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“Only when we join one of the Party organizations and thus merge our personal interest with the Party's interest can we become Party members, and, consequently, real leaders of the proletarian army.”

(The Proletarian Class and the Proletarian Party — Selected Works, J. V. Stalin, Vol.1)

ON THE ANVIL OF FACTS AND HISTORY

Falsity Of Anti-Stalin Tirade Exposed

On the occasion of the 48th death anniversary of J V Stalin we pay our profoundest homage to this great leader of the proletariat. Stalin, one of the greatest men of all times judged by the immensity of the changes he brought about, not only in his own country but also outside the boundary of Russia, was the worthy continuer of Lenin's behest, the architect of socialist transformation and socialist construction of the first socialist state and the great saviour of mankind and civilisation against the most savage menace of Nazism. After Lenin, Stalin did more to change the world and the course of world history by leading the way in the most gigantic undertaking ever conceived by man — nothing less than the building of a new civilisation with new powers and new values.

But till today we find that the bourgeois propaganda media have been launching virulent anti-Stalin tirade and maligning communism in

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ATTACK ON IRAQ

Organise Powerful Movement Against Imperialists — Nihar Mukherjee

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, issued the following statement on 17.2.2001 :

“No word is strong enough to condemn the barbaric air strike killing and injuring even women and children, now in hospital, by the US and British war

planes on targets of Baghdad, the Iraqi capital.

“We appeal to the democratic minded and peace loving people as also anti-imperialist forces in our country and abroad to launch powerful protest movement against this blatant imperialist attack on Iraq.”

People Protest Imperialist Aggression

The unprovoked bombing raid on Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, by US imperialists and their British ally, that killed number of civilians and injured more than 20 - the latest criminal act of imperialist aggression has been followed by people's protest and condemnation throughout the world. To enforce the no-fly zones - arbitrarily and illegally imposed by them, in flagrant violation of Iraqi sovereignty and international law - US imperialists, have dropped tens of thousands of bombs and missiles over Iraq since 1998, resulting in the death of hundreds of civilians and the crippling of civilian installations, including schools and hospitals. Even the resolutions of the UN, that acted as a handmaid of US imperialists in implementing their hegemonistic designs in this oil-rich region through the Gulf war, have no provision for such no-fly zones. Their enforcement coupled with the genocidal sanctions that have killed more than a million people for lack of food and

medicines, constitutes a heinous war crime against humanity.

With the renewed bombing raids on Baghdad that falls outside the no-fly zone, the new Bush administration has signalled to the world that it is stepping up its military aggression and gangsterism against any country that dares defy its dictates. It is not difficult to understand that Bush who came to power through fraud and racial disenfranchisement of voters, wanted to raise his image by such show of belligerence. In doing so he is in reality continuing the legacy of his predecessors, whether republicans or democrats. On the other hand, this was a clear attempt to bail out the US economy that is hitting a new low of recession. What greater indictment could there be of the capitalist-imperialist system, driven by its profit motive into ever deeper crisis, than the fact that the only way out it can find lies in militarisation of economy, feeding on war

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Effigy of President Bush being burnt in front of the American Center, Calcutta on 19th February against bombing Baghdad.



Stalin Ensured Active Participation of People in Gigantic Socialist Reconstruction

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season and out of season. It is being dishd out that Stalin adopted the 'commandist administrative' method and the dismantling of the Soviet Union and the fall of socialism in the East European states are the failure of this paradigm. But is it the reality? Can this enormously stupendous task undertaken by Stalin and accomplished with so visible success be done by such so-called commandist administrative method? In order to answer this question it is necessary to meticulously examine the task before Stalin and how he did it.

Stalin led an industrial and agrarian revolution in a country which was steeped in mediaevalism, acute poverty, ignorance, national hatred and superstitions. Hardly any historical precedent can be found to gauge the enormousness and complexity of that political, social and economic upheaval. The western world took centuries to accomplish industrialisation; but the USSR under the leadership of Stalin accomplished it within the span of a few years. A new civilisation was ushered in. New mines, new factories, new power stations sprang up in places hitherto untouched. The labour was the only human material on which the CPSU could draw. It had to learn by practice, whatever the cost. Despite prediction of doom by the world press, the drive continued at increasing speed, and the difficulties were overcome. Stalin's leadership through the period of five-year plans, bears all the marks of strategic and tactical genius which we also find in his direction of the Red Army during the Second World War. As a Marxist-Leninist he never regarded any situation as static, but that things and people were on the move. So the duty of the leader, according to him, was to lead the people in the changing situation. Enemies of socialism depict socialism as a system which suppresses individuality. Stalin proved that the socialist system ensured the emancipation of the individual, the efflorescence of individual and collective creation, that it provided conditions for the all round development of the talents and gifts latent in the masses of the people. Under the leadership of Stalin the CPSU enthused the entire people for socialist construction, roused the initiative among the people and encouraged collective work to greater advantage. Thus never before was an industrial construction on such a gigantic scale with such a high pitch of enthusiasm seen in the entire history of mankind. Stalin imbued the people not by 'material incentive' which is nothing but an insult to the working class, the creator of history and the builder of civilisation. A new wave, the Stakhanovite movement was unleashed by the class conscious workers in fields and factories, and this had a revolutionary impact in breaking down the old concept of productive capacity and productive planning. Stalin initiated conferences of miners, railwaymen, engineers and scientists to learn from Stakhanov. He saw in the new movement the forerunner of a new type of human activity in which manual and intellectual labour would no longer be divided. The CPSU under the leadership of Stalin thus gave a new direction in the matter of socialist construction. From the day the Stakhanovite movement appeared it can be said that science was no longer the preserve of the few, a particular department of experts. Under the leadership of Stalin all factories, mines, quarries — every unit

of productive activity became a people's laboratory of science, the workers themselves scientists at work. It was a turning point in human history. Stalin coined the phrase that 'there are no fortresses which cannot be conquered by the Bolsheviks' and indeed under his able stewardship never losing sight of the ultimate object and never discarding principle the entire people of the Soviet Union achieved one victory after another. Stalin's call for industrialisation fired the imagination of the entire people and the vista of a new civilisation, in which man would harness the material and machines for the benefit of the people and not for the capitalist owners of the machines, became wide open to them. Thousands of workers volunteered to work in the wilderness of the remote areas and they most enthusiastically greeted the vision of the new world even though it might entail supreme sacrifice on their part.

