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US and Indian Governments must stop interference in Nepal

Nepal, our neighbouring country in the lap of the Himalayas, is seething with rage and indignation—turned into outburst of the people. It is no muffling a discontent but an outburst against an oppressive regime, the people are totally opposed to. Notwithstanding the power that be raising the spectre of violence, the people's has been indefatigable a spirit, a tenacious resistance to the coercive onslaughts. As per reports published in the press, the current anti-establishment movement in demand of abolition of monarchy, establishment of a constituent assembly, demobilisation of the army and adoption of a democratic republic, has struck deep roots in the minds of the people. As the report goes, the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) is in the forefront of the movement

It may be recalled that Nepal, as one is aware, had been under autocratic monarchical rule since long. Notwithstanding the Palace

feigning concern for the subjects and clamouring for their welfare, the experience of the people has been to the contrary. While the masses

are bled white, the Palace and its coterie flourished and prospered. The disparity had been too glaring. So there had been sporadic protests and occasional movements against the tyrannical rule. To suppress the people's discontent, the monarchy, apart from applying force, also sought to create a myth that the monarchy is the bulwark against the forces of disunity in a multi-ethnic polity of Nepal. Hence Nepal would not survive if monarchy is dislodged.

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Manipur Situation

Central Committee demands :
Repeal draconian Acts, halt military operation and urges :
Abandon secessionist path, come back to mainstream of united democratic movement

The Central Committee of the SUCI views with deep concern the serious developments taking place in the state of Manipur for more than last one month centring round the bestial rape and killing of Smt. Thangjam Monorama Devi by Assam Rifles men. Against this barbaric act in particular and also the brutal atrocities of the army and para-military forces, there is a powerful outburst of mass anger with the women of the state in the forefront which is witnessed by the whole country. This beyond doubt brings to the fore the gravity of the crime being perpetrated by the army in the name of so-called containment of insurgency. Indeed the whole Manipur seems to be in revolt against the highhandedness of the army. The Central Committee of the party expresses total solidarity with the people of Manipur who are gallantly fighting in the streets demanding immediate end of this beastly savagery by the army personnel. It also demands exemplary punishment of the army men who committed this heinous crime against Smt. Monorama Devi.

The Central Committee also notes with indignation that whereas the people of Manipur like the people of other Indian states are under the grinding wheel of all-out exploitation by the ruling capitalist class, the policy of discrimination coupled with the attitude of utter neglect and callousness pursued by both the central and state governments have further accentuated the problems of the people of Manipur and shattered their life beyond tolerance. What is more condemnable is that the Government of India as well as the state government, instead of showing any concern for the severe plight and misery of the people or contemplating any kind of redressal measure in the face of such powerful outburst of people's resentment against oppression and exploitation, resorted to brutal suppression of the voice of dissent through deployment of the army. In fact a situation has thus been created in which the civil administration has gone into the background and for all practical purpose, the army has become apparent and uppermost.

In its endeavour to correctly explain the highly complex situation prevailing in Manipur, the Central Committee feels necessary to refer to certain pertinent historical facts. Since

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Call of All India Education Convention

Free education from commercial and communal motive

At the call of the All India Save Education Committee (AISEC) an All India Education Convention was held at Gandhi Memorial Hall, Pyarelal Bhawan, New Delhi on September 25, 2004 to fight against commercialization and communalization of education etc. Prof.

Sunanda Sanyal, eminent educationist presided over it. This Convention had generated an overwhelming response.

A Condolence Resolution was read out on —

a) Departed members of the All India Save Education Committee, Prof. Arabinda Nath Basu,

Dr. Sachi Rout Roy, Prof. Shankarnarayan,

b) Children killed in the accident at Kumbhakonam, Tamilnadu,

c) Students who lost their lives in bomb blast in Assam,

d) Children killed in terrorist attack at Belsan.

Two minutes silence was observed in the memory of the departed.

Messages from Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer, Prof. Sushil Kumar Mukherjee and Mr. Prakash Shah were read out.

Prof. Sunanda Sanyal in his inaugural address referred to the complex and

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Vote SUCI candidates in

Maharashtra Assembly Election

Mumbai Malad Constituency

Comrade Jairam Viswakarma

Nagpur South Constituency

Comrade Rabindra Daulatram Sakhde

Stand by fighting people of Nepal

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But it took not much time for this myth to be shattered and the so-called liberal, humane face of the King to get exposed. Hence a massive movement demanding abolition of the monarchy and establishment of full democracy swept the country in 1990. In spite of resorting to all sorts of repressive measures, the King could not contain the movement. Ultimately, the King relented and consented to sit at the negotiation table. During the negotiation, though the King admitted to introduce multi-party democracy, he succeeded in retaining full control over the Army under the garb of constitutional monarchy. Thus the Palace was in effective control over the State. Leaders of the Nepali Congress, which in the main, represented the aspirant rising bourgeoisie of Nepal, and pseudo-left parties like the CPN(UML), who, by virtue of being in the movement, participated in the negotiations thus, in their lust for pelf and power, betrayed the very cause of the people's struggle by accepting the deceptive arrangement which denied the people their lasting goal of abolition of monarchy and establishment of full-fledged parliamentary democracy and virtually kept the King where he was.

Following this, a government of the compromising parties was installed and thus the rule of the aspirant Nepalese bourgeoisie, through a process of compromise, was established. But very soon, the ruthless exploitative character of bourgeois rule was manifest with all virulence. The people who expected that multi-party democracy would mitigate, at least, some of their hardships, found instead no amelioration of their plight. Rather, the situation worsened further and behind the facade of this 'constitutional monarchy', ugly exploitative face of the Palace was apparent. This kindled in the people a fresh yearning to abolish the Palace regime and set up a democratic republic. Hence, there had been a resurgence of the people's movement in 1996 that went on gaining strength to assume such an overwhelming character today. Viewed in the correct perspective, it is nothing but the continuation of the earlier movement of 1990 for full democracy and abolition of monarchy. Even according to the bourgeois press, the agitators have

control over almost all the 75 districts of Nepal. The Nepalese rulers have arrayed all their arsenal to crack on the movement with all brutality, but failed to crush the movement. The King with the backing of the Army, sacked the elected Deuba government in October, 2002, dismissed parliament and took over the executive powers as guardian of the constitution. Even with this absolute power, the Palace could not make any headway in curbing the movement. So he once again brought back Deuba to head a puppet government in June last.

