

Ugly face of US Imperialism Exposed

Nothing can be more tragic for the cause of the environmental protection of the planet than the way the Earth Summit has just concluded at Rio de Janeiro. The second United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) joined by the leaders of 178 countries with 117 heads of state—the largest ever summit of world leaders on any issue was envisaged for the saviour of the mother earth as a last chance. The first United Nations Conference on Human Environment held in Stockholm exactly 20 years back had failed to achieve any positive output other than putting the environmental issues in the world's political agenda. But this time it generated hope and expectation among the people at large that discussions would be held in the right spirit and treaties would be signed contemplating a long term goal. But all these just did not happen.

On the contrary the conference was turned into a veritable confrontation mostly between the rich nations and the poor—between the industrialised North and the underdeveloped South for drawing almost a blank. The master polluters talked about responsibility while minor polluters demanded their share of development. Those who already wiped out the forests from their landscape told others how to preserve them while those who were yet to contaminate their river

with toxic waste almost asserted their right to do so. Thus the 12-day meet was virtually turned into an amusing show of caricatures. All the treaties and declarations that could ultimately be passed unanimously were mere charters of pious wishes and nothing else. The Rio-Declaration or the Agenda-21 envisaged for chartering the DOs and DON'Ts regarding the use of environment in the 21st century became either full of promises or devoid of any statutory binding. The other issues like climate change treaty was forced to be diluted as a price for President George Bush attending the Rio-Summit. The European Commission which first appeared to champion the cause of targets and time-tables to cut down carbon-di-oxide emission, ultimately succumbed to the US pressures of not fixing any deadline or goal. In the veritable fight of the rich vs. the poor both the camps were engaged in blaming each other, in a very ugly way, on the issue of who would bear the brunt of environment protection programme—those wealthiest countries comprising one fifth of the mankind who pumpout more than half of the greenhouse gases or those countries of the poorest of the poor who do not get sufficient calories for a healthy diet. The bio-diversity treaty which seemed to draw maximum wrath of the US administration
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SUCI abstains from Presidential Election

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, issued the following statement on 7. 7. 92 :

We note with a sense of disappointment and regret of the decision of the CPI(M)—the CPI following the suit—to support the Congress(I) candidate in the ensuing Presidential election. When in the background of the rabid anti-people policies of the Central Government the need of the hour was to take an initiative by the Left parties to set up a candidate unitedly having honesty, integrity and pro-people attitude in order to enhance the cause of left democratic movement in the country, which our party has suggested even this time, the decision of the CPI(M)
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Comrade Fidel Castro Severely Criticises Capitalist Consumerism at Rio Summit

"Mr President of Brazil, Fernando Collor De Mello, Mr Secretary General of the UN, Butros Ghali,

An important biological species is on the way to extinction due to the rapid and progressive liquidation of its natural living conditions. That is MAN.

We are these days becoming aware of the problem when it is nearly late to impede it.

It is necessary to point out that it is the consumer societies the main responsible for the destruction of the environment.

They were born from the former colonial metropolis and from imperial policies which, at the same time, brought about the backwardness and poverty which today plague the immense majority of humanity while they account for only 20% of the world population. They consume 2/3

of the metals and 1/4 of the energy produced all over the world.

They have poisoned seas and rivers, contaminated air, weakened and perforated the ozone layer. They have saturated the atmosphere with gases that alter the climatic conditions of which we are starting to be victims of.

Forests disappear, deserts enlarge. Thousands of millions of tons of fertile lands end up in the sea every year. Numerous species get extinguished. The demographic and poverty pressures lead to desperate efforts to survive even at the expense of nature. It is simply not possible to blame the countries of the third world—colonies yesterday, exploited and sacked by an unjust world economic order today.

The solution to the problem can-

not lie in impeding the development to those who need it most. The fact is that anything which contributes today to underdevelopment and poverty becomes a flagrant violation of ecology. Tens of millions of men, women and children die every year in the third world as a result of this, more than those died in each of the two last world wars.

The unequal exchange, (trade), protectionism and the external debt become an aggression against ecology and propitiate the destruction of environment. If humanity is to be saved from this destruction the resources and technologies are to be shared in a fairer way on this planet. There is to be less luxury and waste in a few countries so that there is less poverty and hunger in a greater part of this earth. Let there be no more transfer to the third world of life styles and consumerist habits that ruin the environment. Let human life be more rational. Let a juster

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INTERNATIONAL MARXIST CONVENTION IN LONDON

On the occasion of May Day an International Marxist Convention was held at Camden Town Hall, London on May 2, 1992. Speakers from different countries took part in the deliberations. They expressed concern at the dismantling of socialism in east Europe and the former Soviet Union but reaffirmed conviction in the ultimate victory of communism.

A very important resolution against the growing and menacing danger of neo-colonial attack of the imperialist countries, US imperialists in particular, was passed in the convention, among others. The text of the resolution is given below

THE RESOLUTION

True, the importance of this resolution can hardly be over-emphasized. It has now become an urgent task before the progressive forces to make all-out attempts to mobilise the well-meaning, right thinking people and distinguished personalities of all countries as also vast masses of the people against people's opinion and raise their vigorous voice against the neo-colonial attack and threat of war. It is high time for serious effort to be undertaken in different countries to launch broad based platform and release a movement in a way which can act as a deterrent against US imperialist's attempt to hold the whole world to ransom and which will be conducive to the democratic and revolutionary movements of the respective countries.

This International Marxist Convention, held on 2nd May, 1992 in London, notes with concern that in the changed international situation in the aftermath of the fall of former Soviet Union as a super power the imperialists, in particular the US imperialists along with UK, France, Germany and Japan, have stepped up neo-colonial attacks on the countries of the Third World and are interfering in the internal affairs of these countries including the former Soviet Union.