Along with industrialisation Stalin embarked upon modernisation in agriculture and collectivisation. Stalin realised, without collectivisation it would not be possible to free the vast masses of the peasant population from poverty and ignorance. This is how he framed his proposals to the Sixteenth Congress of the Bolshevik Party: "...Amalgamate the petty and tiny peasant farms gradually but steadily, not by means of pressure, but by example and conviction, into largescale undertakings on the basis of communal, fraternal collective tillage of the soil, applying agricultural machinery and tractors, applying scientific methods for the intensification of agriculture..."

Stalin stressed that the collectivisation should be, not by means of pressure, but by example and conviction. But in implementing collectivisation some overzealously resorted to compulsory method. Stalin put on the brakes immediately after his attention was drawn. Standing firmly on the decisions of the Congress he published an open letter telling the comrades that they had become "dizzy with success" and brought them back to the line of voluntary collectivisation.

Stalin was leading the mightiest of human emancipatory movements with the active participation of the people of the land. It was indeed an acute class struggle between the forces of progress and the forces of reaction. The anti-Stalin bloc headed by Trotsky was the mouthpiece of the reactionary forces. They were creating obstacles in the path of socialist construction. Stalin forged unity within the party by theoretical broadside against those holding anti-Marxist viewpoint. This went a long way in forging unity between the cadres of the party and unity, between the party and the broad masses of the people. But the disgruntled elements after being defeated within the party were engaged in counter-revolutionary conspiracies. When these conspiracies were unearthed Stalin arranged for open trial of these opposition leaders who enjoyed every legal provisions and safeguard to defend themselves. But the bourgeois world raised an outcry against these trials. Journalists belonging to the capitalist-imperialist countries were in a state of hysteria, and suggested the most sinister means of extracting confessions from the prisoners in the trial — drugs, false promises of leniency, third degree, all manners of threats —

and continually saw behind the screen of the court the figure of Stalin waiting for the right moment to dip his pen in blood and sign another death warrant. But it must be noted that some eminent lawyers of different countries, journalists, some ambassadors and a host of other eminent persons watching the proceedings with more impartial eyes had no complaints to make and expressed their belief that these trials were fair and impartial. We are giving here only the report of Mr Joseph Davies, the then US ambassador to the USSR, to the US President about these trials. He wrote to the US President in a letter, dated February 4, 1937: "...The most extraordinary part of this trial, from a Western outlook, is that there should have been such a trial at all. The accused had all entered the plea of guilty. There remained nothing for the court to do but to hear possible pleas for clemency and to adjudge the fact and sentence the accused.

"With an interpreter at my side, I followed the testimony carefully. Naturally, I must confess that I was predisposed against the credibility of the testimony of these defendants. The unanimity of their confessions, the fact of their long imprisonment (incommunicado) with the possibility of duress and coercion extending to themselves or their families, all gave me grave doubts as to the reliability that could attach to their statements. Viewed objectively, however, and based upon my experience in the trial of cases and the appreciation of the test of credibility which past experience had afforded me, I arrived at the reluctant conclusion that the state had established its case, at least to the extent of proving the existence of a widespread conspiracy and plot among the political leaders against the Soviet government, and which under their statutes established the crimes set forth in the indictment....

"I have talked to many, if not all, of the members of the Diplomatic Corps here and, with possibly one exception, they are all of the opinion that the proceedings established clearly the existence of a political plot and conspiracy to overthrow the government."

What does this report of Mr Davies, the US ambassador to the USSR show? Does it not provide direct answer to those who were rending the sky with anti-Stalin tirade?

Since the birth of the first socialist state the capitalist-imperialists were hostile to it. After the failure of the imperialist powers to crush this nascent state through encirclement in league with the internal reactionary forces, these imperialist powers were engaged in intrigues and subversions, besides mouthing hostile propaganda. The capitalist press everywhere insulted, derided and in every way showed its hatred of Stalin and the new regime. But despite all these attempts of the imperialists and despite hostile propaganda carried on by the bourgeois media, the great November Revolution and the giant stride of human progress initiated by Stalin with active participation of the Soviet people fired the imagination of the subjugated people of the colonies and the working people of the metropolitan countries of the West. Thus we find a surge of national liberation movements in

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FLEET REVIEW**Muscle Flexing By Indian State**

The media news item on the First International Fleet Review held by the Indian navy off Mumbai harbour in the middle of February, might not have failed to impress its underlying significance on the discerning mind. It was a naval exercise in which 29 navies of the world participated along with major defence establishments of the Indian state in the presence of the country's president and prime minister, other union ministers, including home and defence, the three services chiefs and naval chiefs of the visiting countries. The motive at work beneath the pomp and pageantry, which was highlighted by the Maharashtra government's call for two public holidays on the ridiculous plea to reduce smog during the fleet review, cannot be missed. More than a parade of the navy's might, it was a calculated show of the prowess of the Indian military forces designed to mean a message, for more than one reason, to the neighbours and the globalising world!

It was no ceremonial utterance when the prime minister, in his speech at the march past by contingents of the participating navies, described the exercise as a step in bringing navies together to build bridges of friendship, while he stressed the navy's role in protecting seas against piracy, gun running, narcotics smuggling and international terrorism. Some immediate concerns of the India government, in the background of the long exercise of the ruling capitalist class towards militarisation and emergence as a regional superpower, which exercise now continues amidst the contention of the global superpowers in a capitalistically globalising world geared to the imperialist interests and the imperialists' advantage, found reflection in the prime minister's address. The US, which is among the participating countries along with the UK, Russian Federation, France, South Africa, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand, Australia and others, has lodged strong objection to Russia's recent supply of nuclear fuel for India's Tarapur power reactors, and the Bush administration has not taken kindly to India's signing of an agreement for acquisition of military hardware from Russian Federation, especially Russian T-90 main battle tanks for 6000 million dollars. It is well known that from the beginning after independence it has been the main prop of the India government's foreign policy to foster relation with both the US-led imperialist camp and the erstwhile USSR-led socialist camp and bargain the best out of it, in particular using as a cover the non-aligned movement at that time. In the process, especially in the course of the twists and turns in the relationship between the Indian state and the Pakistan state, and the close US patronage for Pakistan, prompted by the interests of those two countries, the India government's stand had on occasions tilted towards the former USSR and on occasions towards the US, while the content of the foreign policy has essentially remained the same. The present BJP-led government at the Centre, from its extremely rightist line and task of protecting and advancing the interests of the ruling class, in the context of the present national and international situations, is more inclined to strengthening the relation with the US while reaping full dividends at the same time from the continuing arrangements with the Russian Federation, especially in the sphere of military technology. The BJP's line concurs with the US's own interest of drawing India into its sphere of influence while fomenting the conflict between India and Pakistan to go unabated with the object of selling military hardware to both these two countries, securing the position of arbitrator between the two over issues of contention and

extending its political and military influence in South Asia for both strategic and economic purpose against China and Japan. This concurrence of interests had resulted in the Vajpayee government's agreeing to the US mediation in Kargil war and according a red carpet welcome to the former US president Bill Clinton's visit to India last year. The Prime Minister had therefore in mind a greater concern for India's relation with the US when he articulated the desire 'to build bridges of friendship.'