It is in this backdrop, Deuba airdashed to India last month to muster support and secure military aid to combat what he said, "Maoist terror" and 'insurgency'. Deuba said that Indian government understands their "predicament" and hence has been "so responsive" to them. The Congress-led UPA government, like its predecessor the BJP-led NDA government, has been extremely generous to its Nepalese counterpart as it too, views the struggle of the Nepalese people for a legitimate demand as a "common threat". So the UPA government has promised to make available to the exploiting rulers of Nepal a host of munitions including mine protection vehicles from among the Indian Army's own fleet of troop carriers. Last year, the BJP-led government had sent, apart from mortars, rifles and machine guns, advanced light helicopters to strengthen surveillance and combat capabilities of the Royal Nepal Army (RNA). Indian Army's Director General of military training is involved in preparing the Royal Nepal Army officers and soldiers to take on the people. There are also reports of highest level Indian "concern" and flurry of emergency confabulations on security questions on the part of the Indian government following Deuba's visit. Similar arms and training helps are extended by big imperialist countries like the US, UK, Belgium, etc.

In fact, since independence, the various moves of the Indian government, serving and protecting the interest of the ruling Indian bourgeoisie, did smack of expansionist and hegemonistic aspirations of the Indian ruling clique. The Indian bourgeoisie, an inalienable part of the world imperialism-capitalism pursuing hegemonistic designs, has substantial business interest in

Nepal. It also considers the land of Nepal to be its own backyard occupying a strategic place. It knows that Nepal, as a land-locked country, is dependent on India in the matter of transit. So it successfully exploited this dependence to arrogate to itself the right to dictate terms to Nepal. It is persistently refusing to abrogate the highly unequal, discriminatory 1950 Indo-Nepalese Treaty that the Nepalese people has been demanding for a long time. As stated above, by keeping only two transit points open and wanting a combined trade and transit treaty, the Indian bourgeoisie, through the Indian government, mounted enough pressure on the Nepalese rulers to capitulate to its dictums. Clearly, these are all blatant interferences in the sovereignty of a country and reflects expansionist aspirations through subjugation. This tendency of overlordism of the Indian bourgeoisie is seen in its dealings with all the neighbouring countries. Particularly after Rajiv Gandhi government directly interfering into the internal affairs of Sri Lanka, enforced an Accord between the two countries on the Tamil minority problem and even despatched troops under cover of peace-keeping mission to crush LTTE movement, people of all the neighbouring countries do look at India with suspicion. This unnecessarily creates tension between the peoples of two neighbouring countries and causes fissures in the bond of fraternity. This is equally true in the case of Nepal. By extending support to the compromising Nepali Congress and pseudo-left CPN(UML) as well as strengthening the monarchical despotism, the Indian government has already alienated itself from the justice seeking, peace-loving oppressed populace of Nepal. And the Government of India has been conniving with the US imperialists in such acts of meddling into the internal affairs of Nepal. Only on 29th September last, a cargo aeroplane carrying arms and explosives to the US embassy in Nepal hopped at Ahmedabad enroute Katmandu. A US spokesman in Delhi clarified that the State Department was training Nepal police to develop anti-terrorist capability and the plane was carrying "stimulated ammunitions for the training exercises and arms intended for

equipping the Nepalese anti-terrorist police unit". Indian government also confirmed that it was "aware of the supply of ammunitions by the US to Nepal." and the said aeroplane had been cleared after some compulsory security check. It is also reported that there is a joint decision by the US and the Indian governments to send arms to Nepal. While the US will supply destructive weapons and explosives, India will provide helicopters and other accessories.

Right from the late eighties, the US regime had been directly helping the monarchy so that it could, in effect, use it as its puppet. The strategic importance of Nepal as a base to keep a close eye on China and India and carry out various espionages was known to the US rulers. Supply of arms, military training for the Royal Nepalese Army, free flow of dollar to check the so-called counter-insurgency, advisers from the US are now spread all over Nepal. US sent, among others, 3000 M-16 - A2 rifles and a sizeable number of soldiers to help Nepalese Army to suppress the fast growing powerful democratic movement demanding abolition of monarchy and establishment of full-fledged democracy. Washington regime also wanted to show the monarchy as the symbol of stability and identity and the Nepalese Army as the means to contain "terrorism". The appointment of James Francis Moriarty, a member of the secret all-powerful National Security Council, as ambassador — viceroy for Nepal was significant. It also went on making an astonishing claim that US military supply to Nepal was meant to persuade "rebels to negotiate". But soon the US imperialism realized that the Nepalese Army is unable to crush the movement launched with all-out backing of the people of Nepal for democracy and republic. The US Assistant Secretary of State, Christina Rocha made no secret of this concern. The US policy makers who tended to view military assault on the resistance movement of the Nepalese people through the much-trumpeted optic of "war against terrorism" and thus backed the King, are found to be "more worried about the implications of what is happening on the streets of Kathmandu". Thus the scheming US rulers are frantically trying to forge an alliance between the Palace and the Nepali Congress and other votaries of the so-called

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Whither CPI(M)

The 'realist' chief minister of West Bengal

"Doing business in Bengal" had been the theme over which all the leading industrialists and business tycoons met in Mumbai on August 21 last to listen to what Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, the West Bengal Chief Minister and the CPI(M) politbureau member, had to say. Their expectation was also for seeing if Bhattacharjee had the temerity to give any breaking news. Bhattacharjee did live up to the expectations. He had no qualms to declare that his was a mission to offer all help, assistance and concessions to the monopoly business houses on a silver platter and contain the workers and employees, if necessary, through application of force. Bimal Jalan, former RBI Governor, a seasoned bureaucrat, introduced the CPI(M) Chief Minister with these accolades: "The West Bengal Chief Minister has emerged as a role model in the Indian politics because of his exceptional honesty and the ability to quickly draw necessary lessons from the objective situation. So his responsibility is immense."

