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On Recent Developments in Assam

Assam is disturbed since long past, since the days of Assam movement which commenced in 1979 ostensibly under the slogan of driving out of 'foreign nationals', but with the real intention to disfranchise and expel a sizable section of the population belonging to the linguistic, religious minorities. That drive is not yet over. The All Assam Students Union is still continuing the movement constantly pressurising the AGP government to mount fresh attacks upon the minorities.

Apart from the tension arising out of this attempt for revival of that chauvinist movement, situation in Assam in recent times has been fast deteriorating because of certain other factors. Innocent common people are being killed indiscriminately for failing to pay the money as demanded or for refusing to join a particular group engaged in this type of activities with which they have no relation. Passenger trains and railway tracks also are being made targets of attacks and are being blasted resulting in deaths and injuries of ordinary passengers. Notwithstanding the retaliation by the cadres of the United Liberation Front of Assam or ULFA here and there the ULFA cadres are dying almost everyday in different places in Assam at the hands

of the army. Although a civilian government exists, practically the state is in the hands of the military and paramilitary forces. People's minds are surcharged with fear and apprehension, security of life and property in the state is at stake, none is sure what will happen next. An atmosphere of utter helplessness and uncertainty prevails all over the state in which no political activity can be thought of, while the problems of the common people have been increasing by leaps and bounds because of the ever increasing attacks of the capitalist class and the rulers. No democratic movement of the people is possible today in Assam under the prevailing situation. Not only that, the rulers have imposed drastic restrictions upon people's democratic rights but the very nature of the operations of the ULFA and Bodo movement leaders have also vitiated the atmosphere to the extent that people are fearful about them also. People are afraid in expressing and doing things lest they are antagonised.

To trace the background of it, it needs to be stated that both the ULFA movement and the Bodo movement are the two offshoots of the Assam movement. While the ULFA movement is the secessionist extension of the utterly parochial

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SUCI flays hike in Prices of Petroleum Products

Strongly condemning the drastic hike in the prices of petrol, diesel, LPG cylinders by the central UF government, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee issued the following statement on 2.9.97:

"This drastic increase, apart from its direct effect, will further spurt the prices of all essential commodities causing greater hardship to the common people.

"It is a matter of deep regret that the CPI(M) and the CPI too, played a deceptive role on this crucial issue by pretending to oppose it in public, while letting it pass in the UF Steering Committee meeting.

"We call upon the people of the whole country to develop powerful resistance movement against this unjust hike."

Debarring Criminals from Contesting

SUCI's Stand on Election Commissioner's Proposed Measures

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee issued the following statement on 29.8.97:

"The Central Committee of the SUCI having considered different aspects of the latest order of the Election Commission debarring convicted persons from contesting elections, is of the opinion that problem of criminalisation of politics although a very serious one, cannot be done away with simply by a legal order unless the ruling political parties desist from giving indulgence to mafias and criminals as it is at their behest that the criminals are having their way into Assemblies and Parliament. It is, therefore, a powerful mass movement on the basis of higher ethics and values which alone can break the dangerous nexus that has today developed between these political parties and the criminals.

"The second important point to be borne in mind is that whereas political prisoners many of whom are subsequently convicted constitute a different category, the Election Commission does not appear to have taken note of the basic difference between ordinary convicts and political detainees and has not clearly kept this category of prisoners out of the purview of its latest order. In view of the fact that political workers, particularly those who are engaged in democratic movements, are constantly harassed and implicated in false cases and that on the basis of false evidence many of them are convicted too, it is very important to safeguard the basic rights of the political parties so that genuine political workers do not suffer from any handicap as a result of this decision."

Historic 29th July

[Ganadabi, the Bengali organ of the party, was first published on 29th July, 1948. In the first issue of Ganadabi, an analysis of the political situation and correlation of forces was presented in a brilliant way, which might be considered as a historic document in the struggle of the exploited masses of the country. On the fiftieth year after the foundation of the party we are presenting an English version of that article in this issue. —Ed. P. Era]

In full glory of its revolutionary tradition and its message of the unity of the downtrodden masses, 29th of July has again returned to the exploited people of India who now stand on the verge of disaster, unable to bear the burden of all encumbering problems in their life — want of food, clothing, employment, etc., above all. To examine and re-evaluate this tradition in the present background of the new rule established and the emergent changed situation and to adopt the correct course of action is the task now of the revolutionary.

29th July is the history of the unity of the revolutionary masses of India. The massive general strike in which culminated the countrywide united demonstration by workers, office employees and students in support of the Post & Telegraph workers' strike on 29th July of

1946 has indeed no parallel in sixty years of national independence movement. The united stand and militancy of the exploited masses struck terror into the minds of the imperialist rulers, the vested interest and native capitalists, the impact of which was manifest in the subsequent political developments of the country.

The crisis that engulfed the different capitalist countries at the end of the Second World War was rocking India, too. Not only had the Indian people been reduced destitute, forced as they were to meet the demands of the war, the inflation that followed led to concentration of riches among a handful few and the prices of all commodities soared sky-high to reach beyond the purchasing power of the people. Widespread discontent and resentment were accumulating among the people

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Historic 29th July

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against the foreign imperialist rule and exploitation. Rising prices of all essential commodities on the one hand and the aggravating unemployment following closures of many war establishments with the end of the war drove them on to the inevitable path of struggle. Workers in factories, lower middle class employees of merchant and business houses embarked on strike courses in demand of job security and wage increase. The strikes over economic demands, in their gradual course, were turning into political strikes. The peasantry, on the other, were subsisting in acute distress, plunged into afflictions due to famines and epidemics on the trail of the ravaging war; the rocketing prices of essential commodities, fall in crop production, forcible uprooting from land by the zemindars, and ruthless fleecing by moneylenders pushed them into utter destitution. To be freed from this suffocating situation, peasant movements started developing throughout the length and breadth of the country over demands of right to the land they tilled and reduction of taxes. These movements were heading to culminate in widespread mass struggles.

