

# Proletarian Era

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## Sri Lankan Crisis and India Government's Role

The civil war on ethnic issue between the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE has now reached a critical stage with the fall of Elephant Pass garrison to the rebels on April 22. President Kumaratunga's "war for peace" for the last 5 years has evidently failed. About 40,000 government troops have been trapped in Jaffna. Sensing her troops' incapacity to contain the LTTE, Mrs. Kumaratunga asked for military help from India and others to retrieve her government's position. The fear is there that if Jaffna goes into the hands of the LTTE rebels, they may be strengthened in the demand for Eelam.

The internationalisation of the issue and calling for Israel's help are to put pressure on the rebels. It is easy to understand that Israel did not come to Sri Lanka without the consent and full support of the US and India. The Indian government though pretending to be just a 'concerned neighbour', is not actually so. It is very much active as the flurry of activities of its military and administrative high-ups prove. The Prime Minister has dispelled all doubts by declaring that his government is prepared for all eventualities and will do its duty. This means, if the consensus now being built up internationally as well as in Sri Lanka and our country for immediate cease-fire and negotiated settlement fails, then an active intervention by India will be inevitable. But the government is cautious so that such military intervention may not appear as intervention but merely a humanitarian assistance to the citizens of Jaffna in particular and of Sri Lanka in general. In this, it will be discharging its duty as the regional power which the US approves.

### Vajpayee government faces complexities

Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee declared in a copy book fashion that his government had no intention of military intervention nor did it support the demand of Tamil Eelam by the LTTE. It stood for the territorial integrity of the island state. On May 20, the Prime Minister said that his government was 'keeping a close watch' over the developments in Sri Lanka. He was quite clear that his government was ready to take any action as and when needed.

Urgings from the press as also others for immediate military intervention notwithstanding, Vajpayee as the leader of the BJP and NDA government as also the chief spokesman of the Indian bourgeois state shrewdly takes into consideration his compulsion as leader of a coalition government, the political ambition of his

own party and the necessity to avoid past mistakes, all together.

His first priority is to keep the NDA coalition in tact for the continued existence of the government. He is quite aware that the Tamil regional parties in his coalition ministry, DMK, MDMK and PMK extended strong support to LTTE and war for Tamil Eelam in Sri Lanka. These parties are all to be kept in the fold when the parliamentary majority is thin. Immediate intervention militarily to preserve the territorial integrity of Sri Lankan state may provoke adverse reaction of these parties. The government will be

endangered by that.

Besides, as a veteran BJP leader, he is quite aware that his party needs to spread in the southern states when its influence in the northern states is on the wane. The Tamil feelings in Sri Lanka on their justified grievances against discrimination and denial of democratic rights in social, political, educational, cultural affairs and even in the matter of service in police, military and administration cannot be wished away. If his party is to extract political benefit then these concrete issues are to be upheld, even if formally.

The matter of most vital concern is not to repeat the mistake of Rajiv Gandhi in 1987. The overt military intervention in the name of IPKF (Indian Peace Keeping Force) drawing a false analogy to UN Peace Keeping Mission drew adverse reactions both internationally as also in the neighbouring states. This blatant military action reducing Sri Lanka to a virtual protectorate

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## Corporate Profits Soar While People's Miseries Multiply

Under the economic policy of globalisation, liberalisation and privatisation that has led to a spiralling of unemployment and people's miseries, the monopolists on their part, have been able to rake in unprecedented profits. This trend of rising profits has been once more demonstrated with the announcement of the results scored by 40 select companies and published in *Economic Times* (24.4.2000). Their balance sheets show that their aggregate net profits have increased by 28.8%, even though the results of many a giant are yet to be announced. To take a few examples such as Dabur : with Rs. 50.10 crore net profits for 1999-2000, it has made an increase of 53.8% profits over last year. Aarti Industries increased its net profits by 24.4% over last year to Rs. 21.45 crore while Crisil company showed a net profit of Rs. 27.5 crore, an increase of 3.4% over last year, even though its net sales had fallen from Rs. 36.37 crore in 1998-99 to Rs. 33.98 crore in 1999-2000. Ambani's Reliance Industries — one of the most

powerful corporate houses which accounts for more than three-fifths of the aggregate turnover and about three-fourths of the aggregate net profits of the sample companies — has increased its net profits by 41% over last year from Rs. 1,704 crore to Rs. 2,403 crore. Though in size they cannot measure up to Reliance Industry, five out of seven software companies have doubled their net profits. Infosys Technologies has increased its turnover by over 73% and net profit by 115%.

Yet, despite this trend of ever increasing profits, the monopolists are granted a plethora of sops and tax exemptions by the government — be it exemption from sales tax, customs duty, excise duty, or in the name of venture capital, or backward districts — all of which help them to amass unprecedented profits. But not to speak of passing on some of these to the consumers or workers the monopolists resort most shamelessly

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# Globalisation, Militarism and the US/NATO War Against Yugoslavia

Speech at People's Assembly, Seattle,  
November 28, 1999  
by Richard Becker,  
International Action Center,  
San Francisco

..."The need of a constantly expanding market for its products chases the bourgeoisie over the whole surface of the globe. It must nestle everywhere, settle everywhere, establish connections everywhere... The bourgeoisie, through its exploitation of the world market, gives a cosmopolitan character to production and consumption in every country... It compels all nations, on pain of extinction, to adopt a bourgeois mode of production. It compels them to introduce what it calls civilization into their midst, in other words to become bourgeois themselves.

...In a word, it creates a world after its own image."

Those words are from a pamphlet written almost 152 years ago, the most popular and widely translated work ever written, more popular than the Bible, and it was the *Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. It shows that the process of globalization is not new.

Our definition of globalization, or imperialist globalization is the process of breaking down of all barriers to the free movement of capital and its right to freely exploit the resources and labor of countries. Some in the Left have misunderstood this to mean that capital has become denationalized. There was a phrase in the early 90's about "global mobile capital" that had become detached from its national roots. This is like an old theory that was called ultra-imperialism. And it's a false theory that conveniently and not coincidentally relieves its proponents, of the need to fight against their own ruling class. ... It even allows some on the Right, particularly, and some on the Left as well, to argue that the U.S. capitalists have become unpatriotic, as if at some point they were patriotic to something besides profits.

