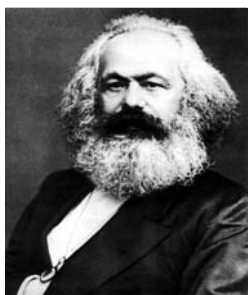


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May 5, 1818 – March 14, 1883

“...In all countries of Europe it has now been a truth demonstrable to every unprejudiced mind, only denied by those, whose interest is to hedge other people in a fool’s paradise, that no improvement of machinery, no appliance of science to production, no contrivances of science, no new colonies, no emigration, no opening of markets, no free trade, nor all these things put together, will do away the miseries of the industrious masses; but that, on the present false base, every fresh development of the productive powers of labour must tend to deeper social antagonisms.” — Marx

(General Rules of IWMA, 1871)



December 9, 1879 – March 5, 1953

“Decisions of individuals are always, or nearly always, one-sided decisions. In every collegium, in every collective body, there are people whose opinion must be reckoned with. In every collegium, in every collective body, there are people who may express wrong opinions. From the experience of three revolutions, we know that out of every 100 decisions taken by individual persons without being tested and corrected collectively, approximately 90 are one-sided.” — J. V. Stalin

(Stalin Works, vol. 13, p. 109)

SUCI brands Union Budget as anti-poor and pro-rich

Reacting to the union budget 2007-08, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in course of a statement described the budget as downright anti-poor and pro-rich, pro-capitalist. While the whole country is reeling under savage assault of unprecedented price-rise caused by soaring inflation spurred by the set of fiscal and monetary policies hitherto pursued by the central governments, both the present Congress-led CPI(M)-backed UPA as well as former BJP-led NDA, in the name of growth orientation and the telling tale of peasants’ suicides and self-termination of life by jobless workers is assuming alarming proportion, the finance minister has not taken any concrete measure to either immediately arrest price rise or stem the spurt in suicide rate, said Comrade Mukherjee. On the contrary, under the camouflage of certain cosmetic reduction of duties which on a closer look will prove to be completely tilted towards the interest of big business and market speculators, the prescriptions of the finance minister, Comrade Mukherjee pointed out, will end up in pushing prices further, entangle the peasants in bigger debt trap and throw out more number of working

people from gainful engagement while starvation, hunger and menacing rise in unemployment as well as all-pervading corruption in every sphere will continue to devastate the toiling people. Comrade Mukherjee made specific mention of the impending danger of further hike in wheat prices as a sequel to the budgetary announcement of import of 5.5 million tonnes on government account and 1 lakh ton on private account when the international price of wheat is going up. He also specified that while there is pumped boasting over duty cuts, the finance minister completely suppressed the sinister move of expanding the service tax network, a new device of indirect taxation to squeeze the pocket of the common consumers, on the plea of ‘not burdening the House with details’. Likewise, a flat increase of 1% education cess will offset the projected revenue loss on account of duty reduction and on the contrary increase burden on the common taxpayers, added Comrade Mukherjee. Comrade Mukherjee also deplored allocation of as hefty a sum as Rs 96,000 crores, constituting almost 15% of government expenditure, towards most unproductive military expenditure.

Take resolve to foil bourgeois machination causing back-breaking price rise

While the bourgeois politicians, economists and media have been effusive in narrating the robust growth of Indian economy marked by a rising Gross Domestic Product (GDP) figure and spiralling stock market indices, the common people are increasingly getting a bitter feel of what this growth stated to be taking place at a breakneck speed bears out to them. Reeling under a back-breaking rise in the retail prices of all essential commodities like dal, sugar, wheat, pulses besides spikes in vegetable rates coupled with a steady decline in the purchasing power following rapid erosion in income, the toiling masses wonder how could the economy prosper if they as the majority population are consigned

to doom, devastated and ruined at every passing moment. Whose growth is it anyway? This is exactly the question that the government, so-called academicians, paid columnists, vote-based political parties and power-hungry politicians, high-browed bureaucrats try to either skillfully parry or douse under pedantic overtones and surfeit of statistics. To seek an answer, we need to delve into the essence of the problem based on facts and from a rational outlook.

Unprecedented rise of inflation rate

As one is aware, the rate of inflation which was hitherto being claimed to have been pegged

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Manipulation, artificial scarcity, hoarding, blackmarketing pushing up price line

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below 4% suddenly jumped to almost 7% (this is the officially reported figure which, as everyone acquainted with the process of calculation is aware of, is arrived at after lot of juggleries, manipulations and suppressions). While the inflation rise in absolute term is around 7%, inflation experienced by primary articles and manufactured products stood at 12.3% and 6.4% respectively for the week ended February 3 as per government data. In the manufactured products category, prices of steel and cement jumped to 15% and 16% respectively while the recorded year-on-year inflation rates for vegetables, pulses and oilseed have been 29%, 24% and 27% respectively. Inflation in bourgeois economics signifies a situation characterized by a rising trend in the general level of prices. It indicates fall in the value of money or undue increase in quantity of money in proportion to buying power or too much of money chasing too less number of goods and services. Already the common people are gasping under unbearable pressure of escalating cost of healthcare, education, transport, power and provisions of daily use. While the cost is spiralling, the income is falling at a rapid pace. Mounting unemployment, loss of job, lay-off and retrenchment inevitable in a moribund decadent capitalist system like ours are squeezing out even the last penny out of the pocket of the urban population. Equally harrowing if not more frightful is the rural scenario. The peasants are not getting remunerative price of their produces. The cost of seeds, pesticides, diesel and such other essentials for cultivation is becoming prohibitive. There is massive increase in the number of landless peasants and agricultural labour. They too have no work, not even for 100 days a year as the government admits.

When such pauperization of the toiling masses is on a rapid swing, the recent spurt in inflation triggering unprecedented price rise of every essential commodity particularly foodgrains, edible oil, pulses and vegetables have brought their life to almost at a grinding halt. Moaning and groaning, the people are desperately seeking mitigation of this hardship. They are also

seized with the thought as to why are they being pushed to such an insufferable life condition. Is it just because of some faulty policies on the part of any particular government or is it a systemic aberration of the existing order that all the governments are subserving to? One needs to be absolutely clear of this fundamental question.