The US Government has imposed a total embargo on Cuba and is bearing pressure upon the governments of other countries not to sell Cuba food grains, baby food, medicine and other essential commodities. Making a plea for liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi occupation, it waged a savage war against the latter to eliminate all obstacles to control the oil rich Gulf area and to ensure its political and military supremacy in West Asia.

The US rulers, engaged in perpetrating terrorist and subversive crimes all over the world, are holding Libya to ransom on the pretext that the latter was encouraging terrorism. The imperialist clique is overtly interfering in the internal affairs of Russia and is using the IMF and the World Bank to put pressure on India and many other countries to plunder, in league with the bourgeois rulers of these countries, their natural resources and cheap labour power. By its aggressive moves, nuclear

black mailing and star wars design this chieftain of world imperialism appears today as the arch enemy of mankind.

Taking this view of the present alarming international situation, this Convention appeals to all right thinking, democratic, peace and freedom loving people of the world to step out and build an anti-imperialist movement to 1) bear pressure upon the imperialists, in particular the US imperialists, to stop its neo-colonial attacks and interference in the internal affairs of other countries :

2) lend support and assistance to all those countries which are engaged in struggle against imperialist attacks ;

3) build peace movement in every country to strengthen world peace movement, making it conducive to the revolutionary struggle all over the world, give effect to total disarmament, destruction of all nuclear-war weapons and guarantee world peace and bear pressure upon respective governments to withdraw their pro-imperialist policies and to take an anti-imperialist stand.

This convention also appeals to peoples of the world to extend all help to the heroic people of Cuba by sending food stuff, baby food, medicine, money and all essential commodities to that country which now is in the throes of a life-and-death struggle against US imperialism.

From India Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, member, Central Committee of the SUCI, addressed the convention whose speech is given below.

Speech of Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta

Comrade President, Friend and Comrades,

I am very grateful to the organisers of this 'International Marxist Convention' for giving me an opportunity to be here before you today. No other day than this one, the historic May Day, could perhaps have been more apt for this occasion. What a contrast of situation marks out the difference between two periods—the period of the glorious May Day of 1886 in Chicago or, say, of 1890 in Hyde Park in London on May 4, where a person of celebrity like Frederick Engels addressed a mammoth rally and this May Day in 1992.

Friends, the unprecedented setback in the communist movement following restoration of capitalism in East Europe and in the former Soviet Union has placed us face to face with some serious questions. The capitalist-imperialists all over the world have started mounting fresh onslaughts upon all struggles for peace and progress. A hate campaign has been let loose against communism with the aim to drive the belief among the masses that Marxism is outdated. There is, however, nothing to wonder about it.

Because discernible people know that the noble philosophy of Marxism, later rightly called Marxism-Leninism, has been the target of attack since its inception by all reactionary

circles. Not for nothing. As a philosophy it is the noblest of all, showing humanity, as it does, the correct path of emancipation from all sorts of exploitation of man by man and all-round development and flourish of the individual. True, the present attack both from within the communist movement and from without, is the severest in its history. We have but to face the present situation and try to find the way out.

Let us recall here that Marxism emerged in human history through a process of co-ordination, integration and generalisation of the fundamental tenets of the different disciplines of science. Marxism is, therefore, both a philosophy and a science—the science of all sciences, in fact. Like natural sciences it needs to be developed and enriched constantly to cope with newer problems of life and society. There is also the indispensable necessity of developing this philosophy in every direction and covering every aspect of life. The idea of obsolescence of Marxism is unscientific, like in science, since Marxism takes into account all the various changes happening every moment in different fields of activities. In the process the philosophy gets concretised and enriched constantly and continuously.

But it has to be borne at the same time that application of the general Marxist principles to a concrete phenomenon is bound to give rise to contradictions which are inevitable between the general and the particular. This contradiction can be resolved only by applying Marxism creatively, that is dialectically. Failure to apply Marxism correctly due to a wrong or superficial understanding of the philosophy is sure to engender serious problems. Naturally, the crux of the matter is whether or not a particular leadership could assimilate the revolutionary essence of Marxism-Leninism and be equipped with the scientific methodology, applying which correctly solutions to problems can be found out.

Obviously, the dismal state in the world communist movement has not come about overnight. The Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Centre of India holds that the continuous practice of revisionism, which is alien to Marxism-Leninism, since the time of Khrushchev and now culminating in the counterrevolutionary blueprint of glasnost and perestroika formulated by the renegade Gorbachev clique, has wrought havoc in the communist movement from within causing the downfall of socialism in East Europe and the former Soviet Union. True, the low ideological level of the communist movement and prevalence of a somewhat mechanical thought process thriving on blindness and fanaticism, although the same could not pose a serious danger earlier for many reasons, could later provide the fertile ground for the revisionist Khrushchevite clique to usurp the leadership of the party and the state. It was again the lowering of standard of the communists and absence of criticism and self-criticism in the

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BOLSHEVIKS AGAIN HOLDING ALOFT THE BANNER OF MARXISM-LENINISM

[We here reproduce a letter of Comrade Nina Andreeva of All Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks, Leningrad, published in the 24th April '92 issue of *The Leninist*, the Central Organ of the Provisional Central Committee of the Communist Party of Great Britain, London which indicates that amidst all dark and gloom the true communists are re-uniting in Russia and erstwhile USSR with full confidence.—Editor, P. Era]

After the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, betrayed by its own leadership, was pulled down and banned on its political space there sprang up, and are growing, a number of different political parties, movements, and groups, expressing sometimes directly opposing social interests.

