

WELCOME NELSON MANDELA



Welcome Nelson Mandela, the symbol of anti-apartheid and anti-imperialist movement of the people of South Africa and the source of inspiration to the millions of people the world over who still cherish the hope of enjoying equal economic, political and social rights and privileges. The Socialist Unity Centre of India, on behalf of the toiling people of our country bearing the great tradition of anti-imperialist struggle against the British and who faced on innumerable occasions gallows in their path to independence, extends its heartfelt ovation to Mr. Mandela, the most popular among the leaders in South Africa, on his arrival to our country. It is also heartening to note

that the people of South Africa after decades of bloodstained and arduous struggle are going to achieve their freedom and equal rights in their own land where they were meted out inhuman treatment and boundless persecution and where their rights and privileges were ruthlessly trodden underfoot for centuries by the minority White rulers who divided the country on the line of colour and race and grabbed all the natural resources as well as the fruits of labour and sweat of the vast majority Blacks. It is under the African National Congress, unquestionably enjoying the support of the overwhelming population that the people waged a bitter struggle against the racist regime, the last vestige of foreign rule on the globe, in order to establish their rule and decide their own destiny.

We had extended our congratulations to the South African people when the racist regime was forced to release Mr Mandela after his long 27 years of incarceration in the dark cell of South (Contd. on page 4)

Stop bloodbath, self-immolation—Do not spread casteist-communal hatred—Guarantee Job & Education for all—

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee Appeals

The Central Committee of the SUCI expresses its deep concern and shock at the loss of many valuable lives through self-immolation in the wake of the mounting anti-reservation agitation now going on in different parts of the country. It also strongly condemns the NF government for not taking cognizance of the gravity of the volcanic situation and the deep seated apprehensions of the students and youth and adopting appropriate measures to solve the problem and instead, for taking to the path of brutal suppression which has resulted in such wanton police repression claiming hundreds of lives. Moreover, an explosive situation has been created and caste and communal riots started in many places in the country worsening the overall condition of social life still more gravely. In such a situation the apathetic, callous and irresponsible role played by the NF Government, whatever be the tall talks, do tantamount to sheer criminality. We urge the Central Government to refrain from playing with this sensitive issue and taking recourse to suppression and to sincerely attempt to find out ways to solve this urgent problem.

The agitating students would do well to pause and ponder over some most vital questions in their own interests to find out the root cause of the problem and not to waste their valuable lives and energy being caught by a kind of frenzy that has overtaken them so widely. Is it not true that, reservation or no reservation, hundreds and thousands of educated youth — both boys and girls — are languishing and finding no hope for future deprived as they are of any suitable employment? True, the recent

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Open Letter of SUCI to PM On 'Rathayatra'

To
Shri V. P. Singh,
Prime Minister,
Government of India,
New Delhi

Dear Prime Minister,

The Central Committee of the SUCI vehemently condemns and draws your attention to the pre-planned, motivated and deliberately provocative manner in which the BJP has been taking calculated steps one after another to whip up a communal frenzy in the country, the latest of which is its recently launched "Rathayatra", in taking which it must have also counted on the dependence of the Central N. F. Government on its support. It has already greatly inflamed passions, stirred up religious fanaticism and created an atmosphere of acute tension and terror, leading to communal clashes, death and destruction and threatening the country with the dangerous portent of an unprecedented communal holocaust and ruin.

The Central Committee also notes that this move of the BJP is a calculated one aimed at diverting the attention of the people from the real and burning issues of unemployment, price rise, high taxation, increase in fares of road and railway transport etc. which are tormenting the lives of the common people of the country. Instead it wants to engage the people against one another in a fratricidal bloodbath, create a perpetual communal divide giving enough scope to other religious communal forces to rear their ugly heads too, thereby destroying the unity of the people.

It has created an unprecedented grim situation in which the sanctity of all democratic and secular values are being ravaged and even human lives lost for petty parliamentary gains. Naturally, the progressive, democratic minded, secular, well-meaning and peace loving people of the country are deeply concerned and anguished over these dangerous developments. It would amount to a crime if one simply looks on when the entire country is threatened with such a disaster.

