

# Recent Non-aligned Summit—Its Significance

Amidst hectic parleys, the ninth Non-aligned Summit opened in Belgrade on 4th September last with leaders of the NAM pledging to make concerted efforts to press for an early North-South dialogue in order to correct the economic imbalances between the rich and poorer nations. This year, since the Harare Summit held two years ago, the four-day summit was attended by 102 member nations. At the plenary of the summit, the second to be held since the Non-Aligned Movement's inception in 1961, on the soil of Yugoslavia, the Yugoslav President assumed chairmanship from Mr. Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

The four-day summit, after acrimonious deliberations finally came out with a consensus over the future role of the non-aligned movement. It highlighted modernising the NAM in its approach and methodology to respond to the challenge ahead, gearing up for a fight against the domination of economic giants as well as expeditious disposal of regional conflicts. Towards strengthening and coordinating South-South cooperation and preparing an effective plan of action, formation of a Group including India was announced by

the Chairman of South Commission Mr. Julius Nyerere in presence of Mr. Narasimha Rao, India's External Affairs Minister and some other member nations. Significantly, action programme on modernization adopted during the summit indicated in no uncertain terms what does it connote. It voiced the NAM's concerted desire to intensify dialogue on an equal footing with relation to all groupings and key factors in international relations. (The Statesman 9.9.89).

Earlier during the four-day summit, intense debates at the plenary session focussed attention of the world community on the serious problems posed by the debt crisis of the Third World, the environment, the situation in southern Africa, the Middle East, Central America, and Afghanistan where peace and the right of self-determination is still a far cry. It is not unlikely that such a summit comprising 102 nations of the globe, where countries with different and even diametrically opposite political and social set-up participate, would become ridden with bitter disputes centring round various issues of cross-interests. But what was significantly conspicuous by

its absence was the stealthy abandonment of NAM's basic commitment to fight against imperialism — their common enemy. Surely, this would not miss the attention of the anti-Imperialist freedom loving people the world over, who genuinely desire to see the NAM solidly united on a common platform against imperialism headed by US imperialism. As a matter of fact, the echo of this voice found expression in the speeches of some of the 'radical' member-nations like front line African nations, Cuba, North Korea, Vietnam and Laos, who criticised the summit document severely on the ground that it was a move to "deideologize" the movement. Needless to say, the document could be finally accepted only after heated and acrimonious exchanges between the participating nations. Moutching its severe condemnation for the US-policy of "aggression and imperialism", Mr. Raul Castro Ruz, deputising the Cuban leader, Mr. Fidel Castro, reminded the 9th summit of its important role in ending colonialism and apartheid, which still operate in some parts of this planet. Striking a note of caution he drew the attention of the summit not to deviate from its basic commitment of fighting imperialism, neo-colonialism, racism and apartheid.

Describing the emergence of resurgent national (Contd. on page 3)

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## Panchayati Raj Bill

### A dangerous move towards centralisation

Rajiv Gandhi's letter addressed to all the panchayat pradhans bypassing the State governments on 8th September last is a direct affront to the concept of the federal structure of our country. The subject matter of the letter is the Panchayati Raj Bill which has not yet been passed in the Rajya Sabha.

This action is not only an act of disrespect to the Rajya Sabha and to all democratic norms and principles, but is actually a direct encroachment on the prerogative of the State governments, which are included in the Entry 5 of the Seventh Schedule, list II of the Indian Constitution. The panchayats, corporations, etc. are included there. So by writing directly to the panchayat pradhans Rajiv Gandhi has flouted the Constitution. This attack is highly condemnable.

Rajiv Gandhi has, however, tried to change the structure of the constitution by introducing the 64th Constitution

amendment Bill, the Panchayati Raj Bill. It is a common practice for the Congress(I) government that it on and often changes the constitution according to its suitability. Secondly, until and unless this Bill is enacted, it is imperative that the existing provisions of the constitution are to be followed. By what right Rajiv Gandhi has presumed that this 64th amendment will be adopted by the Rajya Sabha and hastened to write to the panchayat pradhans on that presumption? It once again proves that Rajiv Gandhi and his cohorts have scant regard for the constitution while

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A section of mammoth gathering held by the SUCI at Bhubaneswar on September 7 last. (Detailed report published in last issue).

## Panchayati Raj Bill

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in public posture they wax eloquent on its sanctity. They do not hesitate to change this Constitution lock, stock and barrel to suit their narrow partisan end as we find in this 64th amendment Bill. By this amendment Eleventh Schedule is being introduced after the Tenth Schedule and the prerogative of the State governments is being curbed.

