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86th Great November Revolution Day Observed in Calcutta



At the call of the Central Committee, SUCI, 86th November Revolution Day was observed in Calcutta on November 17, 2003 at Mahajati Sadan. Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, addressing the meeting as the main speaker (Right). On the dais standing (front row from Left to Right) Comrades Mubinal Haider Chowdhury (Bangladesh), Ahmed Chahine (Palestine), Alexander Moumbaris (France), Nihar Mukherjee, Tapas Dutta, member, Central Committee, SUCI and President of the meeting, Khalekuzzaman (Bangladesh), M. Nafeh Bouzan (Syria) and Heather Cottin Gervasi (USA). (Back Row) Comrades Ranjit Dhar, Manik Mukherjee, both Central Staff, Comrades Sukomal Dasgupta, Anil Sen, Sitesh Dasgupta, Asit Bhattacharyya, Provash Ghosh and Krishna Chakraborty, all members of the Central Committee, SUCI. (Detailed report and text of the speeches will be published in the next issue)

All India Anti-Imperialist Convention Demands : **Withdraw from Iraq !**

As the curtain was raised, the entire auditorium of Calcutta University Institute — the 1175 delegates from 20 states of India burst into thunderous applause. The very ethos of their emotion imbibed a welcome of veneration and resolve. Those seated on the dais included the frontrank leaders who have been steering the anti-imperialist struggle on this soil, distinguished fraternal delegates from abroad and eminent personalities from various states of India spearheading the movement. The people's resistance against savage attack of imperialism was epitomised in an artistic motif that provided the background of the dais. On the right was a martyrs' column conveying the message of life, spirited, undeterred and undaunted in the face of brutality and death. The atmosphere evoked an inspiring revolutionary fervour.

The proceedings of the historic two-day All India Anti Imperialist Convention organised by All India Anti-Imperialist Forum (AIAIF) began on 15th of November, 2003 with Dr. Sushil Kumar Mukherjee, renowned scientist and General Secretary of AIAIF in the chair. On behalf of all the delegates and participants of the Convention, Prof Mukherjee placed a floral wreath at the martyrs' column to pay respectful

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Iraqi fighters hail Convention

Dear Brothers,

We had the honour to be informed about your important Convention through a trusted brother of ours, WWO, as we know, is in regular contact with you. We are therefore convinced that your Convention is very crucial in a time of criminal, bloody imperialist-Zionist onslaught all over the globe.

Therefore we have the honour of sending you our warmest, militant and brotherly greetings in the sacred spirit of struggle against imperialism and Zionism. We are saluting your Convention through the sacred bullets of our rifles directed against the dirty, unbelieving imperialist occupiers of our beloved homeland, Iraq, and

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Convention Unequivocal Against US War Mongering

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tribute to the valiant fighters who laid down their lives in daring fight against imperialist assault and onslaught. Thereafter, a message from Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer, eminent jurist, consistent fighter against all sorts of social and political injustice, and President of AIAIF, who could not be present on the occasion because of ill-health, was read out.

M a n i k Mukherjee, Vice-President of AIAIF then placed before the Convention an Approach Paper on the issues to be deliberated upon. It was now the turn of those seated on the dais to place their views and observations.



Heather Cottin Gervasi of International Action Center, New York, USA, said: Imperialism is the greatest threat



to humanity today. And the United States as the world's capitalist superpower is the greatest enemy of humankind. The US government and monopolists' military and economic talons are straining to hold on to the wealth of the earth, violently and desperately trying to maintain their bloody grasp upon the people of the earth.

But people are resisting. Nowhere is this resistance clearer or more decisive than in Iraq and Palestine. And nowhere is this imperial monster more threatened than in its own hemisphere, in Latin America.

I come from the very capital of imperialism, and I represent those whose obligation is to fight from inside the belly of the beast, to oppose the criminal US government. In September 2001 the International Action Center helped form International ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism), together with 10 other groups — Palestinians, Latin Americans, anti-Globalization forces, Mumia Abu Jamal activists — all who opposed the Bush administrations war design to repress

civil liberties in the US. We organised series of mammoth marches, for the cause of Palestinians, against Afghan and Iraq wars. Last February, in New York over one half a million protested while millions around the world marched. Our demonstrations could not stop the relentless US march toward war. But we continue to demonstrate, demanding an End to Occupation, and to Bring the Troops home!

ANSWER supports *all* who are threatened by the hegemon, *all* who oppose the compradors and local bourgeoisie who comply with nefarious US demands.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, US strategists, both Republican and Democrat, inaugurated a US 'geo-strategic' plan to take over "Eurasia," a term last heard during the Nazi era. The destruction of Yugoslavia and NATO encroachment eastward under Clinton moved this agenda forward.

When the United States government under George Bush decided to attack the easy target, Afghanistan, it had its eyes on Iraq.

Now, the Bush administration admits that heightened resistance in Iraq represents a "long hard slog," facing them. US administration is scared. The imperialist powers are all scared. The lies and failures of the two wars since 9-11 are shining a bright light on the bankruptcy and weakness of 21st century imperialism.

Talk about a quagmire in Iraq, though, has not stopped discussion for a wider war. The US is threatening Syria, Iran and other countries. US ability to continue the occupation in Iraq has been put in doubt by the guerrilla war. Thus it turns to its regional junior partner in crime. Israel's bombing of Syria last month threatens to extend US aggression. Iraq is to be used as base. The US is positioned to remain in the Middle East — the so-called Eurasian Balkan — and to move eastward.

The United States has been since 1947 supporting Israel. Palestinians were killed, driven from their homes into exile or forced into refugee camps. The United States supported Israel's two wars and the Lebanese invasion to expand Israel's borders. For the past 36 years, the U.S. corporate media have presented the Israeli aggressors as the victims

in the Middle East. The Palestinians, whose heroic resistance against Israel state terrorism, against seemingly impossible odds, has never been crushed, are presented as terrorists.

Israel with its hated apartheid policies, its hated wall, its genocidal ethnic cleansing - all serve to focus the world's attention on a state that seems utterly out of control. But it is not out of control; it is *under* United States' control.

Israel plays also a strategic role in the United States global arms industry. Not only do they buy and develop sophisticated military hardware and software for US military industries, Israel has also become the main subcontractor of American arms.

In the US any criticism of Israel is called anti-Semitic. If any criticism of Israel surfaces it is never a criticism of United States policy in the region.

Stratfor, a major conservative US think tank said, "The United States decided to climb aboard the tiger when it invaded Iraq... the problem is there is no safe way to climb off the tiger." The United States is committed to the Zionist Israel government, to fight the war in Iraq, to expand the war in the Middle East and to try to conquer and plunder the whole of Eurasia. They may try to use NATO, globalization, the World Bank, the IMF, but they are fighting a losing battle.