Exploitative capitalist economy causing devilish price rise

Though the bourgeois economists, columnists and other defenders of the capitalist system are working overtime to collate reasons for explaining the phenomenon of inflationary pressure and price rise and are also prescribing various measures to stem the rot within the system, the plain truth is that such is never possible. There is no escape from such skyrocketing of price in capitalism as it is an inevitable outcome of the capitalist system itself.

Production in capitalist system is aimed not at meeting needs of the people but for earning maximum profits by the capitalist class, the owners of the means of production. This profit, as Marx had shown, represents the surplus value of the produces that the workers or the creators of the wealth are denied by the capitalist owners. In other words, profit is earned by the capitalists through appropriation of the surplus value of the labour power of the working people. So the exploitation of man by man is embedded in the system itself. No capitalist can make profit without exploiting the workers. More is the profit of the owners; more is the pauperization of the people. More such pauperization, more the people lose their purchasing power since the capitalists in order to earn maximum profit stipulate prices of the commodities. In capitalism, market means availability of buyers of goods at prices fixed by the capitalist owners. If the buyers do not have any purchasing power to acquire the goods at the prices so fixed by the capitalists, the market in bourgeois sense is deemed to be shrunk. Even if there be supply, the falling income of the consuming people make the same inaccessible to them. In other words, though there is need, there is no means for the people to meet the need. Increasing penury and deprivation force the common

people out of the capitalist market as buyers. It is this particular aspect of steady dwindling in the purchasing power of the people in a capitalist system that the bourgeois class and its economists describe as 'crisis of demand in the market'.

In such a situation, the capitalist owners do not find any 'motivation' (to be understood as absence of scope for reaping maximum profit) to go in for more production of essential items of life. They produce less and in order to earn maximum profit sell the stuff at higher price to the handful who could afford to absorb that. This is known as administered price hike. Moreover, in order to push the price, the capitalist owners today are trying to foment a scarcity-syndrome in the market by resorting to indiscriminate hoarding in different forms, black marketing and such other dishonest corrupt business practices. With capital becoming idle due to absence of avenues for productive investment, there is increasing tendency on the part of the capitalist class to participate in speculative activities either in the capital market of shares and securities or by building up illegal stock of foodgrains and other durables to create artificial scarcity for netting bumper gains on selective release of the stockpile at maneuvered price. All these have become seal of bourgeois system all over the world. On the one hand, the working people are deprived of their legitimate dues while on the other the consumers are deceived and cheated through various means to swell the coffer of the capitalist class, the rich and affluent. With every passing day, the gap between the few rich and myriads of poor and impoverished is widening. Whenever the ruling capitalist class is under pressure of possible lowering of profit, it passes on the burden of its crisis on the common people – jacking up the price being one of such steps — to recover the estimated shortfall. The governments committed to serve the ruling capitalist class have been indulgent onlookers to this game of deception. Rather this dissembling stratagem is worked out in connivance with the government. The fiscal policies, monetary policies and export policies are all formulated to suit the objective of ensuring maximum profit of the

capitalist owners. Over and above, there are other endemic aberrations like deficit financing (printing of more currency notes to bridge budgetary deficits), huge accumulation of unaccounted or black money which inflate currency circulation (too much of money chasing too a little a goods) there is besides administered dose of increase further rise in the prices.

India is a glaring example

Indian scenario is a glaring example of this intense insoluble capitalist crisis. The ruling Indian capitalist class, an inseparable part of crisis-ridden moribund decadent world imperialism-capitalism, with the help of its pliant governments run by its trusted representatives of different hues is carrying out such dirty operations with alacrity. Particularly after adoption of the doctrine of capitalist globalization, the situation has worsened. In keeping with the prescriptions of so-called liberalized economy, the government has been gradually withdrawing all subsidies to food and other essential items to make the items dearer at one stroke. With government opting out from regulating the prices of such items of daily necessity, it has opened up a hunting ground for the private operators to trade in the hunger of millions. There is mega-scale hoarding of and speculation on food items. The government itself is admitting indirectly that some of the corporates engaged in the business of foodgrains procurement might have utilized proceeds of bank loans for building up large inventory in these items obviously to cause artificial scarcity. Also, speculative derivative trading around foodgrain (price and volume) in capital market ('futures' trading) is working behind price manipulation. Over and above, the export policies have been so devised that even if the countrymen starve for wheat, sugar, onion, pulses and other essential commodities, huge quantities of the domestic produces find way out of the country to fetch massive foreign exchange earnings for the monopolists and their lackeys. It is queer that while wheat production is expected to touch an all-time record of 72.5 million metric tonnes, the government feigning to take corrective action to contain

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Lies Concerning the History of the Soviet Union

Mario Sousa

Member of the Communist Party Marxist-Leninist Revolutionaries Sweden KPML(r)

[At the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of Soviet Union, Khrushchev, the path-maker of modern Soviet revisionism, unleashed the vilest form of attack on Stalin in person. Launching it on the plea of fighting the cult of personality, he charged Stalin with cruelty, highhandedness, ruthless dictatorship and so on with a view to belittling his great revolutionary contribution to the cause of the world proletariat, his party and country and to the historic fight of mankind against the barbaric Hitlerite Nazism. This was designed towards undermining the authority of Stalin, which also meant undermining the authority of Lenin and thereby Marxism-Leninism, as pointed out at that time by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the founder General Secretary of our party. As Khrushchev usurped the leadership of the party and the Soviet state and stepped up the virulent campaign against Stalin, there buoyed up tales of torture and death of millions of people allegedly incarcerated and killed in labour camps or succumbing to starvation in the Soviet Union during Stalin's time. The canard was spread like wild fire by the western and Nazi media, stories being repeated unceasingly throughout the capitalist world in books and newspapers, on radio, television or big screens; the mythical numbers of millions of 'victims of socialism' under Stalin, jumped up by leaps and bounds till the collapse of socialism and the USSR in 1991. At the same time, the revisionist Soviet regime, from Khrushchev to Gorbachev, conveniently consumed, catered and fanned up these stories to justify their counter-revolutionary deeds and designs.