CPI(M) chief minister's

assurance to industrial barons

The newspapers and other media gave wide coverage to this conference giving it a lot of importance. The observations made and the promises sounded by Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee do have serious implications and significant ramifications. Hence we would like to examine the essence of these from various angles and see why did he, with a Marxist and Communist cloak, receive such a standing ovation and overwhelming appreciation from the echelons of the ruling capitalist class. For convenience, we would broadly segregate the views and opinions expressed by the CPI(M) chief minister into two categories — one in regard to foreign direct investment (FDI), economic reforms and privatization and the other relating to the trade union movement and mass struggles.

Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee is quoted to have said: "I have asked my party people as to why are they opposing FDI? I have informed them, I cannot consent to such an opposition. I want investment in West Bengal. I had earlier told the US ambassador if they could invest in China, why not here? And I would continue to say so. ... I have to say at last, let us agree to disagree. That is all." When Adi Godrej, a leading industrialist, advised him to restrain some of his politbureau colleagues who are voicing opposition to the policy of liberalization, Bhattacharjee replied, "You are right. But I am trying and the things are moving in the positive direction. In fact, there is no difference in the party over policy or programme. But the task of running the government is different. I have to run a government. So I have to be a realist." He then turned towards Sajjan Jindal, another monopolist, and begged of him to

take over Indian Iron and Steel Company, a public sector undertaking. "Please acquire it, otherwise it would not survive" was his fervent appeal to Jindal. It may be added that recently, while inaugurating a function in Great Eastern Hotel, Calcutta, which is a government hotel and being planned to be handed over to private owners by the state government, Bhattacharjee reiterated that his government was determined to go ahead with the privatization of this hotel.

CPI(M) chief minister at trade union movement

While referring to the trade union movement and working class struggle, Bhattacharjee, much to the delight of the gathering, opined that "The trade unions in our country only speak of the employed lot, organize movements for them but do not do anything for those having no employment. Nor are they least concerned as to how new employment opportunity could be generated. ... During the sixties and seventies, even after we assumed power in 1977, we had committed many grave mistakes. We encouraged irresponsible acts of the trade unions. Even today, many in the trade unions do not have any idea about the reality. They are only busy with their own charter of demands. We have discussed this at length in the party and have come to the conclusion that undemocratic acts would in no way be tolerated. I shall send police if there is gherao or any other militant movement. In fact I did send police to Bata and Pepsi. They complained that I had sent police without talking to them. I have responded by asking them — did you consult me before resorting to such agitation?" And he also mentioned that "Bandh does not beget any result. It only tarnishes the image of West Bengal."

So according to the CPI(M) chief minister, trade union and working class movement are creating hurdles before industrialization. Strikes and bandhs, which are accepted forms of democratic mass movement, besmear the state. But for these, capitalists, both Indian and foreign, would have come forward to create waves of industrial development. But they are constrained in their 'noble' mission because of the agitation of the working class and protest movements by the common people. And he, by virtue of his assignment of heading a government in a capitalist state has recognized this "reality" and is determined to carry forward the message of this "reality".

"Reality" in a class-divided society

But the question is, in a class-divided society, the "reality" Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee is so passionate of, is of which class? Is this the stark reality that the millions of downtrodden, have-nots are facing day in and day out, or the concocted reality woven in the air-conditioned cozy rooms of palatial buildings or 5-star hotels by the financial oligarchy, thriving on the hunger of the millions? Take for instance, the case of West Bengal. There was a time when this soil was vibrant with the voice of protest against injustice, prided itself as the citadel of democratic mass movement and the nerve-centre of legitimate working class struggle. But with the CPI(M) and its associates in power for over 27 years, West Bengal has moved away from the path of struggle. With CITU, the trade union wing of the CPI(M), in control of maximum labour unions, there has been practically an annihilation of the working class movement. The CPI(M) and CITU leaders have been advising the workers to shun the path of struggle and instead embrace compromise, surrender to the terms of the owners, concentrate on increasing productivity and consent to work longer hours at reduced remuneration. How can one then hold this back-broken trade union movement responsible for stalling industrial progress? History tells a different story.

Trade unions evolved during the advent of bourgeois democracy as a

means of collective bargaining. Trade union rights were granted by the bourgeoisie itself. Never has trade union been a hindrance to industrial development. Even in West Bengal after independence when there was relative stability of the market, industrial activity was at its peak when trade union movement was very strong and the fervour of it felt on the soil. But today, the same bourgeoisie is embroiled in an insoluble crisis caused by the inexorable law of capitalism. World capitalism is facing a serious crisis following rapid fall in the purchasing power of the people increasingly pauperized by ruthless capitalist exploitation. In fact, the very objective of production in capitalism is to earn maximum profit and this profit for the handful of capitalist owners is guaranteed expropriation of surplus labour of the myriads of working people. So stagnation, crisis over production, closure of existing industries, massive retrenchment, layoff, forced retirement, VRS, rapid decline in employment opportunity, wage freeze, job-freeze, abolition of vacant posts, mounting unemployment are wreaking havoc in the lives of the common people. In this era of acute market crisis, the moribund capitalist class is seeking to protect its profit margin through yet more ruthless exploitation of the labour, denying them minimum wage and other amenities, robbing them of their legitimate rights. And in order to hide the fact that capitalism itself is the biggest hurdle before industrialization, is raising the bogey that trade unionism draws the reins of industrial pace.