The Pentagon, the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines do not exist to defend capital in the abstract or in the general sense. They exist to protect and serve U.S. capital, not only to extend and maintain its domination in what used to be called the Third World, and in the oppressed countries, but also vis-a-vis its imperialist allies and rivals. This domination, the domination of the U.S. capital, of U.S. imperialism, is the overall strategic objective of U.S. policy. Maximization of profit is, of course, what drives the system. But maintaining U.S. hegemony is the guiding principle of U.S. strategic doctrine. Globalization yes, but globalization with U.S. capital in the drivers seat.

How does all this relate with the U.S./NATO war against Yugoslavia? What is the relationship between globalization and militarism? Ten years ago, neither Yugoslavia nor Iraq would have seemed likely targets of U.S. military attack. Both are key countries in key strategic regions. ... Ten years ago the official U.S. policy toward both countries was officially friendly. In 1990 and '91 however, all of this friendliness, suddenly evaporated. The benign mask dropped away revealing the true face of U.S. policy. The U.S. rulers with help of their bought-and-paid-for

media proceeded to first demonize and then to devastate both countries, tearing one to pieces, and inflicting on the other a human made famine and deadly epidemic. Both the Yugoslav and Iraqi people have suffered immense human, productive and cultural losses. Both of them [were] subjected to nearly a decade of war, blockade and subversion, and today the official policy of the U.S. government toward both countries is called "regime change." The imperialists are continuing their aggression against both countries.

What happened to bring about such a cataclysmic change? ...The real change that took place was not inside neither Iraq nor Yugoslavia.

What happened was a sharp change in the balance of forces in the world brought about by the disintegration and then collapse of the Soviet Union and the Socialist bloc in Europe in the period of 1989 to '91. Imperialism's friendliness toward Iraq and Yugoslavia lasted exactly as long as the existence of the Socialist Camp. As soon as the eastern European regimes were subverted and overturned in the summer and fall of 1989, the knives came out for Yugoslavia. The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 sealed the decision.

The hidden hand of the market will never work without a hidden fist. McDonalds cannot flourish without McDonald-Douglas, the designer of the F-15, and the hidden fist that keeps the world safe for Silicon Valley's technology is called the United States Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps.

First the newly reunified Germany and subsequently Britain, France, Italy and above all the United States set out to carve up the Yugoslav Federation fanning the flames of chauvinism while arming the most reactionary nationalist elements within the country.

...The destruction of Yugoslavia with its extremely diverse and intermingled population required a bloody civil war and the imperialist were only glad to oblige doing every thing they could to make the civil war as atrocious and brutal as possible. The U.S. and other NATO powers used an integrated, economic, military and diplomatic strategy to destroy the former Yugoslavia.

...We're taught in the United States, in the schools and universities, and it's repeated endlessly in the media, that the United States became a rich and powerful country because of the so-called magic of the free market because of the purported virtues of capitalism. These virtues are supposed to have led to the spontaneous and creative outpouring of human energy that made the United States a wealthy and powerful country. They neglect to mention that U.S. capitalism, and this was brought up earlier today, accumulated its great wealth largely through the slave trade and exploitation of millions of people who were enslaved, and tens of millions of people were subjected to this process. They neglect to mention

that the greatest ethnic cleansing in history was carried out on this continent, the clearing of the native inhabitants to make way for capitalism, and that the United States was put together by war and conquest. This is almost never mentioned to us. This terrible history which has never been apologized for, and for which no operations have been forthcoming for the victims means that the United States rulers have no right to speak to any people anywhere in the world about human rights.

...Colonialism, the negation of sovereignty and independence, must be considered by history to be one of, if not the greatest, crime against humanity. Some might say, well, that was a hundred years ago, or slavery happened more than a century ago. OK, then let's just look at the recent period. Let's look at the period since World War II. The Korean War, the overthrow of the elected governments of Guatemala, Iran, Chile, Indonesia, Argentina, the wars in Central America, the invasion of Lebanon, the dispossession of the Palestinian and Kurdish people, the murder of Patrice Lumumba and many other leaders in Africa, support of apartheid fascism in South Africa, the genocidal war in Indo-China, in which millions of Vietnamese, Cambodians, Laotians and more than 50 thousand U.S. troops died, and we could go on and on. There is the ongoing economic blockade against Iraq, which has taken in nine years, the lives of more than a million and a half people, half of them children under the age of five. This is insisted on by one government, and only one government in the world, and that is the government of the United States.

This does not begin to exhaust the list of crimes [committed] by the United States government : the CIA and their corporate sponsors...

... I want to read a quote from Thomas Friedman who writes for the New York Times, a thoroughly despicable individual who is now held up as the highest example of U.S. journalism. Friedman wrote, approvingly, on March 28:

"For globalization to work, America can't be afraid to act like the almighty superpower that it is. The hidden hand of the market will never work without a hidden fist. McDonalds cannot flourish without McDonald-Douglas, the designer of the F-15, and the hidden fist that keeps the world safe for Silicon Valley's technology is called the United States Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps."

I think that is an accurate description.

The U.S. also dominates Southern and Eastern Europe now not only militarily, but also through the Southeastern Economic Cooperative Initiative, the SECI, which is planning for the re-organization of the entire region. The newly privatized sectors of energy, petroleum, telecommunications, scientific research and banking. The SECI is planning for the integration of the region's economic infrastructure into the arteries of U.S. dominated finance and banking...

Yugoslavia is the only country in the region that has refused to participate in the SECI and its program for outright imperialist takeover of the region, or to agree to U.S./NATO bases on its soil.

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# US Military Build-up to Provide Security for Corporate America's Far-flung Empire

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... This is the primary reason, in our view, why Yugoslavia and the multinational, multi-ethnic Yugoslav people became NATO targets, and have been subjected to such devastation, which is continuing as we meet here today.

A second objective of the U.S./NATO war is to facilitate the expansion of NATO and the legitimization of a new role for the U.S. dominated military alliance. This war violated all international law; it violated the UN Charter, the Geneva Convention. The Nuremberg Principles and more, and it violated the NATO Charter itself for a purpose.

