

# HAIL VIETNAM

The war in Vietnam has taken a new turn and the Vietnamese people are on the threshold of total victory. In spite of all-out attempt by the U. S. imperialists to defeat the National Liberation Front, the entire countryside has been under the effective control of the freedom fighters for a long time and only the cities and towns have been under the control of South Vietnam puppet regime propped up by the U.S. imperialists by all possible assistance.

The U. S. imperialists have been recently planning for Vietnamisation so that the Vietnamese people can be used as cannon fodder for safeguarding their imperialist interest and this is the nefarious game of the U. S. imperialists of using Asians against Asians. But this plan has received a severe jolt at the glorious onward march of the victorious freedom fighters of Vietnam and cities and towns are one by one being liberated.

This has once again proved that no power on earth, however mighty it may be, can cow down forever the burning urge for freedom of a nation. The people of Vietnam has created a new history, a new example and a new tradition to the down-trodden masses of the world. Red salute to the Vietnamese people for their victorious march to freedom.

That the U. S. imperialists are not at all desirous of bringing about a negotiated settlement of the Vietnam war is once again proved by the recent escalation of the war in Vietnam. When the Paris peace talks were progressing in spite of U. S. intransigence and the recent elaboration of two points of the eight-point peace proposal of the USA by the representative of the National Liberation Front was clearly indicative of N.L.F.'s ardent desire for a peaceful settlement, President Nixon unilaterally declared to boycott the Paris peace talks on the plea that the North Vietnamese were not willing for any fruitful talk and they were, on the contrary, using the Paris peace conference as a platform for their propaganda offensive. This plea of President Nixon is

hypocritical as proved by the fact that the representatives of North Vietnam and the National Liberation Front were constantly working for finding an acceptable formula from the very start of the Paris peace talks and the concrete proposals they submitted clearly indicated that they were ready for major concession if the USA withdrew its troops completely from the Vietnam soil. But the U. S. imperialists turned down all these sensible proposals of the N.L.F. and North Vietnam and at last took recourse to boycotting the conference with the ulterior motive of intensifying its military activity in Vietnam.

The U. S. imperialists are in a very critical situation in Vietnam. In spite of all-out war efforts with all the modern lethal weapons at their command, the U.S. imperialists are suffering defeat one after another in the land of Vietnam. On the other hand the mounting peace movement within the U. S. A. has made the U. S. imperialists uncomfortable. This is why President Nixon was compelled to talk about de-escalation and total pullout of U. S. troops. But President Nixon knows it quite well that the US prestige and the myth about its military might are at its low ebb and as such he is attempting to make some arrangement for an honourable disengagement so that a total defeat may be avoided.

With this aim in view the US imperialists want some military advantage in the field so that they can have some bargaining lever

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## OBSERVE 24th April SUC Foundation Day

The twenty-fourth anniversary of our Party, which falls on 24th April, 1972, has come at a time when the revolutionary and Communist movement throughout the whole world, inspite of certain promising features here and there, is suffering from serious setback both internationally and nationally.

The US imperialism, the bulwark of international reaction, has lost its age-long supremacy in the international politics which it continued to enjoy for a long time in the past. The unprecedented economic crisis leading to the devaluation of dollar, the ignominious defeat of the US imperialists in Vietnam, the surge of anti-war peace struggle inside America and the anti-US imperialist movement in different parts of the world have all created a situation, most difficult for the US rulers to tide over. The Nixon administration has, under the circumstances, been compelled to give up the "containment of China policy" which the US imperialist had been pursuing since the emergence of new China. The US rulers have failed to adhere to their very favourite "two-China policy" and had to concede the most legitimate seat in the U. N. to the Communist China, the only representative of the Chinese people. In fact, the US imperialists are trying to cope with the new difficult situation in every possible

way. In the words of Com. Shibdas Ghosh, General Secretary of the SUCI and one of the outstanding Marxist-Leninist thinkers of the day, "the US rulers are now trying to switch over from war manoeuvres to peace manoeuvres both of which are the two edges of the same imperialist policy." It should be borne in mind that imperialism, to safeguard its interests, not only takes recourse to wars and war manoeuvres but, if needs be, it dons the cloak of peace as a temporary respite for preparing itself for changing over again to war manoeuvres and to confuse the people in furthering its interest.