World capitalism is enmeshed in insoluble crisis

Even the big imperialist countries are in the midst of this severe crisis. There is galloping increase in unemployment in the so-called G-7 countries headed by USA. The USA is declared to be the greatest debtor country. In order to somehow handle this crisis, the imperialist powers are forcibly occupying other countries flouting and trampling even the barest precepts of democratic norms and established international laws, intensifying exploitation through the neo-colonial rules. The situation in the developing countries is still

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CPI(M)'s naked espousal of bourgeois cause

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worse. Indian capitalism as an inseparable part of moribund world capitalism is also enmeshed in this all-out crisis. West Bengal as a part of capitalist India is no exception to this. One after another industry is closing down rendering lakhs jobless. There is no work in the rural sector either. Peasants are getting evicted from the land. People are dying of starvation, retrenched workers are committing suicide, unemployed youths are turning into anti-socials, a father selling his child for a pittance, a mother forcing her daughter to embrace prostitution.

On the other hand, when the downtrodden people in demand for bare subsistence, are trying to rise against this mounting onslaught and assault on their life, organizing democratic mass movements, the workers are using their trade union platform to register protest, the coercive state machinery is pouncing upon them, crushing the movements and in barbaric vengeance suppressing the dissent with force. Both central and various state governments in our country, subservient to the ruling bourgeoisie, irrespective of their political hues and colour of flag, are also engaged in the same act of steam-rolling the semi-clad semi-starved people at the behest of the ruling class.

Attack on trade union movement

At the same time, the ruling class and its agents are desperate to curb such legitimate protests of the oppressed people as undemocratic, irresponsible, anarchical and above all an impediment to industrial development and economic progress. And under that pretext, the hard-earned democratic and civil rights of the people, the established trade union rights of the workers, the right to protest, right to strike are being curbed and snatched away to disarm and emasculate the exploited.

The toiling people, the working class of West Bengal are also equally victims of this systematic attack from the power that be. Curtailment of democratic rights, denial of minimum wage, embezzlement of P.F. dues, forced retirement, VRS, CRS, coercive suppression of legitimate struggles, closure of both public and private sector units — West Bengal has a share in all of these.

CPI(M) is echoing logic of the rulers

This is the reality that each and every human being except for the handful of industry barons, business tycoons and their servitors in politics and administration experience day in and day out. But Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee is not prepared to recognize this reality. On the contrary, he is adamant to provide lyrics to the tune set by the ruling bourgeoisie. His contention is that as the chief minister his task is to develop the economy of the state of West Bengal by revival of industrialization for which he is determined to bring investment, both from the national as well as foreign capital. And if there is industrialization there will be employment for the people. It sounds so mellifluous and expunged from the context, might confuse a section of the people as well.

CPI(M) is not opposed to FDI

We have just discussed that it is the capitalist system which is obstructing industrial growth. The capitalist class, in order to provide extra lease to its life, is bringing out the theories of economic reforms, privatization liberalization globalization and what not. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) or in other words, imperial capital, makes its way into various destinations with the clear objective of usurping maximum profit by ruthless exploitation of cheap labour, raw material and extracting its pound of flesh through securing various concessions from the respective governments and authorities. It is the FDI that dictates terms and the recipients who carry the begging bowl, concede to the terms. Its is no philanthropic mission generating gainful employment to the people of the destination country. FDI, as will be seen from every instance, seeks to establish capital intensive industries where employment opportunity is meagre and that too for a very limited number of specialists and sophisticated hands.

Surely, Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee is well aware of all these. People of West Bengal have also seen with the proposed FDI inflow in IT industry the state government sponsored IT company WEBEL, is under threat of closure. Already five units of WEBEL are on the verge of being shut down. Chandrababu Naidu, the so-called IT savvy former chief minister of

Andhra Pradesh also claimed to have brought in sizeable FDI in IT sector. But within no time, the bubble burst and the skeleton was bared. Yet the CPI(M) chief minister has his approval for the "reality" that the ruling class is so desperate to project in order to shield its own fester-ridden face and notorious claws. World imperialism-capitalism is fleecing the people under one or the other pretext and trying to tighten its noose. Holding working class movement responsible for disruption in industrial progress is one of such ploys. To argue that trade union is coming in the way of industrial development and militant working class struggle is undemocratic, irresponsible and marring otherwise rosy employment opportunity, is to distort fact, undermines the dignity of struggle, betrays disparaging attitude to the working people, the creators of civilization. So the CPI(M) chief minister also puts the working class movement in the dock for the insurmountable misery of the people and calls upon the captains of the industry to come forward and be the rescuers. Is not Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee becoming the spokesperson for the ruling class and in the process communicating to it his total allegiance?

Doublespeak of CPI(M) leadership

Bhattacharjee also cunningly made an attempt to show as if he is having his "compulsion" and priority as a chief minister, and he and his other party colleagues are not in the same boat. But the cat was out of the bag next day. Anil Biswas, another CPI(M) politbureau member and the party's West Bengal State Secretary, categorically said the next day that "whatever the chief minister has said, is the stand of the party". Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, in his recent interview to the Economic Times published on 23rd September last, reiterated that he has got to get FDI at any cost. This is the politics of the CPI(M) today. The CPI(M) leaders want to assure the ruling class of their wholehearted capitulation and faithful service. But to deceive the people and the rank, and camouflage the avowed political line of subserving the ruling class, some of their leaders pretend opposition to the bourgeois policies and shed tears for the working people. Sitaram Yechuri

and M. K. Pandhe, two other CPI(M) politbureau members, made some belligerent utterances against the proposed hike in FDI limits in telecom, insurance and aviation albeit for public consumption and to create pressure on the Congress-led government for better bargain in parliamentary politics. But Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee took it upon himself to perhaps inform the class — Do not worry, we are all your men. These are all empty threats for playing to the gallery. And to heighten the extent of doublespeak, the same Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee the other day, while addressing a public meeting in Jhalda, Purulia (West Bengal) threatened the UPA government with withdrawal of support if the latter, according to him, is found not implementing the Common Minimum Programme. Seemingly, he was playing to the gallery as he on the next day denied to have said so. Incredible paradox!

The CPI(M) chief minister is also requesting industrialists to take over public sector units. That is why he made no secret of his opinion that government cannot do anything and hence there should be privatization. When workers are stripped of their irreducible rights and are subjected to worst kind of oppression the CPI(M) chief minister, instead of even pleading helplessness in mitigating their hardship, leave alone standing by them, is shamelessly holding brief for the owners and asking the workers to kneel down and be their slaves. Not a single word in support of the devastated working people came from him while overwhelmed with emotion in the company of financial oligarchy. What else is it but slaying the slain?

