

Proletarian Era

Volume 37 No. 8
December 1, 2003

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

Price : Rs. 2.00

Great November Revolution

Lessons Relevant and Resplendent

To commemorate the 86th anniversary of the Great November Revolution, a meeting was organized by the Central Committee, SUCI at the Mahajati Sadan Hall in Calcutta on the 17th November last. The very large auditorium was full long before the meeting started. By the time the proceedings began, the aisles, passages and the foyer, and the space out in front of the auditorium were thronged with people and the huge crowd even spilled over to the street pavement outside. Orderly and disciplined, they kept listening attentively and with enthusiasm.

Inside, portraits of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao Zedong and Shibdas Ghosh below a huge red flag adorned the backdrop of the dais. In the foreground, on one side of the dais, was a large portrait of Lenin, the architect of the Great November Revolution. On the dais were seated representatives of

communist and anti-imperialist organizations from Syria, Palestine, France, Bangladesh, and the USA, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, the beloved General Secretary of the SUCI and the frontranking leaders of the SUCI.

Inaugurating the meeting,
Contd. on page 2



Comrade Nihar Mukherjee addressing the November Revolution Day Meeting. On the right is Comrade Tapas Dutta, Central Committee Member and President of the meeting.

Murderous Attacks on Hindi-Speaking People by Chauvinist Forces in Assam

Assam State Committee on Latest Situation

Once again Assam is in flames. During the past few days, murder, arson, violence and terror have plunged the whole state into a horrifying condition. After the bogey of driving out "foreigners", Bengali-speaking people and immigrant minorities, it is now the innocent Hindi-speaking inhabitants who have been made the target. Already, according to official figures, near about 60 people have died, several hundreds have been injured. Houses have been set on fire, Hindi medium schools razed to the ground. Other institutions and shops have been torched, looted. Even small children and women have not been spared in this diabolic attack. Already thousands of people who had been staying in Assam for

years and became inseparable part of the society, are now fleeing the state to save their lives. With the spread of communal violence against Hindi-speaking people the innocent, peace-loving people of the state, who had been witnesses to more than one horrible communal strife in the past, are living through harrowing moments. But why and how could the situation take such a turn towards an orgy of violence?

The Gory Parade

It all started on 9th of November last. Several thousand examinees from various other states came to Guwahati and other cities of Assam that day to appear in the recruitment examination for Group D and other posts in the railways. The

examination was being conducted by the railway recruitment board. Many among the examinees there were candidates from Bihar as well. But such job aspirants could not sit for the examination. At the instance of All Assam Students' Union (AASU), they were debarred from appearing in the examination. Even the admit cards and other valuable documents of such candidates were burnt. Many were physically assaulted as well. AASU has raised the highly unjust demand of 100% reservation for Assam in Group C and D categories of vacancies in N. E. Railways. How far unjust is such a demand is to be examined separately. But surely there is not even an iota of rationale behind attacking the candidates from other states in the name of a

movement based on such a demand. Rather, such an act on the part of AASU has severely tarnished the image of the state. As a reaction to this incident, for two, three days since 12th of November some miscreants of Bihar with the tacit support of the administration there, had been mounting savage onslaughts on the passengers of in-bound and out-bound trains of Assam. At Jamalpur station in Bihar, over a thousand of local rowdies and anti-socials stopped the up-Mahananda Express and ran amok on the passengers, beat them mercilessly, looted their belongings and outraged the modesty of women. Over 400 passengers sustained grievous injuries. Among them the

Contd. on page 7

Anniversary of Great November Revolution

Contd. from page 1

Comrade Provash Ghosh, member, Central Committee, said : This meeting marks the end of the 86th anniversary celebration being observed by our party from 7th to 17th November throughout the country. Armed with Marxism-Leninism and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's Thought and led by the beloved General Secretary Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, our party is building up class and mass struggles, exposing revisionism and social-democratism to the best of its ability. Continuous recession plagues the world imperialist-capitalist economy, the imperialist powers are at loggerheads over control of markets, lay-off, retrenchment and closure of factories are haunting the working class. There are mass movements against globalization even in the USA. The next slogan should be : Victory of Socialism ! Objective condition for revolution is ripe, but how to fulfil the subjective requirements? Valuable guidelines for this will be provided by Comrade Nihar Mukherjee. The fraternal comrades from abroad, too, will present valuable discussions.

Comrade Tapas Dutta, veteran Central Committee member, presided over the meeting.

The AIDYO music squad then presented a song on Great Lenin and the song on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

The first speaker to address the gathering was **Comrade Nihar Mukherjee**. In an illuminating speech, Comrade Mukherjee outlined the development of Marxism-Leninism, the November Revolution, the achievements of socialism in the Soviet Union, the revisionist process that brought about the downfall of socialism in the Soviet Union and East Europe, the present situation and the tasks before the communist movement in order to combat the current setback and move forward. Full text of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee's speech is given on page 5 in this issue.

The fraternal comrades from Syria, Palestine, USA, France and Bangladesh then spoke in that order.

Comrade M. Nafeh Bouzan, Polit Bureau member of the **Communist Party of Syria** said :

At the beginning, I thank the SUCI party for invitation to the

Anti-Imperialist Convention of the AIAIF and the 86th anniversary of the Great November Revolution of Russia. In the name of the Central Committee of the Syrian Communist Party and its General Secretary, I greet you and congratulate you and through you I congratulate comrades all over India on this occasion. Without doubt, November Revolution was a radical change in the history of mankind. The toiling people will free themselves from imperialist rule before long. The Soviet Union will rise again, stronger than it was before. Imperialist regime will not continue much further. Socialism is salvation of humanity from hunger, disease and suffering. Our party participates in various international activities to strengthen our relations with other brotherly communist parties and all patriotic and progressive forces in the world to create national and international anti-imperialist fronts.