Undoubtedly, for 70 years many millions and millions of communists have selflessly built, consolidated and defended socialism. But in fact they were gradually robbed of the party which they joined in the years of the war and of the pre-war and the first post-war five year plans. At first the drift of the CPSU towards opportunism was concealed beneath Leninism, and afterwards, having been legitimated by Gorbachev, inevitably grew over into bourgeois counter-revolution.

The 20th Congress of the CPSU (in 1956) was in our opinion the beginning of the 'slide' into the abyss of political non-existence, and the anti-Stalin campaign, officially designated the 'critique of the cult of the personality,' played the role of ideological overture.

Objectively this campaign led to the undermining of the authority of world socialism, to serious difficulties in the world communist and workers' movement, to confrontation with the Communist Party of China, and subsequently of the USSR with the People's Republic of China, and to the activation of the opponents of socialism in the countries of Eastern Europe.

Of course, some of the preconditions for all this were present already in the preceding history of the Soviet Union, but the possibility of their realization was restricted by the state of the dictatorship of the proletariat. When, however, under the canopy of the rapidly advancing black economy the Soviet state was transformed into an "all-people's state" and the CPSU into the "party of the whole people", then the preconditions which had earlier been neutralized, were transformed into active factors, which have given rise to Gorbastroika and everything that has taken place after it.

Inasmuch as perestroika put party politics under the covert control of entrepreneurs and businessmen, those in the party leadership whom it was usual to regard as continuators of the Leninist course in the CPSU, and who the 'democrats' accused of 'dogmatism' and 'conservatism', turned out not to be up to scratch. At the same time as M. Gorbachev, A. Yakovlev and E. Shevardnadze accommodated themselves to the interests of foreign and domestic capital, E. Ligachev and I. Polozkov and other "true Leninists", in the interests of preserving 'peace and unity in the party', gradually accommodated themselves to the opportunists. Hence the opportunists gained complete dominance in the leadership of the CPSU and, the link between the politics of capital and the politics of the 'true Leninists' having been closed, millions of Soviet communists ended up without their own Marxist-Leninist general staff and the country began to roll down into the abyss of national disaster.

At the present time, the parties and movements of a communist orientation are proposing different programmes of action to avert final collapse and civil war. These proposals include a constituent assembly to determine the form of government, and the convening of the congress of deputies of the USSR, in order by parliamentary means to put an end to the present course of the restorationists and capitulators. There is, too, the transformation of the soviets, by means of elections called ahead of time, into representative organs of working people, and the creation of soviets in enterprises as alternatives to the present 'democratic' soviets, and mass meetings and demonstrations.

Probably a majority of these aims have real substance to them and can play a definite role. However, in our opinion, they all contain one defect—they do not take account of the possibility of counter-action by the powers that be, which for the time being are still capable not only of undermining, but also of turning the intentions of the defenders of socialism to their own advantage. Therefore the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks (VKPB) considers that in the present conditions only a *political general strike*—which alone is capable of disorganising the forces opposing the workers, removing from power the bankrupt restorationists in the centre and the localities, restoring the power of the working class and its allies, introducing universal control by the workers over production and distribution and creating detachments of workers'

self defence, to neutralise the fighting formations of the mafia bourgeoisie—can fundamentally change the course of events by peaceful means.

We consider that 'communist multipartyism' on the ruins of the CPSU is an entirely natural phenomenon. There is taking place a process of analysing the causes of the historic defeat and intensive searches for a solution to the crisis. No one has a patent on the truth. Therefore attempts by any party, exploiting the need of party members for unity, to monopolise this process today can only complicate the prospects for authentic unity. The VKPB considers that on the agenda today is the unity in action of all communists in their struggle with the restorationists, and unproductive discussions about 'agreeing' of platforms and programmes. The mass anti-restorationist movement will in practice lead to the selection of "points of view", and their "competition" must not weaken the attack on the gravediggers of socialism.

We are convinced also that in present conditions the confusion and vacillation of reviving the CPSU cannot serve the consolidation of the unity of communists. The present collaboration of partocrats and entrepreneurs who are in favour of artificial reanimation, is incapable of producing anything other than a "superclass" neo-perestroika party, which will inevitably inherit the flaws and defects of the Gorbachev leadership.

In its activity the VKPB proceeds from the fact that however dramatically events are now developing, the 20th century will enter history as the century of the trials and errors of world socialism: a socialism, which by virtue of circumstances unfavourable to it, could not in a painless way clear away the obstructions erected in its path by international capital. In contrast to the critical present moment, the approaching 21st century is in our view destined to become the epoch of global transition to the communist social formation. Not a 'market' order, but one of authentic freedom and humanism, to which, independently of anyone's desires, all the paths of world civilisation are now leading. Unfortunately, they are not as smooth as the pavement of the Nevsky Prospekt.

The All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks will begrudge nothing in order to hasten this triumph of communism. On this we stood, do stand, and will stand!

Nina Andreeva
All-Union Communist Party of
Bolsheviks, Leningrad.

LONDON

Speech of Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta

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party which stood in the way of releasing an inter dialectical struggle within the CPSU to prevent the gradual erosion that ensued.

But if we take a look at the other side we will find that the contradiction and conflict within the capitalist imperialist camp has aggravated many times. Even the most advanced imperialist country, the USA, is being plagued with a severe crisis as never before. Crisis of capitalism imperialism is so deep seated today that the giants among these countries, Japan and Germany in particular, are in a scramble for share of international booty with the USA which is leading to even more accentuation of conflict and contradiction between them. And the more the crisis, the more militarization of economy in these countries. There is also no denying of the fact that the forces of war have gained today over the forces of peace. The Gulf War and the threat of attack recently on Libya and Cuba confirm this conclusion with brutal corroboration.