Will CPI(M) rank succumb to politics of capitulation?

Everyone knows that this is the nasty role — the role of working as a force of compromise between labour and capital — which the social democrats have been playing in the arena of politics. But it seems the CPI(M) leaders have gone a step further. Instead of maintaining a balance, they are now advising the workers to surrender tamely. Will the honest rank and followers of the CPI(M) remain mute spectators when their party so nakedly declares joining the camp of the bourgeoisie? Time is still there for them to rise and realize.

All India Save Education Convention

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critical conditions in the field of education. He expressed his worry at the increasing politicization of education: Education is going out of reach of the common people. Kothari Commission recommended 6 % of total outlay of budget for education. This is still not done, on the contrary the government is cutting grants and promoting privatization. He criticized the language teaching policy of CPI(M)-Front government of West Bengal and cited instances of corruption and malpractice in the field of education.

Prof. Dhruvajyoti Mukherjee, University of Calcutta and member, Presidium, All Bengal Save Education Committee, placed the Main Resolution.

Sri R. Rajesh seconded the Resolution and explained the points raised in it.

Prof. Manoranjan Mohanty, Delhi University, pointed out that the policies of BJP and Congress governments are destroying the secular outlook in the society. The recognition and realization of human rights are related to spread of education, but the governmental policies are leading to curtailment of education.

Prof. Ramji Singh, Former Vice-Chancellor, Jain Viswa-Bharati, said: One cannot reform education without struggle to reform society. Save Education movement is the beginning of Save Country movement. Privatization must be opposed, so also the state interference in education. Control of education should not be handed over to the state. NDA brought in saffronization of education, but Arjun Singh is also doing similar things. Education should not be a medium of propaganda. Eradication of illiteracy cannot be done by the World Bank ; for that a social movement is necessary.

Prof. Melkundi, Former Controller of Examinations, Gulbarga University, Karnataka, said: Education is the saviour of mankind, but now education is controlled by politicians, business houses and MNCs. Education should be in the hands of the educationists. Saffronization, communalization is not the only danger, the Birla-Ambani report signals even greater danger. An effect of commercialization is that in Karnataka there are now merit

seats and payment seats in colleges. The poor students are suffering because of it. Earlier people opened educational institutions as philanthropy, now they are opened for business and profit.

Prof. P. K. Yadav, President, JNU Teachers' Association said: Education is now commercialized. People are talking about investment in education and return from it. But education is about inculcating values. Inequality in the field of education is increasing. The rich have all the advantages, while the poor are deprived of any opportunity for education.

Prof. Ram Puniyani, Prof. of Biomedical Engineering, IIT, Mumbai, stressed: BJP is introducing subjects like Astrology, Vastushastra etc. to prevent the spread of true knowledge through education. Astrology is no science. In the history of civilization we have found that religion has opposed true knowledge. A well-known example of this is Galileo. We have to inculcate true scientific spirit; only to discuss science is not the same as understanding science. National independence and revolution cannot be achieved without true knowledge. BJP is promoting Hindutva. But both Hinduism and Islam have advanced Indian civilization. Only a social movement, a people's movement can defeat the politics of Hindutva.

Prof. Narendra Sharma of Zakir Hussein College, Delhi, said: Some people who think the BJP is bad have the illusion that BJP's wrong policies will be rectified by the Congress. But BJP only followed Congress's education policy formulated in NPE, 1986. The rulers are afraid of educated unemployed, because they can threaten their rule. So they are curtailing education, encouraging obscurantism, emphasizing technical education. The capitalist system cannot solve people's problems, only people's politics can. Bureaucrats and politicians are destroying education. The Save Education Committee's task is to break their control and free education.

Prof. Sudhangshu Malaviya from University of Allahabad, said: In the field of education we are now passing through a critical time. Our education system today does not instill any sense of values. It is turning out thieves and corrupt

people. If education is only for employment, it will create educated barbarians. Education is for character-building, for man-making. In UP, the Mulayam Singh government has announced to give Rs. 15,000/- as stipend to poor students. But this is like a bribe to divert their attention from the real problems.

Prof. Jainal Abedin, President Assam College Teachers' Association, said: Poor and exploited people are kept out of education. Illiteracy leads to poverty. Government is talking of job-oriented education, but unemployment is not due to education system. Budgetary allocation for education in India is even less than in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Teaching of mathematics and language is to be emphasized. Government should take the financial responsibility of education but not interfere in the autonomy.

Dr. Vijoy Kumar Piyush, General Secretary, Ranchi University Teachers' Association, pointed out that Jharkhand is the worst victim of privatization and commercialization of education. He said, there is no money for books for schools, salaries for teachers. Teachers have to do other jobs to survive. The domicile question has aggravated the crisis. Policies dictated by the World Bank and IMF are denying education for the common people. Through people's movement the Save Education Committee is advancing the struggle.

Prof. Uma Ramchandran, Professor of Pharmaceutical Technology, NIPER, Mohali, said: Education is a tool to change the society. Education should be in the hands of the educators. Job-oriented education does not build up creativity. In the name of job-oriented education specialized courses are being introduced, but there are no jobs in these areas. In the name of excellence, funds are concentrated in selective institutes depriving others.

Prof. Gouri Shankar Ghatak, Presidency College, Calcutta, stressed: It is the responsibility of the government to impart education to the people, to provide education for all. This was the dream of our stalwarts during the struggle against the British rule. But since

independence all governments are curtailing the opportunities of education for the people. The purpose of education is to inculcate social consciousness, but now it has become a commodity in the market. Secularism means non-recognition of religion in the affairs of the state and in social intercourse. Religion is to be personal belief. But our political parties including the so-called leftists interpret secularism as equal encouragement to all religions. The government is curtailing education for the people under the slogan of self-employment and through measures like DPEP, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, etc.