But there were always questions in searching minds, like what were the source of these stories, wherefrom they came or who or what was behind all these. Authors of the myths, in reply, claimed that all their tales of millions having died in Stalin's Russia would be confirmed, the day, the archive of the Central Committee of the CPSU would be made open. The archive was ultimately opened up by Gorbachev in 1989. Different research groups undertook research on the basis of the documents of the archive and started publishing their reports. On June 15, 1998 Comrade Mario Sousa, member of the Communist Party Marxist-Leninist Revolutionaries Sweden KPML(r) published an analysis of the findings of eminent members of different French, Russian and American research groups. In that analysis, Sousa revealed striking information on the actual number of prisoners, years they had spent in prisons, the actual number of those who had died and those who had been condemned to death in Stalin's Soviet Union.

On the occasion of 54th death anniversary of Comrade Joseph Stalin, the great proletarian leader, we reproduce here Comrade Mario Sousa's article in slightly abridged form. The astounding revelations made in the article will speak the truth themselves and that only would be our mark of tribute to this great Marxist-Leninist leader. — Ed., Proletarian Era]

From Hitler to Hearst, from Conquest to Solzhenitsyn

Immediately after Hitler had risen to power in Germany in 1933, he and his Nazi party hatched plans to annex the Ukraine as a wider living space for their 'blue blood German' race. But the much-dreamt annexation or conquest of the Ukraine and other areas of the Soviet Union would necessitate war against the Soviet Union, and this war had to be prepared well in advance. To this end the Nazi propaganda ministry, headed by Goebbels, began a campaign around a supposed genocide committed by the Bolsheviks in the Ukraine, a dreadful period of catastrophic famine deliberately provoked by Stalin in order to force the peasantry to accept socialist policy. The purpose of the Nazi campaign was to prepare world public opinion for the 'liberation' of the Ukraine by German troops. Yet, despite huge efforts the Nazi campaign was not very successful at the world level. It was clear that Hitler and Goebbels needed help in spreading their libellous rumours about the Soviet Union. That help they found in the USA.

William Hearst — The Friend of Hitler

William Randolph Hearst is the name of a multi-millionaire who sought to help the Nazis in their

psychological warfare against the Soviet Union. Hearst was a well-known US newspaper proprietor known as the 'father' of the so-called 'yellow press', i.e., the sensationalist press. ... He bought his stories at any price, and when there were no atrocities or crimes to report, it behaved his journalists and photographers to 'arrange' matters. It is this which in fact characterises the 'yellow press': lies and 'arranged' atrocities served up as truth.

These lies of Hearst's made him a millionaire and a very important personage in the newspaper world. In 1935 he was one of the richest men in the world, with a fortune estimated at \$200 million. In the 1940s, William Hearst owned 25 daily newspapers, 24 weekly newspapers, 12 radio stations, 2 world news services, one business providing news items for films, the Cosmopolitan film company, and a lot of others. In 1948 he bought one of the US's first TV stations, BWAL-TV in Baltimore. Hearst's newspapers sold 13 million copies a day and had close to 40 million readers. Furthermore, many millions of people throughout the world received information from the Hearst press via his news services, films and a series of newspapers that were translated and published in large quantities all over the world. The figures quoted above

demonstrate how the Hearst empire was able to influence American politics, and indeed world politics, over very many years - on issues which included opposition to the US entering the Second World War on the side of the Soviet Union and support for the McCarthyite anti-communist witch-hunts of the 1950s.

William Hearst's outlook was ultra-conservative, nationalist and anti-communist. His politics were the politics of the extreme right. In 1934 he travelled to Germany, where he was received by Hitler as a guest and friend. After this trip, Hearst's newspapers became even more reactionary, always carrying articles against socialism, against the Soviet Union and especially against Stalin. Hearst also tried to use his newspapers for overt Nazi propaganda purposes, publishing a series of articles by Goering. The protests of many readers, however, forced him to stop publishing such items and to withdraw them from circulation.

After his visit to Hitler, Hearst's sensationalist newspapers began to be filled with 'revelations' about the terrible happenings in the Soviet Union - murders, genocide, slavery, luxury for the rulers and starvation for the people, all these were the big news items almost every day. The material was provided to Hearst by the Gestapo. On the front pages of

the newspapers there often appeared caricatures and falsified pictures of the Soviet Union, with Stalin portrayed as a murderer holding a dagger in his hand. We should not forget that these articles were read each day by 40 million people in the US and millions of others worldwide!

The myth concerning the famine in the Ukraine

One of the first campaigns of the Hearst press against the Soviet Union revolved round the question of the millions alleged to have died as a result of the Ukraine famine. This campaign began on 8 February 1935 with a front-page headline in the Chicago American '6 million people die of hunger in the Soviet Union'. Using materials supplied by the Nazi Germany, Hearst press then went on to publish fabricated stories about a genocide which was supposed to have been deliberately perpetrated by the Bolsheviks and had caused several million to die of starvation in the Ukraine. But the truth of the matter was altogether different. In fact what took place in the Soviet Union at the beginning of the 1930s was a major class struggle in which poor landless peasants had risen up against the rich landowners, the kulaks, and had begun a struggle for collectivisation, a struggle to form *kolkhozes*.

This great class struggle, involving directly or indirectly some 120 million peasants, certainly gave rise to instability in agricultural production and food shortages in some regions. But only few died due to this, but falling victim to epidemic diseases. These diseases were at that time regrettably common throughout the world. Between 1918 and 1920 an epidemic of Spanish flu caused the death of 20 million people in the US and Europe, but nobody accused the governments of these countries of killing their own citizens. The fact is that there was nothing these government could do in the face of epidemics of this kind. It was only with the development of penicillin during the second world war, that it became possible for such epidemics to be effectively contained. This did not become generally available until towards the end of the 1940s.