People's discontent and the government's repressive measures in retaliation brought the masses on to the path of fierce struggle. Direct movement began in the cities of Calcutta, Bombay, etc., demanding release of the prisoners soldiers of the Azad Hind Fawz. Students in Calcutta first started the movement on 21st November. Industrial workers and office employees joined the movement. Blood spilled on the city streets for the first time in post-war India where the imperialist rulers opened fire. Martyrs Rameswar and Abdul Salem gave their blood to forge unity in the first anti-Imperialist mass movement of post-war India. Then came February of 1946, and stepped out the Hindus, Muslim, Sikhs of Calcutta — the broad masses in unison from all communities, all sections. Again the imperialist rulers struck and bled the struggling people of the land. Thereafter, was the uprising in the Navy when the Indian crew in Bombay, Madras and Karachi who had returned from the war theatre, rose in struggle against the imperialist rule of the country. The loyalists who so long constituted the power base of the imperialist rulers now stood up in rebellion, and fire replied fire. The rebellious mood of the Navy spread among the personnel of the army and the police force. Personnel and employees of the Royal Indian Air Force struck work in support to the naval uprising. Soldiers of the Gorkha Brigade of Allahabad openly revolted. Policemen of Delhi and Allahabad joined strength in the strike. Roar came from the striking Bihar police: 'Bullet will reply bullet'. Railway workers declared: 'The wheel won't turn till demands are met'. Finally came the strike of the starving post & telegraph employees. In all-out support to it on 29th July came forward the workers, employees and students from across India to register the demand in a voice: 'This struggle of the workers for wage-increase, this struggle for release of political prisoners, this struggle for land reforms in the interest of the peasants are all part and parcel of the anti-imperialist struggle. Nothing short of elimination of imperialism and capitalism can

meet the demands of the starving masses'. Thunder roared across towns, villages, factories, fields and slums as slogans filled the air: 'Imperialism, quit Asia', 'Down with capitalism' and the like. Imperialism could see the writing on the wall — its days were numbered. So it changed its way in its final bid for survival.

That was the hour when mass discontent in post-war India was taking a turn into mass revolution. The exploited people had themselves came forward to break the shackles of imperialism. It is here that this struggle differed from all the preceding ones — it did not end in protests and demands alone, it was ready to stake everything to realize those demands. The revolutionary masses were not willing to limit their struggle within the confines of non-violence. Learning from the experience of 1942 August Movement, they now stood equipped with the new instrument of struggle.

But there was no revolutionary leadership around to give this spontaneous outbursts of the masses an organised shape on a wide scale. So it failed to attain its historic goal. The fruits of the struggle were usurped by the Indian capitalist class because of the anti-revolutionary fear complex of the rightist bourgeois leadership (Congress and Muslim League) and their attempts to protect the interests of the capitalist class, on the one hand, and on the other due to absence of a joint leadership of the leftist, socialist, and revolutionary parties which alone could lead this struggle on to the right course and the mutual distrust and divisions among these parties and forces.

The history of national independence movement has time and again shown that the ideological and organisational leadership was usurped by the rightist bourgeois leadership in spite of all the sacrifices of the leftist and socialist parties because of their ideological and organisational weaknesses coupled with their inability to forge a united front against the common enemy. For this they have conducted national democratic movement with the result that the entire people remain influenced by the bourgeois culture, thinking and morals. No party with claim to socialist ideals has tried to free them from this influence and attract towards the proletarian culture and ideology. On the other, these parties have themselves acted as appendage to liberal bourgeois ideals. As a result of this deviation in the socialist movement, even as bourgeois democratic revolution was rapidly advancing towards its successful culmination in course of its historical continuity by integrating the separate different movements on the base of a political programme and availing of the people's revolutionary mood in the post-war economic crisis of the capitalist world, this tidal upheaval could not be channelised along the course of socialist revolution. Even it left the people without the means of power to resist when the capitalist class, after usurping power by virtue of its leadership, brought the bourgeois democratic revolution to close half-way and truncated.

The remainder was a history of failure, of shame. Conspiracy hatched by the foreign

imperialist powers and the native vested interest tore asunder the people's revolutionary unity. Communal poison almost paralysed the working people's movement, and the united struggle of 29th July was swept aside by the disunity and disharmony of 16th August.

The Allied Powers had won the war, but it was not all rejoicing for Great Britain. Victory was celebrated, of course, but Britain could not and did not regain her power and glory she enjoyed before the war, be it in economy or in the political field. This decline both within and outside in the international field became a matter of deep concern for her. The political and economic leadership of the capitalist world now vested in the United States of America, the country which alone remained as a powerful capitalist country through the war ravage, all others now are at its beck and call. The growing influence of the Soviet Union on the other hand and the growing power of the fighting people in different countries were now the matter of concern for Great Britain. Above all, uprisings in the colonies pushed her to the brink of a disaster. The British imperialist power started negotiating with the Indian capitalist class, its only means to anyhow survive. Side by side, the world capitalist power, now mortally afraid of the worldwide people's power, took recourse to rallying under the dollar imperialism of the United States with the object of destroying the people's power. The capitalist rulers of every country were invited to join the forum, India included. Privilege was accorded to the Indian capitalist class to rule the country, thereby blunting its reformist oppositional role. Transfer of political power took place, but India was chained down to economic dependence. The bourgeois leadership here, availing of this advantage and opportunity to establish its class interest, was all too loud in praise of "freedom". These rulers understood that in this era of worldwide monopoly capitalism it would be impossible to carry out widest, freest and fastest development of capitalism on their own, so they welcomed the imperialist plan and entered into a contract of mutual help and assistance.

But a section of the Indian capitalist class, the Muslim capitalists, saw in the transfer of power, its own difficulty to establish its class interest. Abetting religious fanaticism they rallied the Muslim community in an agitation and the strength of it secured their own power. The Hindu capitalists and the Muslim capitalists, under the patronage of and with assistance from the British imperialist power, plunged the entire country in a frenzy of communal riot entangling the ignorant masses in a fratricidal bloodbath only to strike at the root of socialist movement. The unity of the fighting exploited masses thus undermined, the country was partitioned into Hindusthan and Pakistan. And, exploiting the religious fanaticism of the people, the capitalist class established its rule. This real object of the partition the people failed to see, thrown into bloody riots as they were. Rather, they thought, partition would bring an end to communalism. Once they came to power, the national leaders, who represented the capitalist class, started intoxicating the public mind with national chauvinism. With the capitalist class gaining power, the militant anti-imperialist stand of the people thus came to an end.