Prof. Bharat Mehta, Faculty of Arts, M.S. University, Vadodara, Gujarat, said: Education is for the society, social development and progress. He described the movements and successes achieved by the Save Education Committee in Gujarat related to education.

Prof. Amrinder Pal Singh, Punjab described the movements of teachers and students in Punjab. These were able to achieve some demands. It had a big impact on the people.

Some amendments on the Resolution opposing sex education in schools, demanding system of admission strictly according to merit, emphasizing teaching of mathematics and language were placed.

The Resolutions with the amendments were unanimously accepted by the House.

Professor Sundanda Sanyal summed up the deliberations of the Convention.

Sri Dipankar Roy, General Secretary, AISEC gave a rousing call to build up people's movements in all corners of India. He recalled how the Nazis in Germany attacked education and culture. He said now in India also there are fascistic attacks on education and in other spheres. These have to be resisted by the people through organized movements.

Corrigendum

In the last issue of Proletarian Era in the caption of photo of West Bengal state Conference of AIDYO inadvertently 4th was printed as 14th. The error is regretted.

— Ed., Proletarian Era

On Manipur Situation

Contd. from page 1

the Indian freedom struggle aimed at overthrow of the imperial British rule was led by the Indian capitalist class when world capitalism had entered into a moribund stage, it, in sharp contrast to what was seen during the days of advent of capitalism as a socially progressive force, being haunted by the fact of anti-capitalist working class revolution, grossly neglected the essential task of democratization of the society by conducting social and cultural movement as ancillary to the freedom struggle. It deliberately avoided the historic task of fully uniting all sections of the people living in British India, irrespective of caste, creed, language, religion or ethnicity thereby keeping alive the seeds of division on these matters so that it could exploit all these weaknesses after being saddled in power. Exactly that is what it did during the last 57 years of its rule. It embarked upon all sorts of divisiveness and discriminations clearly with the intention to drive a wedge among the people and

obstruct the growth of Indian toiling people's united revolutionary movement. As an inevitable consequence to this, fissiparous tendencies, parochialism, separatism and secessionist mentalities began to strike roots at various parts of the country. Moreover, because of the freedom struggle having been a half baked and truncated one on account of this approach by the Indian capitalist class, impact of the independence movement was unfortunately not uniform. It led to neglect the interests of the religious and ethnic minorities and of the tribal people in general.

The Central Committee firmly believes that this is the root cause of the problem of national oppression or in other words, the problem of dominating nationality and dominated nationalities, wrecking independent India as inevitable outcome of the exploitative rule of the capitalist class. Hence the Central Committee is of the firm opinion that the basic problem before the whole country is the rule and exploitation of the moribund

capitalist class and hence overthrow of capitalism through revolution is the main and overriding issue.

In view of this, according to the Central Committee nurturing fissiparous mentality or treading along the secessionist or separatist path is not the way to combat the mounting onslaughts of the ruling capitalist class. Rather any such move will weaken the resistance movement of the people against the capitalist attacks by substantially impairing the common struggle of the Indian people against the common exploitation and suppression by the ruling class. Alongside, the Central Committee is also totally opposed to the hawkish military approach of the central government which is making containment of secessionism a plea, thereby cunningly pushing the agitating Manipuri people to fall prey to secessionist and separatist forces, misdirecting and disorienting them from the correct course. Thus the movement of the Manipuri people against exploitation and deception might ultimately fizzle out without causing any serious harm to the ruling capitalism, the governments both at the Centre and the state, are subserving to.

In these circumstances, the Central Committee strongly feels that in consonance with the expressed desire of the people of Manipur, the Government of India should immediately withdraw the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act forthwith, suspend all military operation and in the process create

a congenial atmosphere to engage itself in a meaningful discussion with those who have taken up arms against it. Through this, the Government of India should sincerely seek a just, equitable and complete settlement of the problem.

At the same time, the Central Committee fervently appeals to the leaders of all such organizations of Manipur engaged in an armed struggle, to correctly understand the disastrous consequence of this line of armed struggle and secessionism in the given phase of united democratic movement of the people of the whole country against capitalist exploitation. They need to respond to the people's call for seeking a just solution through negotiation. The Central Committee also urges upon them to realize that at the present juncture, there should not be any move or act which might make way to precipitation of separatist or secessionist tendencies that, by their very nature, hinder the development of the powerful mass movement of the Indian toiling people against the ever increasing onslaughts of the ruling capitalists. Nothing should be done to weaken and impede the common march of the toiling Indian people towards anti-capitalist socialist revolution.

We call upon the people to step out and raise a united voice of protest and demand that the Central government put an immediate end to the military oppression in Manipur and arrive at a political settlement there.

Struggle in Nepal

Contd. from page 2

'constitutional monarchy' to provide a cover under which a war of terror and extermination could be unleashed in the countryside to thwart people's struggle. It seems, it is now on the look out for a diplomatic offensive to break the struggle and weaken the movement. In short, all kinds of imperial machinations and naked intervention in the internal affairs of other countries on the part of the US rulers — as is observed all over the world today — have seen fully operative in Nepal as well.

While hailing the fighting people of Nepal for launching such a powerful legitimate democratic movement for abolition of monarchy and establishment of full democracy, we would like to remind them that in this era of moribund capitalism, era of imperialism and proletarian revolution, all movements are to be so built up as to conduce to the growth and development of anti-capitalist socialist revolutionary movement. Otherwise all movements despite heroic sacrifices and peoples' support are destined to fail.

Once again we demand that the Government of India must desist

from interfering in the internal affairs of Nepal. Nepalese people must be left free to decide their own future. We strongly believe, the people of India with a glorious tradition of anti-imperialist struggle and an epoch-making independence movement shall never allow this nefarious design of the bourgeois Government of India to meddle in any way into the internal affairs of Nepal and develop mighty movement to foil such a sinister move. We also appeal to the freedom loving people of the whole world to come forward, stand by the brave people of Nepal fighting for democracy and republic and frustrate and foil such shameless naked intervention of the Indian Government and US imperialists in the internal matters of Nepal.