In the Eleventh Schedule proposed after the Tenth Schedule a number of activities has been identified for the sole purview of the panchayats. These include agriculture including agriculture extension, land improvement and soil conservation, minor irrigation, animal husbandry to education including primary and secondary schools, technical training and vocational education, adult and non-formal education, health and sanitation including hospitals, primary health centres and dispensaries, etc. The list is exhaustive and covers almost all the aspects barring some like higher education etc. All those activities which have been so long looked after by the State governments will now be the exclusive purview of the panchayats. Education and health care in our country are in a complete shambles. The governments both at the Centre and States have miserably failed to provide even elementary education and elementary health care to the millions of the rural people. Education should be looked after by the educationists and education loving people and it is really agonising how the panchayats can come into the picture in the matter of education. In the New Education Policy of the Central government it has been proposed that the education upto the secondary level will be brought under the purview of the panchayats in the rural

areas and this policy is being implemented now through this provision. When the state of education and health care is in complete disarray one can easily foresee from his experience of the present functioning of the panchayats what will happen to the education or the health care of the rural poor. This is nothing but shirking of the elementary responsibility in these affairs and an attempt to cover up their utter negligence to arrange even elementary education and health care in rural areas.

In the statement of objects and reasons for the Panchayati Raj Bill, it is stated: "...in many states they have become weak and ineffective owing to a variety of reasons, including the failure to hold regular and periodical elections, prolonged supersessions, inadequate representation to the weaker sections like the scheduled castes, the scheduled tribes and women, lack of financial resources and inadequate devolution of power and responsibilities on them." The reasons behind the introduction of the Panchayati Raj Bill are extremely weak. If the panchayats are weak because of the failure to hold regular and periodical elections, prolonged supersessions etc. it would have been proper to remove these impediments for strengthening the panchayat institutions instead of introducing the 64th Constitution Amendment Bill. The Congress(I) government headed by Rajiv Gandhi has not taken any action in that direction. On the contrary what is the track record of the Congress (I) ruled States in this respect? At certain places the Congress(I) governments have not held civic elections for 20 years. For example the Congress(I) government dissolved 158 panchayats out of 250 panchayats in Mizoram in the last four months. Mr. Laldenga has rightly termed this action as dissolution of

power and not devolution of power. Out of the 72 municipal corporations, 37 stand superseded and the overwhelming majority of the superseded municipal corporations are in the Congress(I) ruled States. When Rajiv Gandhi is so much vociferous about the devolution of power to the people his party government in Rajasthan moved an application before the State High Court to recall its order of November 1988 by which the court has directed the State government to hold the municipal elections in certain towns by the end of August last. In this connection it may be mentioned that in important towns like Jaipur and Ajmer the last civic election was held in 1970. These instances come out in bold relief to show that the ruling Congress(I) lacks the political will for the devolution of power to the people, Rajiv Gandhi's rhetoric notwithstanding and this Panchayati Raj Bill is just a ploy to hoodwink the people on one hand and on the other this is designed to concentrate more power in the Centre. As a matter of fact, every layer of administration in the country down to the village will be directly under control of the Centre. This 64th Constitution Amendment Bill has provisions that the election to these panchayats will be conducted by the Central Election Commission. It is also proposed that the Comptroller & Auditor General will audit the accounts of the panchayats through the State governments. Thus it is clear, an attempt towards centralisation has been made.

Rajiv Gandhi government is trying to project itself as the champion for the cause of the backward community and women folk. The special feature of the backward community is that most of the people of this community are not only economically backward and living below the poverty line, but they are subjected to other forms of social opp-

ression; in order to remove their backwardness it is necessary to trace out the root cause and try to remove that cause to help their upliftment. Instead of doing that the Congress(I) government is just taking advantage of their backwardness for its narrow political end. Reservation for the backward community has been in vogue since independence but the members of the backward community are getting poorer and poorer as those who deserve assistance do not get the benefit and a handful of people close to the ruling coterie has become the beneficiary of this reservation policy. This government will have to answer why the backward community cannot even remain just at the same point where it was after independence 42 years ago and is getting pauperised day by day. This government is trying to keep the backward community backward so that the reservation of quota for this community can be made to project the Congress(I) as the champion for the cause of the backward community. In this connection the suggestion by Rajiv Gandhi to the panchayat pradhans regarding separate tubewells for the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes is quite outrageous. While Rajiv Gandhi speaks about 21st century, he at the same breath gives such suggestions which help in keeping our centuries-old caste-ridden society intact. As regards the attitude to the women folk his government is guilty of criminal inactions and negligence to the womenfolk as it is totally indifferent to the sufferings and oppressions of the women of our country. Even in the country's capital in New Delhi the cases of dowry death, bride burning, rape, assault on women and such other allied crimes are steadily increasing. The cause of female foeticide is even openly supported and practised by the Congress (I) leaders with impunity. During this Rajiv regime Roop Kanwar had to become 'Sati' at Deorala village at Rajas-