With the usurpation of power by the Indian

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AIDYO Participates in the Anti-Imperialist, Anti-Fascist International Youth Camp in Germany

With the declared objective of developing a worldwide youth movement against imperialism and fascism, an International Youth Camp was held at Ru Recklinghausen, near Dortmund in Germany from 27th July to 3rd August, 1997. The camp was organised under the initiative of Marxist-Leninist Communist Party (MLKP) of Turkey and their youth wing, Communist Youth Organisation (KGO). 140 delegates from 17 countries representing 15 organisations participated in the camp. Comrade V. Venugopal represented AIDYO.

One week of discussions, deliberations, cultural programmes, sports activities and joint life brought in an effective exchange of ideas and experiences in between delegates coming from different parts of the world. A feeling of international fraternity among the struggling youth of the world prevailed.

A Joint Declaration adopted by the delegates in the camp stressed on the importance of the world youth movement in the struggle of the proletariat and other oppressed people against imperialism and fascism. Youth are confronted with intense problems increased manifold with the imposition of 'New World Order' by imperialism headed by the USA against which they have to develop powerful resistance movement. The Declaration hailed the militant struggles of the youth going on in different countries and called for a co-ordination of these struggles through an International platform. With the political direction against imperialism, world reaction, fascism and Zionism, a platform was declared to be formed with the doors open for all like-minded youth organisations to join later as and when they come. It was decided to hold such camps every year and a coordination committee was set up to look into its details. The Committee will try to organise campaign against narcotic aggression by the imperialists and attacks on education system through the conditionalities imposed by the imperialists through their agencies like World Bank and IMF. A Bulletin is proposed to be published by the Committee.

The speech delivered by Comrade V. Venugopal on behalf of AIDYO in the International Youth Camp is given below :

Mighty Militant World Youth Movement Is The Need of the Hour

On behalf of the struggling youth of India and on behalf of All India Democratic Youth Organisation (AIDYO), first of all let me extend my revolutionary greetings to all the representatives who have come from different parts of the globe to take part in this International Anti-Imperialist and Anti-Fascist Youth Camp organised under the initiative of Communist Youth Organisation of Turkey, primarily meant to develop a strong resistance movement of the international youth community against imperialism and fascism. AIDYO feels proud to be participant of such a great initiative.

This International Youth Camp which is bound to generate close friendship, unity and fraternity among the struggling youths of different countries, is being organised at a very appropriate

moment when all the progressive movements the world over are facing all out imperialist onslaught. There is no doubt that if there is a single enemy that the peoples of the entire globe have to contend now, it is imperialism.

Ever since the dismantling of the socialist camp with the fall of the great Soviet Union and other Eastern European socialist countries, world imperialism with US in the lead getting the upperhand is playing with the life of the people of the world unchecked in the all embracing rule of finance capital. The inevitable economic crisis of world capitalism-imperialism, far from getting resolved or even alleviated has only got intensified with the capitalist economic law of super and maximum profit playing key role and consequently paying little heed even to the minimum needs of the people and pushing the common man absolutely from the centre stage of social concern to the gutters of that economic crisis. Money, and money power alone is ruling the roost all over.

There is not a single section of the global population, be it workers, peasants, middle class, intelligentsia, women, children or students who are not caught in the strangleholds of imperialism. Among the worst hit are the youth of each country. If a problem can be singled out so grave as a fall out of the globalisation-liberalisation-privatisation regime under the new GATT-WTO dispensation forced upon as imperialist remedies, it is the problem of unemployment. While large scale lock-outs, lay-offs and retrenchment are the routine affairs of international industry, computerisation, modernisation and mechanisation in modern capital intensive high-tech industry making human labour more and more superfluous has kept the door for everybody closed to the arena of modern production with the result that millions swell the street in utter unemployment everywhere in the world. In backward and underdeveloped countries, the unemployed are forced to remain uneducated also. The future, as far as an average youth is concerned, whether be in an advanced, developing or underdeveloped country is very bleak and uncertainty haunts his life, chases him even to the point of mental breakdown. Life listless, becoming a burden, seems unworthy to be lived.

New imperialist economic order has made culture, art, literature, aesthetics, morality, ethics, human bonds of sensitive relations, love, affection — everything commodities to be bought and sold in global market strewn with cut-throat competition. Imperialist cultural invasion — particularly US cultural invasion is playing havoc in other countries, especially in third world countries through their audiovisual media which seeks market in vulgarised sensual mental make up purposefully created in connivance with the ruling reactionary classes of the respective countries, killing the MAN in human beings. A dangerous underworld is built up, with imperialist agencies funding and propping and too many innocent youth lured by the philosophy of quick money is taking to mafias. Ruling capitalist class everywhere are promoting youth turning to unethical livelihood eulogising money-making as the only ideal of life.

To save themselves from sinking into the quagmire of their inherent and even intensifying crisis, capitalism-imperialism is resorting to fascism in all countries, whether developed or underdeveloped. It is totally wrong to think that with the military defeat in the second world war, fascism has died a permanent death. Economic centralisation, maximum concentration of political power in the state, administrative rigidity, cultural regimentation and identification of the state with the interests of the monopolists and thereby making the state subservient to the interest of the monopolists — these figures the basic features of fascism. Fascism, as, is a historically conditioned form of counter-revolution in which capitalism seeks to stave off revolution by an anticipatory move, seeks to accumulate tremendous mass support and in the New Imperialist Economic Order, when socialist camp has been dismantled, imperialist bid to instigate and foment racialism, primitive spiritualism, religious fanaticism, national jingoism, traditionalism and mysticism are of dangerous portend. Communal and ethnic strifes are engineered in different parts of the world making rift in the unity of the people and claiming thousands of innocent lives. All reactionary ideas and thoughts and cults are undergoing an international revivalism under direct imperialist patronage to the advantage of advent of fascism. Fascism presents a peculiar fusion of spiritualism with technological aspects of science. Basic theories and concepts of science, it abhors, technical aspects it takes as per convenience. A social psyche is set all for a blind and irrational following creating a reactionary mass force against progress and particularly against communism.