Comrade Ahmed Chahine from **Palestine**, said:

I am honoured to be with you this night to remember the time when the Bolsheviks captured power in Russia. This is not the time to lament that that revolution has become history. We have to try to make our revolutions against imperialism. Do I have the right to speak in the name of Palestinian people ? I do not know. It is the President Yasser Arafat who has this right. And President Arafat is besieged in his office in Ramallah. Around him, the Israeli tanks, fighters and forces do not give him any right even to speak to his people. So, do I have the right to speak in the name of Palestinian fighters ? I have had my lunch today. I do not know if President Arafat could have his. But I have the right to speak in the name of the people of the whole world who are striving for peace and dignity. And the Palestinian people are part of the peoples of the world striving for peace and dignity. For peace in Palestine, we need to have the two sides placed on equal footing. Only after that can we go to the peace process, the political process that will build peace. That process needs the help of the whole world to press on Israel, to force it to come to an equal footing with Palestine and later on we can come to peace. For that we need your help and help

from others to build that kind of peace which is part of the peace of the world.

Comrade Heather Cottin Gervesi of the **Workers' World Party, USA** said :

To commemorate the 86th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution our task is to figure out what the Bolshevik experience implies for us today in the world anti-imperialist movement. There are important lessons we can still learn, and of course they begin with Comrade Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov Lenin.

The Bolsheviks realized that war against war was the path to a socialist revolution in Russia. Lenin wrote a pamphlet called *Socialism and War*, in which he advocated Revolutionary Defeatism, opposition to one's own imperialist nation when it was at war. The working classes had no reason to kill each other. The war was for bourgeois superprofits and for empire.

In *The Bolsheviks and War*, Comrade Sam Marcy noted that during World War I, the proletariat was taken in by fanaticism whipped up by the national bourgeoisies in each of the imperialist countries, turning the workers against each other, silencing them. So millions were defenceless before this imperialist war.

The lessons of the Great Bolshevik Revolution are clear today in the light of the worldwide opposition to the US War on Iraq and the worldwide revulsion to the concept of endless war, the US military strategy for the 21st Century.

Lenin vilified the opportunism and betrayal of the Social Democrats who came to support World War I. Lenin and the Bolsheviks led a proletarian revolution in the one country where the vanguard party had a clear understanding of imperialism, and of war. Armed with an understanding of the working class's historic role in the overthrow of capitalism, he organized tirelessly against war and for revolution. These two tasks were interwoven. They are.

In the US there are over 10 million unemployed. 2.8 million jobs have been lost since March 2000, some 2.4 million in manufacturing. 3 millions have lost

their pensions, 11 million families experience hunger. The working class is under attack.

Bourgeois governments are slashing the social reforms won by the labour and peoples' struggles in US. This is happening in Europe as well. Workers in these countries are beginning to fight back.

The rich are getting richer, the poor are getting poorer, and Washington is sending unemployed youth from the US and "coalition of the willing" lackey nations to kill and die in Iraq and Afghanistan and beyond.

But that is the Achilles heel of militarism. Youth sent to war hate war; they mutiny and organize resistance. We have seen this in the US. The government is afraid of the soldiers, afraid of reinstating a draft, afraid of the military families, hiding the returning coffins from the US press.

An anti-imperialist movement is growing in the US. We are organizing support for the self-determination of colonial people under attack by the US. We are learning the lessons of the Russian Revolution. Lenin would tell us: It is time to make war against war!

Comrade Alexander Moumbaris, Editor, *Democrate*, and militant anti-imperialist fighter from **France**, said :

... People all over the world celebrate this 86th anniversary and in some way all these people are following in the footsteps of Lenin and the revolutionaries who made possible the revolution of 1917, the Great October Revolution. This was a turning point of great importance for humanity. But it is a turning point that has a past and a future, because the struggle has been going on before and after it. Another point to be noted is that there was a big party behind the 1917 revolution, there were 2,40,000 communists ready to take over power. The 1917 revolution was an exemplary event also because of the rapidity with which the Czarist autocracy fell to the bourgeois democratic revolution which again was, within a few months' time, transformed into the socialist revolution. As we have great experience in other countries, this transformation can take a very long time, but there it happened very quickly because of the organization and capacity of the

Contd. on page 3

Anniversary of Great November Revolution

Contd. from page 2

comrades guided by Lenin, Stalin and all the other comrades who contributed to that struggle.

On the international scene, the struggle at present gets harder and harder as imperialism becomes more and more impudent. When we see the UNO taking the side of the imperialists, we are in a new world where international law has ceased to exist. Consequently, the struggle is going to be harder and harder, and the Palestinian people experience this, the Iraqi people experience this. The imperialist attacks are against the people, not only people in Iraq, India and other countries from where the exploiters take away wealth, but also against their own peoples, including the people of the USA itself, where the things are getting harder, as the comrades have said here earlier. There they have been preparing many new prisons to detain the people under the new Patriot Act. They have laws that deny all laws. In Guantanamo, they keep people confined in atrocious condition. And this will go on until finally we manage to overcome imperialism-capitalism. Consequently, the 1917 revolution goes on. It went past the War when we showed how we can win revolution, how we can win socialism and retain it for a number of years. May be, we have not learnt how to beat treachery. This is a problem. The thing is that peace is sometimes more difficult to win and preserve than winning revolution. Consequently, you must also be prepared to learn how to win peace. On this occasion, I would also like to remember our brothers who followed Lenin and the Bolshevik revolution, who are in prison, who have died for us and for the toiling masses we are fighting for. It would be good if we comrades get together, get closer together, get to understand one another and exchange views because this is the only way for us to develop and beat imperialism.

Comrade Khalequzzaman, Convenor of the Central Committee, **Socialist Party of Bangladesh,** said: Karl Marx resolved all questions facing society and human life in the light of the world outlook of dia-lectical and historical materialism and charted out the path of total emancipation of mankind through socialism on to communism.

69 years after the Communist Manifesto was proclaimed, the Russian working class led by the Bolshevik Party headed by Lenin made this historical destiny of mankind a living, undeniable truth through successfully organizing the socialist revolution from 7th to 17th November, 1917.

