

Proletarian Era

Volume 39 No. 24
August 5, 2006

Organ of the SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA
Founder Editor-in-Chief : COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

Price : Rs. 2.00



Long Live the Thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh

“Before each and every revolution, the revolutionary party has to conduct a painstaking cultural, political and ideological struggle with a view to acquiring necessary mental make-up and moral strength conducive to that. That struggle does not mean merely giving some political slogans. That must be reflected in the life style, ethics and culture of those who will raise the slogans and come forward in the movement for implementing them”.

Speech on 24th April, 1974

Recent spurt in terrorist activities : Dangerous fall-out

In the evening of July 11 last, India saw a rerun of acts of pointless violence, bloodshed and killing of innocent people. Within a span of about ten minutes around 6-30 in the evening, when it was a peak hour for commuters rushing back home from their office, there were seven high-intensity bomb blasts at different places in the Mumbai suburban railway, the lifeline of the metropolis. Two of them took place while the trains were on the platforms; but in all the seven cases the blasts were horrid enough

to rip apart compartments bringing down a toll of death of over 300 hundreds and injured countless more. Hours before Mumbai passed through these shocking incidents, Srinagar in Kashmir had been rocked by five grenade charges within a span of three hours, that killed, again, innocent people, including tourists, some six from West Bengal and two Kashmiris as well. Later, few more succumbed to the grievous injuries sustained. It was an added instance of attack on tourists and pilgrims, the trend that

had been raising its head in the last few months.

Instances of planted violence is on the rise

It may be added that such incidents of ghastly killing of innocent people by way of ambush-like operation using powerful explosives are not isolated ones. In fact these have almost become regular affairs with a degree of variance in the magnitude and number of casualties. Mumbai itself was rocked by two huge blasts in

1993 sniffing out hundreds of innocent life. Subsequently also, there have been incidents of explosions inside passenger buses and crowded public places in the busy suburb areas. In Jammu and Kashmir, endless acts of mindless violence since the eighties of the last century have claimed thousands of life, maimed an equivalent lot and shattered the life of countless innocent common people. In the North-Eastern states, following sprout of separatist-chauvinist

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Mindless killing merely disrupts unity of people against capitalism

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forces, there has been alarming rise in the number of such planted explosions causing deaths, injuries and panic among common citizens.

Innocent people — soft target of mindless violence

It is obvious that some groups or sections have adopted this course of making innocent people soft target as means to their ends which they deem correct. The outcome is one and singular — indiscriminate killing of innocent, uninvolved people by acts of pointless violence and brutal bloodshed, whoever be the perpetrator for whatever be their overt or covert goals. Already people are seized with the problem of uncertainty and insecurity in every sphere of life bred by the exploitative capitalist system. Over and above that, proliferation of such grim harvest of life through secreting violence is adding further dimension to the question of safety of life. Worried and anxious, threatened and rattled, shaken and perturbed, the people are desperately looking for a way-out of this threatening situation. Moreover, it is observed that such acts of secret blasts are now extending to religious installations and shrines. Demolition of Babri Masjid, attacks on the Akshardham Temple in Gujarat or in places of worship like Varanasi etc. attest to the alarmingly rising trend of these acts. No doubt those who are masterminding such attacks are out to incite communal passion and keep the atmosphere surcharged. This has not only become a nightmare for the toiling people but is also posing tremendous hurdle before building democratic mass movements conducive to anti-capitalist revolutionary movement we are striving for.

Despicable role of government-administration

The governments, both central and state, claim that they are civilized and democratic. But these spates of gory parades show how callous and ineffective government machinery is in discharging their minimum duty of providing security to people's life. Crores of rupees from the public exchequer are spent on maintaining forces like military, para-military, police and their modernized intelligence network.

But their worth is well exposed during these hours of crises. As it came out after the recent Mumbai blast, the FBI reportedly forewarned the Indian government, but the latter did not pay any attention, not to speak of taking any preventive measure. Even the Prime Minister during his customary visit to Mumbai after the serial blasts had to admit, under pressure, administrative failure in averting the incident. And that was neither new, nor rare. Recurring incidents of this kind speak miserably of the pathetic and criminally inept, casual and inefficient character of the government and its intelligence. Curiously enough, there is hyperactivity noticed on the part of the police-administration when it comes to the question of extending security cover to the so-called VIPs. Naturally, this has created severe reaction among the people who are losing faith on the government and administration, for their miserable, rather criminal failure to guarantee the safety-security-peace in the life of common people. Also they are raising rightful question as to who are behind these ghastly incidents and why is there such repeated intelligence failure in identifying and nabbing them.