US imperialism is expanding, and with it, US militarism. But in so doing, it is bringing millions into opposition to what Lenin called "annexationist, predatory, plunderous" wars. *The workers of the world*, from the soldiers recruited because of unemployment, to the indigenous Bolivians, from the Cubans to the North Koreans to the Iraq to the Palestinian people, *will not submit to colonialism or oppression!* The enormous gulf between rich and poor is growing everywhere, including in the capitalist homelands. Money has been stolen to pay for these wars; the bourgeois governments have cut social programs. Workers in Italy, Belgium and Germany are protesting these cutbacks; strikes are spreading. The imperialists are left with scare tactics and lies. They must rely on soldiers who do not want to fight, on allies afraid of their own populations.

Socialism is the only solution to this crisis, and the advanced sectors of the left in every country know it. We sing it in the *Internationale*: "Tis the final conflict, everyone in his (and her) place."

A h m e d Chahine, from **P a l e s t i n e**, said: The Palestinian movement as a movement of national liberation started



as resistance to Jewish settlers, and after 1948 aimed to liberate the whole of Palestine, but later on had in its purview the liberation of that part of Palestine, that the Israeli state occupied in the war of 1967, with the goal of building on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip the state of Palestine.

The Palestinian struggle against the Zionists and the Israeli state passed two critical phases. The first when the Palestinians did not accept the solution of two states: one for the Jewish, and the other for the Arabs, of U.N. resolution number 181 of 1947. The second critical phase that the Palestinians are faced with now, is how to build up their state, when they accepted the right of Israel to exist by signing the Oslo agreement with the state of Israel in 1993 and the big concessions they made.

The solution to the Palestinian question after the Palestinians accepted Israel's right to exist is easy, and it did not need the complications brought about by the United State's involvement. Peace needs:

1. Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian territory, that all in the world describe as occupied territory that Israel occupied in the war of 1967
2. The Palestinian state becomes a recognized state like the others, to be of equal status to Israel.
3. The two states, Palestine and Israel, start the negotiations to build the peace relations between the two peoples and states.

But solutions like that, however, need a different culture, a "peace culture" on the basis of equality between people, and not a culture of imperialism, the dominant Zionist culture was, and still is, part of the imperialist culture, and part of the

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All Support to Iraqi Liberation Struggle

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imperialist projects to dominate the world. The culture of domination is a "culture of war", but peace will not come by force, peace needs a humanitarian relationship and those kinds of relations will not come by a culture dominated either by violence or by the market. America's "war on terror" actually translates to dominating the petrol of the Arab areas as a step towards dominating the world.

The last game of the United States in the area, comprise the two initiatives offered by President Bush. While one under the name 'roadmap' offers nothing new, since the 1947 U.N. resolution declared two states, the other initiative is to educate the people of Arab countries to be what America wants them to be, slaves to aid the U.S. to dominate the new Middle East, starting from Iraq.

In this period we have to create our own style of resistance, our struggle will be a moral one against a war without any morals.

**Khalequzaman, Con-
vener of Socialist Party of
Bangladesh,**

said : Today a black curtain hung before the people of the whole world has dis-appeared. In clear light, people of every corner of the world are now able to discern how much destructive are the Anglo-US imperialists towards civilization, though they claim to be the pioneers of civilization. The whole world is asserting that the Anglo-US forces do not stand on even an iota of rationale to stay in Iraq for a single moment.

Could the democratic spirit or values be safeguarded by forcibly occupying other's land sidestepping the world opinion, and curtailing different democratic rights of the people of own land? Could any democratic administration take shape in states that are in close alliance with the USA?

Osama bin Laden is called a fundamentalist terrorist since he wears a façade of a particular religion. But Ariel Sharon, a Zionist war-monger who perpetrated the genocide in Sabra-Shatila, is not considered a fundamentalist terrorist by the US and its allies. What is, then, the criterion of fundamentalism



and terrorism? And basing on this what might be the objective and consequences of the so-called roadmap?

The truth is, in their bid for loot and plunder of oil resources and to widen their arms market, they are taking hold of the oil-fields of Middle Asia by occupying Afghanistan, occupying Iraq and changing the political map of the Middle East, to extend their clutch in West Asia.

On May 1, Mr. Bush declared they have won the war. But since then they have to count the body-bags of their soldiers in increasing number. What message does it send to the world? The Iraqis will never bow down to the imperialist forces, may it be US or others, and will fight to the end at all costs.

Let us raise the slogan in a single voice: drive US away from Iraq, pay compensation to war-torn Iraq, and compel Israel to give the Palestinians their state.

Alexander Moubaris, editor *Democrite*, and militant anti-imperialist fighter from **France,** said :

Allow me to remind once again that since the counter-revolution in the Soviet Union and in the other European

socialist countries, there is no socialist camp, as such, on which to depend on in a sure way.

At a time when imperialism, and particularly US imperialism, reigns supreme, almost all powerful, there can be no neutral stand. Sides have to be taken for or against imperialism. An objective ally is he who strives to combat imperialism most efficiently and weakens it, as far as possible; a foe is he who does the opposite. In this situation former enemies can become allies, for however a short time, and some so-called 'friends, or comrades' in name, fall within the ranks of the enemy. One such example is the participation of French Communist Party members in two ministerial posts during the aggression against Yugoslavia, thus maligning communism. Another such example comes from socialists. Trotskyites and various leftists who put Saddam Hussein, the head of state of a sovereign and internationally recognised state, who suffered ten years of continuous aggression, on the same level as George W. Bush, President of an imperialist country — the aggressor.

In fighting imperialism, and as the struggle becomes more critical, we cannot close the door to possible allies. However, this does not mean that we must stay blind to future eventualities and not be aware of

the fact that alliances are temporary, often tenuous and consequently, for the sake of the struggle and credibility, certain rules of conduct by those concerned need to be preserved.

There are several lines of defence. Patriotic and anti-imperialist forces, gathered into a defensive front, observing international law, and respecting mutual sovereignty, constitute one. But the last line of defence lies in the heart of people. If they do not lose heart, their struggle cannot be defeated. In Iraq we find that despite the hunger and untold misery brought on by US invasion and occupation, the Iraqi people are fighting for their liberation.

I think that while recognising that the only legitimate Iraqi head of state is still Saddam Hussein, at the same time, the leadership of the country will naturally come to those who have best fought the imperialist occupation. As a communist I would prefer that the communists come on top in a new era in an Iraq, free from Western imperialism and in a country free from exploitation of man by man.