The fate of US imperialism in Vietnam is going to be finally sealed. It is a matter of days when the complete emancipation of the people of South Vietnam is going to be formally declared. Futility of the strength of mercenary imperialist army, however gigantic, has been proved beyond doubt in the face of the invincible strength of the people determined to liberate their

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## Unmask the butchery of democracy

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mother-land from the yoke of foreign or indigenous exploitation. This is the lesson of Vietnam and this is also the lesson of history.

These are, no doubt, some aspects of the most favourable political situation which the communists of the world may take advantage of, provided of course they stand unitedly and can build up communist unity. The Sino-Soviet ideological differences which started during the Khrushchev regime and which has by now assumed the character of bellicose hostility is continuing to adversely affect the interest of the liberation struggles and the revolutionary movements throughout the whole world.

These ideological differences, which have cropped up in the international communist camp and which should not be patched up **anyhow** in the name of unity, should be resolved by conducting a relentless ideological struggle following the principle of "unity-struggle-unity". But there is no reason why the communists, despite their ideological differences, will not be able to present a common face against their common enemy—the imperialists. Recognising this urgent necessity of building up unity among the communists of the whole world, on the firm basis of fighting against imperialist intervention, direct interference and aggression, supporting the cause of national liberation struggles in colonies and semi-colonies and helping the independent development of newly independent under-developed countries, so that the full advantage of the favourable political situation may be availed of, our General Secretary Com. Shibdas Ghosh appealed in November last to the leaders of the international communist movement for the restoration of unity of the socialist camp

and international communist movement. This is the only correct slogan that should be voiced everywhere in the interest of furthering the cause of communism.

The national situation in India presents no less a grim picture. The Indian bourgeoisie has launched an all-out attack on the meagre democratic rights of the people which they used to enjoy so long. The recently concluded elections in the states and particularly the elections in West Bengal have been reduced to complete farce. Large-scale rigging of diverse nature and not genuine verdict of the people made its reflection in the declared results. The most ominous part of it is the complete connivance of the administration with the ruling party in tampering the ballot boxes and with the ballot papers and in the pouring of duplicate ballot papers inside the boxes probably with a view to paving the path of Indira-brand of Socialism in India!

Is this the way the Congress (R) leaders have chosen to follow in their frantic bid to weed out the Opposition? Are not the Congress leaders deceiving the people in doing away with even the minimum norms of parliamentary democracy? In fact, they are determinedly directing all their activities in building up fascism in India on the ashes of parliamentary democracy. Politically, they are using the administration in the narrow ends of the ruling party, adopting various nefarious methods, including threats, intimidation and even physical annihilation of the political opponents and curbing the normal activities of the opposition parties by all means. Unofficially, they are inciting the anti-social hoodlums against most of the left and democratic parties. Culturally, they have adopted a method of blockade of reasoning and of reposing the confidence of the common

## U S Imperialism Standing on Its Last Leg in Vietnam

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over their adversaries. With this motive the US imperialists intensified their war efforts, but this attempt was effectively rebutted and the heroic freedom fighters of South Vietnam achieved major successes.

This success of N. L. F. has infuriated the US imperialists as their plan of gaining military advantage in the battle front was frustrated and they are further cornered. The US imperialists are now levelling wild and concocted charges of invasion by North Vietnam and on this very plea, the US imperialists have resumed the barbarous bombing on the sacred land of North Vietnam. Being confronted with total defeat in Vietnam, the US imperialists have gone berserk and even planned to use nuclear weapons as revealed by Mr. Jack Anderson, the reputed US journalist. The barbarism of the US imperialists in Indo-China is without any parallel and though the US imperialists have so far refrained themselves from using nuclear weapons for fear of political repercussions at home and abroad, they have used certain type of bombs which are next to nuclear weapons in destructive capacity. As a matter of fact the whole of Indo-China has been turned into a laboratory for testing a large variety of ghastly new weapons. It is reported in the Statesman dated 9.4.72:— "It is estimated that during last year alone the Americans

men on blind faith. These are the essential ingredients of and the most favourable soil upon which the edifice of fascism can be built up. If these things are allowed to continue unabated, if the common men and particularly the intelligentsia do not come forward to shave off their present callous and indifferent

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used an explosive equivalent of more than 7,63,000 tons of T. N. T. in their operations in Indo-China. Since this represents nearly 40 times the energy equivalent of the Hiroshima type atomic bomb, the effective nuclear threshold may appear to have been already crossed. Some of the maiming effects of the weapons already used are scarcely less gruesome than the dreaded consequences of nuclear radiations."