The carrying out of this war was meant to sanctify a new role for an expanded NATO, one of intervention in the internal affairs of whatever other state it chooses to intervene in, and of particular interest to the rulers and planners in the United States is the former Soviet Union with its vast mineral wealth estimated to run in the tens of trillions of dollars. The Caspian Basin with vast oil reserves is of particular focus of attention.

A third objective of the war against Yugoslavia is to teach a lesson by terror to other countries in this era of the unipolar world that to defy the directives and wishes of Washington can bring forth this kind of destruction on you as well.

A fourth goal is to justify a new massive increase in the U.S. war budget. This new military build up is already underway, despite the fact that the United States today already spends

more on its military than the rest of the UN Security Council combined. The Pentagon has spent 19 trillion dollars on the military since 1940. That, in a way, is one of the greatest crimes ever committed, because that 19 trillion dollars could have solved all of the problems of humanity, not the U.S., but all of humanity's basic problems of clean water, food, housing, education and health care for every person in the entire world several times over. And now, having spent all of that, they propose to spend an additional \$1.2 trillion in the next four years. The purpose of this military build-up is to provide security for corporate America's far-flung empire. It is part of the globalization strategy.

It is also designed to assure that U.S. capital is pre-eminent. ... And this was laid out in a document in 1992 ... called the Defence Planning Guidance Document.... which ...stated forthrightly that the top U.S. aim in the post-Soviet era should be to prevent any potential rival from even considering the possibility of trying to achieve competitive balance with the United States.

U.S. military superiority is the key to U.S. economic superiority, and economic domination. The U.S. does not have, just by virtue of its economic system, it does not have domination over other countries, over some of its rivals by itself, but what it does have is this vast military apparatus to be able to implement its will.

There are many in the anti-war movement and on the Left who were deluded into thinking that demise of the Soviet Union and the end of the Warsaw Pact could usher in a new era of peace

and demilitarization. Those who held this hope did not understand that imperialism remains imperialism. And the imperialist leaders, instead of thinking about peace, saw the changed relationship of forces in the world as a new opportunity to secure domination over key markets, labour and resources. Instead of becoming more peaceful, they became more aggressive.

We do not live, unlike what so many in academia tell us now, in some post-modern era. We still live in the era of imperialism, of imperialist war and socialist revolution. Imperialist globalization based on the maximizing of super profits and the trans-national banks and corporations, is laying waste to the world and to its people. At the same time this process expands every day in every country the ranks of those who were described in the same pamphlet that I quoted earlier as the gravediggers of the system, that is the working class.

Today imperialism appears to be riding high; they feel strong. But I want to quote another great revolutionary leader, ... that is Fidel Castro, the president of Cuba ... said once, "Every ruling class thinks itself invincible until history teaches it otherwise." Our job is to organize the movement that teaches them otherwise.

## SUCI demonstrates in Bangalore

The Bangalore District Committee of SUCI organised a protest demonstration at Mysore Bank Circle against the central government's steep price hike of rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene oil, LPG and other essential commodities on 19th April last. Hundreds of people participated in the protest demonstration.

Dr. B. R. Manjunath, Secretary, Bangalore District Committee, SUCI, addressed the meeting. Comrade Bhagawan Reddy, member, State Committee, also addressed the gathering. Comrade V. Gahamurthy, member, Secretariat, Bangalore District Committee presided over the meeting. The meeting ended with a resolve to continue the movement further.

## Demonstration in Gulbarga, Karnataka

SUCI, Gulbarga District Committee organised a protest Dharna on 18 April against price-hike of the essential commodities at Mini Vidhana Soudha (D.C. Office). A large number of demonstrators attended the Dharna which was addressed by Comrade H. V. Diwakar, District Secretary, SUCI, Comrade Nagammal, member, District Committee and Comrade G. M. Meti, Vice President, AIDYO and Comrade Gouse Patel, Secretary, AIDSO. The speakers appealed to the people to intensify the movement against the anti-people policies of the central and state governments.

The Dharna ended with the submission of a memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister through the Deputy Commissioner.

## Youth Convention at Anantapur

On the occasion of 76th Death Anniversary of a great revolutionary freedom fighter Alluri Seetharama Raju, AIDYO organised a youth convention on 7th May, 2000 at Lalitha Kalaparishatha Hall, Anantapur. Comrade K. Sridhar, AP State Secretary, SUCI, was the main speaker. He inaugurated the convention by garlanding the portrait of Alluri. Comrade Sridhar in his speech analytically explained that the root cause of the problems faced by the youth, is capitalism and appealed to the youth to take the example of Alluri, an uncompromising revolutionary freedom fighter, who trembled the British administrations for two years (1922-24) in Andhra region. He organised thousands of tribals in his revolutionary movement.

Comrade B S Amarnath, District Secretary, SUCI explained the life struggle of Alluri and appealed the youth to join AIDYO to build up powerful youth movement in the district.

Comrade Subramanyam presided the convention. Two resolutions, one on drought situation in the district and another on obscenity in cinemas were adopted. The convention concluded after electing a Town Committee with Comrade M. Subramanyam as President, Comrade D. Sudhakar as Vice-President, Comrade P. Somasekhar as Secretary, Comrade Manohar Naik as treasurer and Comrade Obilesu as Executive Committee Member.

## CPI(M) - Trinamul jointly attack AIMSS meeting in Calcutta

On 13th May last the anti-socials having the support of the CPI(M) and the Trinamul Congress attacked on a meeting of AIMSS at Ultadanga, Calcutta. The members of the AIMSS resisted the attack for nearly one hour, but as the police supported the attackers, the meeting could not be held. The assembled women organised a rally and a road block at Muchibazar. But those anti-socials attacked the women there also with the support of the police.

Last year in the month of May a heinous crime of child rape was committed in this area.

The CPI(M) tried to shield the culprit as he was a CPI(M) man, but this attempt was frustrated by the prompt and timely intervention of the AIMSS and the Legal Service Centre. The culprit has been convicted by the court and sentenced to imprisonment for 10 years. The AIMSS reported that the anti-socials belonging to the CPI(M) and the Trinamul Congress attacked the meeting to revenge their failure to shield the culprit. They intimidated the grandmother and the mother of the rape victim and also the decorators of the meeting. But the organisers of the meeting were determined and so at last these anti-socials directly attacked the meeting and abused the women with filthy language. Though informed, the police were silent spectators.