He said: Of such magnitude is the economic crisis in the U.S. that the dollar, which is not pegged against gold, is not worth the paper it is printed on. That is why the

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Stop Israeli State Terrorism on Palestine

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U.S., so heavily indebted, needs wars and is ready to create them. Just as Hitler took recourse to the burning of the Reichstag stratagem, so all evidence points against the Bush administration, which is using the 11/9 attack not only against foreign people but also against US citizens with the help of US Patriotic Act.

M. Nafeh

Bouzan, Politbureau member of communist Party of Syria, said: In the current turn of our international movement and in conjunction with other such regional and international programmes, this meeting gains an essential importance.



Human beings aspire for livelihood and a life of dignity, but regretfully we see the return of traditional colonialism in its ugliest form. After the economic blockade, imposed on Iraqi people, resulting in extensive destruction of Iraqi lives, in hunger, disease and sufferings unknown before, the US-UK colonizers have come into the region with the design to redraw the map for a new Middle East, giving favours to the American Zionists. And plundering Iraqi oil, after capturing the Gulf oil.

The situation requires the acceleration of struggle for saving the Iraqi people and supporting them for liberating their land and to preserve their unity. Installation of a legitimate government representing the Iraqi people, who still live in a state of chaos, is a very pressing need.

Intifada is part of the struggle against imperialism and Zionism, but Israel describes it as terrorism. The Syrian Communist Party emphasizes the need for finding a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab Israel conflict on the basis of UN resolutions, Madrid's terms of reference and land-for-peace principle.

After occupying Iraq the Bush administration accelerated its aggressive threats against Syria, under the flimsy excuse that Syria possess WMDs and provides refuge to terrorists. It wants to smash the national will of the Syrian population and its struggle for



A section of the audience at the Calcutta University Institute Hall

liberating the occupied Golan heights. The Syrian Communist Party asks all peace and freedom-loving people and democratic powers of the world to join Syria to expose US false claims. For that all procedures should be taken to activate article 4 of resolution 687 stipulating that Middle East will be free from all chemical, biological and nuclear inclusive weapons of destruction without the exception of any state, including Israel, which, as all know has the only arsenal in the area.

Our party stresses activation of all forms of cooperation and strengthening of international solidarity centring round the international developments being witnessed by the world. We have to work for a central international Front against imperialism.

Chandana Bose, representing **Non Aligned Students' Movement**, conveyed its greetings to the convention.

Justice S.M. Dauud from **Mumbai** in his observation said that today we need to fight the twin evils of imperialism and fundamentalism. The US imperialists, who pose themselves as the sanctum of liberty and for the oppressed are now persecuting and exterminating the people. The ghastly attack on Iraq and other imperialist moves need to be strongly condemned. It is now clear that US imperialism had attacked Iraq with an eye on the oil resources. After the occupation, two

giant US corporates Haliburton and Bacle have cornered all contracts of rebuilding Iraq. So these vultures are to be fought. It is a fight between the peace loving people and imperialist beasts. We have to have a lot of fights to get freed from the menace of imperialism.

Prof. N.A. Karim opined that the resolutions placed before the convention had covered the entire gamut of the imperialist attack. Globalisation is an euphemism for US imperialism. US imperialists spread their tentacles over the world by coining any language that suits their purpose. It is now using two arms. One is the military power of Pentagon to subjugate people. The other is the bogey of fighting terrorism. It is also bullying the other governments to be subservient to its interests. The countries that are not found pliable, are being invaded or aggressed upon. In Iraq, US imperialists have resorted to mass killing of children, the old and the patients. And to suppress this heinous crime, they are now calling this carnage collateral damage. When they attacked Iraq in the previous gulf war, they named it as operation desert storm! Their aggression of invasion is now called operation Iraqi freedom. After the Vietnam experience, US imperialism focussed on developing sophisticated weaponry to combat the Soviet Union. Now those weapons are used against its opponents in the name of combating terrorism.

For economic reasons US needs war. Saddam intended to sell oil in terms of Euro as against dollar, which would go against dollar domination. So Iraq was occupied. Only bold and creative response will make the US retract the follies it is committing. So every action on our part should reinforce the process of bold and creative response. Strong movements alone with positive programmes can resist US imperialism.

Kirit Bhai Bhat, eminent human right activist from **Gujarat**, observed that Gujarat, the land of Mahatma Gandhi has now become the land of killers of Gandhi. People of Gujarat are suffering at the hands of imperialism. The worst pogrom, the brutal killing and torture of minorities in Gujarat were not offshoots of Godhra incident but as facts reveal, were planned months ahead by the BJP and VHP. Not only BJP, even the erstwhile Congress rulers of the state were also responsible in allowing the communalists to manipulate people's emotion. So the people are suffering at the hands of the power that be who are in collusion with US imperialism. The human right activists, the fighters for people's cause are being attacked and harassed at the instance of the government and the ruling party. The whole country is now vulnerable to communal strife at the slightest provocation. Neither the US imperialists nor the Indian rulers

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All-out Fight Against Imperialism Need of the Hour

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have any respect for law, Constitution or democratic norms. This is nothing but open shameless fascism. We must be concerned about both fascism and imperialism.

Prof. Ravi Verma Kumar, Karnataka began by saying that imperialist attack on Iraq is just the beginning. Tomorrow Syria may be attacked for some other reasons. Even India might not be spared. So we are fighting US imperialism not because we are Indians but because we are human beings. Stressing that it is the duty of mankind to voice protest against injustice, he said, imperialism has to be condemned because it goes against the human race.

Referring to the approach paper read out by Sri Manik Mukherjee, Prof. Kumar appreciated the point that Iraqi people could resist US attack because of secular unity of the people. In our country, this secular unity of the people is in danger. A fertile ground for imperialism to thrive is being prepared by way of fomenting fundamentalism, whittling down the democratic institutions and allowing emergence of extra-constitutional authorities. Social inequality and worst caste-system prevailing in our society is a typical apartheid that provides a fertile ground for imperialism to breed. There is systematic curtailment of freedom of speech and expression, individual as well as collective rights are being curtailed, the gap between the rich and the poor is widening. All those need to be fought against along with the fight against US imperialism. He wholeheartedly endorsed the resolutions and congratulated the forum for its heroic fight.

Prof. Manoranjan Mohanty from **Delhi** in his initial remark described Dr. Sushil Kumar Mukherjee the General Secretary of AIAIF and President of the Convention as a symbol of democratic movement. Recalling the note of caution sounded in the 1995 conference of the Forum about impending dangers of more imperialist attacks, he showed that such has come true. While imperialism is bringing new elements of attack, the people's struggle against imperialism is also growing in strength. We need to unite the various struggles of the

people. There have to be two levels of solidarity — international solidarity with the fighting people of Palestine, Iraq, Syria and others and solidarity with the struggling people of our country, as a part of socialist agenda. Imperialism is having its military-economic-commercial-cultural agenda. American imperialism has its support base in all countries including ours. Even many people ignorantly believe that US policy should bring good to them.