This is the real face of the US imperialists who spared no pains to win the war. The recent secret plan to use nuclear weapon on Vietnam by the US imperialists once again prove that all the talks of de-escalation of Vietnam war by the US imperialists are nothing but bluff to hoodwink the American people who are building up mighty anti-war movement within the USA. It is therefore futile to expect any tangible result in negotiations with the US imperialists and the only course left to the Vietnamese people is to defeat the US imperialists and drive them out from the soil of Vietnam.

In our country, if we really want to stand by the Vietnamese people, the Indian people must build up mighty anti-imperialist movement as the anti-imperialist struggle against the US imperialism by the Vietnamese people is part and parcel of the struggle against world imperialism by the people all over the world. In this connection the Indian people must be vigilant and exert pressure on India Government through movement for extending support to the just struggle of the Vietnamese people. The Central Congress (R) Government waxes eloquent on socialism, democracy and freedom and as such the people must be alert so that Government of India is forced to support this freedom struggle also.

## West Bengal People Hails LF Decision to Boycott Assembly

The decision of the Left front to boycott the rigged Assembly has created, not unexpectedly, two kinds of reaction in the State.

The people all over the State in general, and the left and democratic people in particular, being convinced of the fact, that the election to the Legislative Assembly that was recently held in the State was entirely rigged, have lent their moral support to the Left Front's decision for boycotting the W. B. Legislative Assembly. This has been quite clear from the huge gatherings of working peoples of different strata in the recently held mass meetings of the Left Front. It is well known to every one that these meetings could not get due propaganda and publicity. Throughout a large area in the city and the suburb, large-scale threats and attacks are being launched by the youth wing of the Congress in connivance with the local police on people. The cadres and workers of different left parties are being driven out of their houses and localities. For obvious reasons, the workers of the different left parties of the front could not freely move to different localities to give due publicity of the said meetings. Wall postering was very scanty and restricted to a few localities only. No organised rally was held to mobilise the people willing to participate in the meetings. But still then huge gatherings were observed in these meetings. Even the Statesman had to comment that the meeting of the left front held on 28th March last in Maidan was 'largely attended'.

All these clearly reveal that the left and democratic people of the State have welcomed the correct and justified decisions of the Left Front and its constituent parties to boycott the Assembly.

The boycott decision for obvious reasons has created a reverse effect on the

ruling Congress and the CPI circles. The Prime Minister of India, the Chief Minister of W. B., the different leaders of the ruling Congress party and the CPI and the bourgeois Press all have joined in chorus to denounce the constituents of the Left Front for their decision to boycott the present West Bengal Assembly. According to them it is a wrong decision. Some of them have opined that the Left Front through its decision of boycotting the Assembly has shown disrespect to the verdict of the people in the State. One or two leaders of the ruling Congress have expressed the opinion that instead of taking the decision to boycott the Assembly, the Front could have sought for legal remedy. In that case, the court being satisfied of rigging could have declared the election null and void and re-election could be held in the constituencies.

Though we are quite confident that this type of reasonings will not be able to create any sort of confusion in the mind of the left and democratic people in regard to the boycott decision, yet with a view to clarify the issue, and to eliminate any sort of misunderstanding that might have been generated in the people's mind in regard to the said decision we would like to reiterate the causes that have led the Front and its constituent parties to take such a decision.

At present there is no shadow of doubt that the election that was recently held in the State was entirely rigged. All sorts of rigging had been employed by the Congress (R) in connivance with the administration and the police in a well designed plan. The adoption of sinister methods like manipulation of the voters' list,

large-scale terrorisation of voters, forcible occupation of polling booths, appointment of rabid pro-Congress elements as polling personnels and manipulation of counting at the time of counting the ballots, could not assure the ruling Congress party of an outright victory at least in this State. Hence it felt the utmost necessity of drawing up a sinister plan in connivance with the top most administrative and police officers. Thus the well designed and well motivated plan of large-scale tampering of ballot boxes and ballot papers were drawn up and executed in a large number of constituencies in the State. (We would not like to discuss in detail the evidences, direct and circumstantial that we have received so far in support of our contention that the election was entirely rigged. We however, would like to draw the attention of our interested readers to the last issue of Proletarian Era dated 1.4.72. where an article on this account has already been published).

