

# Proletarian Era

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

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## On Questions of Privatisation And NPA in Banks

Two issues that agitate the minds of the people and bank employees in particular and is a matter of serious concern are the privatisation move in banks and the staggering figure of NPA (Non Performing Asset) that damages the health of the banks.

### Role of the media

The media in general is circulating the untruth that the previous 'mixed economy' of both public and private Sector is to be held guilty for the sickness of banks becoming endemic and downturn in the economy. They advocate privatisation by falsely projecting public sector in a capitalist economy as socialism. They want the people to forget that public sector under government's control, regulation and for investment out of public funds was in the advanced capitalist imperialist countries, subsequently withdrawn. This did not bring socialism in those countries. And ours is no exception. People can well remember that the Press and media who are decrying the 'mixed economy' of public and private sectors today, vociferously supported it for long years.

We must know that there is no inherent

contradiction between the 'mixed economy' model and capitalism relying wholly on market laws. And 'mixed economy' does never mean economy of different character. The term only connotes government's stake in industries under public sector as also control and regulation over those. So, either public sector or abolition of it has always been done to suit the particular need of the capitalist economy in the aggregate interests of the capitalist class. In fact, privatisation of public sector industries which is one of the principal objectives of globalisation started being crystallized since 1990. Mrs Margaret Thatcher in the UK and Mr Reagan in the USA came to power with the agenda of removal of public sector.

People must note that the advocacy for privatisation by the press and media expresses the desire of the monopoly capital. They want the government to abdicate whatever sense of obligation it had for public service, diminish its share in public sector units (PSU), withdraw further investments by budgetary support and endorse all anti-employee policies like restructuring, VRS etc. to reduce staff strength

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## Call of 24th April

This 24th April, the party is going to observe the 52nd anniversary of its founding. The party which Comrade Shibdas Ghosh founded along with a handful of revolutionary compatriots in the year 1948. Why was its founding an event of great historic significance? Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had realised that although transfer of power had taken place in 1947, the true emancipation of the masses of our people remained unattained. This emancipation is a historic necessity to free our people from exploitation of every kind. To that end, history ordains, we are to accomplish anti-capitalist socialist revolution on this soil, and the party is the revolutionary organisation on whose strength we can attain this cherished goal.

Dialectical and historical materialism upholds that the concrete, scientific course of social advancement will lead mankind to communism through the transitional phase of socialism under the dictatorship of the proletariat. In the era of imperialism and proletarian revolution the bourgeois class has turned out and out reactionary and it is the working class which holds aloft the banner of progress today.

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh came to the firm conclusion that the then CPI, despite the sacrifice of its leaders and cadres, had failed to develop as a genuine communist party. So, he took upon himself the task of building up the genuine revolutionary party of the working class. He laid the foundation of the SUCI and built it up brick by brick through lifelong arduous struggles.

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh stressed that the revolutionary theory must be a complete epistemological category, coordinating, integrating and generalising all the different branches of science and covering all aspects of life. The political theory of a revolutionary party ought to reflect the objective process of revolution and its complexities that exist in the particular society. Also, he also laid stress upon the cultural and ethical standard of the leaders and the rank and file members reflected in their mode of life. He urged that revolutionaries should ceaselessly fight the vile bourgeois culture and live and exist as ethical beings.

While building up and developing the SUCI Comrade Ghosh concretised Marxism-Leninism on Indian soil, elaborated and enriched it bringing its understanding to a new height. Analyses made by the party since its inception on all international

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## ON TRAIL of CLINTON'S VISIT

### Dangerous move to open FBI office

Close on the heels of Clinton's visit, the BJP-led Central Government had allowed the opening of a FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) office – which is but an outpost of US imperialism for intrigue and conspiratorial activities — in New Delhi by the US Administration. This has raised strong indignation in all right thinking patriotic Indians. It is well known that the FBI is a US intelligence agency. It used to conduct spying against American citizens in order to hound the democratic-minded people there, charging them with "Un-American activity" and branding them as "communist fellow travellers." In recent years, FBI activity has been extended to the international scene and FBI offices are now operating in a number of countries as part of the global strategy of US imperialism. Now US espionage and associated evils are spreading tentacles on this subcontinent openly on a regular, official basis. A

further report dated April 5 states that "The Director of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, Mr. Louis French, today had a series of meetings with the Union Law Minister, Mr Ram Jethmalani, the Foreign Secretary, Mr Lalit Mansingh, senior Home Ministry officials and his counterpart in the CBI, Mr R K Raghavan... it is believed the two (Mr Louis French and Mr Raghavan) discussed the broad framework of co-operation and mutual assistance which could be put in place when the FBI opens its office in Delhi. In the past, the agencies have cooperated at an informal level... A CBI spokesman said the two discussed the need for greater collaboration in investigation technology". (Report in *The Statesman*, 6.4.2000)

Thus the Indian Government, led by a party which off and on swears by the name of *Swadeshi*, is actually paving the way for free

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## On Second National Labour Commission Initial Reaction of UTUC-LS

[Following is the text of the presentation of Comrade Asutosh Banerji, President, UTUC-LS to Mr. Ravindra Varma, Chairman, Second National Labour Commission.]

At the initial stage of the functioning of the Second National Labour Commission, our organisation is constrained to register its apprehension about the possible anti-working class outcome of the whole gamut of the terms of reference decided upon by the Ministry of Labour, Government of India.

The hasty manner of constitution of the Second National Labour Commission and the terms of reference of the same have created apprehension among the working class about their future livelihood.

Though the Central Trade Unions, asked by the Labour Ministry duly submitted suggestions on terms of reference, no procedure was adopted to discuss the same with the CTUs by the Labour Ministry, before the setting up of the Second National Labour Commission along with the formulation of terms of reference.

The composition of the commission is totally weighed in favour of those who are known protagonists of the New Economic and Industrial Policy and the opening of the domestic economy for exploitation by the foreign MNCs. It is the declared position that downsizing of workforce is a congenital part of these policies.

The same is true about the terms of reference.

It is recommended that, "... rationalisation of existing laws relating to labour ... should be in favour of the (i) implications of the recommendation made by the Commission set up in May in 1998 for review of various administrative laws governing industry; (ii) "...the emerging economic environment involving rapid technological changes requiring ... change in methods, timings and conditions of work, ... globalisation of economy, ... and emphasis on international competitiveness and the need for bringing the existing laws in tune with the future labour market needs and demands."

It is clear like day light that the parameter of terms of reference has been so fixed that the need to preserve the very limited existing labour rights has to be considered as secondary and ultimately to be given up. This tune is clearly in line with the tune of the employers clamouring for elimination of the little bit of existing job protection altogether.