It should be noted that the US imperialists taking advantage of the current disarray in the communist movement, are finding themselves unchallenged even as they lay hand on any matters, including interference in the internal affairs of any country. This renewed danger of neo-colonial attack of the imperialists in general and of the US imperialists in particular has become a source of serious concern to all of us.

We the communists all over the world cannot remain idle spectators to this state of affairs. And we should not lose heart either. This disarray in the communist movement is but a temporary one. The inexorable law of history is sure to assert and reassert itself. The latest overall situation of the East European countries and the former Soviet Union should set those rethink who reposed faith, being misguided, on the so-called glory and virtue of bourgeois democracy. In the present situation our immediate tasks shall be to unite the toiling people against the savage exploitation of the ruling class in different countries, fraternise with the just struggles everywhere and forge the broadest possible unity of all well meaning, peace and freedom loving people against the threat of war and neo-colonial attack spearheaded by the US imperialists in particular.

In the ideological field our task should be, I think, to conduct an unrelenting battle against revisionism in general and the counterrevolutionary scheme of glasnost and perestroika in particular.

This is the need of the hour. The hallowed memory of blood stained Red Flag of May Day beckons to us to hold it flutter high above.

Long Live May Day
Long Live Marxism-Leninism
Long Live Proletarian Internationalism

TN SUCI Condemns Fascist Ordinance

The TN State Committee of SUCI has recently issued the statement, severely condemning the ordinance promulgated after amending the Tamilnadu Open Places (Prevention Of Disfigurement) Act, 1959 :

"The Tamilnadu State Committee of the SUCI is of the firm opinion that the promulgation of the ordinance is a definite move to gag the voice of the Opposition parties and is a naked attack on the fundamental rights of the people to freely express their political opinions and views.

The State Committee calls upon all political parties and people to build up pressure on the government to withdraw this anti-people ordinance immediately."

On Presidential Election

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and the CPI to vote for Congress(I) nominee, not only amounts to betrayal of people's cause but once again proves how shamelessly these parties have thrown to the winds their minimum obligation to highly trumpeted anti congressism in public posture, let alone leftism in real sense of the term !

In such a situation, particularly when another candidate has been set up by the protagonists of dangerous communal and casteist politics—the BJP and the Janata Dal in particular—which has been so perilously creating a cleavage in the unity of the people, the Central Committee decides to abstain from taking part in the Presidential election and calls upon the people to see through the kind of politics of consensus practised by all these parliamentary parties serving, in the main, the interest of the ruling capitalist class of our country.

Demonstration by AIDS O

The AIDS O Madras-Chenglepet staged a demonstration in front of Kuralagam on 19th June.

Students demanded to withdraw the anti-people New Education Policy, to stop opening of Navodaya Schools, to stop capitation fees and exorbitant donations, to open more colleges and to stop introduction of New Examination pattern 'no choice method' for 10th and +2 students of the State Board. Com. R. Baskaran, President, AIDS O Tamilnadu, addressed the gathering.

SUCI takes strongest exception to Bhilai killings

Calcutta, 2. 7. 92 : Strongly condemning the brutal police firing upon thousands of male and female workers squatting on the railway track demanding, amongst others, strict implementation of labour laws in private industries in Bhilai, which have caused the death of at least 16 people in Bhilai on Wednesday, the 1st July uptill now, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in course of a statement has called upon working class and democratic minded people of the country to raise their strong voice of protest against the fascist attack of the BJP Government of Madhya Pradesh and demanded a high power judicial inquiry and severe punishment of all persons connected with this gruesome pre-meditated killing.

SUCI, AP Condemns banning PWG

The A. P. State Organising Committee, SUCI has issued the statement :

Notwithstanding its difference with the tactical line pursued by the People's War Group (PWG) which has only helped the anti-people Congress (I) Government. to find an alibi for its most undemocratic step to ban a political party, the A. P. State Organising Committee, SUCI severely criticises the banning of the PWG faction of the CPI (M-L) and its frontal organisations, which hold out a serious threat to the fundamental rights of the people. The SUCI is of firm opinion that political questions, however grave, should be met politically.

The State Organising Committee further expresses its deep resentment against the Government's moves in imposing a virtual censorship on Press as well as assuming extraordinary powers to harass anybody and everybody on the plea of curbing terrorist activities, which this very Congress(I), all know, utilised from time to time, for its own narrow political interest.

The State Organising Committee urges the Government to immediately lift the ban on PWG and its frontal organisations and calls upon all Left and democratic parties and forces as well as the Press and the people to bring pressure on the Government to meet the above demands.

Tinbigha—A got up game by Congress(I)- BJP-CPI(M) led 'Left Front'

Hardly one can believe, a leftist Chief Minister expressing satisfaction in the Assembly House over the 'peaceful' transfer of Tinbigha-corridor to Bangladesh when it was known that two poor men were brutally killed being hit by bullets right on the head by CRPF-men. The W.B. Chief Minister Jyoti Basu did not even express a word of sorrow for the killings. Even the official statement which, in such cases, always shows a macro affair to be a micro one, had to admit of twenty-two rounds of firing, one hundred and fifty rounds of tear-gas apart from brutal lathicharge. This speaks of a violent attack on the agitators of Kuchlibari. Ironically, the Chief Minister called it 'peaceful'. The SUCI MLAs, on the other hand, protested in the W.B. Assembly against the 'virtual war' declared by the Central and State Governments against the people and walked out. In protest of these brutal killings a twelve-hour North Bengal 'bandh' was called by the State Committee of the SUCI on 27th June last. The bandh was a complete success despite merciless beating, arrests by police and brutal attack by CPI(M) injuring many workers of our party.