Comrade Prativa Mukherjee the All India President of the AIMSS was the declared main speaker of the meeting.

# India Government's Subtle Manoeuvre for Possible Military Intervention in Sri Lanka

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state evoked strong anti-Indian sentiment in Sri Lanka. Yet the ostensible purpose was to help that state and its people.

This military action was prefaced by a so-called 'peace accord' that was pushed down the throats of both Jayewardene, the then Sri Lankan President and Pirabhakaran, the LTTE leader. Mr. Jayewardene publicly stated that he had to agree to the proposal under duress as he had no other alternative. This clearly means that the Sri Lankan state had to surrender to the military might of the Indian state.

Our party guided by the teachings and analyses of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh could see through the expansionist imperialist design of the Indian bourgeois state which had already appeared as a front ranking regional power as far back as in 1983. Not only that, we could correctly read the closeness already developed between India and US imperialism. It was so much that the US was giving recognition to India as the major regional power, accepted Sri Lanka as its natural sphere of influence and what is more, approved India's right to militarily intervene there.

We quote what we wrote in an article on Sri Lanka, immediately after India's armed intervention, in our issue dated 14 September, 1987 (Vol. 21, No. 2) :

"The reiteration of the Indian bourgeois state's desired 'regional security doctrine in the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord' framework has been endorsed by the superpowers, US and USSR. They have hailed it as a welcome regional development. The attitude of the US government has been more striking to note. Not only the state department endorsed the Agreement but President Reagan sent letters to both Jayewardene and Rajiv Gandhi congratulating them for coming to an agreement.

Mr. Jayewardene also in his public interviews has admitted that he sought the military help and assistance from the USA, the UK and the Soviet government against the military pressure of India. The US government made it known that they could not provide the minimum assistance without consultation with Indian government while the two other governments did not respond at all. This is the reason why he had to accept the guardianship of the Indian government."

So, the Indian bourgeois government demonstrated open imperialist-expansionist design in Sri Lanka in 1987. The US imperialist rulers not only gave recognition to this fact but also accepted Sri Lanka to be India's natural sphere of influence as well as the Indian right of military intervention there.

If the Indian bourgeois state had that much strength and stature as also closeness and mutuality of interests with the US at that time, these must have increased many times now as a junior partner of US imperialism in South Asia. This was given recognition officially during the recent visit of the US President Bill Clinton to India and was also palpable during the Kargil episode. But having the same imperialist-expansionist desire, the Indian government took absolutely different posture

and tactics this time for reasons that will be shown clearly.

## India government's motive

From the press reports it is clear that India is very much involved in the Sri Lankan affairs. The visit to Colombo of the Indian Air Marshal Tipnis as also of K. P. S. Gill, notorious for engineering state terrorism in Punjab in the name of crushing terrorism and the Indian government's declaration that the Indian army is monitoring the developments and the Sri Lankan government spokesmen's high praises for the Indian government's stand — all indicate that. The Sri Lankan army chief Rohan de Silva Dalwate came to India in an unannounced visit. He talked with big guns of the Indian military in Bangalore. He visited Thiruvananthapuram, the southern Air headquarters of Indian army to see for himself the preparations being made for India's aid and assistance to his country. The residents of Kanyakumari and Tirunaveli districts say that they witness nightly movements of aircrafts from the Air headquarters to Colombo. The press report is that some 15,000 Indian troops have been moved to Thiruvananthapuram. The Indian navy and coastal guards are patrolling Indian waters for the stated reasons of preventing exodus of refugees as also snapping the supply link through smuggling to the LTTE.

All this has created favourable opinion about India in the Sinhalese majority community and among their political leaders.

It appears that India is all set for intervention. And Mr. Kardigamar, himself a Tamil but the foreign minister of Sri Lankan government has said that events would force India to intervene in solving the ethnic conflict. It has been widely reported that foreign ministers of the two countries have "worked out" a detailed list of aid and assistance India is required to provide.

A ground is required so that intervention even by the military would not be viewed as such, but would rather be viewed as a humanitarian act calculated to save the citizens from blood bath. The Indian government has expressed its desire to evacuate 40,000 trapped troops on the specific conditions of a cease fire and the express assurance from LTTE that no obstruction would be made from their side to this. India has also said that no official request from Colombo has come in this regard.

India's declaration that it is prepared to help evacuate troops from northern Jaffna has irked the Sri Lankan government. President Kumaratunga has said that New Delhi could still help to persuade the Tigers to talk. She is obviously not prepared to admit defeat in war and give leverage to the LTTE. She wants the war to continue.

The US Under Secretary of State, Mr. Thomas Pickering was in New Delhi recently along with the Norwegian special envoy Mr. Eric Solheim. Mr. Pickering has said that a military solution is impossible and that the US would support a 'positive' role by India. He also said neither the USA nor India have been asked to play a role by the Sri Lankan government or the LTTE. Mr. Solheim has expressed hope that India would

play a 'role' and that is of paramount importance. So India has been able to mobilise international support with the active help and cooperation of the US in favour of its intervention.

The key point that remains is about the LTTE's attitude. It all depends on the possible terms and conditions the Sri Lankan government will have to agree. In all probability the solution will be within the framework of Sri Lankan Constitution. This conforms to the views of both India and the US.

Anyway, the Indian government has resorted to a subtle method in support of its possible military intervention with positive encouragement from the US.

From the reaction of the parliamentary parties, the government faces no opposition but rather gets support either by silence or by veiled means. The Congress cannot have any opposition to direct military intervention in Sri Lanka. Indira Gandhi sent Indian troops at the request of Sirimavo Bandarnaik, the then Sri Lankan Prime Minister to crush the leftist oriented youth revolt in 1971. Rajiv Gandhi's crude method is history, a shame on the Indian people.

