

Our Party was, as it is now and so will be in future, with the peasants of Singur holding the banner of movements aloft to lead them until success is achieved.

Egypt

Real emancipation lies in smashing exploitative capitalist state machine by revolutionary upsurge

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manipulations to rig the poll results in favour of the party or dispensation backed by the ruling class and subverting sovereignty of parliament which was viewed to be contingent upon the sovereignty of the people. The ruling bourgeoisie today tries to run its exploitative class rule keeping a façade of parliamentary democracy and for that reason, wants only its most trusted representatives to be visible in the political arena and elected in the legislature to turn the latter into a pliant house protecting its vested class interest. So, it is shifting to 2-party system with a view to ensuring electoral choice restricted between two parties or combinations of its own choice to hoodwink the people. As Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had lucidly explained in course of his penetrating analysis, administrative fascism is sought to be clamped on the people with a show of democracy. With passage of time, this is becoming more pronounced throughout the world. Autocracy or so called democracy — it is the oppressive bourgeois class rule with more and more concentration of power in the hands of the ruling bourgeoisie which is prevailing in the capitalist-imperialist countries when as a system, world capitalism is in the death throes.

Revolution means smashing the state machine

Third point is in regard to the concept of revolution in the given situation. Out of enthusiasm and carried by wrong preachings of the various bourgeois petty-bourgeois forces including fundamentalist outfits nurturing electoral and power-sharing aspirations, the agitating people of Egypt thought that 'revolution' meant dethroning of autocratic Hosni Mubarak and restoration of democracy with a civilian government. The consciousness did not dawn on them that, as taught by Lenin, "The main question of every Revolution is the question of state power." Elaborating this concept further, Comrade Stalin, worthy continuer of Lenin, had shown that in order to determine the stage of revolution in any country, it is essential to understand, "In the hands of which class or which classes is power concentrated; which class or which classes must be overthrown; which class or which classes must take power—such is the main question of every Revolution." So, in a capitalist state, revolution denotes overthrowing the ruling

capitalist class from state power and smashing the capitalist state machine. And it is the revolutionary working class which is historically poised to lead the anti-capitalist revolution, emancipate the people from the yoke of exploitation of man by man and force open the progress of civilization. So, in order to accomplish this task, three essential preconditions are to be fulfilled—a correct revolutionary theory, a correct base political line and a correct revolutionary party of the working class with necessary strength, both ideological and organizational, to lead the masses to victory treading along the correct course of struggle. And the final battle for insurrection of power by the working class would have to confront and defeat a powerful mercenary army studded with lethal weapons which is the last defender of the ruling capitalist class and the capitalist state. For that, it is imperative to build up an ideologically charged people's militia based on solid support of the people. Emergence of this militia takes place in course of proper conduction of the preparatory struggle for bringing about anti-capitalist revolution.

Concrete situation of Egypt

With this theoretical clarity, let us once again come back to the specific socio-political scenario obtaining in capitalist Egypt. There has been a continuous army rule there right from 1950s the last forty years of which first under Anwar Sadat and then Mubarak have been ruthlessly oppressive. In Egypt, the ruling class had opted to have dictatorial army rule. Obvious question is, why? The cue to the answer can be had from the discussion in the foregoing paragraph. The ruling bourgeoisie would prefer a so called democratic set up only if it finds suitable parties or forces which could be trusted for faithfully serving its class interest while in power or opposition. It also needs to be understood that in deceiving people with the mouthful slogans of democracy, development and so forth, parties or forces wearing a radical cloak are always favoured over the conservative or fundamentalist outfits by the ruling bourgeoisie. As would be evident from the facts, there had perhaps been no political party or outfit which could come handy to the ruling Egyptian bourgeoisie in camouflaging its exploitative rule behind a democratic portico in multi-