Moreover, not content with constituting a rigged Assembly, and annihilating Opposition parties within the legislature, the ruling party is now engaged in forcible capture of mass organisations of workers, peasants, youths, students, etc. controlled by left and democratic parties.

In such a situation we think that the Front and its constituent parties have rightfully decided not to participate in the Assembly. When the ruling Congress party had unscrupulously used administration, police and election machinery through utter violation of all democratic norms and principles, then would it not amount to a show of disrespect to the verdict of the left and democratic people of the State, if instead of boycotting the legislature the Left Front would have decided to

participate in the normal activities of the Assembly? On the contrary we firmly hold the view that it is the ruling Congress party that has shown an utter disrespect to the democratic people of the State by adopting all possible condemnable sinister methods of rigging to secure an absolute majority in the Assembly.

Recently one of the prominent CPI leaders, with a view to oppose the boycott decision has raised a queer logic in defence of his contention. He referred to an incident that happened in France some years back. It was stated that the then French President De Gaulle with the soul motive of reducing the strength of the French Communist Party in the National Assembly, framed certain rules regarding election of the representatives of different political parties to the said Assembly. The French Communist Party however protested against those rules but did not boycott the election. The said leader of the CPI contended that if the Communist Party of France could have participated in the election then why the Left Front should not participate in the Assembly even if the Front's allegation regarding manipulation in the election be a fact?

We, however, think that even a child could differentiate the two situations. In France no allegation was raised by the Communist Party regarding election rigging. Certain election rules were framed in favour of the ruling party. No doubt this is a most unfair and condemnable practice. In our country too, many times we have observed that in many areas delimitation of constituencies have been made with a view to assure victory for the ruling party from those constituencies. This too, no doubt, is an unfair and reprehensible practice. But none of these two incidents tantamounts to rigging. What has taken place in

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## Black Money Flourishes with Patronage of Ruling Congress

The Direct Taxation Enquiry Committee headed by Mr. K. N. Wanchoo, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India, has of late submitted its final report to the Union Government. Towards the end of the year 1970 it submitted an interim report. This Committee was supposed to estimate the extent of black money operating in the economy of our country and suggest measures of dealing with the problem effectively.

It is true that the problem of black money is nothing new in our country. Money accumulated through speculation, hoarding, black-marketing and such other anti-social activities, fabulous profits made otherwise, unaccounted for money earned through various dubious ways coupled with non-submission of correct accounts of incomes associated with unscrupulous practice of tax evasion and tax avoidance on the part of the tycoons account for the huge amount of black money that is eating into the very vitals of the economy of the country leading to more and more sufferings and miseries of common men.

The First Taxation Enquiry Commission in 1953-54 referred to this plague. So did the Direct Taxes Administration Enquiry Commission some five years later. Neither the Congress Party nor the Union or State Governments run by it took any step to eradicate this pernicious disease from the economic life of the country. But it was when Nicholas Kaldor in his survey pertaining to reform of Indian taxation system pointed out that the income which evaded tax for the year 1961-62 alone would not be less than Rs. 811 crores in any case, public conscience was shocked and there was a strong public demand for strong measures against black money. Still the Government was reluctant to seriously move in the matter.

But when it was felt that public demand could no longer be brushed aside, the Wanchoo Committee was set

up with the deliberate intention of killing time and ultimately shelving the matter. For, what was needed was not the setting up of a committee and waiting several years for its report to come out but strong effective measures against the tycoons guilty of amassing huge amount of black money by anti-social activities. Even the Wanchoo Committee with its known Swatantrite approach to the problem has admitted that in 1965-66 the evaded income worked out to about Rs. 1216 crores; in 1968-69 it would amount roughly to Rs. 7000 crores. If these are the amounts of black money accumulated annually by the tycoons, one can easily guess the total extent of black money operating in the economy of our country.