But socialism is an intermediate transitional phase between capitalism and communism. So, either it has to advance towards communism through intensifying class struggle more and more, or else, it has to degenerate back to capitalism. It was perhaps remembering this that Lenin said: We have set out on the expedition; we do not know who will complete it and when; but the snow has thawed, the path is visible.

In a particular phase of this journey, the Soviet working class could not keep the advancement intact due to ideological shortfall, organizational weakness and lack of correct leadership. But the snow has not blocked the path anew and the beacon illuminating the path has also not been extinguished. This can be asserted forcefully at this 86th anniversary of November Revolution.

Comrades, if someone attacks me with a stick in broad daylight, I can see him clearly and do something immediate to confront him. But if I am attacked by a virus,

I can neither detect it with naked eyes, nor can I do anything. This is what Lenin wanted to mean by bourgeois attack on a socialist society. Assimilating this teaching of Lenin, departed Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, a distinguished Marxist philosopher of the era, threw light in the decade of fifties of the last century on how elements of capitalism grow and gain ground within the socialist society from how many sides and in what diverse forms in every sphere — theory, practice, conduct and behaviour, personal life, party life, administration and state — and gradually create the danger of a break up of the socialist state. We feel that if his teachings had been applied timely, appropriately and correctly, many a catastrophe in the world communist movement could have been averted. Like on many other important issues, Comrade Ghosh also showed the path and provided guidelines, in a manner suitable to the present times, as to how to make a revolutionary social force capable of overthrowing capitalism and building up socialist civilization, that is, a revolutionary working class party, consolidated and effective by overcoming its internal weaknesses. The more the objective conditions for revolution ripen, the more important will these teachings of Comrade Ghosh

become in the context of subjective preparation for revolution.

Because of his ill-health, **Comrade Tapas Dutta,** who presided over the meeting, delivered a short speech. In it, he referred to the growing menace of US imperialism which was launching onslaughts on one country after another. In our country, the people were still plagued with poverty and deprivation even after over 50 years of independence. While the exploiting capitalist class wallowed in luxury, the people went without food. How long would they tolerate it? What was the way out? The answer was provided by the Great November Revolution through which the Russian working class overthrew capitalism and demonstrated to the world that the poor, illiterate workers could run the state and build up a socialist society free from capitalist exploitation. He exhorted the people to arm themselves ideologically, spread the Marxist-Leninist ideology and strengthen the organization of the revolutionary party in preparation of anti-capitalist socialist revolution.

The meeting ended with the *Internationale*. The people went out, onto the streets with firm resolve, with the refrain of the great song still ringing in their hearts: the battle is on, it is to be fought and won!



A part of the gathering on 17 November, who could get entry into in the auditorium.

Enhancing Security Deposit by Election Commission

Sinister design to thwart poor people's representation

Another draconian blow has come down on the democratic rights of the people and election process of the country. At the instance of the Election Commission an all-party meeting on poll reforms held on October 30, 2003, in Delhi arrived at a near consensus to double the security deposits after the November round of elections are over. Suffice it to say, that 'all-party' means only the parliamentary parties of the country. As a result of this proposed draconian increase the security deposits will go up from Rs. 10,000 to 20,000 in Lokh Sabha polls, and from Rs. 5,000 to 10,000 in Assembly polls.

Obviously this steep hike will hard hit the poor people's candidates to contest in Assembly or Parliamentary election, except those with considerable money power or of the big bourgeois or petty-bourgeois parties. This determined move is clearly aimed at driving out 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 rich and the privileged.

It must also be understood that this present step of raising the security deposit is no isolated move, rather it is a premeditated outrage on the democratic rights of the people and the parties actually representing them. Only a few years back, in 1998, the amount of security deposit was raised by 20 times from Rs. 250 to Rs. 5,000 and from Rs. 500 to Rs. 10,000.

In this context it may be recalled that at the early stage of bourgeois democratic revolution the bourgeoisie was much more liberal and upheld freedom, democratic rights of the people, freedom of choice etc. Though in the beginning only the propertied gentry had the right to participate in elections and to vote, under pressure of mass opinion and long struggle the ruling bourgeoisie had to ultimately concede to the demand of adult franchise, and ultimately to universal suffrage where women also achieved the right to vote. Thus democracy provided scope for widest participation of the

people in the election process including the right to express opinion, right to contest and freedom of choice. That was the universally accepted concept of democracy. At that time neither curbs on right to stand in elections nor unreasonable restrictions were imposed in the election process. That was the youthful stage of development of capitalism and bourgeois democracy. But with the passage of time, free competition and laissez faire economy gave way to monopoly capitalism, when capital became concentrated in the hands of a few, and with accentuation of capitalist crisis, the ruling bourgeoisie in every country, including ours, out of fear complex of working class revolution, is more and more curtailing democratic rights, trampling democratic norms and concentrating more and more power in the hands of the state and is manifesting fascist tendencies, while keeping the facade of parliamentary democracy intact. With this class motive the bourgeois class is, on the one hand, eulogizing parliamentary democracy and elections, and, on the other, stifling in all possible ways the very soul and spirit of democracy. At the same time, the power of the legislature is being curtailed from within. Not only are the sessions of Parliament and Assemblies more and more being drastically shortened, but the power of the legislatures is being sidetracked through frequent ordinances on important issues even

while they are in session. And the sovereignty of legislature is being curtailed to make it increasingly more subservient to the executive.

Apart from this, the bourgeoisie has, in Western countries for all practical purposes, introduced the two party parliament-ary system, in which mainly two contending parties or combinations — both serving the ruling capitalist class — are projected in the elections in such a way that people cannot think of any other alternative to these ruling class parties. Thus actually the voice of the toiling people is gagged under the cloak of democracy. Dictatorship of the bourgeoisie goes on, the monopolists reign supreme — and rule of administrative fascism through this party/combination or that, has become the norm.