Authoritarians round the world are linked. Hindutva doctrine is being funded by Silicon valley NRIs. Bush speaks of fighting terrorism, which is echoed by the protagonists of Hindutva here. But there is weakness in the imperialist world as well. US economy is fragile, it is one of the biggest debtor nations in the world. It is also facing dissent from its NATO allies, and the European Union is building up its own defence mechanism. But the greatest challenge to US imperialism comes from the people. Throughout the world the people's movement is gathering strength — this very convention is an example of that. We must not allow three great events of twentieth century i.e. decolonisation, Bolshevik and Chinese revolutions and the people's movement against all social maladies to be under attack. We must fight for global freedom, emancipation from all oppression and suppression.

Prof. K.R. Chowdry, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, hailed the anti-war protests that swept the world before the Iraq war — never witnessed before. He stressed that people need to understand the different facets of imperialism, which penetrates and attacks the developing countries economically, culturally, politically and militarily. With the evil design of gaining absolute control over the natural resources of the developing countries, while exploiting cheap labour, imperialism penetrates in the economic field through trade and commerce and with the help of science and technology. In the process the rich biodiversity of developing countries is also being hijacked or jeopardized. This is bound to adversely affect the development of agriculture on a sustainable basis. Already foreign multi-national companies are making deeper inroads and gaining

control of land in different states of India, through contract farming, and various other projects, resulting in loss of livelihood of growing sections of people.

He called on the delegates at the convention to chalk out an action-oriented programme for developing a strong and powerful anti-imperialist movement. This should include measures and actions in support of Iraqi people who are waging a heroic liberation struggle.

Prof. O. P. Jaiswal, Bihar, said: To fight imperialism, we must know the different manifestations of imperialism. If we have to fight imperialism, we also have to fight fascism expressed in the horror of communal strife. The Indian government is collaborating with imperialism at different levels. This is seen in the way it is fostering a communal make up and is saffronizing education. This needs to be forestalled.

Kosala Ramadas, Kerala, said: Our Prime Minister was indulging in doublespeak on vital questions concerning the Iraq war. The sympathy of the entire Sangh Parivar is with the US-UK rulers. America invoked the so-called theory of clash of civilizations to justify the war. It is the bounden duty of all peace loving democratic minded people to mount pressure on the Indian government to change their pro-imperialist foreign policy which is against the values our national leaders upheld during the national freedom movement. If this policy continues unabated, India can again become an imperialist colony.

The All India Anti-imperialist Forum while opposing US-UK imperialist moves, must open a national front to defeat the hypocrisy of the central government in this matter.

Prof. J. Kheezar, Karnataka, stressed: If the nations have a political will and a firm resolve, they can withstand the imperialist pressure. The delegates to this convention must go to the common people, who have no access to media or information, and explain the various means of imperialist assault. We must fight all aspects of imperialism.

It is not true that following collapse of the socialist bloc, there is no hope. The rising of the people

all over the world against US imperialist designs is the ray of hope. Even in India, people of smaller cities, backward districts are coming openly on the streets to protest — people, irrespective of caste, creed or religion.

Prof. Ramkishore Prasad, Bihar, pointed out that the ecological disturbance today is due to imperialist war. The imperialists are now pursuing their imperialist design of loot and plunder through WTO provisions of TRIPS and GATS, etc. Even water has been turned into a commodity for capitalist trading. MNCs are making decisive inroads into the agricultural sector, with disastrous consequences. Market economy is a substitute for capitalism, which has become a hated word. US imperialism has a vested interest in war and war-oriented economy.

Let this Forum become the launching pad for redoubled efforts to build up world-wide anti-imperialist struggle.

Prof. Narendra Sharma, Delhi, observed: Current affairs reaffirm the Leninist theory that imperialism generates war. We should fight not only classical imperialism but also those like our ruling class, who are junior partners of imperialism.

The mass media is purchased by the power that be. So it has not given any coverage to this historic convention.

Dr. Sudhangsu Malavya, UP, said: We must unmask the hoax of anti-terrorism. On the one hand, imperialism, headed by US imperialism is mounting onslaughts of naked aggression and on the other hand, it is trying to confuse, corrupt and weaken the anti-imperialist movement from within.

We must unveil this design and protect the anti-imperialist movement.

Prof. Jainal Abedin, Assam, said: In absence of the socialist bloc and in the face of worldwide general crisis and recession militarization of the economy has become a general feature of all capitalist countries, advanced or developing. The policy of globalization is being pursued to mitigate the crisis. But the crisis is

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Observe 20th March as Anti-US Imperialism Day Every Year

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getting only accentuated.

We should call upon our countrymen and peace-loving people of other countries of the world to build up mighty militant peace movement, and an international forum to co-ordinate such movements in various countries.

Niranjan Deb, Chattisgarh, highlighted that Chattisgarh has a tradition of anti-colonial movement, which is reflected in the growing people's protest against imperialist designs.

Thereafter, the delegates participated in the deliberations, presenting their viewpoints and lively comments and suggestions. Finally, the Resolutions, thus enriched, were adopted. At the Convention it was decided to publish all the documents unanimously adopted at the Convention under the title Calcutta Declaration 2003.

In his concluding speech, **Dr. Sushil Kumar Mukherjee** congratulated all delegates attending the Convention from 20 states for taking active part. He concluded by demanding immediate



withdrawal of US forces from Iraq and reminding the necessity of building up people's power to resist imperialism.

Prof. Sunandya Sanyal, eminent educationist and President of West Bengal Chapter of Anti-imperialist Forum proposed the vote of thanks.

The Convention ended with all the delegates joining in chorus with Heather Cottin to render the song of resolve : *We shall overcome*, followed by thunderous slogans: Withdraw from Iraq! Hands off Iraq! Hands off Palestine!

Some Salient Points of the Documents

Adopted at Convention

The documents adopted at the Convention highlighted that the bulwark of the world imperialist order, US imperialism, now refuses to recognize, even as a matter of lip service, other peoples' right to an independent, sovereign, self-determined existence and their right to peace. Therein lies the monstrosity of the US imperialist threat to all peoples, all humanity. This is an hour when history, like in all epoch making struggles of people in the past, reveals the invincibility of people's power-when they are united, have grown conscious of their right cause and of their historical role on the basis of

correct understanding, and they stand erect with a moral backbone even as they may go without food and comfort. This anti-imperialist struggle has to be moulded on a character of militant movements, different from a pacifist outlook, making it conducive to the struggle for emancipation of people in every country against their respective ruling class, accelerating this way the doom of world imperialism-capitalism in general, of US imperialism in particular.