Under this circumstance the gamut of the terms of reference should have been reconsidered and redrawn in a way that may preserve and expand the existing labour rights in consultation with the Central Trade Unions.

(i) Detailed examination of the suggested

changes of the various administrative laws governing industry shall reveal one common focal point. These changes have introduced anarchy and serious incompatibility in the economy. Regulatory mechanism over the market has been given a go by. This is resulting in a situation where the corporate management shall be planned but the market shall become unregulated. Here lies the serious incompatibility. The impact of this anarchical incompatibility over growth of employment is extremely adverse. So, it follows that the implications of changes in administrative laws governing industry are in no way helpful in chalking out measures for the growth of employment and for the protection and expansion of labour rights.

ii) The National Labour Commission is supposed to conciliate the contradictory interests of workers and employers. From this it follows that the commission must be above any set economic theory. But contrary to this position the Labour Ministry has recommended that the commission should take into consideration the phenomenon of globalisation and its consequences. If the commission accepts this suggestion, then it cannot be neutral in judging workers problems. Globalisation is a particular thinking, controverted in our country and abroad. It has no palpable conceptual basis. It is instrumental only in developing collaboration between foreign MNCs and native super-monopolies as senior and junior partners at the

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## Growing people's protest against state repression in USA

The US imperialists who never tire of posing themselves as champions of human rights and democracy through manipulation of the mass media on a global scale, even justify imperialist intervention into other countries' internal affairs and outright war against sovereign countries on the pretext of such violation. But what about their own record in their own country? The imperialist dominated media prefer to remain silent on this score. Yet far from being the country of milk and honey or the symbol of democracy and freedom they would like people to believe in and try to mislead them into supporting US prescription for free market economy and liberalisation. In the USA people themselves, that is to say, ever larger sections of people are suffering not only from growing impoverishment and more and more ruthless capitalist exploitation but from growing state oppression and terror. This has also been vividly demonstrated in Seattle where police came down with untold brutality on peaceful demonstrators who protested against the obnoxious and unjust policies of WTO. In Seattle the US police under the Clinton administration did not hesitate even to use harmful chemicals against its own people! Not only has USA witnessed an unprecedented swelling of prisons but there has been growing use of death sentence against political prisoners and especially against the nationally oppressed communities, of which the death sentence against Mumia is a glaring example, protested and condemned not only in the USA but in many a country across the world.

But as state repression, police brutality and even murder is on the rise so also people are raising their voice of protest in ever growing

numbers and uniting in movement after a lull in progressive movement spanning several decades, in the USA.

The latest incident that galvanized people's protest movement in the USA is the verdict that absolved 4 white policemen from New York recently, in February, of all blame for shooting a black man, Amadou Diallo, a young American street vendor, as he was standing in the vestibule of his apartment building, in New York. Diallo was unarmed and had done nothing threatening. Yet the police pumped 41 bullets into him. Still the US Court absolved them of all charges, portraying the victim as would-be aggressor, and the police as would-be victim. Though police murder is not a rare phenomenon as such, the fact that a young unarmed man was shot in the vestibule of his own home and the guilty got away with it, has sent deep waves of shock and anger among the people. On campuses, in workplaces and in the streets, young and old, students and workers and people from different walks of life have come out in protest demonstrations since the day of acquittal on Feb. 25 for several weeks on and off. Thousands of people from different nationalities, joined by left and progressive forces, including the International Action Centre, have unitedly raised their voice of protest in a series of protest demonstrations in New York, Albany, New York, Washington, Atlanta, San Francisco and other cities around the country. In Philadelphia people demonstrated against a similar racial murder by police that took place in January last.

These protest movements are all linked to diverse struggles and issues that include protest against the WTO, the struggle against unjust

detention and death sentence of Mumia Abu Jamal — a militant progressive black leader — and the racial use of death penalty among others. Thus, on Feb. 28, thousands of people surrounded the US Supreme Court in Washington DC and blocked traffic for hours demanding justice for Mumia.

But state repression has not ended despite all this. Far from it, the above verdict has acted as encouragement to police. Just days after the verdict another unarmed Afro-American, Malcolm Ferguson, was gunned down by New York police. This young man had actually been arrested for protesting the police murder of Diallo just days before. And before long, a third young man was murdered by the police: Patrick Dorismond, a 26 year old Haitian worker, again for no reason. As he was calling a taxi some undercover police tried to entrap him by asking him if he had Marijuana to sell. When he angrily refused they shot him. On March 25, a funeral march of 20,000 people that included anti-racist whites, including the International Action Centre, turned into militant protest and confrontation with police which had tried to obstruct the marchers. But far from running out of steam this movement against repression and injustice is growing and thriving. An even greater people's mobilization is planned for May 7 to demand justice for political prisoner Mumia and stop the death penalty.

From April 9 to April 16 there will be convergence of progressive anti-imperialist and anti-racist activists in Washington DC from a wide range of organisations to protest through a series of programmes that will culminate in a huge demonstration against IMF and World Bank, pressing for it to shut down.

Mexico**Historic student movement against liberalisation**

On 22nd April last year 3 lakh students embarked on a strike in Mexico in protest against a hike in tuition fees led by students of National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Students of other universities came forward in support. Later the students incorporated in their charter a few economic and political demands such as demands for withdrawal of government's policy of privatisation and liberalisation : from a student movement it grew into a political movement. Naturally the Trade Union and opposition parties rallied round the students on strike. A Committee named CGS was formed with the representatives of these student organisations, trade unions and political parties to steer the movement to success. As soon as the strike started, the students had captured the UNAM campus and were camping there. An army of volunteers was formed with the volunteers deputed from University Workers' Union, Mexican Electrical Workers' Union and the national council of the joint Action Committee of Mexican professors, teachers and non-teaching staff. Took up the responsibility of the security of the students, though after in the teeth of the government barbarous onslaught and terror, the resistance of this volunteer force fell through.

During the 9 months of the strike the students organised community kitchens. Guardians, opposition parties, trade Unions and well-wishers delivered tons of foodstuff to the students on strike. The UNAM Aid Committee was formed by the working people to see to it that students do not face any inconvenience. Thus the whole of Mexico, so to say, stood by the students who organised a number of processions and meetings. On 2nd October they organised a colourful procession of 80 thousand students in memory of the student martyrs of 1968 paying tribute to the martyrs with flower and songs. It may be mentioned here that on 2nd October 1968 the Mexican army launched a savage onslaught on a students' gathering and killed 60 students. More than a hundred were injured.