Youth of all ages in all countries have played a distinct role in creating history, leading or participating in large numbers in progressive social movements to fight against injustice and oppression. As to sacrifices for a great cause innumerable are the instances where youth have laid down lives. But this became possible when the youth community of each period got imbued with the noblest ideology of the time and also got sensitised with the loftiest culture and sense of ethics and morality created uptill then. In the present day battle against the greatest enemies of civilization — imperialism and fascism — also, youths in order to play their historic role have to inculcate within themselves the greatest ideology of the present time, i.e. Marxism-Leninism and get imbued with the highest culture that the civilization has uptill now created, i.e. proletarian internationalism.

A few words about the youth movement in India. Among the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America India stands amongst the top few, so far as the development of its capital is concerned. India has developed monopoly capitalism, created finance capital and is exporting capital to other countries also i.e. Indian capitalist class has already assumed imperialist character. So the Indian capitalist state functions in the interest of Indian monopoly capitalism and enters into international agreements and performs diplomatic deals with an

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Opportunist Politics of CPI (M) and CPI Helped Separatist Forces Grow in Assam

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and chauvinist Assam movement, the Bodo movement too, with two types of demand, one section demanding a state within India to be carved out of Assam and another section a Bodo sovereign state, drew its inspiration from the same Assam movement. While the overstressing of the identity aspects or in other words the question of preservation of Assamese identity by the leaders of the Assam movement put Assam into the flames, turned Assam into a field of fratricidal conflicts resulting in deaths and persecutions of thousands and thousands of common people belonging to minority communities, it also roused similar feelings of identity amongst the tribal people who almost got assimilated in the Assamese society as a result of a natural process involving all forms of intercourse and interactions. From this feeling came the demands for formation of a Bodoland. While a section demanded a separate province or a state, the extremists among them demanded a sovereign state. Apart from other unjust and untenable aspects of this demand the most insurmountable difficulty in implementing this demand lies in the fact that the entire Bodo population is so interspersed with people belonging to other communities that it is really difficult to carve out a Bodo people inhabited contiguous area. Since the days of carving out of Nagaland out of Assam, Assam has been dismembered again and again. Naturally, therefore, people of Assam are today strongly against further division of the state. While minds of the common Bodo people because of the effects of hundreds of years living together, because of the fact of great amount of oneness working at people's level, are flexible in the sense that if the legitimate grievances are removed, discriminations are done away with, they may be persuaded to remain within Assam. The leaders of the Bodo movement, are, however, unrelenting, unbending. Although a few years back, they agreed for autonomous status, they have again raised the demand for a full-fledged state. What is of more concern is the fact that they are demanding a 'Bodoland' incorporating such areas in many of which non-Bodo people are in majority and they are strongly against joining Bodoland and are opposed to the idea of going out of Assam. It is evident that faced with a situation in which not only that the people of Assam are strongly opposed to the formation of a separate state, but the Bodo people are also reluctant to once again giving birth to a mass movement to force the issue. The leaders of the Bodo movement who are divided into two warring groups are resorting to this type of subversive activities, politics of individual assassination and other suicidal activities in which one group is killing their own people belonging to other groups.

The ULFA movement that is the movement launched by the United Liberation Front of Assam demanding a sovereign state rests upon the inference that Assam was never an integral part of India and that India or Indian State is exploiting Assam as a colony. So, their's is an anti-colonial freedom movement based upon Assamese 'nationalism'. Apart from other unjust and untenable aspects of this movement the

greatest weakness of the movement lies in the fact that whatever may be the ambivalence of the Assamese speaking people, they are largely opposed to the idea of going out of India as they feel very much to be Indians. But here also, the leaders of the ULFA movement are unrelenting and as such they refuse to recognize the minds not only of the non-Assamese people who constitute more than 60 per cent of the population of Assam, but of the Assamese speaking people, on whose demand, they claim, they have launched the movement. Money, arms and ammunitions are plenty with both the groups. They are in possession of sophisticated weapons and they are adequately trained. Through extortions they collect huge money. All the forces seeking secession from India and the North-East have developed some form of co-ordination and co-operation. Evidently they are using the territory of Bangladesh and Bhutan in furtherance of their cause. But involvement of ISI of Pakistan and CIA is also being alleged.

On the other hand, the ULFA movement has drawn to its ranks large numbers of patriotic minded students and youths who are mostly in their early twenties. The avowed objective of freeing Assam from exploitation has got strong appeal amongst the downtrodden people shattered and battered by fifty years of capitalist exploitation and they are yearning for a basic change. It is a fact that ULFA movement has developed out of this desire of a sizable section of down-trodden people and it is also true that amongst the masses it has still its appeal. Although strategical and tactical mistakes of the ULFA movement and its leaders are gradually alienating themselves from the people, still it cannot be denied that mainly because of their commitment to the cause of the common people, their mode of living, their cadres' sincerity, honesty and dedication and the courageous manner in which they are confronting police and military, they are still enjoying a kind of admiration amongst the common people.

Analyzing the movement the SUCI has pointed out that the fundamental error of the movement lies in not treating Assamese speaking people as not Indian people and not treating Assam as an integral part of India. The party has emphatically stated the exploitation with which they are confronted is the exploitation of the capitalist class of the country which has engulfed people of other states, too, and that the ruling capitalist class can be overthrown if a common march towards socialist revolution is conceived of. Having acknowledged the patriotism, sincerity, dedication and valour of the rank and file of the ULFA movement, the party has emphasized that as the capitalist class is deeply entrenched in state power it cannot be fought alone by any community through any secessionist movement whatever might be the sacrifices and bloodshed involved in it. The party, has, therefore, appealed to the leaders of the movement to shun the path of armed struggle seeking secession from the country at this juncture as it regards it to be a suicidal path which will result only in the untimely demise of students and youths having strong revolutionary potentiality. At the same time, our party has

severely criticized its policy of extortion and the politics of individual assassination in which it indulges, pointing at the same time the disastrous consequences that have been arising out of it.