than and though the Congress(I) government has been compelled to ban the 'Sati' mela under public pressure, this 'Sati' mela is held with the open help of the administration. On the question of equality of women this Rajiv Gandhi government trampled democratic norms and without paying any heed to the democratic demand of the Indian people Rajiv Gandhi readily conceded the demand of the Muslim fundamentalists against the verdict of the Supreme Court in Shah Bano case. This is the real face of the Rajiv Gandhi government and all its promises of devolution of power to the people and justice to the backward classes and womenfolk are all subterfuges to bring about more centralisation.

Rajiv Gandhi's proposal for devolution of power to the people reveals that Indian people have been denied power during the last 42 years after independence. In this context we like to categorically state that devolution of power to the people under the existing set-up is impossible. The existing set-up is geared in the interest of the capitalist class and so there is concentration of wealth on one hand and pauperisation of the vast multitude of the people on the other. In the rural areas the landed gentry and the jotedars are in control in collusion with the police administration and unless this chain of the rural vested class in collusion with police administration is broken devolution of power to the rural people actually boils down to more power to the rural vested class thereby ensuring its firmer grip over the rural masses. But even within the existing system by breaking the evil chain the panchayats can be run on a pro-people basis if these are backed by democratic mass movement, the movement of the poor and landless peasants and on the basis of asserting dignity and democratic rights of the people. But these are anathema to Rajiv Gandhi and the Congress(I).

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## India's Soft pedalling with World-imperialism received jolt from Front line African States

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list countries in the post Second World War period as one of the most significant events, the Thesis on International Situation of our Party, dealt it beautifully in a precise manner. "Following the emergence of the socialist world system, confronting a truncated imperialist - capitalist world system, emerged another post-Second World War historic landmark—the bloc of the newly independent resurgent nationalist bourgeois countries, giving birth to a new contradiction governing its relation with the imperialist and the socialist countries. The peculiar character of this new contradiction lies in the fact that it manifests itself in a dual form" (p. 4-5). We would not digress on this aspect since we have elaborately discussed this peculiar phenomenon in our earlier issues while analysing the developments manifested in earlier non-aligned summits and non-aligned Foreign Ministers' Conferences.

"On having political independence, the aspirant bourgeoisie of these erstwhile colonies and semi-colonies established national bourgeois sovereign States in these countries and began using respective State powers, notwithstanding their limitations and weaknesses, to help develop themselves as speedily as possible and on as wide a scale as practicable, not only economically but politically and militarily, too, and to enter into the already squeezed world capitalist market as new competitors. All these brought them into contradiction with the advanced capitalist-imperialist countries as well as among themselves."

"The resurgent nationalist bourgeois countries, though belonging to the capitalist world system socially, having basically the same socio-economic - political sys-

tem, still confront the vital twin task of protecting and preserving, on the one hand, their sovereignty from the neo-colonial attacks and domination by the imperialist powers and, on the other, fulfilling their aspiration to emerge as powerful competitors in the world market." (Ibid)

Before we throw some light on the role and its underlying significance that India played in the recently concluded summit, it is worthwhile to have a correct appraisal of the situation and of the reasons underlying the turn of events within the non-aligned movement. It is necessary, therefore, to have a correct and objective understanding regarding the genesis, role and significance of the non-aligned movement.

In their bid to develop their economy, the aspirant national bourgeoisie of these newly liberated resurgent nationalist countries found it more expeditious not to depend exclusively on either of the prevailing two opposing camps. This, they did to enhance their bargaining power—by utilising which to the utmost they wanted to secure maximum economic aid and assistance from each of the two blocs. So, the non-aligned policy aimed at developing the economy of the resurgent nationalist countries by taking aid from both the camps, but without fully identifying with any of them. Its foundation was laid in the First Afro-Asian Conference held in Bandung in 1955. This was how the non-aligned movement subsequently renamed and, as it is now called, first made its appearance in the arena of global politics. It is to be noted in this context that with the growing process of broadening, in its wake of 28 years' long travel, it not only embraced some socialist countries in its fold, but alongwith its broadening composition accompanied

by dilution of its original outlook as mentioned before, it embraced governments of several countries as member nations which actually ceded military bases to the USA, and even had defence and military pacts with the latter. We need not dilate on the role of the socialist states vis-a-vis the states which are tied with military links with the imperialists, played so far, in the non-aligned movement. In our previous write-ups in the pages of this organ we have made it abundantly clear what should have been the guiding role of these states with different social systems.