Therefore, the Central Committee strongly urges your Government that in order to forestall the impending communal holocaust and uphold the much cherished principles of secularism, democracy and unity and harmony among the people, it takes urgent measures to frustrate this sordid design of the BJP so that it refrains from continuing the "Rathayatra"; and should the BJP refuse to heed, ban the "Rathayatra".

Further, as these conducts of the BJP are also a gross violation of the pledge they made, in order to be registered by the Election Commission to abide by the principles of secularism, democracy etc. etc., they should no longer be treated by the Election Commission as a registered political party.

Fraternally yours,
Sd/- NIHAR MUKHERJEE
General Secretary,
S.U.C.I.

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee Condemns Oil Price Hike

Protesting strongly against price-hike of petroleum products Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, has issued the following statement to the press on 15.10.1990 :

No word is strong enough to condemn the utterly anti-people decision of the Central Government to increase the price of practically all petroleum products by 25 per cent, highest since 1972, as it is sure to push up the price level of all essential commodities at the same time, too hard for the common people to bear with.

The National Front

Government, contrary to its earlier pledge to mop-up huge black money in the country and cut down the expenditure of the topheavy administration, has found it very easy to pass the entire burden of the "Gulf crisis" on to the shoulder of the already hard-hit and half-fed common people on the plea that no additional help from the IMF is forthcoming.

We would urge the National Front Government to retrace its steps and not to follow the footsteps and anti-people measures of the erstwhile Congress(I) Government led by Rajiv Gandhi.

MOVEMENT IN STATES

Movement in Andhra

Protest of people, particularly of students and women, against the shocking incident of rape of three Kerala P. G. students in Dadar Express on 17th August in open daylight spread throughout the southern states. In a previous issue news of this movement in Madras was published. News of movement in Andhra Pradesh where the crime was committed, has reached us later.

Hyderabad City units of the MSS and the AIDSOS organised, on 21st August, boycott of classes and a rally to Governor's office demanding, among others, stringent action against the rapists. The well-decorated and spirited demonstration attracted admiration and affection from the people on roadsides. The rally was addressed by Comrade Prameela, Secretary, State Organising Committee, MSS and Com. Ramesh Patnaik, AIDSOS. In absence of the Governor, the Lady Governor received the memorandum and gave a patient hearing to the 25 member delegation, led

by Com. Prameela and Com. Sridhar.

On 22nd August a rally was organised by Anantapur MSS unit to protest against the Dadar Express incident. A memorandum was submitted to the district police officers. Com. G. Lalitha, President, State MSS, addressed the gathering.

On 25th and 27th August the MSS and the AIDSOS held classroom and gate meetings, boycott of classes in many colleges of Hyderabad.

On 29th August a public meeting was conducted at Andhra Saraswat Parishad Hall, Hyderabad, by the MSS and the AIDSOS condemning the barbarous Dadar Express incident. Two separate processions of girl students from Indira Priyadarshini College and Reddy Women's College converged at the meeting hall at 3 P.M. Among the speakers was Mr. Ramachandra Naidu, the eye witness of the ghastly incident who affirmed that he could identify all the 8 criminals. He also, without daunt, said that the police conducted interrogations on him only to discourage him to testify as witness.

Statements On Karnataka

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in a statement on 12th October last protested the most undemocratic and arbitrary way the President's Rule was imposed on Karnataka on the advice of the state governor, Mr. Bhanu Pratap Singh.

Comrade Mukherjee said : We unequivocally condemn the President's Rule, the central rule by proxy, declared by the National Front government in Karnataka taking advantage of the internal squabble of the state Congress(I) as well as the high-handedness of Rajiv Gandhi. We also condemn the role of the Karnataka Governor who behaved in a most partisan way in order to serve the narrow parliamentary interest of the Janata Dal.