The CPI (M) supported that brutal suppression of the Sri Lankan government's freedom and sovereignty in 1987. We quoted extensively from their central organ, *People's Democracy* in our issue dated 14 September, 1987. In its issue dated 2nd August, 1987 it wrote "...it (the Accord) goes a long way to ensure peace in that unfortunate country and in the region." It shows that the CPI (M), let alone alerting the people against the domineering role and expansionist policy of the Indian government, stood four square in defence of it by such deliberate misleading comments. Today, they are doing the same thing in the name of opposing US imperialism, but the cunningness lies in the fact that they want to conceal Indo-US joint move in this regard. Mr. Surjeet is well aware what change has come to the Indo-US relation since BJP came to power. During the Congress rule, as we showed in 1987, the US was already giving India the recognition of the regional power, accepting Sri Lanka to be its domain of influence as also its right to interfere in the internal affairs of that country. Now, after the US President Clinton's visit to our country, is it not a fact that India has been accepted by US imperialism to be its junior partner in South Asia? What is the stand and role of the CPI (M) on this portentous development. Why is not this party exposing to the people the nature of connivance, deep understanding and convergence of interest between the present Indian rulers and the US warlords?

Does it not strike them that ethnic conflict in a country is purely an internal affair of that country? Can the intervention by a foreign country in the internal affair on any plea be justified? What remains, then of the principle of non-intervention and consequently the freedom and sovereignty of a country?

## The latest developments

At the time of going to the press, the latest reports suggest that Indian intervention in Sri

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# Injustice against Tamil People can be Removed only by Conducting United Movement from Working Class Outlook

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Lanka is not improbable. President Kumaratunga says it will be a "diplomatic intervention" and her government is seriously considering inviting India officially for this. It is not unlikely that Indian intervention, if it comes, may be backed by US and France, judging by the movements of their naval units near Sri Lanka. It has been clarified that it will not be a "West's War" but a supportive action to the Indian move. Moreover, reports suggest that an Asian (read Indian) initiative rather than a western intervention would be more acceptable to the Sri Lankan psyche.

Reportedly, the recognition and approval of India's role as the major regional power by the US, UK, France and Norway and their agreement to the Indian view for a settlement within the framework of Sri Lankan Constitution, maintaining the territorial integrity of the island state — are exerting pressure which is having its effect. The erstwhile belligerent stance of President Kumaratunga has been toned down and a peace proposal made to Pirabhakaran. There are even reports that chief ministership of Jaffna will be offered to Pirabhakaran on condition of giving up terrorist activities. On its part, the LTTE too appears to have come down from its earlier stand. Only very recently it had threatened that there would be a blood bath if the government troops did not surrender within 24 hours. But now it has declared unilateral cease fire for 12 hours to be effective on 28 May. The reason given out for this is to allow the Jaffna citizens opportunity to move to safer places. But there is also the speculation that this may be the LTTE's way of gaining time before launching intensified attacks.

The situation is complex, there are conflicting reports, the prevailing strict censorship hinders full knowledge of actual developments and speculations are rife. Only time can tell whether there will be Indian intervention and in what form, whether there will be a settlement and on what terms, whether the Sri Lankan government will announce terms acceptable to the Tamils fighting for 17 years. But we wish to emphasize that there

can be no military solution to the problem, it has to be a political one.

The BJP's political motive, as discussed by us earlier in this article, has already been corroborated from what its Vice-President Krishnamurthy has just said. He has clearly stated that his party's sympathy is not for the LTTE but for Tamils of Sri Lankan origin suffering from discriminations by the government. Never before had the BJP been vocal against such discriminations.

## Ethnic problem — working class outlook

We wrote a number of times on the genesis of the ethnic conflict between the Sri Lanka majority community and the Tamil minority. We reminded that the different ethnic people of Sri Lanka fought shoulder to shoulder against the British colonial rule for national freedom. There was no separatist mindset then. And the Sri Lankan state was formed after political independence on the basis of equal community relations which were cordial despite the fact that the Tamils were culturally more advanced and economically more powerful.

But as the leadership of the Sri Lankan national movement was bourgeois in character as in our country, the process of nation formation in the social-cultural field suffered because of the weakness of the leadership. It made compromises with Sri Lankan majority chauvinism and Buddhist religious bigotry for petty parliamentary gains. At the bottom was the intense desire of the Sri Lankan bourgeoisie to curb the economic predominance of Tamil capital and their educational-cultural superiority.

At one time, leftist movements both in trade unions and political fields were growing in strength in Sri Lanka. Marxism-Leninism was attracting particularly the students and youths. The political development in India had its impact in Sri Lanka also.

The ethnic trouble appeared with some palpably naked attacks on Tamil minority people. Some 8 lakh Tamil workers suffered statelessness, many thousands thrown into refugee camps. By

the 'Sinhala only' Act the Tamil language was de-recognised as official language. By the so-called 'Standardisation Act' 25% more marks was demanded of the Tamil students for admission to universities. Restriction on admission to schools, the administrative services and the police and the military applied to Tamil minority, more and more. The moderate bourgeois leadership of the Tamils of the TULF gave in to the extremist LTTE leadership and the demand for Tamil Eelam was raised in 1976.

We wish to remind the exploited and oppressed of both the communities to take cognition that their leaderships are bourgeois in character. The contending bourgeois groups aspire to dominate in Sri Lankan national capitalist market. The poor and oppressed are and will remain under capitalist rule unless they develop class unity among themselves on the basis of Marxist-Leninist world outlook and struggle to overthrow the rule of capital. There must be no enmity between the communities. Similarly there should not be any enmity between the working peoples of Sri Lanka and of India.

They must see that all the discriminations and injustices against the Tamil people are removed. This can be achieved if they are united in democratic mass movement and conduct their struggle from working class outlook. The working people of both the countries are against imperialist-expansionist domination. This requires united movement. We look forward to the day when such movement is joined in by well meaning democratic minded people of both the countries.

## Press Clipping

### Stalin monument restored in Georgia

A monument to former Soviet leader Joseph Stalin was returned to the main square of Khashuri in Georgia last Sunday.

The 2.5 metre monument was removed from its pedestal during the campaign against Stalin's legacy after his death, but the local people buried it in the ground instead of destroying it.

The monument was unearthed and restored some weeks ago. After long negotiations, the local war veterans' organisation and the United Georgian Communist Party convinced the town authorities to agree to returning the monument to its original place.

Several hundred people attended Sunday's ceremony. "Stalin's cause is still alive", communist leader retired Soviet Army General Panteleimon Georgadze declared.