The Hearst press articles
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Khrushchev heinously used Nazi lies to blemish Stalin and socialism

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asserting that millions were dying of deliberately provoked famine in the Ukraine by the communists went into graphic and lurid details. They used every means possible to make their lies seem like the truth, and succeeded in causing public opinion in the capitalist countries to turn sharply against the Soviet Union. This was the origin of the first giant myth manufactured, alleging millions were dying in the Soviet Union. In the wave of protests against the supposedly communist-provoked famine which the western press unleashed, nobody was interested in listening to the Soviet Union's denials and complete exposure of the Hearst press lies. This situation prevailed for more than 50 years from 1934 until 1987!

52 years before the truth emerges

The Nazi disinformation campaign about the Ukraine did not die with the defeat of the Nazi Germany in the Second World War. The Nazi lies were taken over by the CIA and MI5, and were always guaranteed a prominent place in the propaganda war against the Soviet Union. The McCarthyite anti-communist witch hunts after the Second World War also thrived on the tales of the millions who died of starvation in the Ukraine. In 1953 a book on this subject was published in the US. This book was entitled 'Black Deeds of the Kremlin'. Its publication was financed by Ukrainian refugees in the US, people who had collaborated with the Nazis in the Second World War and to whom the American government gave political asylum, presenting them to the world as 'democrats'.

When Reagan was elected to the US Presidency and began his 1980s anti-communist crusade, propaganda about the millions who died in the Ukraine was again revived. In 1984 Nazi lies and falsifications of the 1930s reappeared, but this time under the respectable cloak of an American university, as a Harvard professor published a book called *Human Life in Russia*, which repeats all these. Yet another book appeared in 1986 on the subject, entitled *Harvest of Sorrow*. Robert Conquest, a former member of the British secret service and now a professor at Stanford University in California, wrote it. For his 'work' on the book, Conquest received \$80,000 from the

Ukraine National Organization. This same organisation also paid for a film made in 1986 called 'Harvest of Despair', in which, *inter alia*, material from Conquest's book was used. But by this time the number of people who had allegedly lost their lives in the Ukraine through starvation had been upped to 15 million!

Nevertheless all these were nothing but repeated lies and completely false informations. The Canadian journalist, Douglas Tottle, meticulously exposed these in his book *Fraud, famine and fascism - the Ukrainian genocide myth from Hitler to Harvard*, published in Toronto in 1987. He proved that the photographic material used, horrifying photographs of starving children, had been taken from 1922 publications at a time when millions of people did die from hunger and war, because eight foreign armies had invaded the Soviet Union during the Civil War of 1918-1921. Douglas Tottle gives the facts surrounding the reporting of the famine of 1934 and exposes the assorted lies published in the Hearst press. One journalist who had over a long period of time sent reports and photographs from supposed famine areas was Thomas Walker, a man who never set foot in the Ukraine and even in Moscow had spent but a bare five days. This fact was revealed by the journalist Louis Fisher, Moscow Correspondent of *The Nation*, an American newspaper. Fisher also revealed that the journalist M. Parrott, the real Hearst press correspondent in Moscow, had sent reports that were never published concerning the excellent harvest achieved by the Soviet Union in 1933 and on the Ukraine's advancement. Tottle proves as well that the journalist who wrote the reports on the alleged Ukrainian famine, 'Thomas Walker', was really called Robert Green and was a convict who had escaped from a state prison in Colorado! This Walker, or Green, was arrested when he returned to the US and when he appeared in court, he admitted that he had never been to the Ukraine. Thus all the lies concerning the Ukrainian famine supposedly engineered by Stalin only came to be unmasked in 1987! Yet even today those fake stories are still being repeated in newly-published books written by authors in the pay of right-wing interests.

The Hearst press, having a

monopolist position in many States of the US, and having news agencies all over the world, was the great megaphone of the Gestapo. In a world dominated by monopoly capital, it was possible for the Hearst press to transform Gestapo lies into 'truths' emitted from dozens of newspapers, radio stations and, later on, TV channels, the world over. When the Gestapo disappeared, this dirty propaganda war against socialism in the Soviet Union carried on regardless, albeit with the CIA as its new patron. The anti-communist campaigns of the American press were not scaled down in the slightest. Business continued as usual, first at the bidding of the Gestapo and then at the bidding of the CIA.

Robert Conquest at the heart of the myths

Robert Conquest, who is so widely quoted in the bourgeois press, deserves some specific attention at this point. He is one of the two most influential authors who has written on the millions dying in the Soviet Union. He is, in fact, the creator of all the myths and lies concerning the Soviet Union that have been spread since the Second World War. He is primarily known for his violent and fanatically anti-communist books *The Great Terror* (1969) and *Harvest of Sorrow* (1986). Conquest writes of millions dying of starvation in the Ukraine, in the gulag labour camps and during the Trials of 1936-38, using as his sources of information exiled Ukrainians living in the US and belonging to rightist parties, people who had collaborated with the Nazis in the Second World War. Many of his heroes were known to have been war criminals who led and participated in the genocide of the Ukraine's Jewish population in 1942. For instance, one of these people was Mykola Lebed, who had been security chief in Lvov during the Nazi occupation, convicted as a war criminal after the war and in 1949 escaped to US with the help of CIA.

In his 1969 book, Conquest tells us that those who died of starvation in the Soviet Union between 1932-1933 amounted to between 5 million and 6 million people, half of them in the Ukraine. But in 1983, he had extended the famine into 1937 and increased the number of victims to 14 million! Such assertions turned out to be well rewarded: in 1986 he was signed up

by Reagan to write material for his presidential campaign aimed at preparing the American people for a Soviet invasion. The text in question was called 'What to do when the Russians come - a survivalists' handbook'! Strange words coming from a Professor of History!

The fact is that there is nothing strange in it at all. Conquest's past was exposed by the *Guardian* (27 January 1978) in an article which identified him as a former agent in the disinformation department of the British Secret Service, i.e., the Information Research Department (IRD). It was a section set up in 1947 (originally called the Communist Information Bureau) whose main task it was to combat communist influence throughout the world by planting stories among politicians, journalists and others in a position to influence public opinion. The activities of the IRD were very wide-ranging, as much in Britain as abroad. When the IRD got exposed and thus had to be formally disbanded in 1977, it was discovered that in Britain alone more than 100 of the best-known journalists had an IRD contact who regularly supplied them with material for articles. This was a routine in several major British newspapers, such as the *Financial Times*, *The Times*, *Economist*, *Daily Mail*, *Daily Mirror*, *The Express*, *The Guardian* and others. The facts exposed by the *Guardian* therefore give us an indication as to how the secret services were able to manipulate the news reaching the public at large.