It is really deplorable that like in so many other cases the National Front government has proved itself no different from the erstwhile government in imposing President's Rule at the slightest of pretexts.

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The Karnataka State Committee of the party on 12th October last had also in a statement said it found no word strong enough to condemn the methods used by the Congress(I) to change the Patil leadership and for that purpose a spate of mass killings was engineered to pressurise Mr. Patil to quit office. The State Committee expressed its dismay at the way the NF government used the Governor's office and not the floor of Assembly to decide

the fate of Patil government.

The party demanded restoration of elected government in the state and a judicial enquiry into the chain of killings and stringent punishment to the guilty. At the same time the party appealed to the people to remain alert against the conspiracy to destroy their unity.

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The Karnataka State Committee of SUCI expressed grave concern over the reported charges made by certain quarters that the recent ghast-

ly communal violence and killings were engineered with the political motive of creating the smokescreen of law and order situation to change the Patil leadership. The visit of the party president and the most characteristic Congress way in which the Chief Minister was snubbed and asked to quit office went a long way in giving credence to the above apprehensions.

Under the circumstances, the facts behind the chain of criminal violence that engulfed the State on an unprecedented scale must be brought out and the guilty brought to book. The SUCI demanded of the government to immediately institute an impartial enquiry into this end while reiterating adequate compensation to the affected families.

Further the party congratulated the people belonging to different communities who exhibited excellent sense of communal harmony and brotherhood despite provocations, by extending shelter to the people being attacked.

Kerala MSS protest humiliation on woman

Kerala, known to be under a 'Leftist' rule, witnessed another incident of humiliation on women. In an early July morning the Police raided a house in search of a gentleman and his son in connection with a land dispute. They being not at home the police arrested the daughter in her nightdress notwithstanding her mother's protestations. She was

detained in the Police station in that humiliating condition from 7 in the morning to 4 P.M. like an exhibit. All relatives and friends who came to the police station to get her released and her mother who wanted to give her a sari faced vulgar and inhuman treatment from the police. Ultimately the police were compelled to produce the young girl before the court only when her father managed to get an order from the court to that effect.

Immediately after these incidents were known, MSS came out with strong protest. On 3rd July it organised a protest rally in Alleppey in which many ladies took part.

MSS demanded judicial enquiry into this incident. Representatives of MSS met Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer and apprised him of the incident. Mr. Iyer wrote an open letter to the Minister in-charge of Home Affairs strongly demanding judicial enquiry preferably by a female Magistrate. But all these fell on deaf ears of the government.

A women's convention was held in August 1, 1990 at Alleppey. Inaugurating the convention Justice P. Janakiamma said that due to ignorance and educational backwardness women themselves do not know the rights they are given in a democratic society. Com. Chhaya Mukherjee, Convenor of MSS, the Chief Guest, in her speech showed that only by building up a mighty democratic move-

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Comrade Mao Zedong Remembered

On the occasion of the 14th death anniversary of Comrade Mao Zedong, the great architect of Chinese Revolution and an outstanding leader of the world communist movement, which fell on 9 September last different state and district units of our party, SUCI, organised memorial meetings to remember and reinculcate some of his valuable teaching, in the context of present Indian and international situation. We have already covered the news of the memorial meeting held at Ghatsila, in the Study Centre of Marxism-Leninism-Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's Thought and a report of the speech of our beloved General Secretary Comrade Nihar Mukherjee there.

The 14th death anniversary of Comrade Mao Zedong was observed in a befitting manner by the West Bengal State Committee of SUCI at the Mahajati Sadan, Calcutta in the evening of 9 September 1990. Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, a member of the Central Committee and the Central Editorial Board of our party, presided over the meeting and Comrade Provas Ghosh, another member of the party Central Committee and the Central Editorial Board, addressed the house as the main speaker. Party activists, supporters and a large number of common people from Calcutta and the surrounding districts came to attend the meeting and pay tribute to the glorious memory of the great leader. Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, and Comrade Provas Ghosh placed wreaths at the large portrait of Mao placed on the dais. Then the different district units mass organisations and some individuals also garlanded the portrait to pay homage. The DYOM music squad presented the "Internationale", to which the entire audience stood up and synchronised their voice.