Moreover, the striking students of UNAM stood by the electricity workers' movement against the privatisation of the power sector. Both in support of their movement and against privatisation of education, the fighting students under the CGH of UNAM organised demonstrations and meetings all over the country, thus forming a great support for the strike. Inspired by the strike in UNAM student movement exploded in various countries of South America against the education policy directed by the IMF. On last 20<sup>th</sup> May students in the four principal cities of Chile – Santiago, Valparaiso, Concepcion and Africa – came out of class and organised mammoth gatherings. Students of Bogota University of Colombia built up mighty movement against tuition fee hike. The spark kindled massive student movement in L. Salvador, Honduras and Beliz (erstwhile British Honduras) on various demands.

All these movements occurred between June and September last year. In the last October students in Ecuador staged a countrywide strike against privatisation of education.

The students and professors of Gabriel Rene University in Bolivia organised a huge gathering against cuts in University grants and attempts to

scuttle University autonomy through legislation. To register their sympathy with these movements, the UNAM students also brought out a large procession, bringing the whole Mexico city to a standstill on 4th November last.

Under the pressure of 9 month old student strike the UNAM authorities withdrew the increase in tuition fees and Corness, the rector of the University resigned his post as a result of the tussle between the government and the authority on the issue of withdrawal. But the CGH remained firm in its decision to continue the battle until other demands were acceded to. But, the government on the other hand, had secretly taken all-out preparation to crush the movement. On the plea of skirmish between the pro-strike and anti-strike students, it deployed security forces all round the campus, ready with tanks and armoured cars.

As already mentioned, the Federal Preventive Force entered in the UNAM at the dawn of 6<sup>th</sup> February. Students made no attempt to resist them. 700 students, including the front-ranking leaders of the movement were arrested. When the students were being herded into the hired cars, they were showing to the crowd outside the campus, the V sign for victory. The guardians and well-wishers tried to stop the cars, carrying students, but they failed.

Fierce movement for unconditional release of the arrested students rocked the whole country. A

800 strong extended meeting of the CGH at the campus of the Mexico Xochimilco University firmly announced their determination to carry on the movement. In addition, they demanded immediate unconditional release of all the arrested students and their leaders. The meeting also voiced a note of warning for the government. "It will be a great blunder for the government and the rector if it hopes to crush the movement by arresting the students and their leaders. What we have suffered is but a temporary setback, not a defeat. We have compelled the UNAM authority to withdraw the increased tuition fees. We shall press on until we achieve other demands." La Journada, a local newspaper, reported on February 8, that more than 80 fighting organisation including Zapatista reiterated their strong support for the movement. Though the mounting pressure of countrywide movement compelled the government to release the majority of the arrested students, it has not only kept behind the bars 174 students, including a few front ranking student leaders but also brought against them charges of terrorism and conspiracy against state. On 6 and 7 February demonstrations were organised by the well wishers and relatives at the headquarter of the Preventive Federal Force in the Mexico city. The security forces have arrested a number of young men in this connection.

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## **On Second National Labour Commission Initial Reaction of UTUC-LS**

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cost of our national economy. It has only brought about disaster in South East and Far Eastern economies and African countries. It has submerged our economy in recession, from which it has not recovered yet. In the wake of recession, the workers suffered multiple injuries, in the forms of redundancy, less job opportunity, job insecurity, compulsory VRS etc. So, it follows that the implications of globalisation cannot be help for chalking out measures for the protection of workers' rights in any way.

(iii) Indiscriminate use of high-tech has been damaging for both our economy and employment situation. It should be taken note of that the employment of costly high-tech as means of production is making the constant capital base of a company very costly. Of course, high-tech will lead to increased per capita productivity of workers. So, cost of production will be somewhat less. But there is no worthwhile assurance that commensurate to the constant dearer capital base even cheaper products will have adequate market which comprises only a small section of affluent middle strata. In the condition of unregulated and uncertain market, companies are therefore bound to suffer, leading to sufferings by even highly skilled workers in the form of job loss and job insecurity. Over and above, the bulk of the workers already suffered job loss at the initial stage of initiation of high-tech. So, it follows from this, that the implications of indiscriminate use of high-tech cannot be helpful in drawing policies for the protection of job and labour rights.

The attempt to link wages with productivity has no rational basis in an unregulated uncertain market prone to suffer from slump and boom alternately and as of now in recession. The quantum of productivity in each particular condition obtaining in a market, is planned arbitrarily by the management of the corporate houses. The workers have to abide by that. They have no, even relatively, independent role to plan productivity themselves. Naturally this linkage is anti-working class leading to wage cut. It follows, that this should be discarded.

So, our concrete suggestion is this, that as these points recommended to the commission for its consideration by the labour ministry are not essential of legal part of the two terms of reference, the commission should not and can not legally or legitimately, take into cognizance of the Ministry's recommendation. This should be discarded altogether.

It follows from this that the commission should strictly adhere to the two terms of reference.

The basic approach towards rationalisation of labour laws should be progressive, not regressive; to protest labour rights, and not to dilute it ; protection of job security as the basis of social security scheme.

The commission should give opportunity to the Central Trade Unions to submit before the commission the considered detailed views covering the whole gamut of problem of workers and its possible solutions. Time schedule for this purpose may be fixed.

# Call of 24th April

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and national questions have been proved correct. The thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh are attracting people in ever greater numbers in the international communist movement. The SUCI is now operating in almost all the states of India, despite difference of strength from state to state. This proves that a party armed with correct political line and a correct leadership is invincible.

This organisational advancement has been achieved through protracted mass movements on the burning questions of life. This year too 24th April marks end of one more year in the intense struggle of the party against capitalism-imperialism, when the whole system is afflicted with ever deepening crisis.

On the international scene, giant companies of the USA, Japan and the European Union are facing the market crunch, while at the same time they are retrenching millions of workers. Lay-offs and closures are causing havoc in the life of the working people. Real wages are falling and the workers' rights are being trampled upon. Unemployment has assumed alarming dimensions. In these countries social welfare measures are drastically being curtailed. Pushed to the brink of disaster, the downtrodden have taken to the path of struggle. The time is now ripe for taking to them the true Marxist-Leninist understanding of the concrete situation.

The US led imperialist intervention and attacks on North Korea, Cuba, Bosnia, Somalia, Iraq and Yugoslavia have united right thinking people all over the world against the imperialist war machinations.