VICTORY OF THE PEOPLE

The corridor was forced open by 18 companies of CRPF and as much as 5 battalions of state armed police virtually declaring war against the non-renting people of Kuchlibari anchal. Now to pacify the wrath of the people of Kuchlibari, they are bringing all Bangladeshi traffic to a halt at Tinbigha corridor making room for 'unfettered' movement of the Indians whenever they come. This is a concession given to the agitated people which was never envisaged by the govt's. That also records a partial victory of the movement. Even Sri Jyoti Basu declared on 16th May addressing the last rally at Mekhliganj that—'it was agreed beforehand that the Bangladeshi people will have passage for 24 hours a day through the Corridor. Now they will have only every alternate hour in the day-time. They will not use the Corridor at night, which we are entitled to do. The Indians will use the Corridor for 18 hours.' (*Gana-shakti*, Bengali Organ of CPI(M), 17th May '92) But now the government is trying to open up the Corridor to the people of Kuchlibari for full 24 hours, quite undisturbed. That is the victory of people's movement. The task of total exchange of enclaves now going on during this movement, if really implemented, may go a long way in souring this vexed problem inherited as the unjust legacy of partition of India.

But we cannot miss to look at the fact that when mass agitation on the Indian side won over 24-hour-passage

through the Corridor, the people of Bangladesh are restricted to only 6-hour-passage in a full day. The people of Dahagram and Angarpota now remain detached from the outside world for long 18 hours a day. Before 26th June they could come to Mekhliganj and Kuchlibari to carry on their economic-social and cultural activities as was the practice of the people of enclaves. Now they are made a part of the mainland of Bangladesh. Naturally, all their transactions with the Indian side will be restricted now. So life there will be actually more miserable than before being strictly isolated from the world for 18 hours every day. Also the condition for passage through Corridor even during the alternate hours in the day-time will be very humiliating. No sane people of any country cannot but protest this tragic fate of the Bangla-people.

The Central and the State governments boasted of 'goodwill for friendship to the people of Bangladesh.' Ironically this friendship-Corridor has put the friends of Bangladesh in Dahagram and Angarpota into a 'GHETTO', which reminds of the inhuman treatment given to the Jews in Italy allowing movement in the day-time and pushing them to the barbed-quarters before dusk. Alas! friendship—hypocrisy thy name is!

ROLE OF BJP

The *Frontline* of July 17, 1992 writes, 'The BJP threatened to deploy its woman's force, the Durga Bahini and raise a suicide squad to stall the transfer. That did not materialise....To the residents of Kuchlibari, the role of the BJP, which took up the Tinbigha issue on communal line appears to be more treacherous....Despite muscle-flexing by its leaders Murli Manohar Joshi and L. K. Advani, the party's commitment to stall the transfer and 'protect' the people of Kuchlibari ended in a whimper. That the BJP was not very serious about waging the battle it had been promising was evident from the casualness of the visits by Joshi and Advani to Tinbigha.'

The Statesman (27th June) reports, 'The administration's task was made easier by the fact that the BJP opted out of the confrontation, merely courting arrest in the form of Satyagraha.'

Not only that, even the ABVP, the student-wing of BJP could not swallow the bitter-pill given by their elders as they protest—'The West Bengal unit of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) today criticised the state BJP leadership for making a 'political stunt' out of Tinbigha issue' (*The Telegraph*, 28th June, '92)

Factually, at the end of Advani's visit to Mekhliganj on 25th June their state leader announced that they will offer

peaceful Satyagraha. The administration was assured and on 26th June they courted arrest showing BJP flags and cards.

With 119 MP-s and with the Central Ministry thriving at their mercy the BJP leaders finally chose not to stall the transfer and did the rest to ensure a 'show' which may seem like a fight. The people were deceived.

CHANGING TIME—AMITY IN KILLING

The Tinbigha agreement was primarily the responsibility of the central government. But the state government was more than a collaborator, if not a pioneer, in handing over the corridor by any means however brutal.

The Statesman in an editorial on 26th June, 'The transfer with tears' only lamented, 'Mr. Narashima Rao's determination to go ahead with the transfer of Tinbigha with the active support and co-operation of the ruling Left Front in W.B. leaves the human factor out of all calculations.'

But we know the 'human factor' is not a subject to be calculated when some monopoly houses decided to grab cheap market of Bangladesh. They do not mind how many lives are blown off, and what sort of woes the people of both the countries have to bear.

Cong. (I), BJP and CPI(M) are vying with one another in their respective style to champion the causes of the monopoly house. So they converge on such issues like the leasing out of Tinbigha.

While Congress(I) and CPI(M) had a 'grand collaboration' in leasing out Tinbigha-corridor, the BJP created some dramatic relief: The FB-faction led by Kamal Guha was initially in the movement, with good spirit, but his followers had anxious moments too. Our party with a distinct line tried to build up united democratic movement with Kamal Guha-led FB. The concession ceded to the people of Kuchlibari through the corridor is the recognition of the fact that it was not a chauvinistic movement and there was real problem of the people. Also, whatever achievement the people had gained, is the reflection of the participation of the revolutionary force inside the movement.

CORRIDOR...SOURCE OF PERPETUAL TROUBLE

The way the corridor was opened was undemocratic, anti-people and bloody. The condition for passage through the corridor is very humiliating to and disastrous for the Bangladeshi people who may not bear it tight-lipped in future. The corridor remains a source of perpetual trouble in future. Pathik Guha of *The Telegraph* rightly observes 28.6.92—'Interestingly one or two clauses about running the corridor by the Indian authorities are not clear enough and in the event of a less-than-friendly relation between India and Bangladesh may lead to trouble. Now the co-ordination, a smooth affair under normal circumstances, cannot be so during exigencies arising out of frayed tempers across the border.'