AIDSO held a massive March to Parliament in Delhi on 24 September last against Privatization, Commercialization, Communalization and other attacks on education. AIDSO President Comrade Pratap Samal, General Secretary Comrade Debasish Roy and other AIDSO leaders met the Union Human Resources Minister Arjun Singh who received the memorandum

Red Salute Comrade Sourav Bose

(Following a massive heart attack at Salt Lake Commune, Calcutta, Comrade Sourav Bose passed away in the morning of 14 September last. To pay tribute to his revolutionary memory, a memorial meeting was held on 19th September at the Calcutta University Institute Hall.)

Under the auspices of the Calcutta District Committee of our party, a condolence meeting was organized at the University Institute Hall, Calcutta on 19th September '04 to pay homage to the prematurely departed Comrade Sourav Bose, who breathed his last, following a massive heart attack on 14th September.

The meeting was held in all solemnity, with comrades silently mourning over the untimely and unexpected death of an organizer who in the short span of 49 years, set an example through his struggle for acquiring high revolutionary character.

Outside the hall a number of Comrade Sourav's paintings and sketches were exhibited. Before the meeting started leaders of the party and leading organizers of different Local and District Committees and mass fronts, as well as relatives garlanded the portrait of Comrade Sourav. On behalf of the ex-members of the Komsomol, a

expressed his deep pain to speak in a condolence meeting of Comrade Saurav so much younger, more like a son to him. He recalled the teaching of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh that even at the time of the deepest grief and anguish, the revolutionaries have to go on discharging their duty and only by doing so can they pay true homage to the departed comrade. Then he read out the written homage sent by Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, beloved General Secretary of our party, unable to be personally present in the meeting due to ill health. Comrade General Secretary dealt how Sourav, through his direct association with Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had dedicated himself to the struggle for identifying himself with revolution and the party

Comrade Provash Ghosh, the main speaker in the meeting, in his emotional speech said: What a cruel blow his untimely death has been to those who used to know Sourav, who had the opportunity of enjoying the

character, to the noble characters from the very beginning. His father handed him over to the party when he was still almost a child. His dream was that by conducting his life following the ideology of the party, Sourav would one day develop into an advanced revolutionary character. Undoubtedly Comrade Sourav became successful in this struggle. The high cultural tuning ingrained in him was manifest in his character, conduct and daily life. Sourav who came to live in the party commune on his own at a very young age, came in close touch with Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat. The lofty characters which emerged in the early days of Indian Renaissance pioneered by Raja Rammohan Ray and others, are not found today with darkness engulfing all aspects of our life. It was Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, who stood out as an epitome of higher revolutionary culture and ethics. Inspired by him and through his close association Comrade Sourav equipped himself with party thoughts, acquired a high revolutionary cultural standard and later learnt Marxist classics too. He studied thoroughly, had a sharp memory and sometimes even helped leaders with relevant references. Yet he never indulged in scholasticism. He would point it out to the leaders as well the flaws in their arguments, if there were any, yet he was neither boastful about it, nor wanting in respect or modesty. His sympathetic and joyful nature, patience and perseverance and broadness of mind made him beloved to everyone — be it an intellectual or an adivasi man at Ghatshila, neighbours near the Salt Lake residence or doctors, nurses or even sweepers at the Calcutta Heart Clinic & Hospital.



One and all came to pay respect on his demise.

He had taught himself to draw and he drew well, but not only just what he put on canvas was art to him. Revolution itself was an art with Sourav. It was a creation with him while discussing, learning languages or sketching. He was indeed proficient in Bengali, English, Hindi, Tamil and later learnt French.

He attended and nursed Comrade Nihar Mukherjee. He developed a sound knowledge of nursing and of many aspects of medical science. He drafted speeches, essays, messages and letters for Comrade Mukherjee under his guidance and virtually acted as his personal assistant. Thus he developed himself higher and higher to become a worthy student of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. His was a rare example of a revolutionary character, for all to learn from him.

Comrade Provash Ghosh pointed out that Comrade Sourav's name was not even published in our party organ. He did not lead any procession or conducted any meeting, yet he was the sort of cadre Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had visualized — having no other thought or work outside the party in his life.

The condolence meeting started with the song composed on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and ended with the Internationale.



19 September, memorial meeting in Calcutta. Central leaders (from left, front row) Comrades Anil Sen, Asit Bhattacharyya, Sukomal Dasgupta, Manik Mukherjee, Sitesh Dasgupta, Provash Ghosh paying Red Salute to the memory of Comrade Sourav Bose

bouquet of 49 red roses, representing the 49 years of the life of Comrade Sourav, was placed as a tribute. After a minute's silence was observed in memory of Comrade Sourav Bose, the leaders present on the dais paid their revolutionary tribute by placing wreaths, one by one — Central Committee members Comrades Anil Sen, Sukomal Dasgupta, Sitesh Dasgupta, Provash Ghosh, Asit Bhattacharjee and Central Staff Comrades Manik Mukherjee, Pratiba Mukherjee and Chhaya Mukherjee.

Comrade Manik Mukherjee while presiding over the meeting

warmth of his pleasant company and who have got imprinted in their memory the ever-pleasant smile on his lips. He was "Mithai" to the affectionate elders, the selfless friend "Mithu" to his companions and the very beloved "Mithuda" to the youngers, who could make any demands on him, could confide in him to say anything at ease.

In the companionship of his father, Comrade Rabi Bose, who was a member of the West Bengal State Secretariat of the SUCI, a bent of mind developed in Sourav in his very childhood whereby he felt attracted to the high qualities of



Memorial meeting also held in Chennai on 17 September. Tamilnadu state leaders were paying tribute to Comrade Sourav Bose.

General Secretary Comrade Nihar Mukherjee's homage to departed Comrade Sourav Bose

(Read out to the memorial meeting held in Calcutta on 19 September, 2004)

Dear Comrades and Friends,

In the morning of 14th September last, Comrade Sourav Bose had a sudden, massive heart attack and breathed his last at the age of only 49. His father, the departed Comrade Rabi Bose, was a distinguished member of the West Bengal State Secretariat of our party. Inspired by him, Comrade Sourav, right from his early teens, came into intimate contact with our leader and guide Comrade Shibdas Ghosh at the Central Commune of the party.