Struggling people are at the same time denouncing the policy of globalisation which has been thrust mainly on the third world countries. While these advanced capitalist-imperialist countries are trying to force open the markets of the less developed capitalist countries of the world, they themselves are pursuing protectionist policies. This has caused much disaster in Latin America and in many Asian country that has triggered a chain reaction, undermining Japan's economy, weakening the US dollar, gravely declining world trade and causing massive global depression, recession and unemployment. Simultaneously, this long lasting global recession has increased the inter-imperialist conflict. This bitter conflict is sure to grow more bellicose with grave consequences. However, these crises have brought to the street the working class and the toiling masses first in the former socialist and the third world countries and now in even the advanced imperialist countries including in the USA.

In the national sphere an all pervasive crisis has engulfed the economic, political, cultural and social life of the country. India, Already showing distinct imperialist traits, a junior partner of imperialist global schemes and institutions like GATT, WTO, etc. is bound to suffer the present global crisis and necessarily with greater torment. The New Industrial and Economic Policy has provided the multinational companies and monopolists a greater access to fabulous profits in key sectors of economy and infrastructure, and given a boost to Indian corporate houses, through collaboration with these MNCs, throwing millions

out of job, pushing prices up and heavily cutting down expenses on social welfare and services. But this economic policy which was introduced by the Congress government and later on faithfully toed by the UF government enjoying 'left' support, is now being more vigorously implemented by the BJP-led NDA government. This alone shows how all these parliamentary parties, the CPI(M) and the CPI included, contend only for subserving capitalism.

Again the deeper the capitalist crisis, the darker becomes their power politics. If today this debased bourgeois politics is best expressed in the fascist portend of the BJP's nakedly communal 'Hindutva', its relentless attempt to keep alive blind fanaticism and to subtly twist education on Hindu religious lines so as to systematically inculcate bigotry and superstition, which is undoubtedly a grave menace today, then, it also owes a great deal to decades of the Congress's covert communalism and also to the complete absence of any organised mass resistance movement, thanks to the treacherous indifference of the pseudo left forces which have been rendered thoroughly corrupt by petty parliamentary politics.

On top of all this the BJP-led government extended a red carpet welcome to Bill Chiton, the chieftain of world imperialist forces, the worst enemy of mankind, riding roughshod over the glorious anti-imperialist tradition of our people. This has caused all genuine well meaning, peace-loving and patriotic people of our country to hang their heads in shame. A section of the intellectuals, which is all praise for Clinton's visit, fails to read that the imperialist powers come with apparently pious wishes, but end up patently to further imperialist interest.

Moreover, the US is poised to flood India with the produce of its entertainment industry which will strike the final blow to the cultural-ethical standard of the people, already undermined to a large extent by the agents of the capitalist class. The capitalists and imperialists need a degraded culture all the more as a weapon so that the people may lose power and spirit of protest, while accepting all unscientific reactionary ideas as correct. The BJP is now out to achieve this effectively through its conspiracy of Hindu

religious revivalism.

This raises the grave portent of fascism. As Comrade Shibdas Ghosh showed, "fascism is a peculiar fusion of spiritualism and science. It is, in other words, a queer admixture of spiritualism, obscurantist ideas, illogical and fanatic bent of mind, with the technological aspects of science. When such a thing does really take place in a country then the logical and scientific bent of mind of the people to probe things critically, thoroughly, withers out.... When the logical and scientific bent of mind - an attitude of the mind to argue and counter-argue dies out in a country, all sorts of reactionary and obscurant ideas and thoughts get the golden opportunity to swamp the entire life of the society.

...Remember, even a ruthlessly oppressed and starving nation in the midst of their utter destitution can stand up on their feet and can fight on if it has not lost all concerns to human values and self-respect. But when fascism makes deep inroad inside the society there remain a very few who can be called MAN in the real sense. Because, when the fascist way of life and thinking prevail in a country, it creates hindrance to the very process of making one a real man."

In the light of this scientific analysis of fascism made by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the object of BJP's national chauvinism on the basis of Hindu religious revivalism becomes clear.

People must recognise this grave danger of fascism and build up mass movements on the burning issues of life, against the pro-capitalist, pro-MNC policies, against the Hindu revivalism of the BJP on the basis of higher ethics and culture.

The task is indeed difficult. But however difficult it may be, the inexorable law of social development is bound to assert and reassert itself.

To accelerate this process, 24th April calls upon all leaders, cadres, supporters and the toiling people at large to plunge into the two fold struggle - one to build up sustained class and mass struggles, and the other to fight the enemy inside, the force of old habits and ideas that makes one fatter and compromise and through this process build up alternative political power of the people which can be achieved only through cultivating Marxism-Leninism-Comrade Shibdas Ghosh thought.

The observance of 24th April can be made really meaningful by being equal to this task.

## Dangerous Move to open FBI office

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operation by a prime espionage agency of the arch imperialist US state at the very heart of this sovereign state of India! Why is this so? This is because the BJP, like all other parliamentary parties aspiring for power in Delhi, serve the ruling Indian capitalist class. And it is the design of this class to collaborate with imperialism, particularly US imperialism, in order to jointly exploit the people of this and other countries ruthlessly under the dispensation of globalization.

It is for the people to rise up in unison in protest to fail this nefarious move. With the first report of the planned FBI office in Delhi, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary of our party, the SUCI, released a statement to the

press dated 31.3.2000 severely condemning the move. The statement, inter alia states: "The move of the BJP led Central Government to allow the FBI office under the cover of preventing terrorism and crime from reaching across the border and to help our country is nothing but a ploy to hoodwink the people about the real intentions of American Imperialism to use our soil for interference in internal affairs by means of heinous espionage activities to smash the democratic mass movement within the country... In keeping with the anti-imperialist tradition of the Indian people we call upon them to raise their voice of protest against this shameful and pernicious move of the Central Government and to urge upon the government to tear off such deal both open and hidden."

# Fourteenth World Trade Union Congress

'No to Liberalisation-Privatisation-Globalisation' and 'No To World Bank-IMF-WTO Trio' and thus pave the way for establishing a real pro-people alternative to ensure that the new millennium is there, not of the capitalist-imperialists and MNCs. ... the task of fighting fascism is or imperialism or the task for establishing enduring peace cannot be left to the UNO or national governments." — that was the clarion call of the New Delhi Millennium Declaration of the WFTU (World Federation of Trade Unions) on the occasion of its 14th World Trade Union Congress held in New Delhi on 25th-28th March, 2000.