Condemning in strongest terms the US-UK imperialist aggression on Iraq, the convention demanded trial of President Bush, Prime Minister Blair and their henchmen as war criminals at an International Tribunal. "The warmonger rulers of USA and UK must be forced to tender unqualified apology to the Iraqi people for inflicting untold suffering on them and they must be made to pay reparations for the damage they have caused to the Iraqi people and the Iraqi infrastructure. USA has now forcibly occupied Iraq and set up a puppet, so called 'Iraq governing council', while economic, political and military affairs remain under its exclusive control. This is in effect colonial exploitation with military presence and under a proxy rule.

This convention hails the valiant resistance of the Iraqi people to the forces of occupation and expresses full solidarity with their fight to free their homeland from the aggressors. We call upon the freedom loving people of all countries to regard the ongoing freedom movement in Iraq as their own struggle and to open a second front so to say by building up powerful anti-imperialist, more particularly anti-US, movements in their respective countries with the following objectives :

- To demand immediate and unconditional withdrawal of occupation forces from Iraq,
- To force their respective Governments (i) to put pressure on the US to withdraw from Iraq, (ii) to desist from sending troops to Iraq, from entering into any form of military collaboration, pact and joint military exercises with US imperialism, from allowing corporate houses to enter into agreement with the US military

command in Iraq or with the Iraqi Governing Council, for any form of military-related trade and business,

- To devise other means of movement, including boycott of US goods to force USA to withdraw from Iraq,
- To devise other means of movement, including boycott of US goods to force USA to withdraw from Iraq,
- To extend powerful moral and material support to the ongoing struggle of the Iraqi people to ensure its quickest success, and to develop international contacts and coordination to help the Iraqi struggle,
- To demand the release of all Iraqi people unlawfully detained by USA. "

The documents condemned the savageries against and slaughtering of defenceless Palestinian populace and worst perpetration of state terrorism by US-backed Israel, and demanded that the people of Palestine must be given the right of return to their homelands; that "Israel must stop its attack on the Palestine people, give up the policy of forcible settlement in their land, give back to them all the forcibly occupied territory, honour the right to independent statehood of the Palestine people and release all Palestinian political prisoners. Once independent Palestine state is established the two states of Palestine and Israel should start negotiating to build up peace between the two peoples and states. The convention called upon the people of all countries to support and help the freedom struggle of Palestinian people."

Expressing deep concern at the aggressive US designs in the Middle East, particularly its belligerence to Syria, the convention called upon all the peace-loving people of the world to rise up in protest against the terror tactics of the US and its threat of intervention in Syria.

The convention outlined the threat is of US imperialism to world peace, expressed "the firm view that the evil designs of USA are to be resisted by building up militant peace movements in all countries. This convention notes with satisfaction that common people in

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Message from V. R. Krishna Iyer (excerpts)

... Country after country is being intimidated or invaded and their natural resources robbed by multinational corporations whose market hunger is strongly supported by the yankee hegemony. No country is truly free, no people enjoy real sovereignty because of the arrogant, intoxicated menacing moves of the Bush regime. Indeed, the United States, dominated by the Bush obsession, infiltrates into every country's economy with a view to reconcolonisation. ... Today people everywhere are worried because of global terrorism launched by the US ignoring the UN. ... The Bush-Blair Axis has destroyed Iraq's independence, but the valiant patriots of Iraq, though fallen militarily, are fighting back for their freedom inflicting immense casualties on the occupation armies. ...

We have to stand by the people of Iraq in their struggle for regaining their independence. We have to support the people of Afghanistan in winning back their lost sovereignty and ending their servitude. Stooze Governments are no substitute for free democracy. A time has come for beating back the sole super power, winning once more the global stature and independent character of the United Nations and securing for the Third World, why, for the whole world a fair deal free from subjugation.

V. R. Krishna Iyer
President, All India Anti-Imperialist Forum

Messages From Abroad

Excerpts

Cuba

...Unfortunately, due to the increased politics of blockage and hostility of the Bush Government against Cuba, one delegation from Havana could not attend the Convention of the All India Anti-Imperialist Forum...

Nevertheless we do have your programme uppermost in our minds and we are deeply thankful for all the gestures of solidarity from the All India Anti-Imperialist Forum with the Cuban Revolution and its fight against the North American blockade.

We are completely sure that the All India Convention of the All India Anti-Imperialist Forum will be a very important moment for all the forces who are struggling against imperialism and in favour of peace and solidarity all over the world. ...

Abelardo Cueto Sosa
Counsellor and Deputy
Head of Mission
Embassy of Cuba, New Delhi

Russia

... In the name of All Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks we cordially greet All India Convention which is called to discuss ways and means of building up a movement against imperialism globally and against US imperialist occupation of Iraq in particular...

We consider that the most urgent task of our time is the creating of a mighty All World front of the peoples to fight and to stop imperialism and believe that the All India Convention will make a solid contribution to this end.

We are aware of the great international importance of All India Convention in Kolkata and wish success in your work...

Nina Andreeva
Secretary General,
**All Union Communist Party
of Bolsheviks**

Norway

... It is of great importance that the anti-imperialist forces all over the globe are acting and gathering strength. Both those in frontal line, like the resistance building up in Iraq by its patriots and anti-imperialists, and the protest and

condemnation being voiced by peoples across the world, including in the US itself. ...

The AKP, Norway, are saluting the Convention in Kolkata and wishing you further successes in your work, both strengthening anti-imperialism in your country and contributing in building up a movement against imperialism globally.

**Workers Communist Party
(AKP), Norway**
Arnljot Ask,
International Secretary

Germany

We wish you a very successful meeting on November 15 and 16, where you are going to express the solidarity with the Iraqi peoples struggle against the US imperialism. We hope that it will be possible for you to realise the building up of a movement against it. Those steps are very necessary for the anti-imperialist and communist movement all over the world.

Frank Flegel
Editor *Offensive*
Hannover, Germany

UK

... In Britain, we have the responsibility not only to oppose the war, but also to replace our own war-mongering imperialist ruling class. Only a single, unified party of the working class can take on such a task.

We welcome your initiative in building up a world wide anti-imperialist movement and wish you every success at the All India anti-imperialist Convention in Kolkata....

John Green
CP Alliance

Pakistan

... Unfortunately, ... could not come to attend the conference due to my intensive engagement in the on-going struggle of journalist community in Pakistan ...

Yes comrades, at this juncture of the history, this is the greatest cause, to fight to defeat the barbaric global monsters who have been planning to extend their clutches around the globe, and who have been designing to enslave the poor and weaker nations to capture their resources for their

benefit. Simultaneously, we must continue to fight vigorously against all rightist reactionary elements in our societies. They are natural allies of all sorts of exploiters and obscurantists and all sorts of exploiting systems. Without repulsing them we cannot achieve victory in the war against imperialism. ...