The Indian ruling bourgeoisie is also treading the same path. For long the ruling class is trying to introduce the two-party parliamentary system in this country also, but due to the strong presence of regional capital and their spokesmen, the regional parties and for other factors they have not been successful in this regard as yet. Capitalists and monopoly houses are nakedly using mass media for making their parties victorious. Now money power, media power and muscle power, not the people's will, decide the election results almost in every case. At the same time, rigging both violent and silent, starting from manipulation of electoral rolls, booth capturing etc. to administrative rigging — has become an inseparable part of the election process.

Not content with all this, the ruling class in their bid to oust common people from the arena of the very election process is resorting to newer tactics. It can be recalled that prior to these two successive exorbitant hikes in security deposit Election Rules were amended so as to compel the political parties seeking registration by and recognition of the EC to change their respective constitutions and make declarations suitable to the ruling class design which no political parties with self-respect or principle can abide by. Our party SUCI — and SUCI alone — as a revolutionary party did not submit to these heinous terms and conditions and lost the status of registered unrecognized political party in West Bengal. And

now, as a last weapon, to debar the chosen representatives of the parties upholding the common people's cause from contesting the elections at all, the rulers have taken to the heinous course of drastically hiking the security deposits to make it unaffordable for the common people's candidates, in the name of weeding out 'frivolous candidates'. All these measures taken one after another, are aimed at ensuring that no toiling people's genuine representative gets elected to the legislative fora. In consequence, common people, more so the oppressed and aggrieved toiling millions, will get no opportunity to voice their protests through their own representatives in the legislature nor get any least chance to project and strengthen their extra-parliamentary struggle, to project their legitimate democratic demands and movements on the floor of the legislatures. Clearly, this is a sinister all-out attack to stifle the voice of the people which needs to be resisted.

The CPI(M), CPI, etc., instead of coming forward to build up united left and democratic mass movement to thwart this heinous design of the ruling class, simply registered a formal dissent thereby giving a free hand to the ruling class to fulfil its fascist design. Even the proposal of our beloved General Secretary to come forward to develop a united resistance against this onslaught fell on their deaf ears. Unfortunately, the CPI(M) and CPI, who claim themselves as lefts and boast of sizeable representation in Parliament, took no initiative to unite people on this line and rather by just confining thousands to some lip-protests, have practically paved the way for the safe passage to the BJP-led government's surreptitious move. It is in the fitness of things to remember that if fascism comes it will spare none — not even the pseudo-lefts.

It has therefore become imperative for the people to rise in protest, close their ranks and unleash a massive movement to forestall the move. Once again we reiterate that this is a dangerous attack on the people and their democratic rights. Only a mighty united left democratic movement throughout the country with active participation of the toiling people can deter the BJP government from imposing such a draconian enactment. SUCI calls upon all to build up this just struggle.

We regret

We regret that while covering in *Proletarian Era* dated 21 November, 2003 the proceedings of the All India anti-imperialist convention held in Calcutta, the gist of the speeches of two distinguished speakers were inadvertently left out. They are reproduced below :

Prof. Vijay Kumar Piyush from Jharkhand mentioned that the rich tradition of anti-imperialist struggle is being maligned by the BJP-led government which is following the pro-imperialist policies. The motive behind creation of the so-called Jharkhand state in the name of dalits is getting exposed. The historic struggle of Birsa Munda, against alien rule, who hailed from this state should not be forgotten. In this era of imperialism and proletarian revolution, national boundaries should be transgressed to unite the workers of the world. Dr. Ramesh Nayak from Orissa held USA as the biggest terrorist state. He also cautioned against the designs of capitalist rulers to divide people on ethnic issues and gave call for a militant peace movement.

Objective condition for revolution is ripe

[Speech of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, on the occasion of 86th Anniversary of the Great November Revolution held at Mahajati Sadan, Calcutta.]

Comrade President, fraternal comrades from abroad, comrades and friends,

We are observing the 86th anniversary of the Great November Revolution led by the Bolshevik Party of Russia headed by Comrade V. I. Lenin. You know this was the first successful proletarian revolution. And by making this first proletarian revolution victorious Lenin most convincingly proved to the world that the Marxist concept of scientific socialism is not a utopia but an inevitable outcome of the struggle between two antagonistic classes, the bourgeoisie and the proletariat – created by history.

You know, Marx and Engels laid down the foundation of a great philosophy — dialectical and historical materialism, which attained the full-fledged status of a science and it is the science of all sciences. Like all other branches of science, it has to be continually developed to keep pace with the changing world. Marx and Engels founded this scientific theory in the last phase of free competition of capitalism, when monopoly was just growing. Lenin worked during the period when monopoly has fully grown and through the merger of industrial and banking capital had given birth to finance capital and financial oligarchy and by exporting finance capital to other countries to exploit cheap labour power and cheap raw materials, capitalism reached its highest stage – imperialism. Imperialism chained the whole world. Imperialism is the highest stage of capitalism but it is at the same time its moribund stage. Reaching the stage of imperialism, capitalism became arch reactionary and out and out corrupt. Lenin developed, elaborated and enriched Marxism in the era of imperialism and showed that in this era revolution can break out at the weakest link of the chain of imperialism. And by making proletarian revolution victorious in a very backward country, like the then Russia, Lenin showed how correct this finding of his was.

Immediately after the establishment of the first socialist state 14 imperialist powers connived with the counter-revolutionaries within Soviet Union and tried to nip socialism in its bud. But facing all the odds the newborn socialist state not only survived but also consolidated the gains of the revolution, and started building socialism, without any help from any country, rather remaining within the hostile encirclement of the imperialist powers. And by transforming the most backward

nation of the then Europe into a powerful industrialized country with modernized agriculture, and by bringing about a speedy and all-round development of the material conditions of the society, not only in the economic and political fields, but also in social-cultural-educational-ethical-moral and cultural fields, established beyond doubt the superiority of socialism over capitalism. Again November Revolution solved the nationality and ethnic problem under Tsarist Russia and another complicated issue of language problem and helped develop alphabets of many dialects of the most backward tribal people. November revolution along with all these, gave equal rights to women and protection of their dignity, which no bourgeois state could — nor can give. Only in the wake of European Renaissance, the bourgeoisie had guaranteed such rights to the women to a great extent. But today it can no more do that.