The 14th congress formally begun in the morning of 25th March in Vignan Bhavan, New Delhi. After the introductory speech of WFTU Secretary-General Comrade Alexander Zharikov, and reading out the message of the President of India the congress was formally inaugurated by the Vice-President of India, Shri Krishna Kant. The congress in its first session, after the submission of the Report of activities of the WFTU by the Secretary General, constituted a Resolution Commission to examine and finalise the resolutions which included, among others, Comrade Achinta Sinha and Shankar Sahar, from UTUC-LS, Chittabrata Majumdar of CITU, Chittaranjan of AITUC, Ashoke Ghosh of UTUC, Sanat Dev of TUCC and representatives from North Korea, Bangladesh, Sudan and Latin American countries. In the Plenary session of the congress nearly 70 delegates from all the participating countries and trade union internationals deliberated on the policy documents and various other issues. The leader of UTUC-LS delegation Comrade Asutosh Banerji in his speech brilliantly dwelt upon some aspects of the policy document. He also criticised the style of conduction of the proceedings of the congress and pointed out that it was lacking democratic norms and procedures. However, his written speech was circulated among the delegates.

In between two sessions an Asia Pacific Regional Meet of the delegates and observers from the countries of Asia-Pacific region was held where also, among others, Comrade Banerji addressed.

The delegates and observers also met in a SAARC regional meet on 28th March. On behalf of UTUC-LS Comrade Sanat Datta, member of the working committee of the organisation attended the meet.

Before the Congress started formally on 25th March an International Solidarity Conference against Blockades and Sanctions was held in Vignan Bhavan, New Delhi within the frame work of the Congress. It was inaugurated by Justice Krishna Iyer and chaired by Comrade Indrajit Gupta, President, WFTU. It was addressed by over 30 delegates from Libya, Sudan, Cuba, Iraq, Cyprus, France, Russia, Columbia, Venezuela, different countries of Asia, Africa and others. On behalf of the UTUC-LS Comrade Achinta Sinha addressed the conference. Citing the worldwide brigandage of US imperialism and particularly its barbarous blockades and sanctions against Cuba and Iraq, he clearly and emphatically showed that the USA was the worst terrorist and most criminal state in the world.

In the concluding session of the Congress, office bearers and presidential council with

Comrade K.L. Mahendra as President and Comrade Zharikov as Secretary General of the WFTU were elected. In the new General Council Comrade Shankar Saha and Comrade Achinta Sinha were included as full member and deputy member respectively from UTUC-LS. The Congress concluded with the Internationale.

## Circulated Speech of Comrade Ashutosh Banerji

Members of the Presidium,  
Brother Delegates from India and Abroad,

### WFTO – a class based organisation

Brothers, it is a matter of great satisfaction that, WFTO has been able to hold this world congress of Trade Unions of workers world over in the face of long odds in the present day world.

This is very inspiring that WFTU in a situation of serious setbacks suffered by the international working class movements with the collapse of socialist camp, has still great potentialities to remain as "... a democratic, class-based international trade union organisation of struggle of all wage earners..." This has been reiterated in the Damascus congress held in 1994. We hope the 14<sup>th</sup> Congress will follow this basic approach.

This basic approach is all the more necessary to the working class, to stave off great attacks from the capitalist-imperialist world system today.

### So-called globalised integration of economies

The capitalist-imperialist world system is trying steadfastly to get highly institutionalised through IMF, World Bank, GATT and WTO, at state level.

This state level insitiutionalisation is supposed to provide at corporate level for the necessary foundation for an unhindered, accelerated growth and spread of MNCs, and banking and non-banking financial conglomerates all over the world.

A very few selected state monopolies, in the sphere of production and finance, spared the axe of total disinvestment, are also in the scheme of growth and spread as MNCs all over the world. The other name of this institutionalisation at both the state and corporate level is globalised integration of imperialist, developing and least developed countries' economies.

### Objective of Globalisation

The whole object of this so-called globalisation, unitedly planned by the traditional imperialist countries, led by USA, is to re-divide the world market among themselves; to force open the national market of the developed among the developing countries and the least developed countries; to transfer from metropolitan countries both plants and finance, on the basis of rights of entry and exit at will, to the developing countries in order to exploit the cheap labour power, scientists and technicians, and natural resources; to transfer most volatile speculative usurious finance capital for investment in stock markets of developing countries in greater proportion than that of foreign direct investment in production with the same rights of entry and exit; to increase and consolidate the competitive power by

acquisitions and takeovers of native industries, instead of building new productive capacity; to establish control by the MNCs on natural resources of the developing countries; and last but not the least to resort to dumping of commodities in order to disrupt and control the developing economies.

### Collaboration and subjugation

The imperialist powers led by USA are seeking to achieve its objective through the process of collaboration and subjugation.

They are roping in the developed among the developing countries in the scheme of globalisation, pursuing the process of collaboration as senior and junior partnership. It needs no mention, that the developed among the developing countries are the junior partners.

The least developed among the developing countries, are being sought to be transformed into adjuncts of the economies of the imperialist powers

### Globalisation – a mirage

But with the passage of time the so-called globalisation is proving to be a mirage.

GATT treaty and its administrative machinery WTO, though chalked out and formed by the G-7 imperialist powers unitedly, could not, so far, become instrumental in uniting the same powers.

Trade war, among G-7 powers and between developing economies and G-7 powers, reaching its zenith, has resulted in total disruption of the WTO conference in Seattle, USA.

Instead of getting integrated the world market has got divided into conflicting and competitive regional common markets initiated by the very members of the G-7 power groups.

These common markets have set up protective regional common markets initiated by the very members of the G-7 power groups.

These common markets have set up protective walls of high tariff and non-tariff measures against each other, bidding adieu to free trade.

Decisions to cut subsidies are being circumvented by introducing invisible subsidies in subtle administrative ways of extending undue facilities by respective governments. Thus, the proposition of non-discriminating open trade is being made infructuous.

This unabated trade war is gathering momentum and becoming bitter, with all the potentialities of developing into hot war.

### Globalisation and unequal relation

Unequal relation between national economies is inherent in globalised integration. The debtor countries are experiencing bitterly the unequal treatment meted out to them by the creditor countries in trade and commerce.

While G-7 imperialist powers are dragging the debtor countries to the dispute settlement tribunal of WTO to force them to open their markets, the same powers are openly and subtly protecting their own home markets by imposing import quota restriction on export commodities from debtor developing countries.

Arbitrarily decided sanitary and phito-sanitary standards are being insisted upon by the imperialist powers in order to restrict the import from the developing countries.

(Contd. on page 7)

# Mounting NPA Poses Danger to Depositors

(Contd. from page 1)

and finally to hand over banks to private monopoly capital to loot and plunder the huge financial resources created out of public money.

## The reason behind the change

From capitalist class objective in a developing country like India certain industries in the 'core sector' were built or kept in the public sector under government's control and regulation. This was far speediest development of capitalism and consolidation of capitalist rule in the country.