Similarly, the party has appealed to the leaders of the Bodo movement to give up their demand for a separate state which apart from other considerations is also impossible to carve out. Instead, the party has urged the Government of Assam to grant maximum autonomy to the Bodo Autonomous Council as formed earlier and grant it sufficient money to carry out developmental work. It has also appealed to the leaders of Bodo movement and Bodo people to develop mighty people's movement in alliance with other downtrodden people of Assam for fulfilment of their legitimate demands and redressal of their grievances.

At the same time the party is fully aware that these two movements although not having a correct base political line but still enjoying a great amount of support and sympathy could develop in the absence of effective left democratic movement in the state. Sensing people's growing anger and disenchantment with the ruling class and ruling parties, the SUCI has been urging the Left parties, more particularly the CPI and the CPI(M), since long past to come forward to develop mighty people's movement against growing exploitation and oppression of the people centring round their burning problems. But all these appeals fell on deaf ears. The CPI(M) and the CPI scrupulously shunned the path of democratic mass movement and stuck to opportunist politics. The need for militant democratic mass movements was all the more important in Assam because of the fact that here chauvinism and provincialism was a force to reckon with and it is only democratic movements embracing all sections of the toiling people which could effectively counter it and also in the process constitute a powerful bulwark against it. The disastrous consequences of failure to develop such movements is vivid today. Apart from other disastrous consequences, the entire left forces of the state today stand shattered and battered. The position of the CPI(M) and the CPI is really pitiable as they are found to be maintaining a semblance of existence by aligning themselves with the AGP which is nothing but an out and out chauvinist party.

More than ten years back when the ULFA movement appeared with a reckonable strength, the SUCI urged all the left-democratic parties of the state to grasp the imminent danger ingrained in the movement and forge a powerful unity with a view to going to the people to explain to them the futile nature and the impracticability of the movement which would bring no relief to the people, but on the one hand will result in brutal killings of hundreds of students and youths having patriotic fervour and on the other will provide handle to the oppressive bourgeois rulers to destroy whatever still remains of the democratic movement and to take away people's democratic rights and to establish their sway. The party firmly held that at the beginning of the ULFA movement if the people could be convinced about the futility of such separatist and secessionist movements,

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Statement of Assam State Committee

Guwahati, 22.8.97: Expressing serious concern over the appointment of Lt Genl S.K. Sinha as the Governor of Assam and Mr K.P.S. Gill, former Director General of Police of Punjab who is already under severe criticism for committing grave excesses in Punjab and also convicted on charge of moral turpitude, as an adviser to the Chief Minister of Assam, Comrade Kalyan Chowdhury, Secretary of the Assam State Committee of the SUCI, in course of a statement stated that this once again brought to the fore the fact that the governments of India and of Assam instead of pursuing the path of bringing about an honourable solution of this highly complicated problem, was further embarking upon the path of brutal suppression of the ULFA movement. Pointing out the fact that redressal of genuine grievances and fulfillment of very legitimate demands of the people of Assam, would go a long way in creating an atmosphere for a negotiated settlement of the ULFA problem, Comrade Chowdhury urged both the central and the state governments not to do anything, which, instead of doing anything positive, would simply establish a military raj in Assam.

Assam State Committee expresses deep shock over brutal killings

Guwahati, 20.8.97- Expressing deep shock over the brutal killings of innocent people belonging to different communities living in Bodo inhabited areas. Comrade Kalyan Chowdhury, Secretary of Assam State Committee of the SUCI, in course of a statement severely criticized the state government for practically doing nothing to protect the lives and properties of the common people.

Strongly expressing the view that this type of indiscriminate killings of innocent men and women instead of serving any purpose, would make fratricidal conflicts inevitable, Comrade Chowdhury urged the forces who were resorting to this type of violent activities to desist from such self-destructive inhuman acts. Demanding adequate compensation to the families affected by these carnages, Comrade Chowdhury urged the Assam government to take strong measures to protect the life and property of common people.

5th August Observed

(We published the news of the observance of 5th August in different states in our previous issue. Further news about the observance of the occasion in states like UP, Gujarat and Karnataka have been received since then and these are given here.-Editor, Proletarian Era)

UP

SUCI observed death anniversary of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and Frederick Engels at the following places in UP.

Jaunpur - A meeting was held on 9th August '97 at the Hall of Saltanat Bahadur Inter College, Badlapdur. The meeting was presided over by a senior member of Jaunpur district committee, Comrade Hira Lal Maurya. Comrade V.N. Singh, the State Secretary of the SUCI, highlighted the life struggles of the two great leaders of the proletariat and told about their invaluable teachings. State organising committee members Comrades Dinesh Kant Dubey, Ram Jatan Maurya and Jagannath Verma also addressed the meeting.

The whole programme was conducted by Comrade Ram Asare Maurya.

Pratapgarh - A meeting was held on 10th August '97 at Baldeo Prasad Chaurasiya Junior Secondary School, Patti. The meeting was presided over by Pratapgarh district secretary of the SUCI, Comrade Bechan Ali. Comrade Dinesh Kant Dubey highlighted the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and Frederick Engels. Comrades Jagannath Verma and Prem Shankar Pandey, State Committee members also addressed the meeting. The whole programme was conducted by the member of district committee, Comrade Ram Samujh Maurya.

Sultanpur - A meeting was held on 12th August, 1997, at Kalikaganj Vidyalaya. The meeting was presided over by district committee member Comrade Ram Murti Maurya. Comrade V. N. Singh, UP State Secretary, highlighted the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and Frederick Engels. The meeting was addressed by

State Organising Committee members Comrades Dinesh Kant Dubey and Jagannath Verma. The whole programme was conducted by AIDS leader Comrade Jaiprakash Maurya.

Karnataka

On 6.8.97 Bellary District Committee of our party organised a memorial meeting of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat, at Gandhi Bhavan. Comrade Somashekhar, district secretary, SUCI, presided over the meeting while Comrade K Uma one of the state committee members was the main speaker.

On 9th August, a study class was held dealing with the life struggles and teachings of Engels at the district party office in memory of the great leader.

Ahmedabad

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh memorial meeting was held here at Sardar Patel Smarak Bhavan, near Laldarwaja on 8th August. The meeting was organised by the Ahmedabad District Organising Committee, SUCI and it was presided over by Comrade Vismay Shah, the District Organising secretary. Comrade Dwarika Nath Ratha, In-charge, SUCI, Gujarat State was the main speaker. The other speakers were Comrade Damini Shah, the State Convenor of the AIMSS and Comrade Jogesh Patel, state secretary, AIDS.