The Wanchoo Committee has, however, disclosed some ramifications of the existence of black money on our economy. These findings help us to have a glimpse into the working of the tycoons and imply that with the active help of influential men, administrators, police officials and others who matter in the government the black money has been accumulated all these years. When the thugs, influential leaders of the ruling party, administrators of law and the prosecutors all sail in the same boat, "it is no wonder that black money should continue to be generated every minute and the underworld economy flourish with impunity", to quote a comment by a weekly journal of Delhi.

And with the huge amount of black money at their dis-

posal, the tycoons are doing what they want to do in their individual and class interests. The fire-eating 'socialist' ministers of the ruling Congress party are rending the sky by their worldly crusade against black money all the while, of course, taking no action against the tycoons and allowing black money to operate freely in the economy. When huge political donations to the ruling Congress party comes from black money, when administrators and police are liberally bribed with the help of black money, when criminal cases against monopoly Houses are dropped in exchange of black money, what else can the ministers, administrators and the prosecutors do?

The Wanchoo Committee has held the high rate of taxes and the economy of shortages and consequent controls and licences, ceilings on and disallowance of business expenses as the main reasons for the creation and proliferation of black money. It has accordingly suggested for drastic reduction of maximum marginal rate of income tax including surcharge by about 22.75 per cent as one of the means to tackle the problem of black money. It goes without saying that this Swatantrite approach to the problem will not cure the pernicious disease; it will, on the contrary, make the disease more acute. Concessions to thieves do not decrease theft, rather, they increase it. What is really needed is the breaking of chains between the top bureaucracy and police on the one side and the monopoly Houses on the other, exemplary punishment of corrupt officials, serious drive to tone up administration in general and of tax collection in particular, stringent measures against the tycoons, mass movement for detection of concealed gold, ornaments, black money, etc., demonetization of currency notes of

high denominations and above all real severance of connections between the ruling Congress party and the tycoons. If the ruling Congress party and the government it runs at the Centre take these and other suitable measures in all seriousness then and then only it can be said that the ruling party is sincere in eradicating the pernicious disease of black money in our country; otherwise it is all bunkum, empty tall talks, a mere subterfuge to befool the people and get poor men's votes. Our people should demand immediate implementation of these measures.

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attitude for furthering the cause of democracy in India then those days are not very far off when people may find themselves face to face with the Frankenstein of fascism instead of hearing the hymns of socialism.

We appeal to the people to unmask this butchery of democracy, make everybody convinced of it, consolidate their ranks and to raise the slogan of restoration of democracy and administrative neutrality from top to bottom even down to the "thana" level. Care should also be taken to take lessons from the mistakes of the past. The left adventurist policy that led to the breakdown of the second U. F. Government should be rejected once for all in the interest of building up of a united struggle which alone can break the present stalemate. The cultural standard of the common people and the rank and file of the left movement must be lifted to a high peak, the ethical, moral and ideological questions must be seriously looked upon and the sense of right should be linked up with the sense of duty and obligations. These are some of the tasks ahead both internally and nationally and the clarion call of 24th April, the foundation day of the S.U.C.I. the only genuine working class party in India.

## No Legal Remedy for Restoring Administrative Neutrality

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West Bengal this time is an entire rigging of the whole election—here the ruling party with the help of the administrative machinery had conducted a back-stage election. The situation is entirely different from that what happened in France. No sane man could compare the two incidents.

Now let us closely examine the advice rendered by some leaders of the ruling Congress(R) to the Left Front that instead of boycotting the Assembly, it could have sought for legal remedy. They contended that in that case, if the court would have been satisfied that the election was rigged, then it could have given due order for holding re-election and the Front could have got a chance to ascertain people's verdict afresh.

Now the question of seeking for legal remedy could have been raised if rigging would have remained restricted to elections at a few constituencies only and the election as a whole would have been more or less free and fair. In fact the situation is just the reverse. The total election was entirely rigged with a very few exceptions here and there. As a matter of fact, all the sinister methods of rigging were practised by and large in almost all the constituencies saving those few which were considered as traditional Congress pockets where the ruling party was confident of its victory. Even if the question of filing election suit at all arises then it should be remembered that even a layman is well acquainted with the fact that in case of election suits individual election cases are to be filed with the court as there is no provision for filing petition against the total election as a whole.