No doubt, by measures like rationalisation of banks, insurance, etc., people got some benefits like employment. Government guarantee against the bank deposits and insurance premium being swindled by the capitalist owners as also trickling down of bank loans to village artisans or middle and poor peasants, development of amenities in rural sector, etc. But what the people view as their gains were the by-products, far outweighed by the gains of the capitalist class in general and the corporate sector under the control of monopoly capital. An example, from banking sector can be cited.

Before nationalisation, the banks had few thousands of a capital resources. And the government spent few crores for 'nationalisation'. Nationalisation in capitalist economy does not mean socialism but setting up public sector for the objects, already stated. However, the total capital resources of banks stand today at Rs.7 lakh 90 thousand crore. Banks mobilise savings from the middle strata and even from the poor in a big way because of government's guarantee. Common people contributed 80 p.c. of bank deposits while the corporate sector's share was just 11 p.c.

Apart from the huge fiscal resources collected by extorting the common people in the name of 'economic planning' and 'national development', huge capitals collected from the people by banks went to provide capital to monopoly houses and capitalists in both urban and rural sectors. This is true also about the public sector insurance companies. In fact, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, when he was the Union Finance Minister, had to admit that whereas before nationalisation 66 p.c. of bank advances was being cornered by the monopoly houses after nationalisation it rose to 77 p.c.

This is one aspect. The other is cut in the rate of interest on savings accounts to 4 p.c. by a recent order of RBI. This reduction in savings accounts affects badly millions of common men for whom the interest earning on savings account is the last resort. The deduction in interest rate for the poor and middle income groups is perhaps the worst example to exploit the government guarantee on which the people rely most. Not only this, there is the mischievous motive that people desperate to earn more, direct their investment of savings to mutual fund, share market, chit funds etc. to lose their money entirely to the capitalist swindlers, whereas the interest rate on the advances to the corporate sector is being diminished so as to reduce cost of production of the capitalists and increase their profit margin.

By the same order, the CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio) has been reduced to 8 p.c. This will release Rs.7,200 crore. But what for? Owing to recessionary condition the bank advance to industry is not picking up because of poor or negative industrial investment. The extra liquidity

in lendable fund will surely go to the capital market for speculative purposes.

## Mounting NPA increases speculative trend in banks – danger to the depositors

The corporate houses of monopoly capital are indulged in by the government not to repay their bank loans. Instead of legal instrument being framed for speedy recovery of loans, NPA increases in the banks to the serious detriment of their financial soundness. The NPA figure now stands at Rs.58,000 crore.

In a recent event, the Tata group of monopolists' spokesman CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) showed rare shamelessness. A committee of that chamber prescribed closure of three banks – UCO, UBI and Indian Bank. It was revealed that four leading figures of the same committee were themselves very big defaulters of bank loans. Faced with opposition, the BJP government assured that those banks will not be closed. But the wage increase from 7<sup>th</sup> bipartite settlement has been kept on hold by the Finance Ministry. The motive is to impose restructuring in those banks to reduce 25 p.c. staff, on acceptance of this fearful terms, wage increase will be released. The height of treachery of the leadership of bank unions who do not organise real opposition has also come to light. Pressed by public opinion the BJP government assures of more tribunals. This is an exercise in hypocrisy. The offence which is of criminal nature demanding stringent measure is being treated as a civil offence and the wilful defaulters are given the opportunity to drag the cases and avoid legal obligation to repay bank loans which the ordinary citizens cannot. Besides, the government shows concern for the so-called honour of the defaulters so much so as to insert a secrecy clause in relevant law. This prohibits disclosure of names of defaulters.

It is worth noting that banks being lending business, interest earnings on advances and

repayment of advances for recycling can only be the main source of income. The accumulation of NPA, the RBI directive for making higher and higher rate of provision for NPA demand for strict adherence to Capital Adequacy Ratio and NPA constituting 16 p.c. of aggregate advance push the banks to speculative activities like investment in secondary stock market, mutual fund and risk investments in defiance of prudential norm.

Meanwhile the government has announced its financial stake in PSUs to be reduced to 26 p.c. less than what was prescribed by the Narasingham Committee. The said committee prescribed restructuring, VRS, deployment, etc., to reduce staff by lakhs as also handing over banks to private capital on the plea of achieving competitiveness at the global market. The government has accepted all these gross anti-employee, pro-monopoly recommendations, thanks to the helping hands of the servile leadership of bank employees unions. So, not only the bank employees are faced with the danger of losing jobs in lakhs but the danger is awaiting to the depositors of losing crores of rupees. This happened recently in Japan and southeast Asian countries. Under the BJP regime the country is speedily drifting towards the same catastrophe.

Not only the bank employees but common people must unite to resist such a tragedy being reenacted in our country. It is high time for all of them to unleash a powerful movement to cry a halt to pursuit of disastrous policy of globalisation causing devastations in the life of all sections of toiling people.

The Bank Employees Unity Forum guided by this class outlook and approach is the only struggling organisation in bank movement. It has taken upon itself the task of uniting the bank employees and is giving call to the working people to join their force in order to build up a united mighty resistance movement against the dastardly attacks coming from the BJP government.

## Movement against liberalisation

(Contd. from page 3)

The faculty and students of the Metropolitan Autonomous University of the North-West Mexico city observed a strike in it on 8 February, demanding release of the arrested students. A movement has been embarked upon the same demand by the students of two other universities camping inside this university. In a report on 8 February the Associated Press stated that the same demand has set surging the waves of movements even in other universities of the country.

In fine, the people including students, youth and labouring masses, from different walks of life have come forward to hold high with honour the flag of movement raised by the students.

Source : *International Herald Tribune*, Dec 99, *Workers' World* (Chicago), 17.2.2000, *Frontline* 3.3.2000, *Time* 21.2.2000

## People in Greece demonstrate against NATO

Greek people took to the streets throughout the country to show their solidarity with

Yugoslavia and protest at current NATO exercises in the Balkans.

On 24.3.2000 thousands of people marched to the US embassy in Athens in a protest called by the peace movement to mark the first anniversary of NATO's war against Yugoslavia. The march was supported by the Communist Party of Greece (KKE) and other left-wing organisations and members of the Greek communist youth movement who burned the Stars and Stripes in front of the American embassy. Attempts to deliver a protest petition were thwarted by a strong police presence outside.

On 21 March KKE and left anti-NATO protestors blocked the passage of a convoy of NATO vehicles in the northern Greek port of Thessaloniki on route to Kosovo, damaging 7 out of 25, which were forced to return to port damaged.