India Government Capitulated before US Imperialism due to its inherent weakness

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left unsigned by President Bush alone. Thus the historical summit sponsored by the world body was turned into a stage for arm-twisting by handful of rich nations which unitedly stood in the way of its success.

Probably we are not fully aware of how much the modern civilisation did claim its stake by slowly and slowly polluting the atmosphere. Forests have been destroyed, for fuel and furniture, environment has been almost saturated with the industrial toxic gases, seas, rivers and lakes have become polluted to accommodate the industrial wastes. For consumerism and market economy, the modern capitalism has indiscriminately utilised nature to largely damage the ecological balance. Deadly arms race among the capitalist countries have produced poisonous chemical gases and given birth to hydrogen and neutron bombs to further pollute the environment. Occasional local wars preceded by two global wars, the inevitabilities of imperialism, cause the largest ever pollution. Due to the alarming rise of greenhouse gases (containing 55% of Carbon-di-oxide, 24% of Chloro Fluoro Carbon, 15% of Methane and 6% of Nitrous Oxide) which are mainly responsible for global warming, a section of scientists fear of melting of polar ice and of causing a rise of sea-level which would ultimately overflow the low-lying coastal areas of South Bengal, Bangladesh, Maldives, Egypt, Netherlands and others. The future of earth, the abode of human being, is in dark. The whole civilisation is tottering before the inevitable consequences of environment pollution.

THE ROLE OF USA AND ITS ALLIES

From the very start of the conference the USA and its Western allies tried systematically to block the progress, throwing a spanner in the works at every opportunity. Let alone the much debated bio-diversity treaty, the draft treaty which had been tentatively agreed upon by 98 nations at a UN conference in Nairobi just days before the Rio meet had been watered down because of US pressure even in the draft stage. But still at Rio-centre it was proposed at one stage not to officially table the draft for signing because of stiff opposition from the US side. Quite understandably the USA's design was to establish supremacy in the competitive international market and extract maximum profit out of it. This is the 'blessings' of capitalism and its much publicised free-market economy. However, the treaty was aimed at protecting and preserving the diverse bio-ecological condition on earth with thousands of species of flora and fauna (plants and animals) which are threatened to face complete extinction because

of their indiscriminate industrial utilisation by the North. The question of bio-diversity assumed a sudden importance and generated much hot air in the conference. The bone of contention was that the under-developed countries being the gene-rich and so sharing the bio-diversity resources claimed the share of fruits of bio-technology (but not to save the mankind) from the rich countries while the latter ones are gene-poor but holding all the key of technological know-how. The miracles achieved recently by employing bio-technological know-how on simple biological materials, in areas of food production, medicines, pollution control etc., simply point out the necessity of better attention and care of the Third World's rich storehouse of germ plasm. This is also what was envisaged in the treaty. But President Bush, driven by corporate America's narrow self-interest and out of a fear of non-protection of USA's obnoxious patent rights in the developing countries, in an extraordinary mean and arrogant mood made insulting statements in the conference and refused to sign the treaty even when his industrially developed allies agreed to sign.

This very attitude of Bush clearly indicates to what extent they can go for the robbery of nature, in their pursuit of super profit. This evoked serious criticism among the participant countries and the people in general. Even Mr. Al Gore, the leader of the US Senate delegation to Rio describing it as "madness" burst into criticism saying, "I think our President is surrounded by some people who have given some of the largest polluter a back door into the policy making process." The American stand on some of the key issues was so much against the very spirit of the summit that about a thousand US citizens attending the conference took out a procession at Rio raising anti-Bush slogans.

On every step of the proceedings the USA stood as the main stumbling block. It is known to all that industrially developed nations have contributed over 85% toxic waste to atmosphere including 26% by the US industries alone and thus have become the master polluters. On the basis of it a general agreement was reached that they would have to bear the lion's share of the fund for the protection of environment. The fact is, a typical American today produces more than a ton of waste every year and puts into the atmosphere four times the average greenhouse gases that are solely responsible for global warming. Another striking fact is concerning the use of CFCs (Chloro Fluoro Carbons). This chemical very cheaply produced as the agents for refrigeration, air-conditioning, spray paints and others has got the negative chemical effect on the Ozone gas layer existing over the stratosphere of the earth.