Let us now turn to the role played by India, long-time Chairman of the NAM and considered to be one of the leading member nations in the movement. In the second plenary of the summit, Prime Minister Mr. Rajiv Gandhi proposed formation of a Planet Protection Fund (PPF) under the aegis of United Nations to protect the environment in critical areas. He described such a fund "...would be proof of our commitment to save all creation and our planet earth." Besides, devoting much of the time of his long speech to the discriminatory trade practices of the developed nations, who were determined to perpetuate their dominance and keep the developing world languishing in poverty and hunger, he pointed out that the only way to take the poor countries out of the morass of poverty was to make South-South co-operation, "a much more decisive factor in international economic relations." He further went on to say: "We do not want confrontation. We want dialogue. Decisions regarding the world economy should not be taken unilaterally by a small group of countries."

From the perusal of deliberations made in the four day summit and

the final documents released after conclusion, it transpires that apart from an affront on de-ideologising the NAM the second most notable feature was the pungent attack on India's expansionist character without naming India. The lead was provided by Sri Lanka followed by Nepal. India was virtually accused of naked interference in the domestic affairs of neighbouring countries of South Asia as also of "an onslaught of mass communication" and stressed the need for a "more effective mechanism by which security and survival of smaller nations may be guaranteed under international law." So far as economic issues are concerned, almost all the traditional burning problems emanating from the contradiction between the advanced traditional western imperialist-capitalist countries and the relatively backward weaker nations comprising the non-aligned nations figured adequately and eloquently deliberated upon. Notably, among these, fight against trade barriers imposed by the advanced capitalist-imperialist countries too often revolved in the fulcrum. Needless to say, the summit's avowed declaration to initiate North-South dialogue unmistakably focuses among others, this aspect too. Already, we are finding to this end the relatively backward non-aligned countries combining among themselves to force the traditionally big imperialist powers to give them a share of the international capitalist market and help protect their home market.

Another disastrous event surfaced in the summit noticeably brought forth and doggedly pursued by some of the relatively advanced countries within the NAM, led by India, deserves special mention in this connection. Coined from Soviet revisionist trash, an air of interpreting the contem-

porary international situation was there on the line of revisionist Gorbachev leadership. The main thrust of the theme is that detente between the NATO and Warsaw powers led by the two super powers had introduced a 'new millennium of dialogue and friendship' all over the world ending at the same time 'conflicts and confrontation.' From close scrutiny of the Document and Declaration of the Summit it becomes all the more clear as to what extent the pernicious effect of arch revisionist leadership of the CPSU has influenced the outcome of the just concluded summit! When the US imperialism is engaged in overthrowing one government after another through their hired agents in almost all the countries of Latin America in order to perpetuate US-neo-colonial interests when the world imperialist powers are still continuing their ruthless economic exploitation of the peoples and resources of Asia, Africa and Latin America through neo-colonialism, when Libya, Nicaragua, Panama and the Palestinians are all engaged in a grim battle against the dastardly attacks of imperialist powers led by US-imperialism and Zionist Israel and last but not the least, limitless barbaric acts perpetrated by the racist South-African regime on the freedom loving people of the country in league with the US and British imperialist powers, daily, does not the characterisation of International situation as favourable condition bereft of conflict and confrontation from the platform of NAM Summit tantamount to surrendering or rather blunting the NAM from waging its continuing struggle against world imperialist power?

Now, one must not be in no quandary as to think India of today with what India was during the fifties. During the initial period of Non-aligned movement followed by its gaining of national independence,

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## Non-aligned Summit

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she was no doubt anti-imperialist and anti-colonial to some extent. The long standing anti-imperialist tradition of the peoples of the resurgent nationalist countries in general and India in particular, played no less an important role to help maintain her the then anti-imperialist stand. In the formative years, the Indian bourgeoisie kept themselves in the movement with the sole object of developing and consolidating their economy in the capitalist path, by taking aids from both the camps. In the meantime while much water has flown down the rivers, India has attained imperialist features more and more and they now not only look to these non-aligned Afro-Asian countries as prospective markets for their capitalist economy, but also hope to use this non-aligned group of countries as a lever in their bid to emerge as a strong imperialist force. That the attainment of India's imperialist character is no figment of imagination has been amply vindicated in recent years by its role vis-a-vis its neighbouring countries. Not to speak of Sikkim, Nepal, forcible imposition of unequal treaties on Sri Lanka and even despatch of military troops for stationing in Sri Lanka, Maldives are glaring testimony to it. So, what the aspirant Indian bourgeoisie need at the moment to advance its imperialistic aims and designs is a suitable market where it can export and invest its capital. As a matter of fact, it has not only made deep inroads in this regard into the market in the Afro-Asian countries, but into the European countries also.