Three probabilities being surfaced through media

On the other hand, opinions, on cause and solution, right or wrong, galore; media, in earnest pursuit or in search of sensationalism, political parties, and shades apart, are in a race to draw inferences. But all seems to boil down to protecting, expanding, revamping or reorganizing vote-banks, fomenting communal polarization in the end. And this is where the revolutionary party feels the most concerned. These indiscriminate, meaningless loss of life and the vitiated ambience created thereupon, are continuously eroding the unity of common people, who irrespective of caste, creed, religion, language or such others, are being unsparingly grinded under the wheel of severe exploitation and oppression of the capitalist state and society prevailing in the country. When it was the urgent need of the hour to launch and step up united massive struggle of the common toiling people against their common enemy of capitalism, the baseless violence,

helpless death and bitter enmity simply cleave apart the unity, only to impede such struggles to crystallize and grow. It is thus imperative that a scan through the issue is made with a scientific outlook and approach.

Through the media and other sources, three probabilities are getting surfaced. One opinion is that in retaliation to the persistent attack on the life and livelihood of the minority communities by arch communal and rabid fundamentalist forces like the RSS-BJP-VHP, certain terrorist-fundamentalist forces like Laskar-e-Toiba, SIMI etc are orchestrating such attacks. Another conjecture is that this is in revenge of the worst kind of state terrorism let loose in Kashmir on the part of the government-administration in the name of containing those engaged in armed struggle there. The third view is that as the BJP-RSS-Shiv Sena combine which is known for perpetrating communal disturbance by cooking up issues or engineering provocations including blood-spilling acts to ride to power, as was seen during masterminding of diabolic post-Godhra carnage in Gujarat, is now desperate to regain the hot seat, its involvement could not be ruled out.

Now, to ascertain the veracity of each of these suppositions or surmises is extremely difficult. There is no scope for any wild speculation over such grave incidents. While reacting to the recent incidents of Mumbai and Kashmir, the Central Committee of our party had categorically warned about the danger of any baseless speculation and asked people to remain aware and alert against any attempt from the quarters of vested interest to spread rumour. Instead, the Central Committee demanded of the government to shake off all lethargy or indecision to act and carry out proper investigations with a view to truthfully finding out the real culprits, meting out exemplary punishment to them immediately and also to dismantling their network or support bases, if there is any. But, though the state and government wield enough power and are well-equipped to haul up the guilty and indict them, there has been no genuine attempt on their part in this direction so far.

Terrorist acts and incidents of mindless violence extend to the whole world

Not that such activities are only plaguing India. Groaning under the yoke of ruthless capitalist exploitation in this third general phase of intense insoluble crisis of decadent moribund capitalism, the people throughout the world are desperately seeking emancipation, a change of the situation. Particularly since the world capitalism-imperialism started their campaign of globalization-liberalization-privatization, the common people of one and all imperialist-capitalist countries, big or small, are subjected afresh to increasingly mounting pressure of economic exploitation, as well as all-out crises in every sphere of life. But absence of mighty socialist camp and the tide of world communist movement is severely constraining surging forth of their struggle for emancipation with the desired force and vigour. And taking advantage of absence of correct revolutionary leadership to lead this struggle, the various divisive forces are infiltrating into the people's protest movements to misdirect them. Hence incidents of mindless violence, bomb blasts at public places, fratricidal feuds and strife, terrorist acts of varied nature are burgeoning throughout the world. Innocent people of UK, Russia, Philippines and even US have been victims of such mindless violence. On the other hand, any move towards development of massive and militant united movement against imperialism-capitalism, the common enemy of the toiling people of the world, irrespective of nationality, language, religion and such others, is facing serious impediment at the recurrence of such acts of mindless violence that are being trademarked in common parlance as terrorism. Whichever country is rocked by such terrorist activities, the crux of these comes down to the fact that the common people, the hapless and helpless victims of ruthless capitalist-imperialist oppression are made to confront unwarranted attacks on their life and security; deadly weapons, massive powerful explosives rip apart their safety and security, even tearing the bodies of victims in pieces. Thus such attacks have fast emerged as serious threats

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The danger 'Social Democracy' poses before world revolutionary movement today

(In our previous issue of Proletarian Era vol.39 no.23, we published the first part of the article. Here is the concluding part)

Modern Revisionism – Worst of the Debased Social Democracy

The phenomenon of 'Modern revisionism' appeared in history after the demise of Comrade Stalin in 1953. As a sequel to serious shortcoming in necessary philosophical development of Marxism-Leninism in the face of multiplicity of newer and complex problems of life and class struggles and in keeping with the spectacular development of natural sciences in the post-Lenin period, there was marked lowering of ideological and cultural standard in the world communist movement. It was Comrade Shibdas Ghosh who drew attention to this dwindling ideological standard of international working class movement way back in 1948 and forewarned that if corrective action was not taken and infiltration of mechanical thought process as against dialectical thought process was not immediately stopped, it would seriously harm the world proletarian movement and scientific socialism. This weakness of international communist movement and inadequate ideological standard of the leaders and cadres of Soviet Communist Party (CPSU) paved the way for the Khrushchovite modern revisionist clique to usurp power, assume leadership of world communist movement and thus the process of degeneration of the socialist system as well as emasculation of international communist movement from within set in. While most of the communist parties welcomed the report of the 20th congress of the CPSU under Khrushchov leadership as one to 'illumine the path', our party, led by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat warned that unless the defects in the said report were removed in time, it would open "the flood-gate of revisionism."