Surat - A two-day study class was held at Surat on 9.8.97 and 10.8.97. On the basis of Marxism-Leninism-Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's thoughts, questions posed by comrades were discussed at length. The class was held in the presence of Comrade Dwarika Nath Ratha.

Baroda - A study class was held at Baroda party office in the presence of Comrade Tapan Dasgupta, the Baroda City in-charge of the party.

Massive Demonstration by AIDS in Calcutta

In protest against fee hike and introduction of donation by the Left Front government in all educational institutions in West Bengal, the AIDS organised a massive demonstration in Calcutta. The rally started from College Street, but was stopped by a posse of a heavily armed

police force at Rani Rashmoni Road.

Before the rally Comrade Chandidas Bhattacharyya, the State Secretary of AIDS addressed the gathering. Two resolutions — one condemning the barbarous attack by the SFI activists against the members of the AIDS at Rabindra Bharati University campus, and the other demanding adequate relief including exemption of fees of the students of the flood affected areas of Midnapur were unanimously adopted and ten lakh signatures in support of the demand of the students were placed in 19 boxes in a tabloid.

When the rally was stopped by the police a meeting was held there with Comrade Santu Gupta, the president of West Bengal State Committee and vice-President of the All India Committee of the AIDS in the chair. After the meeting a four member delegation went to meet the Chief Minister, but the Fishery Minister met them on behalf of the CM. After the meeting Comrade Gupta appealed to the students to build up "Action Committee against Fee Hike" to compel the government to withdraw fee hike and the policy of donation system.



(Left) A section of the massive demonstration of AIDS in Calcutta on 1 Sept'97.

Demonstration in Trivandrum against price hike of petroleum products

Trivandrum, Sept.2,'97: Volunteers of the SUCI demonstrated here against steep price hike of petroleum products.

Addressing the demonstrators before the Government Secretariat, Comrade B.K. Rajagopal, Kerala State Committee member, SUCI and others condemned the anti-people act of the UF government supported by the Congress, the CPI(M). The speakers flayed the utterly opportunistic role of the CPI(M) and the CPI which were shedding crocodile tears for the people because of this hike in prices while endorsing the decision of price increase in the UF Steering Committee.

Protest Demonstration in Bangalore

AIDSO against Karnataka State University Bill

The AIDSO organised protest demonstration against "Draft of Karnataka State University Bill" on 22nd August, 1997 at 11 AM near Mysore Bank Circle. Hundreds of students burnt the replica of the proposed Bill.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof G.K. Govinda Rao, ex-President of BUCTA said, "Government shall not interfere in educational affairs other than providing financial aid. If they interfere it goes against autonomy and democracy itself. The Bill proposes to appoint an IAS officer as an administrator to bring total bureaucratic function. Today, you, the students, are burning the effigy of the bill, this is not sufficient. One day this will create a condition that the Bill would be burnt by the government under pressure of your powerful movement." He gave a call to conduct thorough discussions among students on the Bill conducive to future movements.

Addressing the protestors, Shri H. S. Doreswamy, veteran freedom fighter, told : It is a happy thing that students have come forward to fight the draft which tends to make university as government department. Students shall fight all forces and powers which try to suppress movement. We have to expose the conspiracy of the government to shape the education in tune with their political interests. Students and all education-loving people should pledge to fight to save education from this onslaught.

T. U. News

On to Delhi — On 9th December

The National Platform of Mass Organisations in its meeting held on 27th June,'97 resolved to launch countrywide action in phases against the disastrous economic policies pursued and implemented by the United Front Central Government culminating in a massive demonstration (Dharna) to be held before the parliament on 9th December, 1997. The phased programme adopted by NPMO, inter alia, includes district and state level conventions and rallies to be completed by 1997. The UTUC-LS

Comrade K Uma, State President of the AIDSO, said: It is a paradox that independence of university is trampled, when the country is celebrating its golden jubilee of Independence. This draft is aimed at privatization and commercialization by recommending many things in the interest of management, by bringing the university fully under its control. When university is suffering from many problems like corruption, maladministration, marks-cards scandals, etc., it would increase in future due to government's interference. This has caused a lot of worry and anxiety among education loving people. When a delegation on 20th August, 1997, met the Hon'ble Governor, the Governor expressed that he was unaware of the Bill and he suggested to the students to explain the people regarding the danger of the Bill and demand also for 1976 University Act. Sending the teachers to jail and taking away their right to fight is nothing but a fascistic move and it is a cunning move to twist the students' sentiment against teachers.

The meeting was presided over by Comrade Rajashekar, Secretary of Bangalore District Committee of AIDSO.

Different teachers' organisations like KGCTA, SUCTA, ACCT, Karnataka State Government for College Lecturers Association sent their messages expressing solidarity to the movement.

calls upon all its affiliates and the working people of the country to prepare themselves to make rallies, conventions and massive demonstration an inspiring success.

Trade Union Classes in Haryana and West Bengal

Under the auspices of the UTUC-LS Haryana State Committee, a two day trade union class was held in Sonapat, Haryana on 5th and 6th July, 1997. The issues discussed in the class were Employees Pension Scheme, 1995, concept of minimum, fair and living wages, 15th ILC recommendation on minimum wage, 5th Central Pay Commission report, the role of UTUC-Lenin Sarani in trade union movement and the need to learn politics and join a working class party on the part of the workers. More than 60 trade union workers from different parts and industries of Haryana participated in this class.

The issues taken up for discussion in the trade union class held under the auspices of Murshidabad District Committee at Berhampur on 10th August, 1997 were labour and capital, character of the capitalist system and the state, role of an individual worker and trade union in anti-capitalist movement, some aspects of pay commission recommendations and correct understanding of the resolution adopted by All Bengal workers and employees convention held in Calcutta on 27th June with a view to developing united movement, etc. Both the classes were conducted by Comrade Achintya Sinha, one of the All India Secretaries of the organisation.