From the point of view of Indian bourgeoisie, it feels today a growing need to oppose the Western imperialist powers in the economic field in its bid to consolidate and strengthen its own imperialist interests.

This particular urge to oppose Western imperialists with a view to creating avenues in the world market can be more fruitful if it can operate in various blocs and alliances with the backing of non-aligned countries which would itself strengthen India's position to a large extent. Naturally, as a consequential benefit of prime importance, India can ill-afford neither to land the non-aligned movement into a fiasco nor it can allow the NAM to stick to its basic outlook and approach which guided the non-aligned movement in the formative years. As a natural corollary to it, at present, we find India speaking strongly in favour of preserving the unity and separate identity of the non-aligned group of nations and tries to pose itself as the 'champion' of the cause of Third world countries and the leader of the non-aligned movement. This basic class interest and fulfilment of its imperialist design gets corroborated in earlier summits and Foreign Ministers' conferences in Harare and Colombo as well. The tone of Rajiv Gandhi's in the just concluded Belgrade Summit bears ample testimony to it and was naturally quite in conformity with this aim and object of the ruling Indian bourgeoisie.

Of late it has come to the press that in recent times, more particularly on the eve of the Belgrade summit, feverish attempts were on to de-ideologise NAM, bereft of principles and taking away of its anti-imperialist content. On the other hand a cry was raised to sort out current problems like the debt burden, multi-lateral trade discriminatory practices of the traditional imperialist countries, transfer of technology and 'intellectual property rights' thus calling for virtual abandonment of long-winded 'repetition' and 'rhetoric' to basic attitude and approach of the NAM. It has also come to the press that

Yugoslavia, whose predilections in favour of the imperialist bloc are not amiss and which had earned a notoriety as proxy or Trojan horse of US-imperialist, in collaboration with India, took the lead and presented a joint draft document. It envisaged, inter alia, "...non-aligned countries should individually and as a movement, get closer to the three world economic powers, the USA, the European Community, and Japan. By strengthening their relations and collaboration with these powers, the non-aligned countries will improve their negotiating position and the neglect of the North-South dialogue, and make a determined and organised move towards resolving the most serious problem, the debt crisis." As we have already shown this draft came up for severe criticism and condemnation by some 'radical member countries who accused the NAM of "de-ideologising" the movement meaning thereby abandonment of the principles enunciated by the founding fathers of the NAM.

Thanks to persistent demands made by the frontline African states, Laos, North Korea and Cuba, etc. cryptic reference to imperialism and colonialism and neo-colonialism, racism and apartheid found place in the final draft. Then again, Press reports so far trickling down to India indicate that despite Rajiv Gandhi's blessings, Palestine issue was badly let down by the NAM conference. It even failed to demand withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied territory or extending firm support to the valiant fighters of the Palestinian state. Obviously, these countries, countries which are relatively advanced in capitalist development within the Non-aligned block of countries in general and India in particular, do not share the common concern of other non-aligned countries over imperialist exploitation, aggrandizement, provocation, export of counter revolution and war in Asia, Africa and Latin America. To them so-called

peace and dialogue across the table with imperialist powers in an effort to attain a nebulous world, ending conflicts and confrontations is summum bonum of all and hence gets priority over the problems arising from neo-colonialism and all that. As we know, negotiations and talks across tables alone — divorced from militant mass movement for peace at the base — as are being practised since modern revisionism led by the arch revisionist leadership of CPSU could have its sway over the affairs in dealing with enemies like the imperialist war mongers, particularly the US-imperialists, are bound to prove to be an exercise in futility. So, can any truly peace-loving, anti-imperialist country afford to remain content without offering resolute resistance to capitalism-imperialism led by US-imperialists?

But the sublime lack of sense and exercise in gimmicks have found its most glaring example, in Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's proposal in the Summit for raising a 'Planet Protection Fund' which of course, ultimately fell through for inability of most of the member countries towards contributing a lion's share of their respective GNP. Surely, the member-nations enjoyed the proposal for fight against environmental pollution put forward by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi with dramatic relief amidst their busy schedule of four day summit. For, who does not know that in the wake of Bhopal gas disaster while thousands of poor people were killed out of the poisonous gas of killer UCIL and thousands still to date are languishing in death beds. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi felt no concern for such massive disaster of the century and even allowed the culprit owner of the carbide company to go scot-free. Not only that: subsequently the manner in which Mr. Rajiv Gandhi bailed out the management of UCIL from