Paying rich tribute to Comrade Mao Zedong, Com. Sukomal Dasgupta, President of the meeting, referred to the present crisis in the world communist movement and asserted that those who grasped the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh should not suffer from any confusion and despite the events being very

much painful and unwanted it was not totally unexpected since Comrade Ghosh threw light on the probability of these developments and the correct way to stall these dangers taking lessons from the great world communist leaders.

Comrade Dasgupta continued: we are paying homage to Comrade Mao on the basis of the correct Marxist concept of authority as opposed to blind authoritarianism which we also learned from Comrade Ghosh. He referred to the Great Debate between the CPC and the CPSU when the CPSU leadership was usurped by revisionist Khrushchev who dished out the idea that revolution could be achieved peacefully. But Mao asserted that as imperialism was more attached to militarism and bureaucracy and less attached to liberty and democracy, revolution in any country could not but be violent. And from this assertion of Mao some communists wrongly thought that he was against the policy of peaceful coexistence. But what Mao said was no doubt the reiteration of Stalin who in the 19th Congress of the CPSU said that diplomatic manoeuvres though necessary, militant peace movement conducive to revolution was the mainspring of peaceful coexistence.

Comrade Dasgupta upheld the teachings of Comrade Mao of continuing class struggle under the dictatorship of the proletariat even after revolution. Comrade Mao did not fail to identify

the enemies within oneself that did exist in the form of very many habits, weaknesses and in this respect his leadership was quite exemplary.

Comrade Mao imbibed others by his teaching that politics must be in command in every respect including the military and in the production both spiritual and material. Comrade Dasgupta referred to the brilliant contribution of Mao as to how the communists should take criticism made by others. Comrade Mao said one who criticised must not be gagged and should be encouraged instead and should be guided in accordance with the communist code of conduct.

Comrade Dasgupta concluded by saying: Comrade Mao said that citizens should know and soldiers should know and work. The best way to pay homage to Comrade Mao should be the fulfilment of the responsibility history had bestowed on us by playing the vanguard role of the proletariat and not being just soldiers.

Comrade Provas Ghosh, the main speaker started his address pointing to the special situation in which Comrade Mao's life and teachings are to be recalled — the present critical phase in the international communist movement, as well as the militant democratic movements our party is engaged in in different states including West Bengal.

He pointed out that our most beloved leader and teacher Comrade Shibdas Ghosh considered himself a disciple of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao Zedong and held Mao in profound esteem as one of the brilliant Marxist leaders of this era. Mao Zedong was the architect of the first successful proletarian revolution in Asia, in a vast country like China having the world's largest population defeating Japanese

and American imperialism, the feudal landlords and their representative Chiang Kaishek's force.

Again, after the success of revolution, when Mao was the unchallengeable leader of a vast party with millions of membership, which was ruling the country, Mao Zedong reminded the comrades that it is neither the state power nor the strength and size of the party that counts; it is the correctness or incorrectness of the line that decides everything. At a time when reactionary current, counterrevolutionary and revisionist current is sweeping the country and endangering revolution, a revolutionary must "swim against the current" in the interest of revolution and socialism.

In order to highlight another teaching from the life of Mao, Comrade Provas Ghosh referred to a speech of his in 1962, on democratic centralism where Mao had taught how to accept criticism by others and make self-criticism. He asked all party executives, particularly the leaders, not to stifle criticism of the juniors and the masses but to let them speak out openly and freely; if there is truth, to accept it and if the criticism is wrong, to clarify that calmly. He said, if an executive is bitterly criticised, transferred or demoted, even if wrongly, there is no harm in it, for it puts him, his revolutionary motto to a test.