Obviously, when the entire election was rigged, no fruitful purpose would be served by filing individual election suits. Moreover, it

might not be out of place to mention that many of the sinister methods of rigging that had been employed by the ruling party might not be proved in the court. For how can the court establish the fact that the ruling Congress hoodlums, armed with deadly weapons, forcibly prevented voters of rural and urban areas traditionally known as strongholds of the left? Will the court be able to establish that in a large number of constituencies the ruling Congress hoodlums armed with deadly weapons entered polling centres, captured booths in presence of police guard standing just like dolls, forced the polling personnel to keep mum, snatched away ballot papers from them, stamped on the Congress (R) symbol on those ballot papers and put them in the boxes?

Over and above, it appears from their reasonings that they could not follow the real significance of the boycott decision. The boycott decision has not been taken to voice the demand for declaring the election null and void and to ask for holding re-election immediately. If that would have been the major point for consideration, then the question of seeking for legal remedy might have been raised. On the contrary we have demanded for the establishment of freedom of political activities of all left and democratic parties, and restoration of normal democratic atmosphere and of administrative neutrality at all levels down to the lowest level of thana in the State. We have not raised the demand for immediate re-election and necessarily no question arises of seeking for legal intervention for declaring the election as invalid. For if the total election is declared invalid and if the election is again held immediately, then who can assure that even then

all the corrupt and sinister methods of rigging adopted in the election just held will not be practised again and the election will be free and fair? Can the court assure that? On the contrary who can say that in that case, perhaps some more improved technique of rigging will not be invented and practised?

The ruling Congress party has completely used the government, administrative machinery, police and election machinery to secure victory in its favour. In fact, all the sinister designs and methods of rigging have been planned and practised in connivance with all sections of administrative machinery. If the election is held again immediately then who can assure that the government apparatus will not be again utilised by the ruling party? Can the court assure that? Can the court guarantee that administrative neutrality will be restored? We are quite confident that in no bourgeois state the judiciary can guarantee that. It should be clearly understood that it is not a legal question and for obvious reasons can not be settled through legalistic procedures. Only the restoration of the democratic norms, prevailing of democratic environment backed by peoples' movement based on democratic principles can create pressure on the ruling class and thereby to a certain extent can create conditions favourable for maintaining administrative neutrality and normal democratic environment.

The left front and its constituent parties through their decision of boycotting the Assembly are striving to highlight the demand for establishment of freedom of political activities of left and democratic parties and restoration of normal democratic atmosphere and administrative neutrality at all levels up to the lowest level of Thana in the State. Like the fulfilment of other

legitimate democratic demands of the people this too can not be realised through legalistic methods. Like the fulfilment of other legitimate democratic and political demands sanctioned by social justice but still not fulfilled as matters of legal right, this too can only be realised through democratic mass movement. The decision for boycotting the Assembly is the first step in that direction. The issue is political and not legal and obviously the Front and its constituent parties have had to take the political decision of boycotting the Assembly. Lastly we would like to reiterate that, this boycotting of the Assembly does not mean that we have abandoned parliamentary politics for ever. It has been observed for sometime past that the ruling Congress leaders, the leaders of the CPI, and bourgeois Press, just to cook up pleas for further fascist onslaught on left and democratic forces are motivatedly carrying on the propaganda that the left parties are going underground and preparing for armed insurrection. This is a blatant lie. Though the election in the State was entirely rigged destroying to a very great extent the democratic environment, we still hold the view that the phase of democratic struggle and consequent necessity of participating in parliamentary politics is not over. It is the ruling Congress party, the party of the monopolists and not the left and democratic parties that is smothering democracy and bringing in fascism. It is the ruling Congress party that has violated the democratic norms, the sanctity of the democratic institutions and destroyed the administrative neutrality by unscrupulously misusing the administrative, police and election machinery to attain governmental power. It is the ruling Congress party that after annihilating the

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## Fictitious Logic of Cong.(R) to Justify Rigging

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opposition parties in the Assembly through a rigged election is now engaged in conducting fascistic onslaughts on people in general and left and democratic mass organisations in particular. Not only that. Both the C P I and the ruling Congress (R) leaders including even the Prime Minister of our country are defending these actions with unethical contemptuous arguments. They contend that the tactics of manipulating election by various methods, the unscrupulous use of administrative machinery to realise narrow party interest, the aggressive onslaught on cadres of other opposition political parties—all these were practised by the C P I (M) in the past. So this time it has been paid in its own coin.