its criminal irresponsibilities wrought one of the greatest misfortunes on humanity, in lieu of a paltry sum of compensation, would go down in the annals of post independent India as an unabashed treachery to his countrymen and abject surrender to the US-multinational. Such is the height of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's concern and anxiety towards world without environmental pollution! Hypocrisy thy name is Rajiv Gandhi! This is nothing new for a bourgeois charlatan like Mr. 'Clean'. When the people groaning under onslaught of exploitative capitalism in the form of ever-increasing prices and tax burden, run-away inflation eroding the real wages and draconian Acts and measures curtailing the last vestiges of democratic rights and civil liberties in the country, get stirred up into movements against the capitalist order and when capitalism cannot face up to the endemic market crisis and the pressure of mounting unemployment — it is at such times that bourgeois politicians, acting in the aggregate interest of moribund capitalism come to its rescue with such proposals of 'nothingness' so as to get the vision of people blurred, their attention diverted from the real cause of their untold suffering and misery.

Hence, what our people should demand of India Government is not the role played by India in international affairs, for sometime past, but precisely that role, which is conducive to the interests of not only our people but also the peoples of other countries, to be precise, active anti-imperialist role for preserving peace, national independence and sovereignty.

## Resolution against Representation of People (Amendment) Act by Comrade Debaprasad Sarkar adopted by West Bengal Assembly

Comrade Debaprasad Sarkar SUCI MLA moved a resolution in West Bengal Assembly against the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act 1988. The text of the said resolution is given below.

This House notes with grave concern that—

(1) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1988 recently enacted and enforced by the Central Government would strike at the very root of democratic norms and practices existing in electoral process and the Act has been designed for interference in the internal affairs of a political party ;

(2) The said Act confers upon the Election Commission an arbitrary, despotic and discretionary power to give registration to a political party without any remedy being provided in respect of an adverse decision of non-registration which is clearly a transgression of the requirements of rule of law and natural justice ;

(3) The Act violated Article 19 (1)(C) of the

Constitution which guaranteed the right to form a political party and also the right of effective functioning of a political party including the right to contest an election.

This House is of the opinion that under the said Act, for the registration of a political party, provision for compulsory amendment of party constitution in conformity with the provisions contained in sub-clause (5) of section 29A is violative of freedom to profess, practise and propagate diverse philosophies, ideologies and aims and objects and put an end to the existence of multi-party system which is the basis of parliamentary democracy.

This House further notes that the democratic minded people from all walks of life including

eminent jurists, former judges, journalists and intellectuals have raised their voice of protest against this black amendment of the Representation of the People Act ;

This House therefore, urges upon the Union Government, through the State Government, to repeal the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1988."

The following members and Minister took part in the debate :

- (1) Shri Deb Narayan Chakraborty,
- (2) Shri Apurbalal Majumder
- (3) Shri A. K. M. Hassan Uzzaman,
- (4) Shri Jayanta Kumar Biswas, and
- (5) Shri Nirmal Kumar Bose.

Shri Deba Prasad Sarkar exercised his right of reply.

The motion was put and carried.

## Successful movement by AIDYO in New Delhi against Drug menace

What the police cannot do or is not willing to do a movement can achieve that. This has been again proved by the AIDYO Unit of Delhi in destroying a centre of drug addiction and drug peddling in Delhi.

Deva Ram Park in Tri Nagar Colony of north-west Delhi was once a notorious centre of meeting place of the local drug addicts, 'mainly young addicts,' who used to meet here, 'pool their money and buy smack from a nearby joint in Wazirpur J. J. Colony. They used to take drug in the open, sometimes in groups, creating bad examples for the youngsters in the area.

It was in these conditions that the local AIDYO organisation built

up movement to put an end to such activities of the drug peddlers and drug addiction in the locality. Propaganda squads giving warning to the drug peddlers and suppliers, even late at night to keep a check on them, were organised day after day. Side by side medical advice and medicines were arranged for the addicts. On the other hand, sometimes the movement also had to adopt an attitude of confrontation towards the threats posed by the drug peddlers and the addicts although violence was abhorred. The addicts were persuaded or compelled to hand over the smack in their possession to the DYO volunteers which was dumped publicly in the gutter in the

market area.

Faced with this opposition and vigilance addicts from outside stopped coming to the Tri Nagar area and the peddlers also gradually moved out. A good number of addicts also gave up drug or are earnestly trying to do so and they themselves are taking part in the movement.

As a part of the movement, the local DYO organised protest demonstration at the Lawrence Road police station and gave memorandum to the police against smack selling in the adjacent Wazirpur J. J. Colony area which is, incidentally, quite close to a police outpost.