And of the concern for 'the navy's role in protecting seas' from piracy, gun running, terrorism and all that? Not all the incidents about these find a way into the media, but an instance of gun running in the insurgency ridden eastern states, under the nose of the incumbent defence minister George Fernandez, had come to light on the eve of the episode of sacking the former navy vice-admiral Vishnu Bhagwat. And both India's land and sea waters are internationally ill-famed as golden routes of narcotics smuggling. Daood Ibrahim is only one name to receive media attention for piracy and smuggling in collusion with political leaders, business tycoons and some stars of the Mumbai film world. The fact is, the water front abounds in pirates, smugglers and terrorists — all protected by the political leader-business tycoon-police-underworld chain. Should the prime minister then talk of piracy, smuggling and terrorism, he ought to answer what the navy has done or been allowed to do about these all these years. Only a day before, the two branded international pirates and terrorists, the US and the UK, launched a savage air attack on Iraq, unprovoked literally, killing a number of people. The prime minister termed it "unacceptable", obviously, because he needed a language milder than the mildest in order not to incur the displeasure of the US rulers with whom the BJP is all keen to curry favour. He could have straightaway called this imperialist gunboat piracy acceptable, had it not been for the stake of the Indian capitalist rulers in the Iraqi oilfield, in particular of the Ambanis for their giant petroleum based industrial complex to be set up, and for the foreign policy necessity of the Indian state to maintain amicable relationship with the Arab states in the interest of the Indian capitalist rulers.

Evidence for what is really acceptable to the Vajpayee government and the Indian ruling class is not far to seek. Agreeing to US mediation in India's relation with Pakistan in return for US support to India over Kargil war, for one instance. Lifting the US sanction against India on nuclear weapons programme in return for a clandestine

agreement allowing India to slowly drift from its proposed stand on non-proliferation, for a second instance. And third, opening doors to US based MNC capital investment in power, life insurance and communication sectors in return for a foothold of the Indian textile magnets in the US market. The prime minister does not say it in words, only his government demonstrates by action what is acceptable to them.

Militarisation as a process to artificially stimulate the capitalist economy plunged in the inalienable capitalist market crisis, started in India long back. The major budgetary allocation goes to meet increasing military expenditures for production and acquisition of modern sophisticated arms, delivery systems and surveillance from space, including nuclear warheads, missiles and satellites. It helps the ruling class to partly and temporarily meet its crises by developing the arms industry in the name of national defence, and using the growing military strength, on the other, for seeking political advantage in the first place with neighbours like Pakistan and secondly, expanding the market for its industrial and agricultural products and finance capital investment in SAARC and other south, south-east and west Asian countries, and in the process to carve out a position closer to the G8 countries which gives it the advantage of entering both into mutual collaboration and into bargain with major global powers for whatever playing field in the alarmingly crisis ridden world capitalist market. Especially the Indian ocean has become a theatre of military exercise by global powers in the background of growing economic-political interests in the markets of south and south-eastern Asian countries. Alert on this contention, the Indian rulers and the Indian state are building military bases in the seas around the country and, aware of the need for collaboration amid contention, they at times conduct joint naval exercise, enter into agreements for exchange of information, and at the present used the occasion of the navy's golden anniversary to hold the first International Fleet Review and invite, among others, 15 Indian Ocean rim countries — from South Africa to Australia — with the call to build bridges of friendship. In the name of national defence they are merely protecting their own class interests and meeting all expenses for that by fleecing the masses with levy of increased taxes and prices and at the same time hoodwinking the people to cover their perpetration by exploiting people's patriotic feelings and whipping up national jingoism. The cunning exercise has led the Indian state ruled by the Indian capitalist class to be reckoned as a foreranking military power, especially the navy, and as a nuclear power. However, the people of this country will never know how many thousands of crores of rupees have been spent by the India government to hold the fleet review which included participation of awesome modern warships and nuclear-powered submarines, air shows of 'impossible feats' and brilliant displays of fireworks. The same government which promptly dishes out figures of loss in terms of money and mandays whenever there is a 'bundh' or strike call by workers

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GUJARAT EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

Mismanagement, Corruption And Discrimination Against Minority

In the article on Gujarat quake disaster in our last issue, we had noted with deep concern the utter lack of alertness in crisis management displayed by the BJP governments at the Centre and in the state of Gujarat, their callous disregard about human life, gross mismanagement of the relief operations and partisan distribution of relief material. Since then reports have been pouring corroborating our worst apprehensions.

Reportedly, RSS and VHP workers are usurping and even looting the relief material sent out to Gujarat. How much of it is finding its way to the quake sufferers is anybody's guess. Government relief has been distributed largely on the basis of religion and caste. In some places, trucks carrying relief material have been forcibly stopped from entering areas inhabited by so-called low caste Hindus. The maximum of everything available has been distributed to the upper caste Hindus who are relatively affluent but the poor dalits have been totally deprived. No relief and rehabilitation operation has been undertaken in some Muslim inhabited areas. A Muslim journalist working for an English daily penned a report on procession by the Muslims protesting the disparities in distributing the relief material. Although this procession was reported in other newspapers too, was openly accused by a state BJP leader for sending "anti-national" reports! He was harassed so much for this that his paper was forced to report his predicament on the front page. His "crime" is that he is from the minority community. The VHP raised the demand for refusing the relief aid coming from the Vatican, because it came from a Christian source. Instead of taking the VHP to task for this, the BJP party ruling the state kept mum. The cities and towns have got the lion's share of whatever relief and rehabilitation has been provided but the poor in the villages have been neglected and deprived.

The Gujarat Chief Minister has instructed insurance companies to settle and pay up all claims for destroyed and damaged buildings within 48 hours, but who cares about the rural poor whose ramshackled dwelling are neither insured nor insurable?