The Ozone layer serves as the umbrella over our planet protecting it from the dangerous exposure to the ultra violet rays of the sun which may cause skin cancer and other ailments and damage the plant bodies also. But this protective umbrella has already got two holes over Antarctic in 1985 and Arctic in 1987 due to massive depletion by CFCs. The Montreal Protocol signed in 1987 by 45 countries cautioned about the danger of the use of CFCs and suggested for the use of Ozone-friendly substances. But due to the non-cooperation of the US it was not materialised. The most interesting fact is that according to a US report of 1980 about 90% of the total CFC used was consumed by the industrially advanced countries of which USA's lone contribution was 28% against the overall 2% consumption by the Third World countries. A typical resident of a developed country uses as much 15 times paper, 10 times as much steel, 12 times as much fuel than a resident of the developing world (*The Statesman*, 5.6.92). Mr. Lewis T. Peterson, President of the World Bank in his speech in Rio also admitted: "It is the industrialist countries which have primary responsibility for addressing global environmental issues, caused largely by them". Regarding the funding mechanism his concrete proposal was: "By sharing their knowledge with developing countries—and backing it with the necessary financial support—industrial countries can also help developing countries meet their environment challenge." Also it was a proposal on the part of the G-77 countries that each developed country should contribute 0.7% of its GNP to meet the 125 billion dollar global clean-up fund in the form of aid by the rich for the poor as suggested by the UN. But despite the agreements by the USA's other G-7 mates for increasing their contributions, the stubborn policy of the US just did not permit to reach any financial agreement in the conference. As a consequence, the poor Asian, African and Latin American countries had to return empty-handed to take care of their ever polluting environments for which their contribution is minimum. This very attitude of the US administration simply reflected that they and their Western allies had no serious commitment to protecting the planet and its life. Rather it was a glaring example that they had been resisting all serious environmental regulations through the UNCED. When the financial commitment regarding the earth protection funding was one of the main contentions of the conference, the US attempt of raising the issue of corruption in the utilisation of fund pointing the finger of suspicion at some third world countries was nothing but an excuse. Due to their hindrance only, no financial agreement could be reached, which the conference was crying out for the next century as envisaged in the charter of Agenda-21. It was a criminal act on the part of the US. A public declaration regarding financial issues as done by Bush from Washington on the eve of

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Rio Summit

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Rio-meet might have reaped some political mileage but it had no real value worthy of its purpose. So, when the moment of real commitment appeared they just slipped out raising this or that question.

Thus the Earth Summit which was envisaged for saving the life on earth from complete extinction was a lost case due to the mean deliberateness of the US imperialism. The greed for extracting maximum profit out of the flesh and blood of the common millions destroyed the good intentions of a conference dedicated to the future of mankind. The US President's statement to impress upon the world that they could not afford to sign the bio-diversity treaty in order to take care of US people's interest put the world in a good humour. In the background of US government's unequivocal commitment to serve the petty interest of the US corporate house their pledge of people's wellbeing was nothing but a hoax. By posing themselves as the custodians of people's interest actually they were serving the monopoly houses on which George Bush and his party were banking in the ensuing Presidential elections. Without the covert or overt support of the industrial - bureaucratic - military complex active in the capitalist - imperialist countries it is impossible to win any parliamentary election,—the phenomenon to which the USA is no exception. So for narrow parliamentary interest Mr. Bush had to move with an eye to the interest of the American corporate houses. He had also to satisfy another imperialist aspiration of establishing USA's supremacy in the 'new world order' conceived by him after the restoration of capitalism in the former Soviet Union and East Europe. So, neither he was prompted by a true concern for environment nor he had the genuine love for the people of his country. Out of sheer imperialist interest and not for the sake of people the USA turned an issue like protection of environment and nature into an issue for shameful politicking making it a ground for contention over establishing international supremacy. It was a naked conspiracy hatched by the US for narrow gains having nothing to do with the interest of the people at large. It is this US and its mates which are the main polluters of the world and it was due to their conspiracy that a noble attempt for saving our planet was sabotaged. They are the main enemy of mankind, the killer of ecology and the butcher of civilisation. No sane and democratic people would ever excuse them for this.

INDIA AND THE THIRD WORLD

The role of India and the Third World in the conference evoked much criticism. India as a chief protagonist of the Third World movement at the very outset roused

much expectation among the people at large. Yes, in the international forum it was enjoying the special position of uniting Cuba, China and the other socialist and the Third World countries to mount pressure on G-7 nations and could have forced them, particularly the USA, to sign the unsigned treaties. Mr. Kamal Nath, the Indian forest and environment minister, started with a declaration that India might not sign the main Rio-Declaration until the USA signed the biodiversity treaty and posed to launch a resolute fight against all US designs. Even the US media prompted to comment India as the main adversary to the US aspirations. But as the conference rolled on all the heat melted into thin air. A tone of compromise and reconciliation in the speech of the Indian Prime Minister, appealing to the West for mutual understanding and cooperations dampened the entire spirit, when, in spite of the thousand and one weaknesses in the Third World camp, USA was completely isolated from its G-7 allies and was placed in a position of a villain in the conference by the pressure of the developing countries. India could have clinched the issues with the US. But on the contrary, the reconciliatory move of the Indian Prime Minister, the mouthpiece of Indian bourgeoisie, helped USA to be bailed out from its disdainful position. Thus India played hot and cold to satisfy the aspirations of its own bourgeoisie, i.e., to consolidate its leading position among the Third World developing countries at one hand, and on the other, to use this position as a bargaining manoeuvre to get some concessions from the G-7 countries. Its collusion and contention were nothing but burgaining encounters with the developed countries prompted by narrow interest of Indian aspirant bourgeoisie and not by any concern for the environment or love for the people. Here lies the answer to the weakness in the role of India in Rio.

Almost same was the role of Brazil, the host country of the world meet. Even some dailies went to comment that while Brazil was submerged deep under billions of dollar loan sanctioned by the World Bank, the IMF and the other international monetary organisations, the out-posts of US imperialism, how far it could confront the latter was a matter of question. Though India's position was not so precarious as of Brazil, it also is now trapped by the imperialist debt trap and still itches for more and more loans and aids from the developed countries. This also explains the seemingly lackadaisical attitude on the part of the leading Third World nations in the question of clinching the issues with the US even when the latter was caught in a very unfavourable situation. In fact, never in the recent past such a humiliation was inflicted on a US President in an international forum—refused and deserted by the allies and facing the whole world hostile to the US imperialist policies. Since the fall of the Soviet Union and the disintegration of the socialist

camp for the first time it could have been proved that any US move which was designed for smashing the people's interest, crushing democracy and butchering civilisation could have been thwarted and resisted by an united attempt of the Third World and the socialist countries. It was an unique situation which could have been properly utilised for a greater and nobler cause of nature and environment. But it just could not happen due to the inherent weakness of the Third World camp.