On the whole, the anti-drug movement and its success have created widespread enthusiasm in different parts of the capital city to build up similar movement against this growing menace of drug.

## Proposal for extension of President's Rule in Karnataka Condemned

The resolution adopted by the Karnataka State Secretariat of the SUCI on the reported statement of the Governor about extension of President's Rule in the State is given below :

The Karnataka State Secretariat of Socialist Unity Centre of India is not at all astonished at the excuse offered by the Governor to continue President's rule in Karnataka. The Secretariat is of the considered opinion that the excuse of 'too short' a time to hold elections exposes the diabolic design to continue the rule of Central Congress(I) in the cloak of President's rule in violation of all democratic norms and practices.

The stand of the Governor once again confirms the falsity of his earlier claim that the Government's losing majority was the sole reason for dissolution of the Assembly. If this were to be the real reason and not imposing of indirect rule of Congress(I) by toppling elected non-Congress(I) Government, then there was nothing to hold back the

Government from going to polls in time.

The Secretariat firmly believes that extension of President's rule is a further butchery of all democratic norms, traditions and values. Those who truly cherish democracy cannot but build-up mighty united people's movement to foil this fascist design of the Rajiv Government and to restore a democratically elected Government in the State.

The SUCI while demanding of the President of India to hold elections to the Assembly immediately, calls upon the Left, democratic and Opposition parties, to build up movement to pressurise the Government to go for immediate elections.

## Unprovoked lathicharge on AIDS rally in Calcutta

Very peacefully, when thousands of students were breaking law under the banner of the AIDS in Calcutta on 26.9.89 protesting Rajiv Government's anti-people National Policy on Education and also demanding its resignation, police all of a sudden brutally pounced upon them, not sparing even the school students and girl students. It was a terrible sight

with injured and blood smeared students groaning on streets. At a moment when the whole country is getting organised against the corrupt, anti-people, fascist Rajiv Government, when united movement is the only way out, is not this brutal police lathi-charge an obstruction to it? In it about 150 students were injured, 10 admitted to hospitals in a critical condition.

### KERALA

## Students' movement

The students of Kerala are on the path of movement for the last few months in different districts against the decision of the Government of Kerala to do away with the concession faci-

lity for parallel college students which constitutes 54 per cent of the total students of Kerala in higher education.

Students of Palghat, Cannannore, Malappuram started movement under different action committees and the movement is spreading to other districts too.

# Panchayati Raj Bill

(Con.d. from page 2)

The move of this Rajiv Gandhi government in introducing this Panchayati Raj Bill should not be viewed in isolation. The real import of this move by this discredited Rajiv Gandhi government at the fag end of its tenure will be clear if we delve deep into the anti-people character of this government. As a trusted representative of the Indian bourgeoisie this Rajiv Gandhi government, like its predecessors, has been shifting the burden of the crisis of the Indian capitalist economy on to the shoulders of the common people in the form of ever-increasing taxes, hike in administered prices, inflation, soaring prices, increased subsidies and subventions to the industrialists at the cost of the millions of poverty-stricken people of the country on the one hand and on the other to crush the legitimate movement of the people against the anti-people policies numerous black acts like NSA, ESMA, Hospital and other Institutions Bills, Anti-Terrorist Acts etc. have been introduced one after another to give unfettered power in the hands of the executive. At the same time attempt is constantly being made to subvert the judiciary and make it a subservient one. This government is overtly and covertly trying to gag the Press and resorting to severe arm-twisting of the Press to toe the official line. In order to serve the aggregate interest of the Indian bourgeois class this government is bent upon imposing allout fascism in the country.

The people are naturally restless in such a suffocating situation. They can easily identify the guilty in the Bofors gun deal or the German submarine deal or in the coverup of the Thakkar Commission report relating to the murder of the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Moreover the series of electoral reverses culminating in

the washout of the Congress(I) at the Tamil Nadu assembly poll have made the Congress(I) extremely panicky. Groupism with the Congress(I) is rampant and the Congress(I) has grave misgivings about the poll prospect in the ensuing Lok Sabha election. In such a situation when the credibility of the Congress(I) has plummeted into such an all time low this Panchayati Raj Bill is designed for some rescue operation for the drowning Congress(I).