The relief and rehabilitation measures are totally inadequate. Further, whatever benefit that could have accrued from these has been seriously eroded by the gross mismanagement and negligence, usurpation and looting by RSS-VHP and partisan distribution along political, communal and caste lines. But even so, whatever has been provided in Gujarat reflects a greater concern evinced by the central BJP government than was seen during some recent devastating natural calamities in other parts of the country like the very widespread flood ravages in West Bengal or the earlier super-cyclone devastation in Orissa. In West Bengal, although the floods seriously affected 9 districts and about 25 million people, taking a huge toll of life and rendering countless people homeless, the Centre provided a pittance, only a very small fraction of the fund requirement for relief and rehabilitation, utterly oblivious to the sufferings and anguish of the people. In Orissa, the Centre underplayed the

gravity of the situation and tried to argue that there was no constitutional provisions for declaring cyclone disaster to be a national calamity. The central government woke up very late to the emergency and even then did not allow foreign relief assistance to reach Orissa directly. Compare this to Gujarat where the Centre has in effect considered the disaster to be a national calamity, appeal to the world for assistance and facilitated inflow of outside help by removing all restrictions thereon and by exemption of tax.

Such stepmotherly attitude of the Centre can be explained only by the fact that the Gujarat state has a BJP government whereas in Orissa and West Bengal, the BJP was in the opposition while the state governments were run by other parties. By providing relief to Gujarat, the state BJP government can take credit and the BJP can hope to make political gain. But by providing relief to Orissa or West Bengal hands of the political opponents of BJP in power in these states would be strengthened and the BJP would lose politically. It is cold calculation about narrow, partisan gain in parliamentary politics and not concern for the suffering people that determines the BJP conduct in cases of

such calamity! In a bid to anyhow project image of Sangh Parivar in connection with Gujarat relief work, the Central government even tried, though unsuccessfully to insert a special reference about the leading role of RSS in Gujarat disaster management in the presidential address to the current budget session of the Lok Sabha.

Mismanagement, squandering and misappropriation of relief materials and funds are widespread. Only two days after the quake, Prime Minister Vajpayee had to admit lack of planning, chaos and disorder in the relief operations. There is now very large inflow of relief materials and funds in Gujarat from all parts of the globe, attended with fanfare, publicity, media coverage. But how much of it is being squandered, wasted and misappropriated and how much is really benefitting the needy? From all accounts, there is no definite planning, no clear-cut instructions or guidelines as to the procedure of relief disbursement. Constitutionally, central defence and relief expenditure are exempted from scrutiny and audit. So, use of materials and funds is not

to be accounted for. In this chaotic situation, can there be any doubt that the state BJP functionaries and the Sangh Parivar cadres are having a field day indulging in corrupt practices of all sorts, taking advantage of the huge flow of relief materials and funds?

Without waiting for the Lok Sabha budget session, the central government has already imposed a 2% surcharge on income tax to fund the Gujarat relief operation. This is expected to yield around Rs. 1200 crore. Although the major industries in Gujarat are unaffected by the quake,

the theme that Gujarat economy is in dire straits is being officially harped upon to justify securing loans from all quarters. Already, Rs. 3,170 crore loan has been obtained from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. Another Rs.2000 crore loan has been secured from HUDCO and the National Housing Bank. Attempts are afoot to obtain more loans from Indian monopoly houses and international money-lending institutions. How much of the money or materials for relief that have come from abroad is on terms of loan is not yet known.

It seems that the people's sympathy for the Gujarat quake victims is being made

use of by the government to justify a spree of loan taking, increasing the national indebtedness even further. The people have a right to demand transparency. The right to know how much money is being collected through tax, grants and loans and how much of it is being actually used for Gujarat relief, and in what manner. And the people have the right to know by how much is national indebtedness being increased in the name of Gujarat relief. For it is they who will have to bear this additional burden for debt servicing and repayment through increased taxes and prices.

The central and Gujarat state governments' conduct in handling the Gujarat distress situation does not reflect genuine compassion and sympathy for the quake affected people in this hour of trial but gross incompetence, callous mismanagement and rampant corruption; it also reflects a bid to project upper cast Hindutva, a fresh attempt to place additional burden on the people as the price for the incompetence, mismanagement and corruption — taking advantage of the disaster and human distress.

SUCI continues relief and starts primary education

Along with continuing relief work a follow up programme has been taken to provide education to children of the primary standard. Numbers of primary schools have already been started in some areas of Gujarat. Study materials like notebooks, pencil, school bag etc. have been supplied to the students. Below is given a glimpse of it as far as reports have reached.

Under Bhachau Taluka

Date (from)	Place	Number of students	No. of primary schools
14.2.01	Bhachau Town	225	1
17.2.01	Morgar Village	175	1
20.2.01	Sangam Ner	150	1

Under Anjar Taluka

21.2.01	Navagam	200	1
22.2.01	Khirsara	50	1

In Bhachau Town a *Sahayata Kendra* (Assistance Centre) has been opened, where thousands of affected people are thronging daily to mitigate their difficulties. Besides, in Bhachau medical and ration materials are supplied from the base camp. In Ajmer Taluka these are supplied by mobile vehicles. A mass rally was also held on 26th February in Bhachau to mourn those who lost their lives in the earthquake.

19th Conference of BHEL Labour Union

The 19th Conference of BHEL Labour Union was held at Bhopal on 11th February last with great enthusiasm. The conference was presided over by the BHEL Labour Union President Comrade Asoke Ganguly, and Comrade N.K. Sharma, Secretary, All India Committee of UTUC-Lenin Sarani was present as the main speaker. While dealing with the present economic and political situation affecting the lives and livelihood of the working class in the country, Comrade Sharma said, taking advantage of the debacle of socialism in the USSR, the then Congress government introduced anti-people new economic industrial policy, the UF government with the support of the CPI(M) and CPI continued it and this BJP-led NDA government is more aggressively trying to implement the same bringing down sinister attack on the toiling people. He urged upon all to organise in greater strength to wage intense struggle to thwart the danger.

Comrade J. C. Baroi, General Secretary of the BHEL Labour Union showed how the labour strength of BHEL was gradually dwindling as a result of the policy of liberalisation and privatisation adopted by the central government.

Comrade Asoke Ganguly stressed the need of the workers and employees to wage their struggle on the basis of real working class outlook guided by real working class outlook under the leadership of UTUC-LS. Representatives of BHEL Tribal and Backward Castes Workers' Organisation, Central Government Employees' Union Coordination Committee, Income Tax Employees' Association, Bhopal, and HMS also addressed the conference as fraternal guests.

Two main resolutions — one against reducing staff and labour strength in BHEL and another against the nefarious attempt of the government impose further burden of taxes on common people on the excuse of earthquake in Gujarat were adopted in the conference.