November Revolution by inspiring and encouraging the working class and other exploited people of the whole world greatly helped the development of the working class movement in the metropolitan countries and the liberation struggles of the colonies and the semi-colonies. This is why Soviet land was regarded as the citadel of revolution — the source of inspiration for the communist movements and liberation struggles of the world. Soviet government also extended help and support to all those struggles and always stood by them in need.

November Revolution also showed that the form of proletarian revolution is national but its content is international.

During the second world war the Anglo-American imperialists conspired to destroy Soviet Russia through the almost invincible Nazi force of Hitler. In that devastating war to save socialism and humanity from the attack of the fascist forces,

twenty million Soviet people including Red Army men and more than two thousands front-ranking communists laid down their lives.

But these sacrifices did not go in vain. While advancing towards Berlin — after defeating the Nazi forces inside Russia, the Red Army helped the patriotic forces of the occupied countries of Eastern Europe to liberate themselves, where at first peoples' democracies and then socialism were established. Again, the crushing defeat of the Nazi forces at the hands of Soviet Russia, not only disarmed fascist forces militarily, but also weakened and cornered imperialism as such and saved world civilization from its peril. This created a most favourable situation for revolution in which the liberation struggles got victorious one after-another in the colonies and semi-colonies, where the freedom struggles were led by the proletariat in alliance with the national bourgeoisie — as in China, North Korea, Vietnam, Cuba etc., there first people's democracy and in course, socialism were established. But where the national bourgeoisie led the freedom movements, as in India, Egypt, Indonesia etc. the bourgeois democratic revolutions were accomplished in a half-baked and truncated way. Because as Lenin showed that in this era of imperialism and proletarian revolution, as a part and parcel of the international bourgeoisie — which has become thoroughly reactionary, the bourgeoisie in the colonies and semi-colonies can play a relative progressive role in its fight against foreign imperialism and local feudalism but cannot lead the liberation struggles to their logical end. Naturally those countries only achieved their political freedom and emerged as free resurgent national bourgeois states in the post second world war favourable situation.

As a result of all these developments in the post second world war situation, a powerful socialist peace camp developed under the leadership of the Soviet Union and China — as opposed to the imperialist-capitalist war camp. And taking advantage of the contradiction between these two camps, the newly freed resurgent aspirant national bourgeois countries combined to develop — what is

— Nihar Mukherjee

known as non-aligned movement. All these again brought about significant change in the world situation in favour of peace and progress and working class movements also started growing still further.

While immediately after the war the Soviet people under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, headed by Comrade Stalin, started reconstructing socialism in the totally devastated country and most astonishingly within the short period of nearly 7 years turned Soviet Russia into a super-power competing with the most advanced capitalist country of the world, America, in all fields including space science.

It has to be always borne in mind that behind all these astounding achievements what actually worked is the most creative application of the fundamentals of Marxism-Leninism after concretizing them in a given concrete situation. And herein lies the great ability of Stalin; Stalin's contribution behind all these achievements will remain written in history in golden letters.

Another teaching of November Revolution is that dialectical and historical materialism is the only philosophy which has not only developed as the full-fledged science, but also as the science of all sciences. And it is the only philosophy that helps man to know the hidden laws that govern the change of the material world — the nature, society and thought and thus helps man to act in conformity with these laws and accelerate the process. This is why Marxism is an invincible weapon much more powerful than guns or any other lethal weapon. Being armed with Marxism-Leninism only, the Russian proletariat became an invincible revolutionary force and could thus accomplish the tasks of proletarian revolution, face the almost invincible Nazi forces and defeat them and also rebuild war devastated Soviet Union as a super power.

But when Soviet Union was fast advancing towards the building of communism under the able leadership of Stalin, a sudden turnabout came. Stalin passed away in 1953. In the 20th Congress of the CPSU in 1956, Khrushchov, in the name of fighting the cult of

Contd. on page 6

Defeat revisionism — ideologically, politically and organizationally

Contd. from page 5

individual actually started a fight against the man Stalin who was no more. From then onward Khrushchov continued the process of de-Stalinization. But this attempt to undermine the role of Stalin and his authority virtually led to the uncrowning of Lenin himself. Because Stalin's interpretation of Leninism is the correct interpretation of Marxism. Analyzing the documents of the 20th Congress, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the leader, teacher and guide of our party and a foremost Marxist thinker of this era, observed that 20th Congress would open up the floodgate of revisionism. And this proved true literally. Most of the communist parties in the world who were in the habit of blindly following the Soviet Party, which once hailed Stalin as a demi-god were then blindly following Khrushchov, who painted that very Stalin as a devil — and thus deviated from Marxism-Leninism. Modern revisionism became rampant in the world communist movement and the forces of reaction started growing everywhere — even within Soviet Union.

Revisionism is nothing else than the liberal bourgeois thinking infiltrated within the communist movement, taking advantage of the low level of consciousness of the party members and the people. And modern revisionism did not grow inside the communist movement all on a sudden. Long back in 1948 Comrade Shibdas Ghosh even after highly appreciating the very many achievements of the world communist movement, did not lose sight of the prevalence of mechanical thought process, mechanical relations instead of dialectical thought process and relations, due to low level of consciousness. Moreover, not only that the inner-party struggle was neglected but also was neglected the development of Marxism-Leninism in conformity with the development of all branches of science and knowledge. All this created the ground for the growth of revisionism. Starting from Khrushchov up to Gorbachov the leadership of both the Soviet Party and the state remained in the hands of the revisionists. Almost after three decades of practice of modern revisionism the ideological-cultural level of the party members and people fell very low, Gorbachov, the renegade, brought his plan of

Perestroika and Glasnost in the name of reforms. Analyzing its true nature, the Central Committee of our party then called it a 'blue-print of counter-revolution' — which ultimately dismantled socialism in the land of Lenin and Stalin.