religious multi-ethnic Egypt. The Brotherhood, it may be mentioned, has been, over the past years, viewed as reactionary by many not only for espousing religious obscurantism on issues like the veil, Sharia, anti-Coptic discrimination but also, and to the same degree, in the fundamental areas of economic and social life. The Brotherhood is also reported to have voiced opposition to strikes, workers' demands, independent workers' unions, the movement of resistance against the expropriation of farmers and so forth. Even it is stated to have been often criticized for working opportunistically either by hobnobbing with SCAF and keeping pro-democracy campaigners of a liberal and leftist persuasion in the dark or pushing an Islamist agenda in the dissolved parliament. In other words, it did not have the radical mask the ruling bourgeoisie needed to dupe and confuse the masses by keeping them arrested within the confines of rapidly degenerating bourgeois parliamentary democracy. In all probability, for that reason, the Brotherhood with an Islamic plank, though having a following among a section of the masses, was not considered suitable by the ruling class for the purpose of befooling the entire people if saddled in power. Similar might have been the case with such other forces and outfits. So, the ruling Egyptian bourgeoisie might have thought it more beneficial to carry on the army rule. Had there not been this spontaneous uprising of the people, the Brotherhood perhaps would have never got a chance to come to the centrestage of power politics and be in a position to negotiate with the army over matter of governance.

There is now a stalemate in the situation which indicates that the Brotherhood is still not in a position to secure enough confidence of the class and hence the army is taking the upper hand. It is also relevant to mention here that over the last four decades, the army besides governance was intimately connected with the economic activities of the country. So, a vested interest has developed in many of the army personnel. It is reported that a sizeable portion of \$ 1.5 billion worth of US aid has been cornered by the military generals to inflate their coffers. Naturally, the army would not so easily give up their rights or even slacken their firm hold on the economy. As everyone is aware, in a class-divided society, no outfit is supra-class. The

Brotherhood leadership essentially belongs to the bourgeois camp and it might well be realizing from experience that if it has to prevent frittering away of the chance it has got to rule the country following victory in presidential election, it has to relegate to the back its Islamist credential and make some radical postures to earn confidence of the class in regard to its ability to cozying up to all segments of the people through deceptive tactics. At the same time, it knows it has no capacity to confront the army nor can it build up a Tahrir Square like movement to exert pressure on the army as that movement at a given point of time had burst forth spontaneously. So, how would it then increase its bargaining power? Only way is to somehow rally people's support behind it. That is why, as it appears, the Brotherhood is now talking of agitations in the days ahead to preserve, as it says, whatever little remains of Egypt's fast receding democratic space and has already reconvened the dissolved parliament in defiance of the army and judiciary. If this tactics of the Brotherhood works, it might enable them to negotiate a tough power-sharing deal behind closed doors with the army and the judiciary.

Imperativeness of political consciousness

But the tragedy has been that since the fighting people of Egypt were not familiar with the correct political understanding of revolution, nor did they have due clarity in regard to the process of conduction of a democratic movement on a sustained basis to wrest the legitimate demand from the unwilling rulers, the compromising forces subservient to bourgeois class interest including certain pro-army intellectuals who managed ingress into the movement to fish in troubled waters, could confuse them both on ideological as well as directional questions. These dark forces, it is obvious, are also aware that if saddled in power, they too in the class interest of the ruling bourgeoisie would be curtailing the democratic rights of the people and run the grinding wheel of capitalist oppression on them. So, they never intended the movement to be decisive and thereby jeopardize bourgeois class interest. It is true that people never wanted these forces to come to the leadership. But, as the movement was spontaneous and did not evolve in an organized manner

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Egypt

People's movements must grow under correct revolutionary leadership to reach logical culmination

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under any definite leadership, these groups and outfits capitalizing on the lower political consciousness of the people managed to surface as steering force and much to the glee and relief of the ruling bourgeoisie, succeeded in truncating the movement through compromise. Thus, such a glorious movement of the people rising above all divisiveness including religious divides which scaled such a height as to force the army to beat a retreat, ended abruptly without even being able to realize the demand for end of the army rule and restoration of civilian democracy. In fact, despite such a heroic fight, gallantry and sacrifices, the state of affairs is back to square one.