Lenin Death Anniversary at Sagar (M.P.)

Under the auspices of Sagar unit of the SUCI a mass meeting on the occasion of the 77th death anniversary of V.I. Lenin was held at the Municipal School, Sagar on 21.1.01. At the beginning floral tributes were paid to the portrait of Lenin. Comrade Ramavatar Sharma was the main speaker in the meeting and respected teacher Sri R. K. Pournik presided over the meeting. In this speech Comrade Sharma mainly said that to accomplish anti-capitalist socialist revolution in our country we must all plunge headlong into the task of building up protracted militant mass movement on every burning problem of people's life at this moment. And while doing so we must have to learn and relearn the great teachings of Lenin. At the same time we have to assimilate in our lives the teachings of our great leader and teacher Comrade Shibdas Ghosh on Marxism-Leninism. The meeting concluded with the Internationale.

Students' Conference in Andhra Pradesh

The AIDSO organised the third state level students' conference in Anantapur, A.P., on January 30 and 31. On January 30 a public meeting was held at Krishnakalamandir. Comrade D. Ramesh Patnaik, the AIDSO state presided over the meeting. At first 2 minutes silence was observed in remembrance of the countless people who died in the fatal earthquake of Gujarat.

The meeting was inaugurated by Shri A.B.K. Prasad, a renowned journalist. In his inaugural speech Shri Prasad thoroughly criticised the globalisation and liberalisation policies of the Central and state governments. He told 'Learn to earn' has become the new slogan in the field of education, degrading the nobility of the education. Schools, colleges and universities are being privatised making education a commodity, and stressed the need to educate the people about the out and out anti-people policies pursued by the governments.

Shri Singamaneni Narayana, a well-known writer-critique, and the president of the inaugural committee of the conference spoke. Calling the students, attending the meeting, as the messengers of the future era, he described the AIDSO as a real organisation fighting for noble values and social cause. He vehemently criticised the commercialisation of education and called upon the students' community to build up mighty movements.

Then the state secretary of the SUCI Comrade K. Sridhar addressed the gathering. He told that to fight the problems a scientific approach is needed. He told that Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thoughts provide the scientific guidance to the struggling masses. He called upon the students to go to the people to educate them and build up mighty mass movements with the ultimate aim to

break the chains of capitalism and establish socialism in our country.

Dr. P. Sudhakar, Associate Professor, S.K. University, released the Souvenir.

Comrade Swapan Chatterjee, All India General Secretary, AIDSO in his speech appealed to the students to jump into relief activities to help the quake-hit people in Gujarat. The AIDSO state secretary, Comrade Govindarajulu translated Comrade Chatterjee's speech into Telugu. The AIDSO state president Comrade Ramesh Patnaik's presidential address exposed the Sangh Parivar's fascist designs and called upon the students to fight against them.

On 31st the delegate session was held at Ambedkar Bhawan. The session was presided over by the presidium consisting of Comrades Ramesh Patnaik, and Yerakaiahand Ramani. It was attended by 100 delegates from 9 districts of the state.

At the beginning Shri Chandra Sekhar, Lecturer, Ananthapur Arts College, spoke on distortion of history by the Sangh Parivar and exposed the motive behind the distortion.

The SUCI Ananthapur district secretary, Comrade Amarnath in his address explained the basic cause of all problems in the society to be the moribund capitalist system. Later the main resolution was moved and, with necessary amendments, was passed unanimously. Comrade K. Sridhar addressed the delegates. Then Comrade M.N. Sriram, AIDSO secretariat member spoke.

A 16-member new State Council with Comrade S. Govindarajulu as the president, Comrade B. Narasimhulu as the vice president, Comrade S. Jani Basha as the secretary, Comrade N. Sailaja as treasurer was elected.

Naval Exercise in Mumbai

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shamelessly declared two public holidays on this occasion and minding it, not to let people know how many crores of rupees could be counted as loss on a most ridiculous plea.

Contrast this with what all governments and the ruling class of the country have done or do for the people for health, education or employment. Tall promises come galore on the eve of elections but paltry budgetary allocations are made on these heads. Even these meagre allocations do not materialise for the people because of corruption and indifferent administration. Hypocrisy and deception become all too glaring when a natural calamity hits the people, like when the earthquake hit Gujarat, the super-cyclone hit Orissa, floods hit West Bengal, and drought continues to take toll in many regions. People are told in the first place that the government does not have the money needed for help, or, as in Gujarat, the equipment and expertise to save people trapped under collapsed buildings. Then a burden of increased taxes and prices is put on the same people, perhaps as a punishment to the people for having incurred 'the wrath of nature'. And then, on the pretext of reconstruction for people and their rehabilitation, loans are taken from imperialist financial institutions to be repaid by fleecing the same people again. A government that denies its basic responsibility to stand by people in the hour of calamity expands its military arsenal by buying 10 Mirage Fighter aircrafts at a cost of 1500 crore rupees, 40 Sukhir combat planes at a price

of 6000 core rupees, 410 Bofors guns at 1437 crores, and it builds Agni missiles at 25 crore rupees each and spends unlimited amounts for development and detonation of nuclear bombs - all which is inevitably resulting in creating an arms race with Pakistan and increasing tension in the region. The same government, in hot pursuit of fulfilling the WTO terms in the interest of the ruling class, has decided to send 10% of the central employees in the voluntary retirement scheme, thus for good sending families to ruin and depriving large numbers of people from getting jobs in the future. And it is this government again whom the faintest of scruple, conscience or shame fails to move when it doles out relief, discriminating religion against religion, caste against caste, party cadres against common masses. Even the records of other bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties, the records of the Congress and the CPI(M), pale before what the BJP and other Sangh Parivar members could achieve in performance relating to the task with the people in the hours of catastrophe in Gujarat.

The hours of celebrations like the fleet show in Mumbai or the victory in Kargil war are occasion which the government and the ruling class exploit to deceive people with rhetorics of 'national interest', 'national defence' and the like. The hours of crisis, like the devastation in Gujarat, Orissa, West Bengal and elsewhere, are occasions which lay bare their appallingly anti-people character. On the people's part, lessons ought to be taken from either.

Stalin Enthused People To Fight And Defeat Fascism Like One Man

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Asian, African and Latin American countries, and a growing tide of revolutionary movements in the metropolitan countries in that period. The idea of 'New Deal' in the USA and the 'Welfare State' in Britain arose in competition with Soviet Union's Five Year Planning. Thus Stalin created history in all lands, whether for him or against him.