"Ordinary people are more and more convinced that they were deceived by so-called democrats in Russia as well as Georgia," he said. "The Soviet Union, the great power, will be restored when people unite around the ideas of Joseph Stalin."...

(The New Worker, 12 May 2000)

## 2nd Conference of All India SIDB Employees Association

The second Conference of all-India SIDB (Small Scale Industry Development Bank) Employees Association was held in Calcutta on May 6-7, 2000.

The Conference registered its emphatic protest against the recent decision of BJP government to withdraw protection to small scale industries in obedience to WTOs dictate.

These industries form the informal sector that provides employment to 67% of workforce. By this suicidal policy, not only the workers in small scale industries will lose jobs but the internal market also will further be squeezed. The entire economy is thus being opened up to foreign and national finance capital.

A committee has been formed with Comrades Amar Roy as President, A. Nataraja, Working President, A. Gaindswamy, Vice-President and J. Ray Mondal, General Secretary.

## Protest demonstration

On behalf of the Gulbarga District Committee of All India Democratic Youth Organisation (AIDYO), a protest demonstration was held on May 9th, against the decision of Karnataka state government to abolish twenty thousand existing vacant posts and imposing ban on recruitment, at Sardar Vallabha Bhai Circle, in Gulbarga city.

Protestors burnt the symbolic copy of an order of the government.

Comrade B.H. Bhagawanreddy and Comrade G. M. Meti, the president and vice-president of Gulbarga District Committee respectively addressed the gathering.

After the demonstration was over, a delegation went to the Deputy Commissioners Office and submitted a memorandum, which was addressed to the Chief Minister of Karnataka.

# Workers opting for VRS are driven to penury

(Contd. from page 1)

to tax evasion, which according to the Finance Minister is no less than 40,000 crore. And it is again the same monopolists who have defaulted on paying back huge bank loans, despite their growing profits, which has created the problem of NPA (Non-Performing Assets) of banks that have reached a staggering Rs. 58,000 crore and has made more than one nationalised bank go sick. Yet the government cannot take stern measures, because in the opinion of the government spokesman, it would spoil the industrial climate!

The Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, when assuming power, said that in view of the serious economic crisis and the huge fiscal deficit the government must take hard decisions. But hard decisions for whom? Obviously it is for the poor. Thus it has raised the price of diesel, kerosene and grains, and is constantly cutting back subsidies for food, etc. and further curtailing the already inadequate social spending like health and education etc. — all of which is hitting the already impoverished toiling people whose plight is beyond words. But when the question, for example, of lowering of price of foodgrains and kerosene — the fuel of the poorer sections — comes up, the chambers of commerce which are increasingly taking to issuing direct dictates — raise a hue and cry that there must be no rolling back of cut in subsidy and price of kerosene must not be lowered as this would spell disaster for the country, despite the fact that the sum involved is paltry compared to the sops the corporate houses get by the government, not to speak of the amount involved in tax evasion and NPAs. So according to the government, hard decisions for the people are necessary in the interest of the country, and even some minor concessions to somewhat lessen people's miseries would be disastrous for the country; but when it comes to hard decisions against these monopolists who make ever greater profits yet have robbed the public exchequer of its due, just the opposite holds true: in that case hard decisions would be disastrous for the country! Then whose government is this?

And the media, the mouthpiece of monopoly capital, too echo this line of propaganda in the name of progress, and free market economy. And to overcome any bad effects for the economy they urge even faster and more rigorous implementation of such a policy of globalisation and liberalisation.

But hard decisions are not confined to cut in subsidy and social spending only.

At a time when there are 5 lakh sick industries in the country, the government is giving all possible help and blessings to the monopolists to go in for capital intensive, high-tech and low employment production. This confounds the immense unemployment problem. According to the planning commission the number of unemployed rose from 23 million in 1992 to 94 million in 1997-98 — unofficial studies say the figure cannot be less than 180 million. But this contains only a fraction of actual unemployed as most do not even register with employment exchange. Nor does it account for the disguised unemployment and underemployment. This holds especially true for the rural areas where two thirds of the people live, the majority of whom again have work for only a few months a year. Then

what is the real condition of the people with industries resorting to more and more high-tech, capital intensive production is beyond imagination. In this background in the name of restructuring to contain fiscal deficit the government has decided to abolish 3 lakhs posts, while 12 lakhs are due for retirement soon after which their posts will also be abolished. On the other hand, public sector undertakings or units, even profit making ones, are being handed over to the monopolists on a platter. Thus, the government plans to disinvest 74% of its shares in public sector, obviously to facilitate the entry of private monopoly capital both national and foreign. 72,000 coal miners of 64 coal mines in ECL are losing jobs. In the textiles 70,000 workers have been thrown into the streets. In SAIL the biggest public sector iron and steel unit, of the 1,75,000 employees 20,000 have suffered termination of services by the means of ESS (Early Separation Scheme). Another 80,000 ESS are planned. In Banking sector there is a plan to retrench 10 lakhs employees out of 13 lakhs in the next 4 to 5 years, under cover of VRS and CRS etc.

While some employees and workers are being lured by the false impression trying to be created that VRS and ESS schemes will give them handsome compensation, the hard facts are that according to a non-governmental study an overwhelming majority of the workers, in some cases upto 90%, who have opted for VRS schemes have been driven to penury and want their jobs back. 30 to 40% either commit suicide due to want and deprivation or being unable to afford medical care die an untimely death. Among the thus separated workers 70 to 80% are driven

into alcohol addiction and end up totally destitute. (*Deliverance or Death*, published by *Business India* (9.8.99) and *Outlook* (6.12.99).

On the other hand, while the management of different companies pressurise and even force by various means the workers to accept VRS or ESS etc. schemes against their will, making a mockery of the term 'voluntary', there are allegations that these have become a means to circumvent official procedures for closing down units to shift them to backward areas where government incentives are available and wages are low, i.e. where they can exploit the workers even more ruthlessly. VRS allegedly also come in handy for the monopolists to reduce costs and evade passing on some of their profits to the consumer or shareholder. According to *Outlook* (6.12.99), such allegations involve profitable, well-growing companies such Pfizer, Siemens, HLL, NP or Glaxo, for example.