Robert Conquest worked for the IRD from when it was set up until 1956. Conquest's 'work' there was to contribute to the so-called 'black history' of the Soviet Union fake stories put out as fact and distributed among journalists and others able to influence public opinion. After he had formally left the IRD, Conquest continued to write books suggested by the IRD, with secret service support. His book 'The Great Terror', a basic right-wing text on the subject of the power struggle that took place in the Soviet Union in 1937, was in fact a recompilation of text he had written when working for the secret services. The book was finished and published with the help of the IRD. A third of the publication run was bought by the Praeger press, normally associated with the publication of literature originating from CIA sources.

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Slander by Alexander Solzhenitsyn

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Alexander Solzhenitsyn

Another person associated with books and articles on the supposed millions who lost their lives or liberty in the Soviet Union is the Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn. Solzhenitsyn became famous throughout the capitalist world towards the end of 1960 with his book, *The Gulag Archipelago*. He himself had to be sentenced in 1946 to 8 years in a labour camp for counter-revolutionary activity, taking part in distributing anti-Soviet propaganda. According to Solzhenitsyn, the fight against Nazi Germany could have been avoided if the Soviet government had reached a compromise with Hitler. He also accused the Soviet government and Stalin of being even worse than Hitler, as it is they who, according to him, thus forced the dreadful war on the Soviet people. Solzhenitsyn did not hide his Nazi sympathies. He was condemned as a traitor.

In 1962 Solzhenitsyn began to publish books in the Soviet Union with the consent and help of Nikita Khrushchev. The first book he published was *A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, concerning the life of a prisoner. Khrushchev used Solzhenitsyn's texts to combat Stalin's socialist heritage. In 1970 Solzhenitsyn won the Nobel Prize for literature with his book *The Gulag Archipelago*. His books then began to be published in large quantities in capitalist countries, their author having become one of

the most valuable instruments of imperialism in combating the socialism of the Soviet Union. In 1974, Solzhenitsyn renounced his Soviet citizenship and emigrated to Switzerland and then the US. At that time he was considered by the capitalist press to be the greatest fighter for freedom and democracy. His Nazi sympathies were buried so as not to interfere with the propaganda war against socialism.

In the US, Solzhenitsyn was frequently invited to speak at important meetings. On July 1975 he was invited to talk on the world situation to the US Senate. ... Among other things he agitated for Vietnam to be attacked again after its victory over the US. And more: after 40 years of fascism in Portugal, when left-wing army officers took power in the people's revolution of 1974, Solzhenitsyn began to propagandise in favour of US military intervention in Portugal which, according to him, would join the Warsaw Pact if the US did not intervene! In his lectures, Solzhenitsyn always bemoaned the liberation of Portugal's African colonies.

... His idea of Americans being used as slave labour in North Vietnam gave rise to the Rambo films on the Vietnam war. American journalists who dared write in favour of peace between the US and the Soviet Union were accused by Solzhenitsyn of being potential traitors. He also propagandised in

favour of increasing US military capacity against the Soviet Union. ... Solzhenitsyn's lectures on the Soviet Union represented the voice of the extreme right. But he himself went even further to the right in his public support of fascism.

Support for Franco's fascism

After Franco died in 1975, the Spanish fascist regime began to lose control of the political situation and at the beginning of 1976, events in Spain captured world public opinion. There were strikes and demonstrations to demand democracy and freedom, and Franco's heir, King Juan Carlos, was obliged very cautiously to introduce some liberalisation in order to calm down the social agitation.

At this most important moment in Spanish political history, Alexander Solzhenitsyn appears in Madrid and gives an interview to the programme *Directísimo* one Saturday night, the 20th of March, at peak viewing time (see the Spanish newspapers, *ABC* and *Ya* of 21 March 1976). He warned against democratic reform. In his television interview he declared that 110 million Russians had died, the victims of socialism, and he compared 'the slavery to which Soviet people were subjected to the freedom enjoyed in Spain'. Solzhenitsyn also accused 'progressive circles' of 'Utopians' of considering Spain to be a dictatorship. By 'progressive', he

meant anyone in the democratic opposition - were they liberals, social-democrats or communists, whom he even termed in the speech as terrorists. To cautious inquiries by the journalists as to whether such statements could not be seen as support for regimes in countries where there was no liberty, Solzhenitsyn replied: 'I only know one place where there is no liberty and that is Russia.' Solzhenitsyn's statements on Spanish television were a direct support to Spanish fascism, an ideology he supports to this day. This is one of the reasons why Solzhenitsyn began to disappear from public view in his 18 years of exile in the US, and one of the reasons he began to get less than total support from capitalist governments. For the capitalists it was a gift from heaven to be able to use a man like Solzhenitsyn in their dirty war against socialism, but everything has its limits. Even in their dreamt-off new capitalist Russia, Fascism as an alternative political regime was not to be considered to be good for business. Solzhenitsyn's political plans for Russia soon became thus a dead letter as far as Western support is concerned. What Solzhenitsyn wants for Russia's political future is a return to the authoritarian regime of the Tsars, hand-in-hand with the traditional Russian Orthodox Church! Even the most arrogant imperialists are not interested in supporting political stupidity of this magnitude. *(To be continued)*

Protest Demonstration & Dharna against Fake Encounter killings in Kashmir

The Delhi State Organising Committee of SUCI today organized a protest demonstration and dharna at Jantar-Mantar, New Delhi against the spate of fake encounter killings in Kashmir in the name of fighting terrorism by the army & police personnel. Later, a memorandum was submitted to the Prime Minister, demanding an immediate end to such inhuman barbaric acts; conducting not departmental, but independent judicial inquiry into all incidents of encounter killings; giving adequate compensation to the families of the victims and awarding stringent punishment to those having committed such heinous crimes.