When the Anglo-French imperialists were trying to direct the attack of Nazi Germany toward east and the beating of the war drums was being heard just at the border, Stalin had the compulsion of carrying out a massive purge in the party, in Red Army and in the administrative apparatus to cleanse the fifth columnists, the careerists, the opportunists, time servers and other handful of treacherous elements to defend socialism and the first socialist state of the world. The purging operation ended in 1937. In such a massive purging operation there were some mistakes and excesses; but Stalin admitted these mistakes and excesses very candidly and said that despite these unfortunate excesses and mistakes the purging was necessary and on the whole beneficial. Stalin cannot be personally accused of these mistakes and excesses as they happened owing to various other factors. Mr Joseph Davies, the US ambassador admitted the necessity of these purges in his book *Mission to Moscow*. Churchill, a diehard anti-communist also wrote in his book *The Second World War* that these purges were not needless as these purges cleansed all the treasonable elements before the Second World War. Churchill wrote this after the dust of the storm of the Second World War had settled, and it can be taken as an attempt toward objective assessment of history.

When the marauding army of the Hitlerite Germany suddenly invaded the Soviet Union, Hitler could not find a single fifth columnist in that country. Before the start of the Second World War strategists in the bourgeois world and also Trotsky had been predicting the fall of the Stalin regime like a house of cards. But the expectations of these 'prophets' of doom were belied. The entire people of the world burst into astounded praise as the Germans were met by an army modern in structure, technically efficient and strategically realistic. The entire Soviet people rose like one man under the leadership of Stalin. All the acclaimed military experts profusely praised the role of Stalin as the supreme commander of the Red Army in their memoirs, most of which were published in the 60s. With his profound mastery over dialectical materialism Stalin made new contribution in military science. How the valiant and the heroic people of the Soviet Union under the leadership of Stalin fought with grim determination, made supreme sacrifices and ultimately defeated the fascist menace, thus saving mankind and civilisation is now a fact of history. Can anyone with any stretch of imagination think this astounding feat to be possible by any anti-people dictatorial regime?

The powerful industrial base built up under the pre-war five-year plans served as the basis for the growth of entire national economy and of the country's preparation for active defence. Under the trying conditions of war the CPSU under Stalin's leadership succeeded in rapidly converting industry to war production. All the major industrial enterprises were shifted from the battle zone to the eastern region of the country. So,

despite the temporary occupation of economically important areas of the country by the enemy, the Soviet Union turned out ever increasing quantities of all types of armaments and ammunitions for the front. With the end of the war the industry was reconverted from military to civilian production. During those difficult days of shortages the Soviet people did not complain against the government, but plunged headlong for post-war reconstruction with renewed vigour. It is now a fact of history how the Soviet Union rebuilt its war ravaged economy within a very short spell to such a developed stage which was equal to, if not higher than that of the United States. Can this feat be accomplished by the so-called commandist administrative method as Stalin is generally accused of? Certainly not. Unless the entire people of the land are roused such a task can never be accomplished. And Stalin did that.

We, the communists are fighters for truth and truth only. So in assessing the role of Stalin, we must examine the accusations against Stalin on the basis of the policies pursued by Stalin as recorded in history and see whether those policies reflected democratic functioning of the Soviet government under the leadership of Stalin. Stalin is accused of scuttling democracy and adopting naked dictatorial measures by the bourgeois ideologues and also by the revisionists. But what is the reality?

In order to ensure the democratic base with firm foundation, measures for widest possible dissemination of knowledge were taken. Researches in fundamental science were vigorously encouraged, and Soviet scientists of the Stalin regime enjoyed a very prestigious position among the scientists of the world. In a single year the total publication of books on science, art and literature in various languages of the republics exceeded that of England, France, Germany taken together. When Hitler was burning those books in Germany the total editions of foreign classics published in the Soviet Union till the war were: Byron's works half a million copies, Balzac nearly 2 million, Dickens 2 million, Goethe half a million, Heine one million, Victor Hugo 3 million, Maupassant more than 3 million, Shakespeare 1.2 million, Zola 2 million, besides millions of copies of works of great Russian writers like Pushkin, Gogol, Tolstoy, Chekov, Belinsky, Gorky and others. This was done to make the people acquainted with the best literary creations. Obviously this goes against the cult of regimentation of thought.

The crowning glory of Stalin's leadership came when, gathering up all the many strands of people's achievement, he reflected them in what has become known to the world as the Stalin Constitution. Since the first constitution of 1922 for which Lenin and Stalin were mainly responsible, great changes had taken place. Illiteracy had been almost eliminated. The liberated nations of the Soviet republics had had great experience of their new status. The time had thus arrived for a further extension of democracy, the removal of shortcomings and simplification of the government and administration. In 1935 the Seventh Congress of the Soviets made a decision to change the Constitution of the USSR.

The way the Soviet Constitution was adopted was yet another hallmark of the Soviet democracy. A draft of the new Constitution was prepared by a Constitution Commission of thirtyone members

including historians, economists and political scientists under the chairmanship of Stalin and this was submitted to the people in sixty million copies. It was printed in full in 10,000 newspapers with 37,000,000 copies. It was broadcast from every radio station and discussed in 5,27,000 meetings attended by thirtysix million people. Suggested amendments numbered 134,000. In factories and mills, in cooperative societies and clubs, in farms, workshops and mines the Constitution was discussed and studied. The final draft was submitted to an extraordinary Congress of the Soviets on December 5, 1936. Does it portray any anti-democratic character of Stalin? Is there any such precedent in any bourgeois democracy? In fact the proletarian democracy can actually ensure democracy to the people on such a widest possible scale that no bourgeois democracy could hitherto dream of. The proletarian democracy was demonstrated in Stalin's time as a democracy different in content and form as well as in dimension; it was the real democracy for the ninety-nine per cent of the people, against one per cent exploiters.