All India Anti-Imperialist Forum deserves to be praised for organizing such an important event to raise voice against this beast. I congratulate them and salute them, on behalf of the journalistic community as well as all progressive forces in Pakistan.

Ahfaz ur Rahman,
President
**Pakistan Federal Union of
Journalists**

Jordan

On behalf of Jordanian Workers Communist Party, Jordanian people we send our revolutionary greetings to your Convention for building a coordinated struggle against aggression by imperialist powers.

We believe that this Convention will be a turning point in joining efforts of anti-imperialist forces, anti-globalisation movements in their struggle against savage capitalism and its aggression all over the world.

Anti-Imperialist struggle play nowadays a good role in struggle against globalisation, local reactionary forces. We are challenged to move on to a genuinely united anti-imperialist position to bring down the pillar of global capitalism that is the US imperialism and its European collaborators. In our area we need your support in opposing and condemning the military aggression carried out by Israeli ruling Zionist gang against Palestinian, Lebanese and Syrian peoples. Israel thinks that it can stop Palestinian struggle for establishing democratic viable, peaceful sovereign state in Palestine on basis of the 1967 border, with Jerusalem as its capital.

Using anti-terrorist arguments USA became more aggressive with

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Message from Iraq

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against their damnable collaborators.

The heroic Iraqi resistance, which is turning the holy Iraqi soil now daily into a graveyard for the imperialist occupiers and all their dirty lackeys, is now operating on regional and national level, is proving with its blood and its martyrs, who are celebrating each victory in Paradise, that the struggle against the imperialist occupation of our sacred Arab Iraq will continue, until our holy homeland will be free again. Our heroic struggle develops alongside and in solidarity with our heroic brothers in Palestine against Zionist occupation, which is realized through American imperialist support. Therefore our struggle is a cornerstone of the rebirth of the Arab Nation, its strength and glory, which means that all forms of imperialism and Zionism will we wipe out. We — as Arab liberation fighters — feel strongest on your side, in solidarity with all peoples around the world fighting for independence and freedom against imperialism and Zionism.

We swear to Allah, the beneficent, the Merciful, that we will continue to sacrifice our lives and blood until our holy task is accomplished. As it is written in the Holy Book, the Koran: "And each soul is paid in full for what it did. And He is Bent Aware of what they do."

We therefore ask you to use your Convention to intensify the solidarity with the Iraqi Arab people and to start a campaign for the unconditional release from Yankee torture dungeons of Abu al Abbas, the heroic Palestinian resistance fighter, of Tarik Aziz and all political prisoners in Iraq.

Long live the holy martyrs of the Iraqi, Palestinian and Arab liberation struggle!

Long live international solidarity!

Death to imperialism and Zionism and all its collaborators!

Abu Majid
Commander
"National Liberation Army of Iraq"

Baghdad, Iraq, 5/11/03

R. G. Kar Medical College Incident

CPI(M) Re-enacts Reichstag to Frame SUCI Workers

R. G. Kar Medical College and Hospital is one of the four major government run hospitals in the city of Calcutta. On the night of the 1st of November last, the said hospital premises became witness to an unprecedented incident of violence. At late hours in the evening, a patient named Nitya Gopal Banik was brought to the hospital by his relatives for treatment. But the patient died as he allegedly was not properly treated and was given a wrong injection. This infuriated the relatives of the patient and a scuffle took place between them and the attending physicians. While the altercations were going on, the media people received phone calls to visit the site. For the past few days, the media, both print and electronic, had been exposing the collapsing health-care system in the state including the incidents of unfortunate death of patients due to utter callousness of the authorities. This had been causing enough embarrassment to the CPI(M)-led state government who had no answers but only pretexts and concoctations to defend themselves in the face of mounting public wrath and media ire.

Naturally the media people on receiving an information of another scandal rushed to the spot. But by that time, a mad unruly mob had already gathered there and the moment the media people were sighted, the armed hoodlums pounced upon them, beat them mercilessly, smashed their cameras, equipments and car. Even the police was not spared and a rifle was snatched and broken. Everyone condemned this ghastly attack on the press and such rampage inside the hospital in front of the police and demanded judicial probe into the incident and exemplary punishment of the culprits.

It was gathered that some junior doctors and interns along with some anti-socials and outsiders were behind the attack on media. The miscreants did not spare even some relatives and friends of the patients. The whole blame was squarely laid on the junior doctors. The first reaction that came from the state government was in the form of a blanket ban on the entry of the media in the hospital premises. The CPI(M) leaders held that since

media was "behaving irresponsibly by maligning health-care system in the state" it is necessary to restrict them entering the hospitals. It may be added that this restriction on media was in the sequence of the government's decision to impose "reasonable restriction" on meetings and processions. The CPI(M) health minister had all along been unfazed at the rapidly deteriorating medicare in the state and unperturbed at the news of over 100 children dying in absence of any medical attention, serious patients being refused admission for want of money; patients dying being denied of any attention by the hospital authorities, outdated blood and saline being transfused to patients, new born babies being dragged by cats and dogs, hospitals lacking rudimentary facilities including shortage of beds, doctors and nurses, unholy nexus between hospital authorities and touts and unwanted people abounding in the hospitals. But he suddenly became extraordinarily proactive in announcing to the press the next afternoon the names of the six junior doctors his government found guilty of assaulting the journalists. Of the six victimised, two housestaffs were dismissed and four interns suspended. Surprisingly, none of the faces the media photographed during the incident including the one the police hauled up in the spot found a mention in the list released by the government. Instead the names of the three junior doctors who, as members of AIDS, Medical Students' Action Forum and Medical Service Centre, had been in the forefront in fighting against the anti-health policies of the state government including abnormal rise in medical tuition fees and introduction of capitation fee for medical study, were singled out. Incidentally, none of them was present in the scene of vandalism. While one was in his sister's place 50 kms away, another was sleeping in a hostel in another locality of the city. The third doctor was not on duty and resting in his hostel. None of them also belongs to the department where the patient was brought for medical attention. The suspension orders did not mention any charge either.