In China also after the death of Comrade Mao — Deng-Xiao Ping came to power, the CPC under his leadership took the path of restoration of capitalism. And the revisionist deviation of all the communist parties, contributed to the dismantling of the socialist camp by attacking from within — which all the imperialist powers not only cherished for long, attempted to, but failed.

After the dismantling of the socialist camp, the imperialists hoped that they would be able to come out from the ever-deepening crisis they were suffering from for long. It is not only crisis in the field of economy. It is an all-pervasive crisis covering all fields of life, social, political, ethical, moral, cultural and educational. The imperialists-capitalists took several measures to come out from the crisis. But when they took a measure to come out from one crisis, they got engulfed in a greater crisis. In this moribund stage of capitalism, it is suffering from daily and hourly crisis. They have no escape from it. This is why Comrade Shibdas Ghosh showed that in the Second World War though fascist forces were defeated militarily, today in the post war situation when world capitalism is engulfed in ever-growing insoluble crisis, in fear of impending proletarian revolution, all capitalist countries, advanced or backward, are taking recourse to fascism.

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh showed that fascism is an anticipatory move of the bourgeoisie to stall the impending proletarian revolution and its cultural basis is a peculiar fusion between the technological aspects of science with spiritualism. He further showed that, if fascism comes, there would remain few who could be called man — because fascism obstructs the very process of development of manhood and dehumanizes man. He also showed that fascism can appear in the form of military dictatorship — or even in the garb of two-party or even in the garb of multi-party system. It follows a dual policy —

of persuasion and suppression. A former President of America, Mr. Eisenhower once said that what rules from behind the Congress and the Senate is an industrial-military complex. Henceforth all the imperialist and capitalist countries developed an industrial-military-bureaucratic complex which actually runs the show from behind the screen.

In all the imperialist-capitalist countries, starting from America even to India the hard earned democratic rights of the people are trampled down under feet — there is widespread drug addiction, sex and violence — all noble ideals and values are being shattered. Attempts are being made to create apathy towards social, political and democratic movements by destroying rational thinking and reasonable faculty — in the youths pushing them towards unethical means of livelihood. Recently in India right of the government employees to strike has been taken away by court orders. General strike or bandhs are banned and Election Commission has decided to raise the security deposits of the candidates in Assembly and Parliament to the tune of Rs. 10 and 20 thousand respectively. Thus in one stroke it drove out the common people from the arena of election process. The real representative of the people, in other words, the revolutionary party would be debarred from entering the legislatures and thus the voice of democratic movement would not be allowed to be raised inside the legislature and thus exposure of the vested interest from within would be thwarted. All this manifests that the relative independence of the judiciary and of the Election Commission is lost and they are committed to safeguard the interests of the crisis-ridden capitalism.

Another measure that all the capitalist countries are taking recourse to is the militarization of the economy — which has led the armament race to a dangerous stage. Although militarization gives some relief to the crisis-ridden economy by creating artificial stimulation in the market, but this is quite short-lived. To release the stock-pile of arms they are to go for wars — and that creates further crisis for capitalism.

Of late, after the dismantling of

the socialist camp the imperialists hoped that they would be able to come out from the crises in this unipolar world through globalization. They hoped globalization would work as a panacea — and help solve all their crises and resolve all their contradictions. But to their dismay, globalization could neither solve their crises, nor their contradictions — rather it has pushed them to their extremes. Doom of the present-day dying capitalism is inevitable. The objective conditions for revolution in all the capitalist countries are well-neigh prepared.

But revolution cannot be made victorious unless the subjective conditions are matured. Or in other words, congenial ideological and spiritual condition and appropriate organizational strength of the revolutionary party are ensured. The influence of revisionism is still rampant throughout the world. We cannot put an end to capitalism-imperialism-fascism without putting an end to revisionism of all shades — ideologically, politically and organizationally.

But there are silver linings even in this dark situation. In some of the imperialist capitalist countries, attempts for building genuine communist parties are going on. And millions and millions of people are coming out in the streets against exploitation, oppression and imperialist attacks all over the world even in America and Great Britain. The American economy is totally shattered. It is totally dependent on war economy. America with its military might is trying to rule over the world — and mounting naked aggression in any country it likes and that too, on any flimsy ground, Iraq being its latest example. Brazenly violating all international laws and norms and caring little for the UNO or people's protests all over the world they have made brutal attack on Iraq with all their military might. Now Iraqi people are engaged in a life and death liberation struggle which is being supported by the freedom-loving people of the whole world. Backed by the USA, the Zionist Israel is making military attacks and infiltrating in Palestine —which is also condemned by the people all over the world.

But this spontaneous outburst of people's protest has to be given a

Contd. on page 8

Planned Violence by Ultra-Chauvinists in Assam

Contd. from page 1

condition of around 30 was serious. The police were silent spectators to all these heinous acts. Similar attacks were carried on the passengers of up-Brahmaputra Mail the same day. Such brutal assaults on the passengers of trains to Assam took place in Katihar station as well causing serious injuries to many. No doubt, such despicable acts are to be severely condemned and protested against. Immediately, a mighty democratic movement needs to be built up demanding identification of the culprits and their accomplices in the administration and meting out exemplary punishment to them. But abandoning the course of movement, if there is an attempt to hold a particular community responsible for all such cowardly acts and then indulge in retaliatory action on them — such can not be endorsed at any cost.

It is now clear that some miscreants connected with reactionary organizations, subserving the ruling capitalist class had engineered such incidents in Bihar. The toiling people of Bihar were neither involved in this nor had they any inkling of such reprehensible activities. Rather, it was seen that many Hindi-speaking people made every effort to protect the passengers when the hooliganism was on. The press that carried out interviews of the victims corroborated these facts. So, targeting the Hindi-speaking people in place of the real culprits can in no way be supported by any well-meaning person. But the most unwanted thing happened in Assam. The common Hindi-speaking people, who barely earn their livelihood have fallen victims to worst retaliatory violence.