As long as Stalin was at the helm the socialist economy of the Soviet Union steadily advanced and never experienced any stagnation. This was because of the fact that Stalin followed socialist economic law as opposed to market economic law of capitalism. Stalin expounded this socialist economic law in his famous works, *Economic Problems of Socialism* in the USSR. But after his demise the Khrushchevite revisionist clique usurped the power of the party and the state and abandoned the socialist economic law and introduced capitalist measures like individual incentive. As a result ultimately counterrevolution took place and capitalism was restored. After the counterrevolution the former republics of the Soviet Union fell apart. This event added grist to the bourgeois propaganda mill that Stalin kept these republics united under coercion. Subsequent events in the countries like Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia etc. and divisiveness centering round religion in different countries are creating confusion in the mind of the people and so doubts are creeping in the mind of the people that the solution to the complex nationality question was not attempted at in the right direction by Stalin. But was it the reality? One time colonial nations leaped from feudalism and barbarism to civilisation. Stalin worked on the principle that all nations and races should not only have equal rights and opportunities, irrespective of language, culture and economic development but took special measures for the advancement and upliftment of the backward regions. The application of this principle transformed the nomadic tribes and backward peoples into self-governing nations. This transformation was achieved by holding high the flag of proletarian internationalism. Had not the peoples of the different republics been united on the basis of proletarian internationalist outlook how are we to explain the fact that entire people of the Soviet Union stood like one man against the fascists and defended the Soviet Union as their motherland? Again, how are we to explain that the entire people of the Soviet Union stood like one man at the call of the CPSU led by Stalin in socialist reconstruction of the war ravaged country, and within a short spell rebuilt it to a highly developed stage? How can the people speaking

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Proletarian Democracy Ensured People To Enjoy Widest Possible Democracy — Not Imaginable In Bourgeois Democracy

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different languages, professing different religions and different cultures be enthused about the programme of such a gigantic reconstruction? Can it be accomplished by the so-called command-administrative method? The following quotation will suffice to give a fitting rebuff to the critics. After the victory in the war Stalin plainly admitted at the reception in Kremlin, "...we have had our moments of desperation in 1941 and 1942 when our army was retreating, abandoning our native villages and towns in Ukraine, Bylorussia, Moldavia, the Leningrad region, the Baltic areas and the Karelo Finnish republics; we abandoned them because there was no other way.

"Another people might say to their government, you have not justified our expectations, clear out and we shall put in another government which will conclude peace with Germany and ensure us a quiet life. But the Russian people had not done so, for they had faith in the correctness of the policy of their government and have made sacrifices to ensure the defeat of Germany. It is this trust of the Russian people in the Soviet government that proved to be the decisive force which had guaranteed the victory over mankind's enemy - fascism." (Quoted in Vasilensky, AM1981, *Moscow A Life Long Course*).

What does the above statement of Stalin show? Does it sound the logic of a dictator who held the republics within the fold of the Soviet Union through coercion? No, it, on the contrary, portrays a complete by different picture from what the bourgeois propagandists want us to believe.

As long as Stalin was at the helm he upheld the flag of proletarian internationalism and the unity of the different nationalities was cemented. But due to wrong practice of revisionism after the demise of Stalin capitalism was being restored and this in its moribund stage created disunity and cleavage among the people of the Soviet Union which disintegrated with an utterly ugly face as at present.

In spite of such a historic achievement, Stalin, as a true Marxist, was never complacent, never lost his critical attitude. On the basis of scientific outlook of class struggle he examined the society

and the party. At the fag end of his life Stalin noted again the bureaucratic tendencies and lowering of the level of political and ideological consciousness within the party. So in the Report of the 19th Congress of the Party, presented by Malenkov and prepared under the guidance of Stalin stress was given on ideological work. In the Report it was warned "... we still have vestiges of the bourgeois ideology, relics of the private property mentality and morality. These relics do not die away of themselves, they are very tenacious, and may strengthen their hold and a determined struggle must be waged against them." The report strongly criticised the uncritical attitude toward errors and defects of the party works. The spirit of smug complacency was highly condemned in this Report. The Report stressed on criticism, and self-criticism and particularly criticism from below. But Stalin did not live long to implement the policy of the 19th Congress. So after the demise of Stalin Khrushchevite revisionist clique usurped the power of the party and the state, and it acted as the Trojan horse within the communist movement. At the 20th Congress of the CPSU Khrushchev trained his gun on Stalin and unleashed a virulent anti-Stalin tirade. The ultimate result was a death blow to the socialist system.

But despite the visible result of the action of the revisionist clique, the concerted vilification campaign against Stalin has left some imprint not only on the mind of the common people but even on the mind of some rank and file members of the communist and leftist parties and honest left oriented people. But it is our considered view that without proper understanding of Stalin it is not possible to have a correct grasping of Marxism-Leninism, as Stalin's interpretation of Leninism reflects the correct understanding of this philosophy in the post-Lenin period. It is to be noted that all those who are now in the vortex of communist movement are not yet completely free from the influence of bourgeois humanist outlook. So to many Stalin may appear as an enigma. But Stalin's character can be correctly assessed on the basis of correct understanding of communist moral values, distinctly different from bourgeois humanist moral values. Stalin's life was completely merged with the party and revolution. His wife was an ordinary worker of a factory. The identity of his son was completely unknown in the school in which he studied. One of the sons of Stalin, who was an ordinary soldier was captured by the Hitlerite army.. A proposal was mooted for exchange of a German military officer with the son of Stalin. But Stalin firmly rejected the proposal. Stalin attained such a height as a great communist that his character cannot be assessed by the yardstick of bourgeois humanist moral values. In his assessment of Stalin Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the founder General Secretary of our party and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era said : "To a revolutionary, revolutionary necessity stands uppermost; all other things like love, affection, personal relationship, friendship, etc., which to a humanist are so important and precious and make life worth living, are subordinated to it." Does it mean that revolutionaries are heartless, bereft of finer feelings ? No. Comrade Ghosh showed that it is precisely because the sufferings and tears of entire society have left such a deep imprint on the

mind of a true revolutionary that he cannot consider anything in isolation divorced from the supreme revolutionary necessity of wiping out the sufferings of entire society, and Stalin's entire life is a glaring example of this.

Stalin's foresightedness in leading the socialist construction, in defending the country and giving a crushing defeat to the Nazi Germany and in attempting to resolve the nationality question in right direction is now a fact of history and nobody can deny that. Another astounding instance of Stalin's foresightedness can be seen from his analysis on the future of the major vanquished countries as far back as 1952. Stalin wrote : "Let us pass to the major vanquished countries, Germany (Western) and Japan. These countries are now languishing in misery under the jackboot of American imperialism. Their industry and agriculture, their trade, their foreign and home policies, and their whole life are fettered by the American occupation 'regime'. Yet only yesterday these countries were great imperialist powers and shaking the foundations of the domination of Britain, the USA and France in Europe and Asia. To think that these countries will not try to get on their feet again, will not try to smash the US regime and force their way to independent development, is to believe in miracle." What do we see today ? Is it not a hard reality today that Germany, Japan and the USA are heading major economic blocs which are engaged in fierce competition among themselves ?