Continuing his discussion, Com. Provas Ghosh made a brief analysis of the recent developments in the East European socialist countries and the Soviet Union in the light of the decisions reached by the Central Committee of our party and enumerated the factors — economic, political, cultural and ideological — that had been working for decades within these countries, more particularly after the demise of Comrade Stalin — giving birth to revisionism and gradually corroding the socialist system, the party and state apparatus from within, which culminated in

the recent counterrevolution. This does not prove any failure of Marxism, as the bourgeois ideologues are crying in chorus, for, this resulted due to deviations from Marxism-Leninism since Khrushchev's time, and this happened because of the failure to realise the warnings of the great authorities like Lenin, Mao and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Lenin's warnings about the danger of resistance offered by the overthrown bourgeoisie in various forms, small production and the forces of habit of the larger population, were not properly realised. All these shortcomings were pointed out by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh long back in 1948 and he reiterated these time and again. During Khrushchev's de-Stalinisation drive, again, Comrade Ghosh as well as Comrade Mao warned the communists of the world about the danger of revisionism sweeping the leadership of the CPSU and the Soviet state and of its disastrous consequences upon the entire socialist camp as well as communist movement. The recent counter-revolutionary developments proved how correct these apprehensions of these two great leaders were!

Communists will have to take proper lessons from all these incidents in the light of the science of Marxism-Leninism and the teaching of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao Zedong and Com-

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KERALA MSS

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ment based on higher ethical values and joining with all exploited sections of the masses in their battle for emancipation could the women pave their way for freedom.

After the convention was over a colourful fervent demonstration was taken out by hundreds of women and a public meeting was held at Municipal Maidan at Alleppey. Com. Chhaya Mukherjee addressed the gathering as the main speaker.

STOP BLOODBATH

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 recommendation of the NF Govt. regarding job reservation might have added to their agony and apprehension. But how can the educated youths remain oblivious of the fact that the employment opportunity in our country has been dwindling over these years and has been drastically squeezed due to economic recession, moratorium by the Union Government on recruitment in Government offices and public undertakings, computerisation, lay offs, lock outs and closures of factories? This mounting problem of unemployment is affecting people belonging not to any particular caste — but all sections of the people irrespective of caste and community. Judged in this context it becomes clear that the NF Government's recent scheme of job reservation, when there is practically no job opportunity, is nothing but a cruel irony aimed at throwing the people into confusion, diverting their attention from the real problem and engaging them into fratricidal conflict for reaping dividends in the elections. Not only the ruling Janata Dal but also the Congress(I), BJP and other bourgeois and social democratic parties are practising the same thing.

There would be nothing more tragic if the students and youths of the country fail to detect this heinous design of the government and the parties with narrow parliamentary interest and fall prey to the conspiracy of dividing them on caste and communal lines instead of coming forward to build up a united movement comprising students and youths of all communities and castes in order to compel the government to provide 'job for all' and 'education for all' which is the real solution to the problem.

Our party is not opposed to the existing facilities enjoyed by the SC/

ST people regarding both job and education. Now it is known to all that the previous Congress(I) government or for that matter any other Congress govt. of the past, also played with the issue of reservation for SC and ST. But it instead of touching even the fringe of their problem only created a small elite among them while the bulk of them remained in the abysmal darkness as before. It could not be otherwise in the present exploitative capitalist society of our country.

Now, in order to bring parity and also to defuse the tension that has developed centring round this issue, we urge all concerned to realise that not caste or community but economic need-based criterion on the one hand and merit on the other should constitute the basis of any governmental benefit and assistance — which will minimise the scope of discrimination.

We therefore urge the agitating students and youths to pause, ponder and give deep consideration to the economic deprivation, social humiliation, brutal physical torture and ruthless exploitation being meted out for decades to the downtrodden people in general and the SC and ST and other backward communities in particular. We appeal to them to desist from any path which may further deepen the communal and casteist divide and to sincerely endeavour to identify with the genuine grievances and aspirations of all these downtrodden people.