Why this orgy of violence

A careful analysis of the incidents would reveal that such an attack on the Hindi-speaking people has not been spontaneous. All parochial forces including AASU have directly precipitated this situation resulting in the ghastly acts and gruesome killing of innocent people. Jobs, examination or attacks on train passengers are all pretexts to buttress an altogether different motive which is to create panic among the Hindi-speaking people and force them to leave Assam so that the parochialists could reign supreme. They have the full backing

of the Congress in the state. The Congress Government, in fact, is, as in the past, appeasing the chauvinist forces.

Most unfortunately the Ulfa, which once was born within the ambit of AASU, raising demand for independent Assam, and tried to make itself acceptable to the people by avowing to revolution, socialism, Lenin, Mao, etc., is now in cahoot with the AASU in raising the same parochial demands and slogans. Ulfa was involved in the killings of innocent Hindi-speaking people in Nalbari district of Assam three years back. This time also Ulfa, instead of ensuring that the reaction to Jamalpur incident does not assume the character of a fratricidal feud against the Hindi-speaking people, asked for the immediate evacuation of Hindi-speaking people from Assam. Thereafter there are allegations that Ulfa activists are involved in various incidents of murder and violence. It has been reported that after sniffing out the lives of several innocent brickfield workers in Tinsukia, Assam on 2nd of November last, Ulfa officially admitted the responsibility of the killings by saying that Hindi-speaking people are polluting the cultural environment of Assam.

It is noteworthy that the well-meaning people of Assam have condemned the killings in no uncertain a term, have come out in the streets to maintain peace and harmony among various sections of the people. Success to such laudable initiative is what all aspire for.

Was it inevitable

The question is whether it was possible to forestall such inhuman acts. At the instance of and provocation by certain political forces the mind of the people of Assam has been for long overshadowed by various provincial, parochial, sectarian, communal and secessionist thinkings. So tenuous has been the situation that the slightest of provocation could exacerbate the communal conflagration and fratricidal clashes. The Chief Minister of the state was well aware of that. But it was found that instead of taking appropriate administrative measures to stem the possible rot, the Congress government has been mere onlooker to the gory parade. In Dispur, the capital of the state, the Hindi-speaking people were subjected to

murderous attacks, their houses were torched and burnt in front of the residences of the ministers and bureaucrats. But the police pleaded ignorance. The modern administration is so well equipped today that if there be a will, such communal conflagration could be stopped within 24 hours. But the carnage has been going on for a week and the people could hardly feel the presence of anything known as administration. The communal outlook of BJP, AGP, etc., are well-known and one could well anticipate what would be their role in such a situation. C.P. Thakur, the central minister, while on a hurricane tour to Assam, put the entire blame on ISI, the Pakistani espionage wing. Such an irresponsible utterance and endeavour to channelise the course of events in another communal line once again unmasked the nefarious design of BJP politics. The Congress government in the state by virtue of its intentional inaction acquiesced in the move of the BJP. This is how the Congress, right from the day of independence had pandered to communal forces throughout the country from the seat of the government, albeit under the garb of democracy.

Elections are on the anvil in five states. In Assam also, campaign for elections to municipalities, corporations and other civic bodies is in full swing. The situation of the state is grim. It is the poor people, no matter what their mother tongue is, who are being killed. But none is bothered. Rather the bourgeois parties have already entered into a competition as to how best they can derive petty-political mileage out of these barbaric incidents. It is this rotten politics that is taking a heavy toll on the unity of the common masses.

It might be relevant to say something about the role of some newspapers in the state in spreading the communal virus. The press and the journalists, as the fourth pillar of democracy, do have an obligation. The truth does not always lie in the mere description of an incident. No responsible publication worth the name can afford to communicate news in such a manner that further propels communal thinking and endangers the cohesion and unity of the country. But an absence of such journalistic ethics has been observed with the majority of the newspapers in Assam.

Why this mounting unemployment

It is necessary to briefly dwell upon the issue that triggered such a situation in Assam. It is true the number of unemployed is mounting in the state. Not only the lakhs of the unemployed youths are in utter frustration, many of them unable to bear the brunt, are engaging themselves in many an anti-social activities and falling prey to fissiparous and parochial thinkings. Assam is no exception to that. Rather this is the spectacle of the entire country today. So it is but natural that the youth would crave for a job, for a gainful employment. But if they are not aware as to what is the way to at least partially mitigate this hardship, if a correct realistic understanding of this grave situation eludes them, then confusion would be compounded and mutual distrust and hate multiplied. Why there is progressive curtailment in the scope of employment? Why is there a galloping increase in the number of the unemployed? One ought to have a clear insight into these. The Indian capitalist class has been saddled to power after independence by usurping all the noble sacrifices, glory of martyrdom and heroic battles of the people for freedom. There is progressive fall in the purchasing power of the people following the ruthless exploitation by the ruling capitalist class. The capitalist economy in the country is caught in the vortex of severe crisis, afflicted by severe recession. In such a situation even the handful of public sector units which were set up at the cost of public exchequer are now facing closure in the class-interest of the capitalists, not to speak of any new industrial venture taking off. Everywhere, there is mass-retrenchment of workforce. With the shrinkage of the home market the capitalist class, in its lust for super profit, is now looking at market overseas and so has to capitulate to big imperialist power. Thus it is opening up the domestic market to the big imperialist sharks and subjecting the people to worst plunder. In the interest of the monopolists, the public sector units, one by one, are being handed over to the capitalists and multinational corporations. In place of labour intensive industries, capital-intensive industries where