Such ever growing profits, no matter by what means they are achieved, are being trumpeted as progress of the country, while the growing misery of people at large is being glossed over by the media, busy with projecting the tiny section of elite getting enriched and wallowing in unprecedented luxury, as a general feature and the future in store for society as a whole if only people make sufficient sacrifices for the national good. But those who speak of national good in a class divided society without mentioning the good of which class is meant, are either totally ignorant or else willfully try to mislead the people, and hide the ugly face of capitalist exploitation and private ownership, the source of all their misery, that is turning the technological advances into a curse for people.

## Peasants Rally in Bangalore

The apathy of our governments, both the central and state, towards the rural poor is outrageous. The drought and other causes of crop failure have made the life of peasants and agricultural labourers miserable. In Karnataka in the districts of Bidar, Gulbarga, Bellary etc., many peasants have killed them-selves to find deliverance from the torture of present life.

Even when the peasants are entrapped in debt trap Vajpayee government has withdrawn subsidies on fertilisers and PDS items. This would push the peasantry into further debt trap and increase their agony. The new import policy of BJP-led government of importing many agricultural products free of duty has caused great havoc in the lives of peasants. Discontent is growing among them.

The Congress (I) government in Karnataka is also following the same path of taxing the poor. Government has declared to install meters to charge the electricity supplied to irrigation pumpsets of even the poor and marginal farmers. Similar is their plan to transfer the responsibility of water management of canal waters of different irrigation projects to the shoulders of peasants. Peasants will have to bear in future the financial burden of water management.

Under these conditions the peasants and the agricultural labourers are left with the only alternative of developing mighty democratic mass movements to fight the anti-people policies of both

the governments. Hence the Raitha Krushi Karmikara Sanghatane (RKS), the Karnataka unit of AIKKMS, realising the need of the hour organised a state level protest rally of the peasants and agricultural labourers.

The rally was organised on 16.5.2000 in Bangalore. Thousands of peasants and agricultural labourers from different districts of the state participated in the procession. The procession culminated at Bannappa Park, where it was converted into a protest meeting.

Addressing the protest meeting at Bannappa park, the Chief Guest, Sarvodaya fighter, Sri Satyavratha, severely condemned the governments which are neglecting the peasant community.

Speaking on the occasion as main speaker, Secretary of State Committee, SUCI, Comrade K Radhakrishna, while congratulating the peasants who had come from different parts of the state facing all odds, severely condemned the state and central governments which are giving crores of rupees of subsidies to the big industrialists in total negligence towards the peasants' problems.

Presiding over the meeting, Secretary of RKS, Comrade H V Diwakar, called upon the peasants and agricultural labourers to build up RKS which is genuinely fighting to protect the peasants' interest.

Later, a delegation led by Comrade T S Sunith Kumar, President of RKS, met the Governor and submitted a memorandum.

# United Left Movement in Andhra Pradesh

## State situation

TDP government almost immediately after assuming power has steeply increased by 40% RTC fare charges. Subsidised rice price has been increased from Rs. 3.50 to Rs. 5.50. The central BJP-led NDA government has exorbitantly increased the prices of LPG (Rs. 50 per cylinder), diesel, wheat, kerosene and fertilizers. This has further added to the sufferings of the people. The TDP government did nothing other than lip service to force the central government to roll back the prices of these essential commodities. In addition to this the state government has proposed to increase power tariff steeply : 61% for pumpsets in agriculture, 50% for domestic consumption. Because of this price hike every poor family has to bear an extra burden of Rs. 1500/- yearly and every middle class family had to bear an extra burden of Rs. 4,000/- to 6,000/- yearly.

The drought situation in the state is severe. People are not getting even drinking water in many districts. In 18 out of 23 districts, 688 *mandals* are affected by drought as per the declaration of the government itself. In reality many more areas are affected. Because of drought so far 100 farmers committed suicides. Thousands of poor people are migrating to other places. Lack of fodder has forced the farmers to sell their cattle at cheaper prices. 30% to 40% borewells have dried out. Mr. Chandra babu Naidu is trying to befool the people by "Neeru-Meeru" Janmabhoomi programme which has failed miserably due to the resentment and dissatisfaction of the people.

Nine left parties of Andhra Pradesh - SUCI, CPI, CPI(M), MCP, CPI(ML)-New Democracy, CPI(ML)-Liberation, CPI(ML)-Janasakti, CPI(ML)-Unity Initiative) and ML Committee have decided to develop a state level movement

against the price hike of cooking gas, kerosene, urea and electricity (proposed) demanding the government to bring them down with price of wheat, rice and sugar within reach of the common people.

Accordingly, a memorandum, signed by the nine parties, was submitted to the governor on 11th April. This was followed by a series of conventions, *padayatras* and then picketing on 17 April at the Collectorate Offices in all the 23 districts in the state by thousands of demonstrators who were, in Srikakulam and Warangal districts, severely lathicharged and injured. In Srikakulam an SUCI Comrade was brutally hit on the head and 20 more belonging to nine parties were injured. Many leaders and demonstrators were arrested.

In Hyderabad the Collectorate Office was picketed by a thousand strong demonstrators. When the police wanted to arrest the state level leaders of the nine parties who were addressing the gathering, the demonstrators — men and women — guarded the leaders and did not allow the police to touch them. After one hour of tussle the police physically lifted off the demonstrators and arrested the leaders. The nine parties have resolved to intensify the movement.

## Bandh on May 11

The state government did not heed the demands of the people. In the interest of the people who are suffering because of steep price hike and severe drought situation prevailing almost throughout the state and also to make the adamant and anti-people governments, both state and central, accept the genuine demands of the people, a A.P. state bandh call was given on May 11 by the nine left parties, coinciding with the call given by NPMO for general strike against LPG (Liberalisation, Privatisation, Globalisation)

policies of the central government. Several other mass organisations, associations, unions, voluntarily expressed their solidarity and support for the state bandh. AP NGO's association, bank employees associations, teachers organisations, RTC employees associations also extended support to the strike on May 11.