Before the non-Congress(I) governments came into existence the Congress(I) used to exert its influence in the rural areas through the rural vested class. But this position has changed after the non-Congress(I) governments particularly the CPI(M)-led 'Left Front' government have taken over the States. It is not for nothing that Rajiv Gandhi showered praises on the functioning of the panchayats in West Bengal. Those who have direct knowledge about these panchayats are quite aware about the rampant corruption in these bodies. Then it is worth probing what prompted Rajiv Gandhi to certify West Bengal panchayats as model and what attracted him to introduce this Panchayati Raj Bill. Taking cue from the CPI(M) the ruling parties of other non-Congress(I) states are also trying to establish rural bases. In doing so they have not depended on spreading ideology of their parties or on organising peasants movements on their just demands. They have taken to the path of extending their influence through controlling the panchayats, relying on jotedars as their main stay. A large share of the budget is spent through the panchayats, but the rural masses are still in the grip of drought and flood, without proper shelter, without drinking water and irrigation facilities and without even

rudimentary medical care. Bulk of the money has been misappropriated by the panchayat functionaries having allegiance to the ruling parties and the jotedar-money lender-police-administration cliques who have in the main, switched allegiance to the ruling parties. A section of the poor people has also been victims of such corruption by distribution of money and other favours. As a matter of fact, by taking advantage of extreme poverty of the people and because of their unorganised condition worst form of opportunism has been brought to the doorstep of every rural household. Thus a whole class of people has sprung up from top to bottom, obliged to the ruling party. They constitute the rural social support for these parties in power. They constitute the permanent election machinery of the party in power. This has attracted the attention of Rajiv Gandhi. Rajiv Gandhi is confronted with the question of how to gain and not to lose power in the rural areas. In the Congress(I) ruled states also the Congress(I) cannot take advantage of the panchayat because of extreme group rivalry within its own rank. So, with a view to spreading its tentacle at the grass root level and having a firmer grip over the rural areas not only in the Congress(I) ruled states but as far as possible in the non-Congress(I) ruled States, a line of direct command is attempted to be established by using not only the party machinery but by using the entire administration at its command through the provisions of this Panchayati Raj Bill. This move is dangerous and is fraught with grave consequence. The immediate object of this move is to create a social support for the Congress(I) in the rural areas and reap in benefits at the hustings but ultimately the aim is to further intensify the already existing cleavage in the rank of the people so that they cannot stand united against capi-

## ASSAM

# Deputation against revision of Electoral Roll

Protesting against the revision of electoral rolls in Assam by the Election Commission on the basis of 1966 electoral roll, a deputation consisting of Comrades Kalyan Chowdhury, Secretary Assam State Committee of the SUCI, Jaynal Abedin and Nazmul Haque, both ex-MLA and members of the State Committee of the party and Chandralekha Das, also member of the State Committee met the Chief Minister of Assam on 7th August last and submitted a memorandum before him.

The memorandum stated, inter alia, 'Contrary to the general principle adopted throughout the country with regard to revision of electoral roll, 1966 electoral roll has been taken as the basis in case of Assam. As a result, serious apprehensions of losing the voting rights have cropped up among lakhs of genuine Indian citizens belonging to the minority community and this is agitating the public mind.' The memorandum reminded that long ago our party had raised serious objection particularly to taking of 1966 instead of 1971 as the cut-off year on the question of detection of foreigners in the Assam Accord and it observed, 'However, ...there cannot be any second opinion in the question of detection of foreign nationals through judicial process. The Election Commission does not have any authority in question of detection of foreign nationals. It can only be done through tribunals formed with the help of Illegal Migrant Determination Act (1983) and the Foreigners Act... But instead of taking this course the Election Commission, under your pressure, has taken the course of revision of voters' list along with detection of foreign nationals taking 1966

talism, the common enemy and thereby to increase the lease of life of capitalism, which will eventually lead to further consolidation of capitalism. All sections of the people must be alert against this design and must come forward to foil this attempt.

electoral roll as the basis.

The memorandum expressed deep concern at such an unjust and arbitrary act as the socio-political situation in the state, as a result of it, was taking a turn in such a manner which would invariably disturb the peace and harmony amongst the different sections of the people. It lastly requested the State Government of Assam to refrain the Election Commission from such arbitrary revision of electoral rolls on the basis of 1966 voters' list as also detection of foreigners in an highhanded manner by-passing judicial process.

## Successful Movement in Phulwarisharif

On 24th August last a very successful movement was organised by people of Phulwarisharif under the leadership of Comrade Suresh Kumar, the Secretary of the local Committee of the SUCI.

There is only one boring in the whole of Phulwarisharif from which water is supplied. The condition of this boring was getting bad but the authority paid no attention for its proper upkeep and the supply was extremely inadequate.

Everybody felt the difficulty and our party took initiative to mobilise the people to stop the up and down traffic of the main road. The blockade remained upto 6 P.M. and the authority was compelled to work overnight to set right the dislocation in water supply.

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