Contd. on page 8

United left democratic movement the way out

Contd. from page 7

production is done with the help of sophisticated technology and by employing minimal workers are being preferred for booking maximum profit. So there is massive retrenchment of labour. Every day the ruling capitalist class is coming out with newer devices to retrench workers. Not only this; there is moratorium on employment in government and public sector units at the behest of WTO. In the name of providing central assistance, the central government is forcing the state governments to abolish 10% of the vacancies and the state governments, in turn, are complying with the same with due care. In this backdrop, there is hardly any scope for new job creation. Instead, those in employment are in the face of a great uncertainty of continuation in their jobs. Unless there is a massive democratic movement throughout the country against the policy of curtailment of jobs by both central and state governments and in demand for establishment of new industries and thereby force the central and state governments to reverse their policies, there will be no abatement to this accentuated unemployment problem. Further, what is needed is cemented unity of the toiling people and the youth irrespective of caste, creed, language or religion. Discarding this course, the demand for 100% job reservation for Assam raised by AASU would not solve the problem, but would aggravate it. Thus, far from resolving the problem of unemployment of the youths of Assam, if, on the contrary, centring round the issue of reservation, there are clashes among various segments of the people and youths, it will weaken the very base of a united mass movement towards mitigating unemployment problem. It has to be borne in mind that the ruling capitalist class wants to perpetuate such a cleavage and conflict among the people so that the people are not in a position to get at the truth.

A few more words need to be said about the reservation question. The way demands for reservation in jobs for various groups, sections, and states are being raised, it might entail a dangerous portent. In future, such demands may arise from within various groups of people in other states resulting in further widening of the chasm among

different segments. In that event, devastated Assam will be further ravaged. Unity of the people will be threatened. So the issue of reservation has to be viewed very carefully and examined in depth from a correct socio-political outlook.

Mighty left democratic movement — only deterrent

From the later half of 1979 there had been chauvinist movements in Assam, first in the name of “driving away outsiders” which later was modified for tactical reason as movement for “driving out foreigners”. Whatever might have been the name given, the objective was to precipitate an acute parochial, communal and racial hatred. The massacre of the minority Indian citizens bore ample testimony to that. At that time, on behalf of our party SUCI, we had repeatedly requested the left parties like the CPI(M), CPI and others to come forward and build up a united left democratic healthy cultural movement as against this pernicious culture of racial rancour by

involving the working people of Assam so that the general mass could be freed from the influence of the vile doctrine of communalism-parochialism-chauvinism. But our request was not heeded. Rather, the CPI(M), CPI had nurtured such thoughts and beliefs that actually helped the parochial movement to grow. Not only this; in 1996 they even decided to join arch-chauvinist AGP government thus giving fillip to further growth of chauvinist parochial and divisive thinking. Thus, they have, instead of confronting the parochial and separatist forces, contributed to the image-building of the latter. In the last election, held in 2001, AGP deserted the CPI(M) and CPI to forge alliance with the BJP. After being routed in the last elections CPI(M) and CPI had no alternative other than to agree to formation of an eight party combination along with us. Our party had repeatedly urged upon them to build up left and democratic movement in Assam on the burning problems of people’s life. But mainly due to the anti-movement mentality of the CPI(M)

and the CPI, so far no such united movement could be launched. It is this weakness of left democratic political movement in Assam that provided a fertile ground for the chauvinist and parochial forces to thrive and thunder. Instead of treading along the correct path of building a united left democratic movement involving the entire toiling masses, irrespective of caste, creed, religion and language against the exploitative capitalist rule, the predominant trend of thinking enshrouding the people’s mind is to look at every problem from the perspective of communal divide, lingual difference, parochial outlook, etc. centring which there are fratricidal bloodbaths. The current situation in Assam is also a reflection of the same mental trend. In the dangerous situation now prevailing in Assam, once again the imperativeness of a united left democratic movement is felt very much. We hope everyone would take appropriate lessons from the present situation and come forward to embrace the path of left democratic movement.

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee’s Speech

Contd. from page 6

shape of a mighty anti-imperialist movement and in its wake give birth to a militant peace movement conducive to the struggle for emancipation of the people and the revolutionary struggles throughout the whole world in which the communists will have to work as a core. Today the world situation is such that revolution can be made victorious in any country, if the pre-requisites for a successful revolution are made ready there.

What are those pre-requisites? November Revolution showed that without a revolutionary theory there will be no revolution. This revolutionary theory does not mean only the strategy of revolution — but a theory covering all fields of epistemology and life. Secondly, emergence of a genuine communist party with sufficient strength — ideologically, politically and organizationally based on Marxism-Leninism. Thirdly, in the process of conducting and accentuating the mass struggles under the leadership of the genuine communist party would be born the instruments of

people’s own political power or the Soviets.

In this connection, I would like to draw your attention to another important aspect.

All of you know how the world imperialism is crushing the militant mass movements and revolutionary struggles round the globe. To co-ordinate all the revolutionary struggles of the toiling people in the various countries, what is needed first is the firm ideological and organizational unity among all the genuine communist parties on the basis of dialectical relationship and through continuous exchange on ideological issues. This ought to assume an international character. Then only would it be possible to resist the imperialist attack to nip revolutionary movement in the bud; wherever revolutions will break out, the revolutionaries of those countries will have to face not only the capitalist rulers of their own country but also the world imperialism. Because the imperialists will make all attempts to crush the revolutionary upsurge wherever it breaks out. So, the communists will

have to give shape to a Communist International, preparing necessary condition for it. The communist parties who will form this International, their tasks will be to exchange mutually their experience and views relating to the question of revolution, develop fraternal dialectical relation among themselves — and help each other in every possible way. And lastly, the communists of the imperialist countries will have to build up powerful movements of all sections of the toiling people in support of revolution wherever it breaks out and will have to take effective steps to foil the attempts of the imperialists to crush that revolution.

Success of revolution depends on fulfillment of all these pre-requisites.

**Long live
Great November Revolution !**

**Long live
Proletarian Internationalism !**

**Long live Marxism-Leninism-
Shibdas Ghosh thoughts !**

Long live Revolution !

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : NIHAR MUKHERJEE

Edited & Published by Sukomal Dasgupta from 48 Lenin Sarani, Kolkata 700 013 and printed by him at Ganadabi Printers and Publishers Private Limited, 52B, Indian Mirror Street, Kolkata 700013 Phone : 2244-1828, 22442234 E-mail : suci_cc@vsnl.net