Activists of SUCI from different parts of Delhi assembled at Jantar-Mantar at 11:30 AM and held demonstration followed by Dharna raising slogans against state

terrorism, particularly in Kashmir valley. The protest meeting & Dharna were addressed by Comrades A. K. Majumdar, R.K. Sharma, Harish Tyagi, all members of Delhi State Organising Committee of SUCI and Prof. Narendra Sharma of All India Anti-Imperialist Forum (AIAIF).

The speakers strongly condemned the cold-blooded, planned and systematic murder of many people at several places including military barracks and police stations in Jammu and Kashmir at the hands of local police and military who declared these serial killings as encounter deaths. Such dastardly killings and rape of women to terrorize the local people have been going for quite some time in J&K, observed the speakers. They demanded an immediate end

to such inhuman barbaric acts and demanded stringent punishment to those having committed such horrendous crimes.

Speakers also urged upon the people of the whole country to rise in protest against such ghastly acts of the 'men in uniform' that is

striking at the very root of democracy and militating against democratic norms and values and thereby compel the governments, both central and state, to immediately give up unleashing worst state terrorism in the name of combating terrorism.



Demand all-out state trading, build up fierce anti-price rise movement

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spiralling price is talking of importing wheat from Canada and Myanmar. In fact, such procurement both at government as well as private initiatives (as per 2007-08 budget proposals) from the international market where wheat price is soaring will push up the retail price of this essential foodgrain further in the domestic market. There is abundance in sugar production and good harvest of onions and cereals. Yet, in the retail market, prices of these items have been climbing like anything and the government which the other day was boasting of appreciable rise in export of these items is reportedly arranging to import the items back to "improve supply position". Clearly, there was not to be any short supply. The paucity was artificially generated to satiate lust for profit. And now the stock is sought to be replenished through import and cost of import will obviously be realized from the consumers in the form of pushed up price. Thus there is two-fold gain of the exporters-cum-importers while the common people bleed white. Sometimes the ruling political parties use their governments in reaching out such benefits to the powerful business lobbies to obtain

their blessings and backing in elections for securing a further term in the hot seat of power. One such recent example had been the exposed connivance of the Congress-NCP run Maharashtra government with the sugar barons before the last election that raised sugar price substantially in the open market. One would recall that earlier the government used to keep a buffer stock of essential items to meet such emergency situation and intervened in stabilizing market stock by releasing this buffer through Public Distribution System (PDS). But after onset of capitalist globalization, the bourgeois governments that earlier in keeping with the prescripts of bourgeois democracy as originally envisaged shouldered some responsibility of undertaking public welfare measures made a complete turnaround to shun all such obligations to become a full-fledged appendage to the ruling capitalist class and hence this barest minimum relief through buffer release is also eluding the masses.

Likewise, there is mounting fiscal savagery on the people in the form of imposition of direct and indirect taxes. Just the other day, this Congress-led CPI(M)-backed UPA government following recommendation of a high-powered committee headed by the CPI(M) finance minister of West Bengal state government introduced Value Added Tax (VAT) that, as apprehended and pointed out by us, is taking a heavy toll on the people. But while raising resources, the government who is so severe on the common people is extremely generous to the capitalist class which is showered with plethora of tax exemptions and concessions. Latest in the list is the gift of tax-free Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to the domestic and foreign monopolists. Even large scale tax evasions and manipulations by the big business and large corporates are condoned with impunity. The government's revenue collection arm, as is known to all, is a den of corruption that merrily hushes up all cases of defaults, skirting and fudging in exchange of suitable 'compensation'. Big monopolists and unscrupulous business houses are perpetual defaulters of huge amount of loan and advances availed of from banks and financial

institutions. All this makes the public exchequer short of resources. Government also heavily borrows both from within and outside the country including international imperialist agencies like IMF, World Bank etc. So a substantial part of government expenditure is incurred to meet ever increasing interest burden as well as principal repayment of these loans. Moreover, the government expenditure mostly on unproductive items including massive administrative expenses and monstrous military budget outpaces the collection. So budget deficiency has become a kind of perpetuity and despite all sorts of cover-up efforts, the quantum in absolute term is also swelling. To bridge the gap, the government resorts to either large scale deficit financing or dipping into further loans. Finally, it is an open secret that the figure of black money that does not get reflected in the official calculations in circulation aided and abetted by the corrupt bourgeois system is mind boggling. The rough estimate puts it to a whopping Rs.1,50,000,00,00,000. Accumulated effect of all these anti-people policies of bourgeois governments is pushing the price line to the moon. If all the factors discussed above are taken into account, the real rate of inflation will work out much more.

Hoax of GDP growth

And to cover up this truth and hoodwink people, the UPA government is concocting some stories which its spokesmen spread over in the council of ministers, economic academicians and scholastic columnists are narrating in various forums. The so-called euphoria over GDP growth as well as confident note being sounded over effectiveness of the slew of measures adopted at administrative level announced to 'tackle the situation' are some such examples. It is being argued that with economy growing at about 9% indicating prosperity of the country, this inflation of 7% is no worrying. Rather it is a sign of abundance. Unfortunately, this much-trumpeted economic growth is no indicator of health but disease. According to bourgeois economy, the value of total output or income originating within the specified geographical boundary of a country or nation is

called GDP. The national income of the country is estimated by either measuring the value of the final output consisting of the goods and services produced in the country or aggregating the factor earnings i.e. wages, rent, interest and above all profits. Economic growth in bourgeois economics is defined as the increase in the real GDP. From the above definitions, it is apparent that an increase in GDP is no indicator of equal growth and prosperity of all. Even if a handful of rich earns huge income and amasses fabulous wealth while majority of the populace is down-and-out, the GDP could well-neigh be on an upswing. No one would call concentration of all blood in the brain as a healthy symptom. Indeed, this economic growth and soaring inflation are indicators of abundance; not of the people at large but of the ruling bourgeoisie and its servitors. A simple example will be revealing. While advance estimate puts the size of the economy (GDP at current market prices) at Rs 41, 00, 636 crore or over \$30 billion, 33% of rural population does not have capacity to spend more than Rs 12 a day. For the urban populace, the figure is Rs 19 (source: report of National Sample Survey, 2004). Whose growth is it then? All such hot pursuit of so-called economic growth camouflaging steady decline in the life standard of the common people is thus deluding to the hilt. The so-called stringent measures on the part of the government to tide over inflation are all cosmetic manoeuvres solely for playing to the gallery and secure the position of the ruling party and its associates in the impending hustings. So long capitalism is not overthrown by revolution; there will be no respite from the assault of demonic price rise putting life to rout.