Those who are maligning Stalin are actually pigmies in comparison with those great personalities in various fields who profusely praised him. Those eminent personalities include Bernard Shaw, Romain Rolland, Einestein, H.G. Wells, Rabindranath Tagore and even a diehard anti-communist like Winston Churchill.

It is the attitude towards Stalin that defines the demarcation line between the Marxist-Leninists and the revisionists. The catastrophe that befell the erstwhile Soviet Union, though extremely painful was not unexpected to our party. Just after the 22nd Congress of the CPSU, where Khrushchev launched virulent anti-Stalin slander campaign Comrade Shibdas Ghosh pointed out: "To blackout Stalin would have the inevitable result of disowning his authority and consequently rejecting his interpretation of Leninism, which is the present day understanding of Marxism-Leninism. To the future generations the chapter of relentless struggle waged by Stalin against the Trotskyites and the Bukharinites to safeguard the revolutionary spirit of Marxism-Leninism would remain dark and black and they would be deprived of the opportunity of being ideologically steered. It would mean invitation to all sorts of counterrevolutionary ideas to pass off as Marxism-Leninism and the ideological foundation of the Communist movement would suffer a setback. In short, it would objectively uncrown Lenin himself". (*Selected Works*, Vol.I)

In the present situation when the world communist movement has suffered a serious setback, it is incumbent on us to make a proper assessment of Stalin for victorious onmarch of Marxism-Leninism for the emancipation of mankind from the fetters of capitalist exploitation with the ultimate goal of establishing a classless society.

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General Budget Patently Anti-People

— Nihar Mukherjee

Reacting on the Central General Budget, presented at the Lok Sabha, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in a statement said on 28.2.2001 :

“It was the time for the NDA government, the continuer of the Congress’s new economic policy, to answer the people about what benefits the so-called economic reforms have brought for them in the last 10 years. But instead Yashwant Sinha, the Finance Minister, has preferred to declare a war on the workers and the employees of the country

by proposing to rob them, through amendments of the Industrial Dispute Act, of whatever job-rights they have to earn a livelihood. The so-called second generation reforms are nothing but a bourgeois neo-liberal agenda to paint the workers and employees as the villain of the economy.

A government which gives away more than 50% of its total receipts towards unproductive interest payments and military expenditure and runs a deficit of Rs. 1,16,313 crore, the claims of social development is a naked lie.

The Minister makes a mockery of democracy and equity when he withdraws PDS from the common people, but allows all types of tax benefits to the domestic monopolists and foreign multinationals. When the government which swears by people’s welfare is out to destroy the minimum social securities of the people, the latter have every right to rise in revolt against this blatantly anti-people and shamelessly pro-monopolist, pro-multinational budget.”

Rally at Jajpur

SUCI, Jajpur, organised a demonstration of about 5 thousand people in front of Raj Bhavan, Bhubaneswar on 16.2.2001. The rally demanded declaration of Jajpur district as drought affected and permanent solution of drought, flood and cyclone, etc.

The massive disciplined demonstration marched through different streets of Bhubaneswar before reaching the Governor's house. A meeting was held there addressed by Comrade Binapani Das, State Committee member. It was presided over by Comrade Swayanprava Nayak. A four-member delegation led by Comrade Jagabandhu Baral, Secretary, undivided Cuttack district, SUCI submitted a memorandum to the Governor.

The speakers said that in 1999 super-cyclone and flood Jajpur was also disastrously affected. But neither the previous Congress government nor the present BJD-BJP government took any effective steps for rehabilitation. Even the BJP-led Centre is showing criminal negligence. And now the menacing drought has engulfed the entire district very swiftly heading towards famine. The speakers urged to build up powerful sustained movement to compel the state and the central governments to meet the situation. The speakers were Comrades Khirod Kar, Debendra Sahoo, Govinda Sahoo, Birakishore Nayak, Suresh Pradhan, Bijay Mallick, Harihar Swain, Ajay Sahoo and Achyut Pradhan.



Protest March at Jajpur

People Protest Imperialist Aggression

(Contd. from page 1)

tensions, arms race and wars, and for which a peaceful world spells doom! It is to cover up this sordid truth that sentiments are being tried to be whipped up through media manipulations and concocted stories like Iraq constituting a threat to its neighbours because of its arsenal of weapons of mass destruction, etc. But as people are beginning to realise the terrible impact of the genocidal sanctions and US designs, mass protests by peace-loving, democratic minded people and progressive forces, are growing across the globe and country after country have officially condemned the latest US aggression, except a few like Israel and Canada. Even the US Nato allies, whatever their motive, have distanced themselves, some criticising, others questioning and still others condemning outright US action. Hence today the USA whose supremacy at the time of Gulf war seemed unchallenged, stands isolated. Mass protests have also been held in Britain itself and in different cities of the USA. In our country too, our party organised a mass protest demonstration on February 19, in Calcutta, and on February 20 in Patna, Bihar, among other places demanding an end to US aggression.



Demonstration in Patna by the SUCI activists on February 20 last against the US attack on Iraq.

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee Condoles Death of Comrade Indrajit Gupta

Deeply mourning the passing away of Comrade Indrajit Gupta, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, has, in a condolence message on 20 February, 2001 said :

“We deeply mourn the death of Comrade Indrajit Gupta, an outstanding and veteran leader of the Communist party of India, one time General Secretary of the CPI and the AITUC, who breathed his last this morning in Calcutta after suffering a prolonged attack of intractable cancer. As a renowned trade union leader he played a significant role not only in our country but also abroad as a leading figure of the WFTU. Although the longest serving member of Parliament and an efficient parliamentarian, he never did anything for his personal end. By nature he was amiable and broad-minded and played a very important role in uniting the left trade union forces.

“His death is a great loss to the democratic movement and to the leaders and workers of the CPI all over the country to whom I, on my personal behalf, and on behalf of the Central Committee of our party express our heartfelt bereavement and condolence at this hour of their grief.”

Moradabad — People’s Protest

To foil the mass meeting on the occasion of Netaji birth anniversary on 23rd January, convened by the Subhas Chandra Bose Pratistha Bachao Samiti, the government administration imposed Section 144 at Gajraula, J. P. Nagar. Later police assaulted the students on 23rd, who were preparing the celebration, despite the change of the meeting place. Police arrested the injured students. Yet the meeting was held. Police again lathicharged there injuring even women. Many were arrested.

In protest a bandh was observed on 24th January. There was widespread protests. Bar Associations of Moradabad and J. P. Nagar observed 2-day strike. Trade unions held protest rally. People held protest latest on 27th February. Protests are still continuing.