Even media was taken by

surprise. It was baffling as to how, without any inquiry, the government could get the names of the erring doctors at such a short notice and what could be the reason for a doctor fighting against deteriorating condition of healthcare and commercialisation of medical education, to engineer such an incident where the media reporters who had been helping their movement by providing documentary evidences in support of their demands were the target of a barbaric assault. But it was not very difficult to envisage what had happened if one could follow the simple path of logic and analyse the incident on the anvil thereof. Media themselves have found the answer. Stating that SFI (student wing of CPI-M) led the attack, *Hindustan Times* wrote on 4th November, 2003 :

"The CPIM and the government led by it would have you believe that it was SUCI and Trinamool supporters who had assaulted the journalists at R.G.Kar. But HT probe has revealed the violence was planned and orchestrated by CPI(M) supporters among the doctors and students." *The Statesman* under the caption, "SFI behind R.G.Kar mayhem", said on the same day :

"Saturday night's violence at R.G.Kar Medical College and Hospital by a section of its junior doctors was planned rather than spontaneous and contrary to the claim by the CPIM State Secretary Mr Anil Biswas who blamed the SUCI and Trinamool Congress, it was led mainly by the ruling party's student wing, the SFI." *The Statesman* even published an interview with the relatives of the deceased patient who reportedly lodged the FIR against six junior doctors including the three AIDS members. Titled "Are the FIR named doctors framed?", the interview brought to the fore the whole plot. Asked whether they could recall the name of the doctors under whom his father was admitted, the son of the deceased patient said, "No. We didn't have the time to find out." Even he said "No" when he was asked to remember the names of the two housestaffs on duty then. But questioned as to how he could distinctively remember the names of the doctors he lodged complaint

against with the police, he kept mum. *The Statesman* then commented that "the names of the doctors in FIR... were provided to the aggrieved relatives by the local CPIM councillor, Mr. Dilip Banerjee, at whose residence the patient's relatives sought refuge that night and on whose advice they filed the FIR the following evening." *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, the largest circulated vernacular daily, in its editorial of 4th November doubted "if fixing the supporters of SUCI by the CPIM is an attempt to shield its own followers." Raising same doubt, *Bartaman*, another leading Bengali daily observed in its editorial of the same date, "none of these doctors are established names. Does it not mean that the names of these doctors were listed earlier? Is it too inconsistent to infer that the hoodlums planfully orchestrated the vandalism and framed these doctors? There are more proofs of this planned rampage. Many had seen medical students allegiant to SFI and active supporters of the CPIM-controlled Association for Health Services Doctors and Junior Doctors' Council to be specially active during the incident. Even the local anti-socials patronised by the CPIM were also seen to be actively involved in the hooliganism." "The Calcutta Police", observed *The Telegraph* in its edition of 13th November, "seems to have thrown up its hands after trying desperately and unsuccessfully to pin the blame on five of them ... failed to collect 'even a shred of evidence' and establish any guilt." In the same report, local police station officer is quoted to have said "The investigation has led us to believe that the FIR was motivated." Also it mentioned about the dubious role of local CPI(M) Councillor and quoted the remarks of another police officer "It now seems the Banks did not know the name of even one of the doctors they complained against. ... They were helped in the identifying the mischief makers by the local CPM Councillor." So neither media nor the people who are aware of the character of the CPI(M) leadership, took anytime to uncover that the SUCI workers have been falsely implicated. So there have been

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Documents of the Convention

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different countries are coming out with massive demonstrations protesting against globalisation and imperialist war moves. We call upon the people all over the world to build up broad based anti-imperialist movements on their own soil and work together to coordinate these movements to build up a mighty global anti-imperialist struggle which alone can resist the aggressive manoeuvres of arch-imperialist USA and its allies and their aspiration for world domination."

The documents note with concern that "unbridled imperialist attacks by the US is leading to an atmosphere of reaction in which racism, chauvinism and different religious fundamentalisms are raising their ugly heads." Denouncing the rabid communal politics of the BJP and Sangh Parivar, and condemning the state-

sponsored mass murder of religious minorities in Gujarat in 2002 and their continuing oppression today, the convention concluded that "the fight against communalism has become an essential component of the fight against imperialism."

The documents noting with concern and condemning the increasing collaboration with US imperialism by the BJP-led Indian Government in the interest of Indian bourgeoisie, and growing ties with Israel, call upon the people of India to build up broad based anti-imperialist organizations from the grassroots level and build up militant movements to force the Indian Government to give up its pro-imperialist policies.

The convention also resolved that peoples' rallies be organised in different countries on March 20 of every year to observe the day as anti-US imperialism day.

Messages From Abroad

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escalation that might render the situation uncontrollable especially after their aggression on Iraq. We thank you for your support, solidarity in denouncing imperialist attacks on our nations, we express our full solidarity with all anti-imperialist organisations, we consider every attack against one of us is an attack on all of us

**JWCP
Central Committee
Amman - Jordan**

internationally. We are sure that the fraternal organizations in India and our friends and comrades from abroad will set new steps in coordination and cooperation. We do assure that we are willing to attend the next convention. For now we wish and are sure that this convention will be successful...

**Wil van der Klift
International Secretary
New Communist Party of
The Netherlands**

Indo Arab League

...I fully endorse the movement and it would have been a privilege to attend the meeting on Nov. 15 and 16, 2003.

But I am sorry that due to hard-pressed engagements I will not be able to attend this convention...

**Syed Vicaruddin
Chairman Indo-Arab League
Hyderabad**

The Netherlands

...The NCPN is sure that the convention organized by the All India Anti-imperialist Forum on 15th and 16th November 2003 will be a further step in the process of overcoming the difficulties and finding solutions to create a stronger resistance in India and also

Convention in Delhi

The Delhi unit of the All India Anti-Imperialist Forum organised a People's Convention in Support of the Iraqi People's Liberation Struggle Against Imperialist Occupation; at Gandhi Peace Foundation on 29th October. The Convention was addressed by Rajinder Sachar (retired Chief Justice of Delhi High Court), Praful Bidwai (senior journalist), Prashant Bhushan (senior advocate, Supreme Court), Prabhat Kumar Roy (veteran journalist) Prof. Manoranjan Mohanty (Political Science Department, Delhi University, also a Vice-President of the Forum), Prof. Narendra Sharma (Reader, Zakir Hussain College), Arun Kumar (Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University), and R. Rajesh (Assistant Secretary, All India Anti-Imperialist Forum). Despite it being a working day, the hall was jam-packed and the audience keenly followed the speeches till the very end, indicative of the seriousness with which the Iraqi struggle is being viewed by the people of

Delhi. A mini-exhibition of news photographs of American atrocities and people's resistance in Iraq and Palestine was also on view in the Convention hall. The Convention was presided over by Prof. Narendra Sharma, who stressed that the All India Anti-Imperialist forum was not an NGO, and depended completely on the support of the common people for its programmes and campaigns. He concluded the Convention with an appeal to strengthen the anti-imperialist movement in general, and the forthcoming All India Convention in Kolkata in particular.

The Convention made a deep impression on the intelligentsia and the common people of the capital. Some of the eminent speakers deeply appreciated the efforts that went into the organisation of the Convention; as well as the numbers, composition and attentiveness of the audience. The focussed and analytical speeches informed and inspired the audience to lend their

support to the Forum and the Iraqi people's liberation struggle.