The bandh call evoked spontaneous and massive response from the people. The bandh was totally peaceful and successful. The bandh became successful mainly because of people's participation. Industrial units, financial organisations, transport came to a grinding halt on May 11. At several places in the state many trains were stopped. At several places police resorted to lathi charge on the agitators. At Hyderabad demonstrations were held at different places. One rally of the activists of nine parties started from Kothi and another rally has started from RTC cross roads. Both the rallies converged at Abids. When the demonstrators tried to go to the secretariat police resorted to lathi charge and arrested hundreds of activists. Many of our comrades were arrested. Throughout the state about 1400 people were arrested, at 51 places trains were stopped, at 31 places police resorted to lathi charge as reported in the Press.

## T.U. Seminar in Punjab

The activists of the Technical Service Union (Punjab State Electricity Board) organised an impressive seminar on the Trade Union Movement : DASHA and DISHA (present situation and the way out) on May 6 at Patiala. Comrade Satyawan, an eminent trade unionist and kisan leader and Sardar Singh Mahol, an eminent columnist were the main speakers. Prof. Aminder Pal Singh, Secretary, Punjab and Chandigarh College Teachers Organisation, Sh. Gurcharn Singh, a trade union activist, Sh. Kuldip Singh, convenor, Friends of Socialism, Sh. Harjinder Singh, activist of the Dodhi Union, were the other speakers. Comrade Thana Singh was also present.

Attacks by the ruling class are not only increasing in variety but also in intensity. But trade union movement could not rise to the occasion to counter these attacks. Most of the discussion revolved around this central point. International heritage associated with May Day was discussed in detail. Privatisation, commercialisation, communalisation, fascisation, black laws, Kargil etc. were some of the issues discussed in the seminar.

The only way out of this present situation is uncompromising struggle of the working class not only against the ruling class but also against vices like economism, opportunism among themselves. Moral and ethical values can not be inculcated through lectures but by setting an inspiring example before the people. The trade union leaders will have to come forward to build up trade union movement based on higher culture and ethics.



Nine left parties demonstrate in Hyderabad

## Second State Conference of AIMSS in Kerala

Second State Conference of AIMSS, Kerala was held on 19th to 21st May at Quilon. This conference organised to strengthen women's movement in the state against all sorts of oppression and atrocities on women and for accomplishing the emancipation of women was a remarkable success. AIMSS activists campaigned all over the state, which arose tremendous people's support in favour of the AIMSS's cause and the conference. They were emotionally involved in the mission carried by the MSS. People generously contributed to the conference fund.

Comrade Prativa Mukherjee, All India President of AIMSS inaugurated the open session at Quilon Press Club ground on 19th May. Comrade Mukherjee said that women had to undergo double exploitation in a capitalist society, capitalist exploitation as well as male domination. She urged to develop mighty movement to combat this exploitation. She continued that being fed up with the BJP rule at the Centre and Left Front rule in Kerala and West Bengal, the people were looking for an alternative. These parties were following anti-people and pro-capitalist policies. Comrade Mukherjee stressed that the only way out was to develop mighty democratic mass movement in which the women must participate in large number.

Presiding over the meeting Comrade C. K. Lukose, SUCI State Secretary, spoke in the meeting. Before the meeting started a procession was held in which hundreds of women from different districts participated. The procession created great enthusiasm among the people.

On May 20th the delegate session at Jawahar Bal Bhawan was inaugurated by Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, SUCI Central Committee member. He explained before the delegates how moribund capitalism is degenerating culture and morality in the country which is a serious threat particularly to the women community as a whole and showed what should be the culture with which we must replace the degraded one. Only through the overthrow of the present day capitalist system, ultimately women will gain freedom. Only by acquiring knowledge about the process of development of society women can find the correct line of struggle for their emancipation from all types of social injustice and oppression.

One hundred delegates representing eleven districts of the state took part in the conference. Delegates enthusiastically participated in discussions on main resolution, organisational report and other resolutions.

The concluding session was addressed by Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee, All India General Secretary of AIMSS. She called upon all delegates to equip themselves with higher knowledge and culture to cope up with the necessity of a mighty women's movement for emancipation of women as well as whole society.

A new state committee was elected with Comrade Lalitha Mathew as President and Comrade Shyla K. John as Secretary and a 36 member general council covering eleven districts out of fourteen in the state was formed.

Lastly a cultural programme was also held in which many eminent personalities and social activists participated.

## Death of Comrade Nirmal Lama Condoled

7 May, 2000

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary of the SUCI sent the following condolence message at the demise of Comrade Nirmal Lama :

"The news about the demise of Comrade Nirmal Lama has come as a great shock to all of us. Comrade Lama was a veteran leader of the communist movement in Nepal and was respected by all progressive people in Nepal and India. His lifelong struggle to build up working class movement and movement of all oppressed people in Nepal is an inspiration to others who are engaged in fighting for the emancipation of the people. Posterity will remember his contribution in building up communist and anti-imperialist movement in Nepal.

After the dismantling of socialist camp as a result of attack of revisionism the imperialist forces are emboldened to go on further offensive, and in this hour of crisis in the international socialist movement Comrade Lama's absence will be keenly felt.

On my behalf and on behalf of the Central Committee of our party I convey our heartfelt condolence to you and all comrades engaged in the struggle and express our sure belief that with firm determination your party will carry forward the struggle of Comrade Lama to establish socialism in Nepal.

Red Salute to Comrade Lama.  
Long Live Revolution.  
Uphold the Banner of Proletarian Internationalism."

## AIDYO demonstration in Bangalore

The Bangalore District Committee of All India Democratic Youth Organisation (AIDYO), organised a protest demonstration on 4th May, at Mysore Bank Circle to condemn the anti-people policy of the government — Ban on Recruitment.

Comrade N. Ravi, President, AIDYO addressed the gathering. Comrade Malathi and Comrade Govindarajan, members, Bangalore District Committee also spoke on the occasion. It was demanded of the government to withdraw abolition of 64,000 posts, to fill up all the existing vacancies and to stop corruption and maladministration.



(Above) On dais Comrade Krishna Chakraborty addressing while Comrades Shyla K. John, Protiva Mukherjee, Chhaya Mukherjee and Lalitha Mathew are seated.

(Below) A view of the MSS procession at Quilon on 19.5.2000 on the occasion of their State Conference.



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