Also, it has been proved through this conference that the environment, nature, and ecology are the worst victims of the heinous politicking and the naked profiteering by the bourgeoisie of these countries. So long as capitalism-imperialism would exist having anti-people attitude indiscriminate utilisation and exploitation of the nature and environment would continue unabated for the extraction of super-profit. How so long ago Frederick Engels pointed out: "In relation to nature, as to society, the present mode of production is predominantly concerned only about the immediate, the most tangible result; and then... the more remote effects of actions directed to this end turn out to be quite different, are mostly quite the opposite in character; that the harmony of supply and demand is transformed into the very reverse opposite..." It is the people of the world who only can force the imperialist powers to bow to the cause of environmental development. So, it is the task of the people at large to be conscious about their environment and mobilise worldwide public opinion mainly against the anti-people policies of the governments of the developed countries and more particularly of the United States.

Speech of Comrade Fidel Castro

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international world economic order prevail. Let the scientific achievements be utilized for a sustained development without pollution. Let the ecological debt be paid and not the external one. Let hunger disappear, not man.

When there is no longer the supposed communist threat and there are no pretexts left for cold wars, arms races and military expenditure, which are the reasons impeding the utilization of those resources for the promotion of development in the third world and for combating the menace of ecological destruction of the earth?

Let's put a stop to egoism, hegemonism, insensibility, irresponsibility and deceit.

It will be too late tomorrow to do what we should have done long ago.

Thanks.

PATNA

People's Convention against Neo-colonial Attack

As a part of the nationwide programme adopted at a People's Convention Against Neo-colonial Attacks of Imperialist Power and Threat of War held at New Delhi last month under the chairmanship of Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer, on 5th July, '92, a convention was held in the IMA Hall, Patna, sponsored by renowned intellectuals, physicians, historians and journalists.

To help the Cuban people strangled by the US to cow down the lone voice of socialism in the western hemisphere a massive medicine collection drive led by the

outstanding physicians, Dr. B. Mukhopadhyay, Dr. A. K. Datta, Dr. P. Gupta, Dr. (Mrs.) Manju Geeta Mishra, President IMA, Bihar, was carried out. Medicines worth Rs. 35,000/- were presented by Dr. A. K. Datta to Comrade R. P. Victor, Counsellor & Dy. Chief of Mission in the Cuban Embassy, New Delhi, whose presence as Chief Guest, no doubt, added dimension to the meet in convention.

The convention was chaired by Shri Devendra Prasad Singh, Ex-Vice Chancellor of Bhagalpur University.

A resolution condemning the sway of US imperialism over the globe and calling upon the people to raise their united voice of protest and to engage themselves in developing powerful peace movement against the growing menace of US-interference in other sovereign countries was the highlight of the convention.

Inaugurating the convention, noted historian Prof. R. S. Sharma said that the objective of the convention was quite befitting with Indian tradition born of and developed through our independence struggle. Continuing, Prof. Sharma drew attention to the infamous 'Dunkel Draft', which, he cautioned, was to subject the third world countries to total economic subjugation of the imperialist powers.

Deploping the unfortunate downfall of the former Soviet Union and the East European countries, he said, the onslaughts of US imperialism brought to bear upon Cuba and other countries were due to almost total absence of effective role of socialist bloc.



(Above) Comrade R. P. Victor receiving baskets of medicines (from Left to Right) from Dr. A. K. Dutta and Prof. D. Prasad Singh and Prof. R. S. Sharma (Below) A Portion of gathering

Red Salute Comrade Madanlal Comrade Sarban Kumar

Two precious lives of Comrades Madanlal and Sarban Kumar of Kurukshetra district in Haryana were lost in a bus accident on 21st June '92 last. After the accident they were immediately rushed to the Post Graduate Institute of Medicine, Chandigarh but in vain. Comrade Madanlal was an active and reliable member of the Party's Sarsa Local Committee, Kurukshetra district and Comrade Sarban Kumar was an applicant member of the party striving for full membership with all sincerity. The party expresses its deep grief and sorrow at this loss of these two valuable comrades. Red salute Comrade Madanlal and Comrade Sarban Kumar.

Dr. A. K. Dutta in his speech criticised halting supply of life saving drugs to Cuba by US which was smuggling narcotic & toxic drugs to poor countries.

Introducing Comrade R. P. Victor, the Chief Guest to the audience, Comrade Shankar Singh, a distinguished mass leader, while elucidating the resolution urged—we must engage ourselves to develop people's movement to thwart the imperialist interference in the internal affairs of our country. Only following this course steadfastly, could we be able to extend our solidarity with the peoples of Cuba and other countries.

Comrade R. P. Victor rising to deliver his speech as Chief Guest amidst tumultuous applause, expressed his gratification at the growing solidarity movement gaining ground ever since the US opposed the Indo-Cuban rice deal. As a bond of solidarity between the people of the two countries, he said, already more than 4000 tons of rice and substantial amount of medicines had been collected for the Cuban people in different parts of the country. Stressing the need to develop solidarity to the Cuban revolution earlier Comrade Victor pointedly said: "We are telling our landlords in world politics that you may be dictating, but we are not taking it. Now the Indians have collected 4000 tons of rice for Cuba. What better answer do the landlords want?"

The Convention ended with a resolve to set up an affiliate forum in Bihar of the Committee Against Neo-colonial Attacks of Imperialist Power and Threat of War under the chairmanship of Shri Devendra Prasad Singh, former Vice-Chancellor.

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