Workers quit CITU Join UTUC-LS

The factory of NIZONE Tube Limited is situated at Dankuni Coal Complex in the district of Hooghly, West Bengal. Pro-management approach and activities of CITU leadership has compelled the workers to go for changing the leadership. All the 150 workers employed directly and through contractors, of course for perennial nature of job, joined West Bengal Engineering Workers Union, affiliated to UTUC-LS. Being annoyed with and aggrieved at such a move on the part of the workers and the consequent change of leadership the management unleashed continuous attacks on the workers to compel them to leave UTUC-LS and rejoin CITU. In the meantime the management suspended two leaders of the union and refused employment to another fifty workers. The workers under the present union leadership resolved to fight back and started tool down strike with effect from 9th August. To retaliate, the management locked out the factory with effect from 16th August. In this fierce struggle the workers are getting spontaneous support from the people of the neighbouring villages and factory-workers irrespective of their affiliation. The fight has become essentially against the management, administration and the ruling party combination. Comrade Dilip Bhattacharya, who is a popular leader of the district has been leading the struggle as secretary of the Hooghly District Committee of the UTUC-LS and the General Secretary of the unit.



Protest demonstration in Bangalore by the AIDSO. Sri H. S. Doreswamy, veteran freedom fighter is seen second from left. On his right are Prof. G. K. Gobinda Rao, former President of BUCTA and Comrade K. Uma, state president of AIDSO

Hundreds of workers join UTUC-LS in Karnataka

Hundreds of workers employed in Iron ore mines, garment and chemical and rubber industries are joining UTUC-Lenin Sarani in Karnataka. During a span of last two years, six unions have been formed in the above mentioned industries. All the six unions have taken affiliation to UTUC-LS. The year long successful movement launched and conducted by Iron ore mines workers of the district of Bellary under the leadership of Samyutha Gani Karmika Sangha against closure of mines, illegal lock-out, dismissal of union activists and workers created an impressive impact and influence on various sections of the working people of the state.

Joint Convention in Hyderabad

Under the auspices of seven leftist parties comprising the SUCI, the MCPI, the CPI(ML)New Democracy, the CPI(ML)Jana Shakti, the CPM (a faction of CPI(M), the CPI(ML)Liberation and the Marxist Leninist Committee, a convention was held in Hyderabad on 31st July against the anti-people policies of the Chandra Babu Naidu government.

Comrade EPA Rasheed, secretariat member, A P State Organising Committee of the SUCI was in the presidium while Comrade K Sridhar, State Secretary, attended the convention as a speaker

Comrade K Sridhar addressing the well attended gathering said that because of the anti-people policies pursued by both central and state governments, thousands of workers were rendered jobless and thrown on to the roads. For closing down Alwyn auto unit, 1700 workers and their families were starving and Chandra Babu Naidu had declared shamelessly that he would be closing one after another all the 39 state public sector units. Comrade Sridhar condemned this anti-working class attitude of the State Government. He said that all the social welfare schemes like 'rice rupees 2/- per kg' scheme, ban on liquor had been abandoned by this government. Besides this, the government had increased the prices of all essential commodities. Water cess, electrical charges, milk price, bus fares, tuition fees, registration charges, professional taxes were increased. In order to divert the attention of the people Mr Naidu had started "Janma Bhoomi" drama, spending crores of people's money. His leftist allies the CPI and the CPI(M) had left long ago the path of movement and shamelessly directly or indirectly, supporting the anti-people policies of Naidu government.

Discussing on privatization, Comrade Sridhar said that as a capitalist attack, privatization throughout the world was the order of the day. In India the rulers were privatizing public sector units in the interest of monopoly capitalists and also foreign imperialists.

He called upon the people in general and left democratic parties in particular to develop mighty democratic mass movement against all anti-people policies of the State and Central Governments. For this purpose, seven left parties came together to develop mass movements.

Tea Workers' strike in North Bengal

After successful observance of one day's token strike on 24th July followed by ten days continuous campaigning holding of rallies and demonstrations, thousands of tea plantation workers of more than three hundred tea gardens in Darjeeling, Terai, Dooars participated in a three day long strike on 11 - 13 August to protest against the audacious refusal of tea plantation management to conclude a three year period wage settlement due from 1st April, 1997. The strike was a cent percent success.

The UTUC-LS affiliated North Bengal Tea Plantation Employees Union, a co-convenor of the strike in a statement issued on 13th August '97

said, "... The plantation employees have not only given a befitting rebuff to employers' ego and audacity inflated by the ruling Left Front Government's systematically and continuously pursued utter indifference to tea workers' genuine demands and legitimate interests but also made it clear that the tea workers are determined to go ahead unitedly till their demands are achieved." While congratulating tea workers for their determination to go ahead, the statement called upon them to form "Unity Committee" and "Volunteers Corps" in every garden with a view to making the victory a must in the on-going struggle.

Historic 29th July

(Contd from page 2)

bourgeoisie, the political situation of the country has undergone a sea change, the class correlation of forces has taken a new shape. Now every socialist party should realize that the capitalist class coming to power notwithstanding bourgeois democracy has not been established completely. Bourgeois Democratic Revolution has ended half-baked and truncated, but in this era of worldwide proletarian revolution the unfulfilled tasks of bourgeois democracy cannot be completed through bourgeois democratic revolution. Today's struggle is the struggle of the exploited masses of the workers, peasants and lower middle class people against the ruling national bourgeoisie. Inevitably, it is historically destined to tread the course of socialist revolution. The half fulfilled or unfulfilled democratic demands can be realized only through this course

of socialist revolution.

Failing to solve any of the burning problems in the people's life, the Indian capitalist state is taking recourse to fascist repression to crush the accumulated discontent of the people. The rulers want to organize themselves by unleashing a police-reign to suppress the people's movement. To overcome this crisis facing the people, the lessons of 29th July have to be put into action. The unity which we could build that day among the revolutionary masses has to be reestablished. Every genuine socialist minded party has to come forward now with one socialist programme and they have all to join strength to develop revolutionary working class leadership through united struggle against the capitalist state machine and thus to lead the Indian revolution of the future through to success. To bend all energy to the end is the call of history.



(Above) Comrade K. Sridhar, secretary AP State Organising Committee is addressing the Joint Convention in Hyderabad. (Below) A section of the gathering.