None could deny the fact that some unfair means were adopted even in the past and the C P I (M) itself cannot absolve of its responsibility for the great harm it has caused to the democratic atmosphere of our country. But still the manner in which the Congress (R) has adopted all unfair tactics in manipulating the genuine verdict of the people at the poll by shameless use of entire administrative machinery has reduced election in the State to a total farce this time. This time the ruling Congress party having its control over the Central as well as State administrative apparatus could make a full use of the administration and thereby employed multifarious kinds of rigging to secure an outright victory in the election in its favour. This was not possible in the past. Still then our Party however strongly condemned all those activities in the past in unequivocal terms and repeatedly warned that unless those things were stopped immediately then apart from the fact that those hateful

activities would ultimately harm the people's cause, it would also act as precedence in future and would provide the reactionary forces and vested interest with a handle and at the first opportune moment they would adopt all these anti-democratic, naked and sinister methods in greater magnitudes to crush the left and democratic opposition parties in the country.

But does this at all justify the same hated practice now adopted by the ruling Congress party? For any student of ethics knows that any unjust or unfair act committed by some one in the past can never be justifiable by similar activities committed by some others. So any one might legitimately ask the ruling Congress (R) leaders—what reasonable logic can be there to boast of its sweeping 'victory' by adopting means which are not merely unfair but excelling all past record of election irregularities and using the entire administrative machinery for total misrepresentation of the actual verdict of the people?

Now in such a situation when the main attack on the democratic norms and principles have come from the ruling Congress party, our Party along with other left and democratic parties will unitedly strive its best for the restoration of normal democratic atmosphere in the State and while remaining outside the rigged Assembly will act as responsible democratic opposition.

We urge upon the people to realise the gravity of the situation. It is high time that our people should unitedly fight for restoration of democracy. Their determination, courage, vigilance, and sincere organised efforts alone can arrest the growth of all out fascism in the country. We urge upon them to act accordingly.

## Has Indira-Wave Worked Wonder ?

Congress (R) is claiming that it is the splendid Indira-wave generated through the successful solution of the Bangladesh question, that has wrought havoc on the Left Front in West Bengal. A cursory glance of the election result (given below) of Congress (R) with state-wise break-up for the last Parliamentary election in 1971 and the last Assembly election in 1972 will reveal that this magic Indira-wave did not work in those states which are known as traditionally Congress (R) stronghold; but in State like West Bengal which even the Congress (R) also admits as the stronghold of the leftists, this Indira-wave did wonder and the percentage of votes polled by Congress (R) was pushed up by a jerk. Is this result not absurd and incompatible with the tradition of left and democratic movement in West Bengal? How will the leaders of Congress (R) explain it? Will they still maintain that the charges of rigging of West Bengal election are baseless?

States	Percentage of votes polled by Congress (R) in last Parliamentary election (1971)	Percentage of votes polled by Congress (R) in last Assembly election (1972)	Percentage increase or decrease of the votes polled by Congress (R)
Andhra	60.83	52.	(-) 14.5
Assam	60.70	53.19	(-) 12.4
Bihar	44.45	34.12	(-) 23.3
Haryana	52.57	46.90	(-) 10.8
Himachal	76.96	50.70	(-) 29.2
Madhya Pradesh	48.65	48.14	(-) 1.05
Maharashtra	64.80	56.32	(-) 13.2
Mysore	70.87	53.56	(-) 24.4
Punjab	53.47	42.49	(-) 20.6
Rajasthan	51.15	51.01	(-) 0.28
West Bengal	36.94*	49.44	(+) 33.9
Delhi	64.52	48.54	(-) 24.8
Manipur	30.12	30.21	(+) 0.3

(+) denotes increase and (-) denotes decrease

\* In Assembly election this was much less and was only 28.20%

Just Out

### STUDENTS' PLEDGE

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