Why revolutionary leadership is necessary

From the failed uprising of Egypt, it is once again proved how compromising forces subserve bourgeois class interest and prolong the moribund existence of the oppressive capitalist system. So long as these compromising and reactionary forces of different hues are not exposed and isolated from the masses, the scientific philosophy of Marxism-Leninism which alone can illumine the path of emancipation would not be able to make a decisive inroad into the ideological sphere of the masses and rouse them to accomplish the cherished anti-capitalist revolution. Only a revolutionary leadership can help people identify their real enemy, the state and its ruling class, can build up the necessary organization as instruments of struggle to fight against that mighty state, equipping these with correct ideology and politics as well as lofty cultural-moral standards, required for sustained struggle against the powerful enemy. No other leadership, no other ideology — whatever might be their apparent attraction or whatever catchy slogans they might mouth—can achieve this objective of overthrowing the capitalist state armed to the teeth. Rather, they all would mislead the struggles, and knowingly or unknowingly, keep the people arrested within the confines of outdated stinking bourgeois system. In Egypt, the people's uprising lacked this political consciousness and weaving. So, it could not be led to its logical culmination. One would recall that in the recent past, people's uprising-like militant movements forced the despotic government figureheads to demit office in

Indonesia, twice in the Philippines, in Bangladesh, in Thailand and other places. But within years there emerged some other despotic ruler to bring people back to their dungeons of exploitation and repression because people's movements did not develop as conducive to anti-capitalist movement and a genuine Marxist-Leninist revolutionary leadership was not established before them.

A question might well arise as to what is enabling the bourgeoisie either to brutally crush the people's uprising or mislead the same towards parliamentary end and fizzle out despite the illumining ideology of Marxism-Leninism being very much in existence. The cause lies in the considerable weakness of the international communist movement following massive penetration of reformist-revisionist-constitutionalist thoughts. So, it is taking time for the correct Marxist-Leninist understanding and forces to come to the fore by squarely defeating all such anti-Marxist thoughts and freeing communist movement from all such deviations and distortions. Hence, correct revolutionary leadership is not being established on the surging people's movements which are thus led astray generating frustration and a sense of defeatism. In other words, though the objective condition is ripe for revolution in many countries, non-fulfilment of essential subjective conditions is holding back desired revolutionary transformation of the society and end of exploitation of man by man.

Lessons to be drawn

The developments in Egypt have once again shown that out of the discontent, unable to bear the back-breaking burden of ever intensifying capitalist exploitation and repression, exploited masses of people will again and again try to surge ahead spontaneously in waves after waves. They will long for the end of their plight; they will seek for change; a revolution they may even want. But for want of correct leadership, they will fight without any direction, any end to reach which would emancipate them from exploitation and repression. The fact that real emancipation lies in smashing the exploitative capitalist state machine by revolutionary upsurge and not in orchestrating a mere change of regime through election keeping the capitalist state and capitalist system in tact would remain ever obfuscated before the suffering multitudes. Way back in

1974, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had pointed out: "The people yearn for a change. The ruling class has nothing else to bank on, except the military muscle of this old order. They count also on people's ignorance and political confusion, but that is not of any major importance. The reality puts so much pressure on the people that no confusing logic and delusions of religion can hold them back. Once the tide of revolution breaks out, no argument will succeed to prevent the onrush of the masses. Then the ruling bourgeoisie will be left with but one weapon to deploy against revolution — the military, police and armament. But when a country, a people stands up erect and takes to battle on the correct revolutionary line under the correct leadership, can it ever be stopped with military power?... But what is lacking? It is that genuine revolutionary party, based on the correct revolutionary political line,

ideology and comprehensive revolutionary theory with the ...necessary strength.... with which it can channelize the outbursts of people's agitations into the correct course on a definite revolutionary line for protracted battles." This is the beacon. So, we are repeatedly calling upon the fighting people of all countries to strengthen the genuine revolutionary force or party, both ideologically and organizationally, to lead the people's struggles to attain the cherished objective. In case, no such party is in existence, people ought to initiate necessary struggle to build up such a party on Leninist model following correct process to realize the goal of overthrowing capitalism. It is our fervent appeal to the struggling brethren of Egypt and other West Asian countries to imbibe this historic truth and chart out their course of emancipation with due expediency.