Task Imperative of today

But that does not mean that people have nothing to do when such unbearable burden of price rise is tearing them apart. The task imperative today is to force the government under pressure of a well-knit, organized, conscious sustained fierce mass movement to undertake the responsibility of procuring and distributing the essential items through government

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Convention to build up All India Movement against SEZ at Wardha

From February 9 to 11, a special convention was held at Sevagram of Wardha with a view to building up an all-India movement against SEZ. Comrade Sadananda Bagal, member, West Bengal State Committee, Comrade Madhav Bhonde, Secretary, Nagpur District Committee of the SUCI and Comrade Dipak Sinha, a member of the Krishizami Raksha Committee of Singur were present as special invitees in this convention.

Dr. Rakesh Rafiq presided over the inaugural meeting on 9th February. Other distinguished persons present were Dr. B.D. Sharma, Chairman of the Jharkhand Adivasi Development Association, as Guest-in-Chief and Smt. Medha Patkar and Dr. Thakurdas Bag as special guests.

Comrades Sadananda Bagal and Dipak Sinha were first to speak at the delegate session of the Convention.

The issue was Special Economic Zone. Also present at the session were representatives of Maharashtra, Delhi, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh,

Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala states. In all the six sessions of the three-day convention Comrades Sadananda Bagal, Madhav Bhonde and Dipak Sinha delivered their speeches.

SUCI organized a photo exhibition on the peasant movements of Singur and Nandigram of West Bengal. The exhibition attracted all the representatives of the convention. Besides SEZ, the contention of our party, regarding the method of conducting the movement, on violence-nonviolence-satyagraha and the role of the NGOs moved all the representatives. They collected the works of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat, from the bookstall organized by the party. Many representatives expressed eagerness to know more about our party. At the concluding session, Smt. Medha Patkar called upon the people to develop united movement against land acquisition by the capitalists.

Bourgeois machination causing back-breaking price rise

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network at reasonable price commensurate with the purchasing capacity of the people. This is the only way to stop hoarding, black-marketing and large scale price manipulation to some extent and give a bit of relief to the masses. That is why, we have been demanding for a long time that there should be all out state trading in foodgrains and other essential items of life and all kinds of private trading in this regard should be banned. Distribution should be carried out from the government's own retail outlets under public distribution system and ordinary shopkeepers should be made a part of the system. In today's perspective, this demand has assumed tremendous importance.

Unfortunately, it is the treacherous role of the pseudo-communists represented by the CPI(M), CPI that is proving to be the major hurdle in building any powerful movement over any such legitimate demand. Whenever any initiative is being taken to launch such movements, these pseudo-communists under one pretext or the

other are throwing a spanner in the efforts and thus helping the exploitative capitalist rule to be prolonged and giving pass to the sinister bourgeois designs. Currently in the name of keeping communal BJP at bay, the CPI(M), CPI are giving full support to the Congress-led UPA government to pursue all die-hard anti-people and pro-capitalist policies.

So it is incumbent on the toiling people to realize the perfidy of these pseudo-Marxists, completely isolate them and thereby clear the impediment before giving rise to an all-out intense movement to resist draconian price rise of essential items of life. The demand for all-out state trading should be included in the concrete objective programme of this anti-price rise movement. All should engage themselves in building up strong public opinion in this regard, form people's committees and volunteer corps right from the grass root levels as instruments for conducting this sustained mass struggle. Barring this, there is no other way within the system to loosen the strangulation and reduce the pitch of suffocation.

Historic Calcutta Convention on Singur-Nandigram

In the historic University Institute auditorium of Calcutta, a massive convention was held on February 28 last, in support of valiant peasants of Singur-Nandigram and against trampling of democratic rights by the CPI(M)-led government of West Bengal. The convention was organized by eminent artists, cultural activists and intellectuals from all walks of life of the state to register, in the form of

speeches and unanimously adopted resolutions, their strongest condemnation of forcible land grabbing of fertile agricultural land in the interest of Indian and foreign monopolies, on the plea of industrialization and uprooting at one stroke thousands peasant families from their land, home and livelihood, throwing them into the dark dungeons of uncertainty. They also condemned in unequivocal terms, the fascist onslaught

unleashed by the police and, more so, armed squads of CPI(M) cadres on struggling peasants, particularly on womenfolk, including ghastly rape and killing of Tapasi Malik, an ardent teenager worker of the movement in Singur

Among the speakers there were Prof. Tarun Sanyal, Medha Patkar, Mahasweta Devi, Prof. Sumit Sarkar, Dr. Asim Roy Chowdhury, Justice Moloy Sengupta, Justice Abani Mohan Sinha, Partha Sarathi

Sengupta, Aparna Sen, Shaoli Mitra, Jaya Mitra, Kabir Suman, Sumit Chakraborty, Miratun Nahar, Bibhas Chakraborty, Prof. Sujoy Bose, Samar Bagchi, Prof. Gourisankar Ghatak, Subrata Sinha, Tapan Roy Chowdhury, Prof. Tarun Kanti Nasakar, Prof. Satya Kinkar Pal, Dilip Chakraborty, Ajanta Ghosh and others.

The convention elected unanimously a six-tier platform, named Forum of Artists, Cultural Activists and Intellectuals, with Prof. Tarun Sanyal, the veteran poet and litterateur as the president. The Forum announced a series of programmes for the coming few months, with a view to mobilizing and consolidating opinion of wider sections of people of the state and building up organizational strength for sustained movement.