The Greek peace movement demands the immediate withdrawal of all Greek soldiers from Yugoslavia and the closing of all NATO military bases in Greece. It denounces the attitude of the Greek government that facilitates the imperialist plans. (Source: *The New Worker*, 31.3.2000)

# USA –The Worst Terrorist State in the World

(Contd. from page 5)

In the wake of bitter trade war, even imperialist countries are using phito-sanitary standards against each other to block exports to each other's market.

Anti-dumping laws, as an instrument for protectionism, are being freely used by G-7 powers against each other and against the developing countries.

And last but not the least, the imperialist powers are unitedly pushing for labour standard related trade as the prior condition of trading to be included in the rules of WTO.

These are the contradictions, permeating the whole gamut of globalisation. These inherent contradictions have exposed the utopian character, of equal and free trade, openness of market and integration of economies. Above all, protectionism of G-7 powers and open market of developing countries have led to redundancy of work force.

## Globalisation has brought disaster

It is now a well known fact that the prescriptions for growth of developing economy by IMF and World Bank, in conformity to globalisation, has brought about disaster in the fast growing economies, which in reality proved to be only a bubble economy of South Asian and Far Eastern countries.

The phenomenon of fast growth, using short term borrowed capital, on condition of right of unhindered entry and exit has in effect become fatal for these economies.

At one stroke, huge built-up productive capacity became redundant, due to sudden flight of short term capital. Modern high-tech plants were put on for sale. Ironically, the same foreign merchant banks, responsible for the flight of sort term capital, were purchasers of the plants.

The bail out aid given to these countries by IMF was also aimed at helping recover the dues owed by the native corporate houses to the foreign investors. In some cases the foreign financial institutions assured of the back-up by IMF, entered into new agreements with native corporate houses on further roll over the loans on a few times higher rate of interest than the previous rate.

In fine, these economies suffered from redundant productive capacity. High-tech plants had to be sold to the foreign merchant banks for a song. IMF bail out aid had to be used for repayment of dues owed to the foreign banks. Roll over of loan at higher rate of interest had to be accepted.

Thus came under the control of foreign investors a large sector of the economies of countries of South Asia and far eastern countries.

The most adverse effect of this disaster came upon the working people, rendered jobless all of a sudden, with no hope for new jobs. The so-called globalisaiton has been proved to be anti-sovereignty, anti-economic independence and anti-working class.

## Globalisation impacted on the employment situation adversely

Adverse impact of globalisation on employment situation has become a common phenomenon all over the world. Downsizing of

work force is congenital part of reforms and restructuring of economies everywhere.

In imperialist countries, the character of production is gradually changing affecting adversely the working people

Production is changing from high volume to high value. For high value production high-tech is being used. High-tech requires continuous renewal.

It is generally accepted that high-tech increases per workman productivity. Consequently, higher production by using high-tech means of production requires less workmen. Thus redundancy stares at the faces of workmen.

But as the high-tech requires continuous renewal, and the growth of new high-tech is very fast, even the employed high-tech professionals are also in a very insecure job condition.

Again use of very costly high-tech means of production is making the constant capital base also very dearer. Profit must be commensurate to this highly dearer constant capital base. As the market is extremely volatile having no regulatory and controlling mechanism, there is no assurance that adequate market shall be available to a company, using high-cost capital. But the most important factor is the low purchasing power of the people, adversely affected by redundancy and making the market in real sense smaller and smaller. Under this condition many high-tech companies are becoming loss-making very fast.

Transfer of production units to different developing continents is also taking its toll of increasing redundancy in the metropolitan countries.

Employment situation is no better rather worse in developing countries.

In India unemployment is a spiralling phenomenon. The BJP-led coalition Government of India in general and Labour Ministry, in particular, are pronouncing continuously in official documents that downsizing of manpower is an essential component of reforms and restructuring.

In both private sector and public sector employment of high-tech is resulting in reduction in workforce.

The job market for high-tech professionals is very small in comparison to availability of scientific and technical personnel in general and modern high-tech professionals in particular. The situation is getting aggravated, even for the high-tech professionals, because of the fast development of high-tech, making them deficient in the required uptodate skill, consequently throwing them out of the high-tech job market.

Downsizing through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), which in reality is compulsory in nature, is being freely resorted to by the public sector and private sector. The government in the name of controlling expenditure is wither abolishing or downsizing various government departments. To achieve this objective the government is also resorting to VRS.

The organised sector, private and public, is showing almost negative growth of employment. The rate of growth of unemployment is a few times higher than the rate of growth of employment. Generation of new jobs in high-tech sector is in no way able to compensate the quantum of job loss. Unemployed workforce and

new workforce, more and more are looking for any type of job in the unorganised sector.

But competition from capital intensive industries, lack of finance and of assured market has stagnated the unorganised sector. So the capacity to absorb the redundant workforce by this sector is non-existent.

Over and above, the stoppage of investment by the Government in the existing basic, heavy and infrastructure industries in the public sector has hit the employed workforce and the new workforce in the job market very hard, affecting adversely the job market.

The policy of disinvestment, and outright sale of PSUs is being preceded by compulsory downsizing of workforce of the same.

Thus industrial sector, under the shadow of globalisation is unable to provide jobs in absolute terms to working people in India.

Agricultural sector is also of no help in job creation. It used to already bear a very large manpower at a very low subsistence level. Under the globalised scheme of things this sector is suffering from negative growth. The cut in fertilizer and food subsidies will hard hit the community of small and middle farmers, reducing them to landless peasants.

This is the employment scenario of the Indian economy, which is still in the grip of recession, due to reforms and restructuring under the globalised scheme of things.

## Labour rights are to be curtailed as part of the globalised reforms

Labour laws are being arbitrarily amended by the Government of India, curtailing labour rights.

Right of workers to apply for registration of union with seven signatures will no longer be allowed. Ten per cent of total workforce in a concern, henceforth, will be required for the purpose of registration.

The Labour Ministry constituted hastily the 2nd Labour Commission, without taking into confidence the central trade unions. Same is the case about the notified terms of reference.

The Labour Ministry has in effect recommended to The National Labour Commission to consider the terms of reference in the light of reforms and restructuring, conforming to globalised scheme of things.

This has undoubtedly created apprehension about the protection, and expansion of labour rights in the days to come.

## Workers' struggle is the only alternative

Under these circumstances only alternative before the working class to protect and expand their rights lies in the mighty movements under the leadership of workers' own organisation based on the approach of class struggles.