Presidential election of India

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Congress candidate would win even if the CPI (M) does not cast their votes in his favour. Yet they are compelled to vote in favour of the Congress with a view to securing blessings of the Congress and the central government. It is because of this clandestine understanding between the CPI(M) and the Congress that during the long tenure of the CPI(M)-led government in West Bengal, the Congress did not even raise any voice of opposition let alone building up any movement lest that should inconvenience the CPI (M). The CPI (M) wanted the Congress to be in power at the Centre. The ruling bourgeoisie too wanted that. Even many of the CPI (M) leaders could not anticipate that a temporary difference over the Indo-US nuclear deal would entail a fissure in their tie. Before the last parliamentary election, the CPI (M) leaders tried to use this difference as a pressure tactics to bargain with the Congress. But because of too much stressing, the knot was torn. For that, there is no end to their repentance. After their crushing defeats in the last assembly and parliamentary polls, the CPI (M) leaders have been repeatedly lamenting that had not their tie with the Congress severed, they could have won the elections last time as well in West Bengal with the blessings of the Congress and the central government.

It may be recalled that the first United Front government came to

power in West Bengal in 1967 based on the strength of democratic movement, not at the mercy of the Congress. Rather, when the central government dislodged the first UF government by hatching a conspiracy, the UF returned to power with a massive mandate in 1969 on the strength of democratic movement. But from the day the CPI(M) rode to power, they started attacking democratic movement in order to appease and satisfy domestic and foreign monopoly capital. With the passage of time, the CPI(M) has degenerated so much that today they can only give slogans of movement but cannot go for it. Their backbone is broken. So, they badly need the blessings of the domestic and foreign monopoly capital as well as the Congress.

So, there is not even a trace of leftism in the two arguments advanced by the CPI (M) in support of their decision to back the Congress nominee as the next President. Rather, it is an utter betrayal to leftism, to the working class of the country, to the millions of oppressed and repressed people who desire to protest against injustice and see surge of powerful movement.

We do not side with this opportunistic politics of the CPI(M). We also do not command that strength to sponsor our own candidate. We are not supporting any of the two bourgeois forces. So, we are not participating in the scheduled Presidential election.

Say “NO” to the attempt to remove the embalmed body of GREAT LENIN from Moscow Mausoleum

AN APPEAL

The reported move of the Putin Government of Russia to remove the embalmed body of Great Lenin from the mausoleum of Moscow and bury it somewhere else, is a shocking attempt to defile history. Lenin was not just a political leader of Russia, but one of the greatest sons of mankind, who had led the toiling people of great Russia to emancipation from economic-political-social-cultural exploitation, oppression and subjugation and directly guided the establishment of the first socialist state- The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics- on this earth. Marx-Engels were the first to show the working people the real ways and means of casting off social oppression and creating the necessary conditions for a dignified way of life, for human welfare and the free all-round development of each person of the society. Lenin was the first to concretely apply the scientific ideas of Marx-Engels in Russia, to organize Proletarian Socialist Revolution and establish the land of scientific socialism. The Soviet Union, led by Lenin and subsequently by Stalin, was the land where exploitation of man by man, racial discrimination, national oppression and big nation chauvinism came to an end. It was Lenin who showed that the cause of present day's war was imperialism and so long as imperialism would be there, the danger of war would remain. Guided by the ideas of Lenin, Soviet Union was the first ever country to have proposed to call for complete disarmament by the League of Nations. Lenin's ideas and teachings became the beacon light to the oppressed and colonized people of the world in their fight for liberation from imperialist rule and domination. The name 'LENIN' itself stood and stands even today as the ever-glowing symbol of revolt and fight against capitalist-imperialist exploitation, oppression-racial discrimination-national domination and for real democracy-liberty-

fraternity of the toiling billions of the world. Only the traitors of human civilization can forget that it was the Soviet Union, with the flag of Great Lenin, and under the valiant leadership of Great Stalin, had saved human civilization from the onslaught of fascist barbarism in the Second World War sacrificing millions of precious lives. Guided by Lenin and Stalin, the Soviet Union had stood as the bulwark of world peace against war. The Moscow mausoleum where the embalmed body of Lenin has been kept laid for the last 88 years is even today thronged by thousands of visitors everyday who venerate it as one of their lifetime achievements to have been able to see with their own eyes the embalmed body of the legendary great leader, the man who still lives on in the hearts of millions as the living source of inspiration to the exploited and oppressed. Unfortunately the last decade of the last century witnessed the liquidation of socialist systems in East Europe, ultimately even in the Soviet Union – a setback indeed, though of a temporary kind. And now that the misplaced euphoria about people's development under capitalism and the hypnotic allurements of the masses towards the delusion of parliamentary democracy have been shattered with the whole capitalist world gasping in the grip of increasing crises, people all over the world are spontaneously coming out on the streets in surging waves with the demands of employment, social security, higher wage and food and calling for the end of capitalism-imperialism, Russia being no exception. Particularly in Russia the portraits of Lenin and Stalin are again being seen in the hands of protesting people. The works of Marx, Engels are again being read with renewed interest and enthusiasm to seek out the right path to overcome the putrid, polluting and moribund capitalist system. It was none other than Lenin who, 96