Even at that time, manifestation of some rare qualities was observed in him. On the one hand, he had a sharp memory, and on the other, a strong inclination to read books. His father, too, had these qualities and he inherited these from his father. And he had a strong attraction for drawing pictures. It was the urge of his artistic mind that impelled him to draw pictures, without the help of any teacher or formal training. But in this regard invaluable contribution of Comrade Tapas Dutta, member of the Central Committee of our party and an eminent sculptor, does merit a special mention. The inspiration and help he received from Comrade Tapas Dutta in respect of theoretical and other aspects of drawing and painting, did spur him a lot in being so dexterous in these. He thus became proficient in drawing natural sceneries, portraits through sittings of the subject and in capturing the rhythm of life in water colour, oil colour and particularly in charcoal sketches. He was attracted towards music, particularly classical music, from the very childhood and in this too, he gained knowledge about the ragas and raginis without the help of anyone.

He started his party life as a Komsomol worker. Within a very short time, he became a distinguished Komsomol organizer. While organizing Komsomol, he came closer to its founder and guide, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. This wielded immense influence in his life, in attaining subsequently an advanced revolutionary character. Comrade Sourav Bose participated in all the study circles and schools of politics conducted by

Comrade Ghosh in Calcutta at that time, and used to take down notes. Although he could not have a thorough understanding of Marxism-Leninism just by attending these classes, he grasped the essence of the ideology and the process of basic analysis of the party subsequently through building up the Komsomol organization under direct supervision of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh on the one hand, and by meticulous study of all writings of Comrade Ghosh, while he also undertook deep study of the Marxist classics at his own initiative. In this way, a comprehensive understanding of Marxism-Leninism grew in him, and in this process, he started attaining the capability of traversing the different branches of knowledge and science.

To elevate himself from a Komsomol organizer to a party organizer in continuity with his struggle, was an important event in his life. Towards the end of 1982, at the starting phase of developing party organization in Tamil Nadu, Comrade Sourav was sent to Madras (now Chennai) by the party. In order to work in a different state among the Tamil-speaking people, he learned to read, write and speak Tamil within a short time solely through his own effort and perseverance. Because of the natural qualities of his character, wherever he went, he could easily mingle with the common people and win their hearts. This capacity to forge bond of friendship and develop intimacy with people in no time enable him to play a notable role in inspiring all sections of the people — starting from workers, common people to teachers, professors and intellectuals with the thought of the party and expanding the party organization among them. In recognition of this struggle, he was elected a member of the District Committee at the Madras-Chingelpet District Conference of the party in 1987.

Owing to urgent necessity of the party, he was called back to Calcutta towards the end of 1989. After his coming to Calcutta, because of my illness, the party entrusted him with the responsibility of attending to

me. He was with me since then to the last day of his life. He not only looked after me, but in effect, gradually took up the responsibility of acting as my personal assistant in all matters, and he went on discharging this responsibility very efficiently. From that time onwards, all my articles, booklets and messages were put into writing by Comrade Sourav. But he had not much school or college education. After passing the School Final Examination, he just got admitted to the Intermediate course, but shortly thereafter, he stopped attending the college. However, he never stopped studying — he continued his studies till his death. During my long stay in Ghatsila, Sourav, while staying there with me, learnt to read, write and speak Hindi and simultaneously attained proficiency in reading, writing and speaking French totally on his own initiative and translated a few articles from French into English and Bengali. In 1998, during my conversation with Roberto Gabriel of the Nino Pasti organization of Italy, who spoke in French, Comrade Sourav acted as the interpreter. The booklet titled "Life struggle and teachings of Comrade Mao Zedong" published by the Central Committee of the party in 1994 on the occasion of the birth centenary of Comrade Mao Zedong, was penned by Comrade Sourav under my guidance and supervision.

His knowledge was versatile and creative. In his indomitable quest for learning, he grasped many things, even many points of first-aid and elementary treatment. Because of his multi-faceted knowledge, he could exchange views with people from all sections of the society and of various professions on subjects of their interest and through the impact of his knowledge of those subjects and his pleasant and endearing character, could earn deep affection mingled with respect from all. Another distinguishing feature of his was — he could never sit idle. He would write, or study, or draw pictures or discuss things. Influenced by this ceaseless creative pursuit, everybody around would feel attracted to him. His hearty laughter and pleasant nature have

left such a deep imprint on those who had the opportunity of mixing with him, that none of them can ever forget him. He attained the high cultural standard of the party through ceaseless efforts for conveying the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh to the masses right from his adolescence. He was tireless in the struggle to recast and remould his own self continuously as per the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. A great quality of his character was that although his knowledge was reflected during exchange of opinions or discussions, he never asserted his superiority. In case of differences of opinion, he placed his views firmly and in a straight forward manner. But no lack of politeness and humility, no deficiency in the high cultural standard were ever observed in him even during the sharp differences of opinion. As per the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, he had the courage of conviction to directly point out, face to face, anything he found in the conduct and stand of even the front-ranking party leaders, even in my case, that he considered to be contrary to the teachings of Comrade Ghosh. Above all, he attained such high standard of character that he not only listened to patiently, but accepted with humility adverse and even harsh criticism.

Comrade Sourav was amidst us as a living example of the cadre of the type and mettle that Comrade Shibdas Ghosh wanted to develop at the time of forming the party — and he will remain in our hearts like that. He had reached such a high level in the struggle to attain advanced communist character, identifying himself with the interest of the proletariat, revolution and the party that in recognition of it, the Central Committee of the Party met on 15th September, 2004, after his death and honoured him by conferring on him the status of Staff membership posthumously. I consider, not only the party workers but even the leaders need to take lessons from the qualities of Comrade Sourav's character.

Red Salute
Comrade Sourav Bose !

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : NIHAR MUKHERJEE