Workers, in no way can afford the illusion that UNO, which has now been reduced to the level of a rubber stamp of US imperialism, an organisation whose present Secretary General dogs not hesitate to concur with NATO position, that NATO can intervene anywhere they wish to, can be a democratic alternative for the redressal of workers' problems.

**Long live WFTU!**

**Workers of the world, unite!**

**Working class struggle is the only alternative!**

## Movement against Murder and Terror by RJD in Bihar

Thousands of people protested vehemently at Sariya, Muzaffarpur, Bihar on 15th March against open gangsterism by the local RJD MLA in direct connivance with the local police and administration.

The MLA had let loose a reign of terror in this area for the last four years. So many have been looted, murdered; women have been raped and brutally killed. In such circumstances, SUCI alone stood firm against such gangsterism by rallying together all sections of people. The Assembly election in Paru constituency, therefore witnessed a direct confrontation between the anti-social elements and the general masses siding respectively with the RJD MLA and Comrade Ramprit Roy, the SUCI candidate, in the last Assembly election in Bihar.

On the day of polling the general masses braved bullets and bombs to foil attempts of the RJD MLA backed by the administration for rigging of polls. His goons fired freely, hurled bombs injuring several and killing one SUCI supporter. Besides, many others including women were manhandled, booths were looted and ballots stamped in favour of RJD throughout the constituency. Activists and supporters of SUCI resisting the assaults were lathi-charged by the administration and as soon as the people assembled near the thana demanding immediate arrests of the miscreants and murderers, the police opened fire indiscriminately.

The next day RAF was deployed. They used lathis freely, even on Comrade Ramprit Roy and his election agent besides arresting several other activists and supporters of SUCI.

The struggle of the people in spite of this continued. The grievance of the people manifested finally in the form of a massive rally at Sariya on 15th March. Although the police tried its best to foil the meeting by bringing in the RAF, staging flag marches and even lathi charging without any reason, thousands of workers and peasants participated in the protest rally. Comrade Yogendra Ram, the local party secretary presided over the meeting. Comrade Protibva Mukherjee, SUCI

### FBI Office in India

## AIAIF President Justice Krishna Iyer's Protest

"We strongly protest the BJP-led Union Government's move to allow the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the US Government open its office in New Delhi on the ostentatious plea of helping prevent, jointly with the US, terrorism and crime from reaching across the border. This move no doubt is part of the collusion between the Indian and US rulers to secure some gains for the Indian corporate houses in return for allowing US imperialism secure its global interests by overlording the South Asian region against the socialist countries and capitalist competitors and carrying out espionage to promote intrigues, subversions and counter-revolution in this region.

We call upon the people raise their voice of protest against this outrage on their dignity and the glorious tradition of struggle against imperialism." (dated. 4.4.2000)

mass leader and former minister in United front Ministry of West Bengal was the main speaker. She urged the people to create an upsurge and overthrow the tyranny.

Comrade Shibshankar, Muzaffarpur District Secretary, SUCI, Comrade Arun Kumar Singh, Comrade Lakhi Chand Ray and Comrade Ramprit Roy were the other speakers.

On 4th April last SUCI organised protest demonstration and deputations at BDO offices of Sariya, Bochhan, Kanti, Kulni, Bhuroul, Sitapur and Sahegunj in Muzaffarpur district. The leaders, who addressed the gathering at BDO offices, demanded of the government arrest and punishment of RJD leader and the criminals who killed many, assaulted others, raped women, looted poor people and created a reign of terror. The other demands included withdrawal of the price rise of wheat, sugar, kerosene and cooking gas.

## Demonstration against the Visit of Bill Clinton

### Hyderabad, AP

On 21st March, when Clinton visited Delhi, a protest march was organised by 9 left parties in Hyderabad, AP. The march went by Nehru statue, Abids Junction to Nampally Railway Station. There police arrested all the participants and detained them.

On 24th March when Clinton visited Hyderabad a massive protest rally was organised by the 9 left parties. Despite police obstacles at different places around 6000 people participated in it. Defying scorching sun they marched raising the slogan. "Warmonger, Enemy of humanity, Killer Clinton Go Back!" While Clinton was addressing at the High-tech City, the twin city reverberated with the slogans

The procession ended at Nizam College Road, culminated in a public meeting. The meeting was conducted by a presidium comprising Comrades Ch. Murahari (SUCI), K. Narayana (CPI), P. Madhu CPI(M), M. Omkar (MCPI), S. Bagar Raju CPI(ML)-Liberation, D. V. Krishna CPI(ML)-New Democracy, G. Vijay Kumar CPI(ML)-Unity Initiative, and Challapalli Srinivasa Rao CPI(ML)-Janashakti. The speakers were Comrades Sridhar, Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy, B. V. Regha, B. N. Reddy, N. Murthy, Vemulapalli Venkata Ramayya, N. V. Krishnayya,

## Press clippings

A (Un-sponsored) truth commission report has concluded that the United States gave money and training to a Guatemalan military that committed acts of genocide against the Mayan people during the most brutal armed conflict in Latin America, Guatemala's 36-year civil war (1960-1996). The report of the independent Historical Clarification Commission, which was released on Thursday, contradicts years of official denial about the torture, kidnapping and execution of thousands of civilians in a war that the commission estimated killed more than 200,000 Guatemalans.

*New York Times*, February 26, 1999

The massacres that eliminated entire Mayan villages are neither perfidious allegations nor figments of the imagination, but an authentic chapter in Guatemala's history.

*Historical Clarification Commission Guatemala, Memory of Silence*, February 1999

The commissions investigations demonstrate that until the mid-1980s the United States Government and US private companies exercised pressure to maintain the country's archaic and unjust socio-economic structure. In addition, the United States Government, through its constituent structures, including the Central Intelligence Agency, lent direct and indirect support to some illegal state operations.

*Christian Tomuschat, coordinator of the Historical Clarification Commission*

The commission listed the American training of the officer corps in counter-insurgency techniques (at Ft. Benning) as a key factor which had a significant bearing on human rights violations during the armed confrontation.

*New York Times*, February 26, 1999

M. V. Prasad and R. Veerayya (Marxist-Leninist Committee), leaders of the said left parties respectively.

The 9 left party combination will also develop mass movements against price rise and on other burning issues.

### Bhillai, MP

On 18th March last, a joint demonstration held at Supela Chowk, Bhillai (MP) by SUCI, Loktantrik Samajwadi Party, HMKP, UTUC-LS, AIDS, AIMSS condemned war criminal Clinton's visit to India. An effigy of US President was burnt.

A meeting was held on the occasion addressed by the leaders.



*Demonstration in Surat against the visit of US President Bill Clinton on 21.3.2000*

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : NIHAR MUKHERJEE