SUCI condemns blast in Samjhotha Express

Strongly condemning the powerful bomb blast that occurred in the Samjhotha Express, at the midnight at Panipath on the 18th February resulting in death and injury of hundreds of people, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI in course of a statement indicted the union and state governments of Punjab and Haryana for their abject failure in ensuring safety and security of the passengers of a vital train running between India and Pakistan in spite of being fully aware of the threat potential that lies in running such a crucial service. Demanding adequate compensation to the families of the dead and injured, high-power judicial enquiry to go into the entire gamut of this serious security lapse and stringent punishment of those who perpetrated this dastardly crime, Comrade Mukherjee also expressed heartfelt condolence to the bereaved families.

Significant victory of AIDS0 against perverted sex-education in Kerala

UNICEF has put forth an Adolescent Education Programme (AEP), the main thrust of which is sex education with an argument that sexual diseases including AIDS and teenage pregnancy is spreading due to ignorance about sexual functions and activities. So, in the adolescent stage itself all these are to be taught as a part of the curriculum, they insist.

In the national plane NCERT and National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) have undertaken the task. In different states they have started implementing the scheme at the school level.

In Kerala, Teachers' Orientation Programmes have been completed and Facilitator's Handbook and Workbook issued. Going through these, one with minimum sense of moral-ethical concepts will get horrified for; it is nothing but an advocacy for open and free sex, even sexual perversions that are mooted in these guide books. In the name of preventing AIDS and all that, it will be sexual anarchy and unlimited vulgarity that will be spread once this scheme is fully implemented. Teachers are in a rude

shock and gradually started resenting.

AIDS0 took up the issue and started exposing and fighting the scheme with full force. Common people were not aware of this dangerous scheme. AIDS0 with clear evidence, examples from the questionnaire and activity modules as contained in the above books which tantamount to sheer pornography came out with a press release. All important dailies published it. Then different TV channels rushed to AIDS0 State Office and relevant portions of the above books were shown to them which they telecasted along with an interview of Comrade Shajar Khan, AIDS0 State President. This had the effect of a bomb blast so much so that Mr. M. A. Baby, CPI(M) Central Committee Member and Education Minister had to hurriedly announce stoppage of the implementation of the scheme for the time being, adding that only after a thorough review any further steps will be taken. This is a victory having national significance since the scheme is at implementation stage at different levels through out the country.

Mine Workers' Victory at Bellary

Around 450 workers of Thimmappa Gudi Iron Ore Mines at Bellary of Karnataka achieved victory after prolonged struggle under the leadership of Samajukta Gani Karmikara Sangha affiliated to UTUC-Lenin Sarani. After the union launched protest dharna (sit-in demonstration) before the mines office on 16.1.07 and submitted memorandum through a mass demonstration before the Deputy

Commissioner, Bellary on 17.1.07, the management reached at an agreement on 18.1.07 to concede to several demands including granting gratuity, P.F., medical allowance, bonus, production incentive, yearly increment, subsidised canteen facility etc. for the workers. The victory has created much enthusiasm among the workers of different industries at Bellary.

Railway budget — utterly deceptive exercise to hoodwink people and cover up privatization

Reacting upon the railway budget 2007-08 presented today, 26th February, 2007, in the Parliament by Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav, Railway Minister of the Congress-led CPI(M)-backed central government, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in course of a statement branded it as an utterly deceptive exercise to hide waving a flag of 'income augmentation without fare escalation', the dubious means being increasingly resorted to round the year through various administrative fiats bypassing the parliament for jacking up the figure of earnings. Large scale back door privatization of many essential services is going on, all developmental activities have come to a grinding halt with underdeveloped areas remaining neglected and worst form of corruption wreaking havoc, pointed out Comrade Mukherjee. While there is a gallery show of 'no fare hike but fare cut', extra burden in the form of realization of superfat surcharge in more number of trains, hike in cancellation charges and return booking, earmarking more seats under much costlier 'tatkal' scheme etc. is being quietly imposed on the passengers who find a steady if not rapid deterioration in the services rendered to them, mentioned Comrade Mukherjee. Comrade Mukherjee also added that with maintenance of the track and other safety devices reaching almost a collapsing stage entailing alarming increase in the frequency of train accidents as well as complete slackness in other areas of surveillance making room for sabotage and subversive acts of bomb blasts etc. railway travel is now fraught with every kind of danger. It is shocking, observed Comrade Mukherjee that the Railway Minister in his budget speech or proposals besides customary announcements of budgetary allocations avoided any concrete reference leave alone specifically addressing to the all important issue of ensuring minimal security of the passengers. Comrade Mukherjee also indicted the Minister and his department for not undertaking any step whatsoever to extend due amenities to the train travellers or guarantee punctuality of running.

Comrade Mukherjee also strongly criticized the cunning manner in which the CPI(M), CPI with usual pretentious comments of disagreement in one or two areas for public consumption are giving pass to this nasty game and chicanery being indulged in by the Railway Minister and called upon the people to rise in protest against such vile attempts to fleece them creating a smokescreen of populist overtures.

Education Seminar at Patna

Under the auspices of Patna District Committee, AIDS0, a seminar on 'present educational scenario and the task of the government' was organized on 24 February last at the seminar hall of Patna College. Prof. Santosh Kumar, retd. Prof. of Bihar Engineering college, Patna, said that the government was continuously shirking its responsibilities to provide education to its citizens. Comrade. Raj Kumar Chaudhary, office secretary, Bihar State Committee, AIDS0, in course of dealing the emergence of the concept of people welfare state said that now-a-days, in the phase of globalization and Liberalization, the government was curtailing all people's welfare activities and snatching democratic rights. Discussing over Lingdoh

Committee's undemocratic and anti student recommendations, he said that the present BJP-JDU state government is contemplating to hold student union election in the state on the basis of these recommendations. Comrade Anil Kumar, secretary, Patna District Committee, AIDS0, dwelt on the present educational scenario of the state in particular and of the country of the general. Comrades Kanchan Kumari, Saroj Kumar Suman, Rajeev Kumar Sharma, Rupa Kumari, Nikolai, Pooja, Neeraj Kumar, Vipin Kumar also spoke in the seminar. Comrade Anamika, vice president, Bihar State Committee, AIDS0, presided over the seminar. In her speech she called upon the students to build up mighty student movement against all the anti-educational policies of the governments.

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