years ago, could see through the character of finance capital and could foresee that it would ultimately lead capitalism to its deepest crises, which is so evident today. Every day now passes vindicating the revolutionary ideas of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin. So, the spectre of Lenin has been haunting the present day bourgeois rulers of Russia. They fear that even the lifeless body of Great Lenin may spark the fire of revolution again in the minds of the people of the

erstwhile land of socialism. We appeal not only to the communists, but to all who stand for real freedom and democracy, for peace and not war and against imperialist exploitation-aggression-domination, to condemn this sinister move and to buildup powerful public opinion in each and every country in order to compel the capitalist rulers of Russia led by Putin to desist from such a heinous move.

Kolkata, June, 2012

(Initiated by Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), the appeal has been signed over by Polit Bureau and Central Committee members of our Party as also representatives from Communist Party of Pakistan, Communist Party of Palestine, Communist Party of Chile, Socialist Party of Bangladesh, Russia, China, Canada, Finland, Greece, Sweden, France and thousands of common people.)

Put your signature at www.handsofflenin.org

SUCI(C) strongly criticizes the Congress-led UPA government's decision to further dilute The General Anti Avoidance Rule, or GAAR under pressure from domestic and foreign monopoly capital

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (C), has issued the following statement on 15-07-2012 :

We strongly denounce the latest decision of the Congress-led UPA government to further dilute the much-trumpeted General Anti Avoidance Rule, or GAAR, which was proposed in mid-March as part of the budget for fiscal 2013 as a measure to crackdown on tax evasion by the Indian corporate sector, foreign monopoly houses and Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) particularly those routing investments in speculative stock market through Mauritius or other tax havens for the sole purpose of avoiding taxes. It may be recalled that over and above the plethora of existing concessions, the government which is preaching strongly in favour of utterly anti-people steps like subsidy withdrawal, deregulation of fuel prices etc., had announced a slew of further tax exemptions to the Indian and foreign corporate entities investing in Indian capital market, like bringing down long-term capital gains tax on private equity firms on the sale of unlisted securities from 20 per cent to 10 per cent and cut in the withholding tax from 20 per cent to 5 per cent on funding through foreign loans for "all businesses" etc. Thereafter, GAAR was proposed as a cosmetic rule to pretend how serious the government is in curbing tax avoidance by big players. But, the deception was laid bare when immediately after announcement of GAAR, its rollout was deferred by one more year by yielding to the pressure of the corporate sector and FIIs. And now in a frantic attempt to secure speculative investment from rich overseas entities and Indian corporates, the government is proposing yet more concessions to them like non-invocation of GAAR for the clients of FIIs and inclusion of transactions only above a specified threshold for applying GAAR.

This clearly indicates that the Congress-led UPA government in the name of reforms is bent upon widening the vista of speculation and wooing the domestic and foreign monopolists keeping the common people starving and facing death. We demand immediate withdrawal of all dilutions in GAAR, lock, stock and barrel, and call upon the countrymen to rise in protest against such out and out anti-people pro-rich measures in the name of reviving the shuttering capitalist economy and tear apart the veil of so-called economic logic of the bourgeois government and its apologists.

IACC calls for observing 6 August as Anti-imperialist Day

The International Anti-imperialist Conference at Dhaka, Bangladesh, in November, 2011, jointly convened by the International Anti-imperialist Coordinating Committee (IACC) and the Socialist Party of Bangladesh (SPB) resolved to observe August 6, Hiroshima Day, as International Anti-imperialist Day. Accordingly, IACC appeals to all freedom and justice loving people and organizations to observe August 6 as Anti-imperialist Day through holding demonstrations, rallies and marches.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : PROVASH GHOSH