We also appeal to the millions of downtrodden people belonging to the SC and ST and other backward communities to realise the utter hollowness and deceptive character of the scheme of reservation and free themselves from whatever illusion they may still harbour about them. It is high time that the SC | ST

and the OBC people came to realise that the way the Prime Minister is posing himself as a champion of the cause of the down-trodden people is a bunkum taken in his bid to come out of the crisis to where the NF government has been placed due to internal squabbles of the Janata Dal on the one hand and the threatening posture of the BJP on the other. We urge them to realise that forging greater unity with all sections of students and youths and people alone can eventually create the condition for gradual realisation of their demand for "education for all" and "job for all" making at the same time the development of a powerful united mass movement demanding creation of greater job opportunities through setting up of major labour intensive industries, cancellation of moratorium on recruitment in government offices and public undertakings and opening up of newer avenues for job opportunities possible.

Finally, we appeal to the exploited and oppressed toiling millions of our country to realise that in order to resolve the present crisis and also to get rid of the many other burning problems which are continuously growing and oppressing their lives with the deepening of crisis of this moribund capitalist system, the only way out before them is to get united irrespective of caste, creed and community and gradually, through advancing their legitimate struggles, create a country-wide upheaval of democratic mass movement finally defeating all conspiracies of the ruling class and their political parties. We appeal to the toiling people irrespective of caste, creed and community not to be led astray by the deceptive design of the ruling party, clearly realise the root cause of their problem and delay no more in coming forward unitedly to advance their struggle in the right direction.

NELSON MANDELA

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 African prison as a result of strong pressure created by world public opinion and the economic sanctions. We shall also be happy as happy will be the South African brothers at their achievement of independence from the shackles of foreign rule.

But the tragic side of the thing is that Mr. Mandela is coming to this country at a time when it is torn apart by the caste war and communal frenzy created by the ruling class in order to divert the attention of the people from their problems with a view to perpetuating their rule of exploitation and deprivation. What will Mr. Mandela witness? He will experience that the very government which invited him is itself indulging in narrow and mean political game of casteism and communalism as a result of which the country is burning throughout its length and breadth. He will witness that in India which talks tall of equal social rights and opportunities the people are engaged in a bloody war, not against any racist forces, but amongst themselves on the basis of caste and community even after 43 years of independence.

After his visit of New Delhi Mr. Mandela will pay his visit to Calcutta, the capital of West Bengal ruled for long 13 years by the CPI(M)-led Left Front. Will it be believable to Mr. Mandela that in West Bengal, ruled by the CPI(M) claiming to be Leftist, political prisoners are still languishing in different jails for years together without trial? Can Mr. Mandela support the CPI(M), his host with a Marxist nomenclature, which suppresses ruthlessly the democratic movements with police and party cadres and kills the people in the process? Will he not feel deeply embarrassed if he learns that a few hundred yards from the Raj Bhavan

where he will stay just one and a half months back the police of his host stained the Rani Rashmoni Road with the blood of the hundreds of protesters, Comrade Madhaj Haldar being one of them dying a martyr's death? How will Mr. Mandela react if he comes to know that in its 13 year rule the CPI(M) government has fired 1300 rounds on the people? Can Mr. Mandela happily accept reception accorded to him by the CPI(M) under whose rule the undertrials were beaten to death in police lock-ups by the custodians of law and order themselves and false cases are still pending in different courts of the state even after more than 10 years against the political opponents?

The people of our country would have felt happier if the caste and communal strife all over the country was put to an end, political prisoners were released forthwith, democratic movements are encouraged let alone being suppressed and the reception to Mr. Mandela was so arranged that the parties and the individuals having the tradition of anti-imperialist struggle, particularly representing the uncompromising trend, were according reception. That would have been the best honour bestowed to Mr. Mandela, the symbol of uncompromising struggle against apartheid and for democracy.

COMRADE MAO

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 rade Shibdas Ghosh, build up fresh revolutionary movements with heightened consciousness and vigil and thus ultimately pass over the temporary period of crisis that has befallen the world communist movement. Comrade Provash Ghosh urged the house to pledge themselves to this task and with this appeal concluded his discussion.

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