International Youth Camp in Germany

(Contd. from page 3)

eye to sharing world market though as a junior partner. Hence Indian youth movement, in close solidarity with the struggle of Indian proletariat is directed against its national enemy and it views this struggle to go in consonance with the struggle of the world youth movement against world imperialism.

Also is to be noted the fact that rockbottom foundation for fascism has also been laid in India by Indian capitalist class. Keeping the facade of parliamentary democracy, ruling capitalist class is in a permanent strive for bringing in fascism. Indian youth movement is very much alert on it.

AIDYO in India is in the thick of developing movements on the burning problems of the youth community. The New Economic Policy (NEP) pursued by the Government of India for the past decade ever since the 'New World Order' of imperialists came in the offing, has put the rate of the employment unbearably increasing, put all welfare measures, though not adequate, taken hitherto by the government to a halt, introduced New Education Policy shirking off the state responsibility making education privatised, costly and a commodity, brought in New Health Policy making government health institutions squeezed and allowing private enterprises to run 'Hi-tech Health Industry' and increasing manifold the price of even life saving drugs, took to a cultural policy of opening up to imperialist audiovisual media and propagating a consumerist vulgar culture, made a liquor policy of virtually allowing free flow of liquor throughout the country and making revenue out of it — all creating a situation where crimes are increasing, underworld is controlling,

On Recent Assam Situation

(Contd from page 4)

they could prevail upon the leaders and cadres of the ULFA movement for not going by the path of self-annihilation. But the expectation of the party did not work. These parties including the CPI(M) and the CPI preferred to sit on the fence and see situation. What is happening in the state today is the inevitable outcome of the opportunist politics, more particularly of the CPI(M) and the CPI. Today, being a part and parcel of AGP government, the CPI(M) and the CPI just in a bourgeois manner are relying upon the Indian military to destroy these movements. But this is proving to be a boomerang by letting loose a reign of terror. Through brutal military operations the Indian bourgeois state is further alienating itself from the Assamese speaking people. Under the circumstances, the party in Assam again and again has been urging the leaders and cadres of the ULFA movement to review their strategical line which has led them to nowhere and today they are engaged in an unequal war with the Indian military as a result of which promising youths with strong patriotic fervour are getting killed. At the same time, the party is urging the democratic minded people of Assam to bring pressure on the government to give up the hawkish military approach and instead strive for a political solution of this highly complicated political problem. Earnestly endeavouring for immediate start of dialogues the party has called for redressal of all genuine grievances and meeting longstanding

atrocities are being perpetrated on women, peaceful social life becoming nearly impossible and to top it all corruption gripping the entire political and administrative system where even the top level politicians including Prime Ministers and Chief Ministers and top level bureaucrats are put to dock. And to contain people's movements that are liable to burst out against the government and the system, democratic rights and civil liberties are being systematically curtailed.

AIDYO is organising the youth on a national plane in powerful democratic movements against all sorts of injustices, movements being conducive to the anti-capitalist struggles waged by working people against the national capitalist state. AIDYO at the same time is trying to mobilise public opinion and support for all movements going on internationally against imperialism and fascism. When America was bullying other countries on the issue of CTBT, when North Korea was threatened, when Cuba is going through the pressing times of embargo, AIDYO took up demonstrative programmes joining with the All India Anti-Imperialist Forum formed in November 1995 at Calcutta in a convention where delegates from abroad also were present.

To conclude with, imperialism is on the offensive and fascism is raising its ugly head though, stern actions of resistance are also developing in different parts of the world — youths of different countries are not lagging behind. This International Youth Camp itself is a testimony to the fact that youth are not in slumber.

Still we have to close our ranks and make decisive moves.

ON TO PROGRESS AND TO PEACE

legitimate demands of the people, which in its opinion, will go a long way in earning goodwill of the masses and in course would pave the path for a negotiated settlement.

At the same time, the party has severely condemned the government for its policy of cold-blooded murders of ULFA cadres under the pretext of encounter. It has demanded that the government must scrupulously follow the rule of law and desist from brutal atrocities which are being perpetrated not only against the cadres of ULFA but also against innocent men and women.

Government Employees in Delhi resolve to form Joint Platform of Action (JPA)

28 July, New Delhi — Representatives of 3 unions of Central and State Government Employees as well as the leading employees from North Block, South Block, Krishi Bhavan, Secretariat, CGO Complex, etc., assembled today at Regarpura Karolbagh and unanimously resolved to develop Joint Platform of Action to resist retrograde recommendations of the 5th Central Pay Commission in particular and anti-employee policies of the governments in general. The meeting was addressed by Comrade Achintya Sinha, All India Secretary of UTUC-LS, who in course of discussion flayed the Central Government for accepting rabid anti-worker recommendations of the 5th Pay panel. Among others present in the meeting were R. K. Mazumdar, R.K. Sharma and Premchand.

Mediation in Kashmir

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee decries US move

Condemning the recent US move to intervene into the internal affairs of India, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI issued the following statement on 28.8.97:

"We strongly condemn the recent move of the Bill Clinton administration to convene a meeting of premiers of India and Pakistan on the ostensible plea of solving the Kashmir problem. This is a clear case of interference into internal affairs of India. It is a matter of regret that the Indian Prime Minister Mr I.K. Gujral trampling down the anti-imperialist tradition of the Indian people and even shifting from Mr Gujral's own earlier stand is going to attend that meeting with the US President.

"We appeal to all the left and democratic and patriotic forces to mount pressure on the government to compel it to retrace this shameful step."

Condolence Message

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee sent the following Condolence Message to the General Secretary, CPI on 3-9-97 on the death of Comrade M. Farooqui, a veteran CPI leader:

"We deeply condole the demise of Comrade M. Farooqui, a veteran leader and stalwart of CPI and express our heartfelt sympathy to the leaders and cadres of the Party at this hour of grief."

Programme of

All India Anti-Imperialist Forum

November 16 - 17, 1997
University Institute Hall
Calcutta

November 16 —

Discussion Meet on
"Necessity to develop
anti-imperialist move-
ment in the present
global context."
(Two sessions)

November 17 —

Discussion on the
theme "Exploration of
possibility of building
anti-imperialist organi-
sations".
(One Session)

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : NIHAR MUKHERJEE