Calicut, Kerala

Another convention was held in Calicut, Kerala on 16 October last where Dr. N. A. Karim, President of Kerala chapter of AIAIF

inaugurated and a resolution was placed by Jaison Joseph, Convener AIAIF.

Advocate Mancheri Sunderaj, Calicut District President of Janakeeya Prathirodha Samithi (JPS) presided over the Convention. K. Panoor, Dr. D. Surendranath, Fr.

Abraham Joseph, C. K. Lukose, Advocate P. A. Pourn, J. K. Kumaran, N. Subramanian, G. S. Padmakumar, Veeran Kutty, Khalid Moosa Nadvi, Shyla K. Joha, and Dr. V. Venugopal spoke in the two sessions in the morning and evening.



Who is the person charging the AIDSO supporters with an iron rod to break the students' strike called on 10th November against the R. G. Kar Hospital incident? The Asst-Secretary of CPI(M)'s student wing SFI-controlled Calcutta University Students' Union. The police officer is merely a spectator! On the day the SFI and its miscreants tried all over West Bengal to break the students strike, but the students community made it a complete success. (Hindustan Times, 11.11.03)

R. G. Kar Medical College Incident

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powerful outbursts against such fabrications both from the people and the media. The whole students' community of the state registered their protest through an unprecedented students' strike on 10th November demanding forthwith withdrawal of the suspension.

But why did the CPI(M) leaders choose this path? Reasons are not far to seek. The various democratic movements under the leadership of the SUCI against the anti-people policies of the CPI(M)-led state government are receiving tremendous popular support. R.G.Kar Hospital has been one of the centres of vehement protest and resistance to the CPI(M)-led government's attempt to commercialise health, in keeping with the prescriptions of globalization, through enhancement of hospital charges, abolition of free bed, stopping recruitment of doctors and nurses, imposition of capitation fees, invitation of private capital in health sector etc. The three falsely implicated doctors of this hospital imbued with the higher cultural and moral standard of our party SUCI, have been waging a sustained battle to uphold medical ethics and real commitment to the people. Despite all threats and intimidation, the CPI(M) leaders could not resist ever growing support to the dedicated SUCI

workers in the medical profession who have been conducting such struggles on the edifice of higher culture and ethics. On the other hand, the CPI(M) could not afford to allow media inside the hospitals to lay bare the horrifying condition prevailing there. Moreover, they needed to drive a wedge between the doctors and the patients to weaken the genuine movement led by the SUCI against the precarious medicare system. The ruling bourgeoisie the CPI(M) leadership is subserving to, is increasingly resorting to fascistic measures to throttle the voice of protest and muzzle honest journalism. In the same way CPI(M) leadership hatched a conspiracy to frame the SUCI workers, and seize the opportunity to prohibit media entry to hospitals. They thought that by spoiling the career of the junior doctors belonging to the SUCI, they would precipitate panic among the doctors and medical students and dissuade them from the path of movement and stifle the voice of dissent. Such has been an age-old game of the forces of reaction and despotism. But history has laid down the inevitable destiny of such conspirators and enemies of the people. Perhaps, the CPIM leaders are too overawed for pelf and power to be oblivious of the lessons of history.

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee's Letter to All Left and Democratic Parties

13 November, 2003

Dear Comrade,

Surely you are aware of the latest move of the Central Government, to double the amount of the Security Deposit to be paid by candidates seeking election to Parliament and to the state assemblies as a result of which it will become Rs. 20,000/- and Rs. 10,000/- respectively. No doubt, it is a draconian step intended to drive away the overwhelming section of our population, the common people, from the arena of election process and make democracy a farce. We strongly feel that all left and democratic parties should unite and at once develop a mighty movement throughout the country to resist this fascistic move the sole intention of which is to make election an exclusive preserve of the rich and the trustees of the ruling class.

We expect that you will respond positively and take steps to go forward in this respect.

Expecting an early reply,

With revolutionary greetings,
(NIHAR MUKHERJEE)
General Secretary
SUCI

Central Committee Severely Condemns

Communal Flare-up in Assam

Strongly condemning the latest communal flare up in Assam as a sequel to the dirty incidents and violent attacks upon innocent railway passengers that took place on the 12th Nov. at Jamalpur, resulting in brutal killing of many innocent Behari people and violent attacks upon Hindi speaking people in general in different parts of Assam, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in course of a statement on 20th November, 2003 strongly indicted the Central and State govts. for their criminal failure to suppress the communal flare up in the bud and urged upon the Central and State govts. to quell this communal killings and attacks with a strong hand and ensure safety and security of all these inhabitants of Assam. Comrade Nihar Mukherjee also appealed to the people of Assam to maintain peace and amity amongst all sections of the people and to see that parochial and separatist forces do not succeed in creating any further rift and cleavage amongst different sections of the people.

Imprisonment of the journalists of *The Hindu*

Strongly deploring the sentence of imprisonment meted out to the journalists belonging to *The Hindu* and some other papers by the Tamil Nadu Assembly, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary of SUCI, in course of a statement on 8 November, 2003 expressed grave concern and anguish over this growing trend of intolerance and authoritarianism on the part of bourgeois rulers and firmly opine that surely it was an assault against democracy and freedom of the Press and a gross infringement of the fundamental right of freedom of expressions so vital for the functioning of a democratic society.

Emphasizing the imperative necessity to combat this fascistic trend Comrade Mukherjee appealed to the democratic minded people of the country to raise their strong voice of protest against this autocratic act.

Enhancement of Security Deposit by Election Commission

Strongly reacting against the determined move by the BJP-led central government being aided and abetted by all the bourgeois parliamentary parties to double the amount of the security deposit to be paid by the candidates seeking election to Parliament and state assemblies as a result of which candidates seeking election to Parliament and assemblies will have to deposit Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 10,000 respectively, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary of the SUCI, in course of a statement said that the sole intention of this highly undemocratic move was to drive out the common people from the arena of the election process and reserve this field for the capitalists and their agents thereby making it the exclusive preserve for the elites. Pointing out the passive attitude of the CPI(M) and CPI on this vital issue which was found to be confined to nominal opposition to the move as it happened to be at the all-party meeting held on this issue, feeble nature of which obviously could not deter the government even an inch from moving ahead with this heinous plan, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee opined that failure to come forward to develop mighty movement to stall this disastrous move would only strengthen the capitalist class to establish a fascistic rule over the country as a result of which only their trusted and chosen parties could take part in elections. Once again urging upon the CPI(M) and CPI to realize the gravity of the situation in the correct historical perspective and take up the task of building up powerful movement against this move, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee also called upon all other left and democratic parties and democratic minded people of the country to firmly stand against this conspiracy to wipe out democracy from the country and to develop powerful sustained movement to foil this fascistic design.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : NIHAR MUKHERJEE