Turn of events did vindicate the analysis and apprehension of Comrade Ghosh. While in the post-second world war period, the proletarian revolutionary movements were in ferment, the liberation struggles of the exploited

masses the world over appeared to be on the threshold of ultimate victory, the insidious growth of modern revisionism in the leadership of Soviet Union as well as international communist movement turned the prospect into an agonizing set-back. The Khrushchovite modern revisionists, true to the Leninist formulation, betrayed socialism and deserted to the bourgeoisie as real agents of the bourgeoisie in the working class movement, as labour-lieutenants of the capitalist class thereby proving themselves to be the embodiment of debased social-democracy in the post-Lenin era. In the name of fighting cult of personality, the Khrushchov leadership began to denigrate Stalin, malign his contributions, unleashed a slander campaign against him and under cover of that surreptitiously initiated the process of reversal of socialism.

As against gradually transforming socialist economy into communist economy by raising collective farming into state farming and increasing production with continuous uplift of the purchasing power of the people to have demand for social consumption far outstrip actual production for providing constant fillip to continuous expansion and perfection of socialist production, the Khrushchovite revisionists went on endangering socialism by encouraging private ownership of land, providing material incentive for increasing production and contracting the sphere of commodity circulation. Similarly in the political arena, it undermined the importance of dictatorship of the proletariat as the culmination of class struggle and its role as the main bulwark till the total transformation into classless society, it declared Soviet Communist Party as Party of the whole people and emphasized on class collaboration, vulgarized Leninist concept of peaceful co-existence to virtually turn it into peaceful capitulation to the capitalists-imperialists, advocated peaceful transition to socialism by capturing a stable majority in bourgeois parliament and transform it from an organ of bourgeois

democracy into a genuine instrument of people's "will", discarded the Leninist formulation that in the antagonistic contradiction between the imperialists-capitalists for capture of market lies the root cause of war and gave in to the nuclear blackmailing by the imperialist camp and opened door to all kinds of bourgeois liberalism. On the cultural side, theirs had been an exuberant invocation to rotten degenerated imperialist culture of jazz music, twist dance and such other perversities in the name of modernization to pollute the realm of mind and degenerate the rising generations in the socialist countries. Thus in every sphere, the attempt of the modern revisionists was to strike compromise with capitalism and discourage class struggle.

Low level of consciousness allowed modern revisionism to grow

In the course of analyzing the ominous penetration of modern revisionism in the leadership of the socialist countries, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh showed that it was the low level of consciousness which caused the debacle. Experience showed that in the post-Lenin period, despite widespread gigantic economic activities, military science and technology of socialist Russia as well as great advancement and increase of organizational strength of communist movement, cultivation of philosophy, study in depth of dialectical materialism and the kernel of Marxism lacked in required level of epistemological development. Philosophical development of Marxism-Leninism in the face of multiplicity of newer problems of life and class struggles like evil effects of individualism and concept of ultra-democracy and in keeping with the spectacular progress in natural science did not happen to the extent demanded of the time. The vital questions of building up of a 'socialist movement' covering all aspects of life to continuously upgrade the ideological-cultural standard, imperativeness of being declassified to attain proletarian outlook and specifying, based on these, the threshold of a communist character

were not conducted as per need. That resulted in a big gap in so far as proper realization of communist world outlook, appropriate grasp of the newer truths of the time were concerned. As the level of consciousness went down in a socialist state, not only the seeds of capitalism in the economy got flourished, even the capitalist tendencies hidden in social life, in the superstructure, in the realm of mind went on increasing. Individualism and individualistic tendencies began to grow to ultimately jeopardize the socialist structure. Economic ingredients conducive to breeding of revisionism coupled with low level of consciousness paved the way for modern revisionism to germinate and thrive.

Highly perturbed at the developments in Russia and noticing infiltration of tendency of individualism and opportunism of various shades in the Chinese Party, Mao Zedong embarked upon historic Cultural Revolution dragging the whole nation into this mammoth polemical struggle, creating an environment of open criticism, self-criticism and counter-criticism to purge bourgeois thoughts and ideas. Comrade Ghosh hailed this Cultural Revolution of China as "magnificent", held that "this Cultural Revolution has a sound scientific basis, judged by yardstick of Marxism-Leninism and...Communists all over the world who have really dedicated themselves to the revolutionary movement have a great deal to learn from it." At the same time, he drew attention to extremely important aspects. He showed that the old communist standard represented by Kalinin in his "Communist education" or Liu Shao Chi's "How to be a good communist" were no more adequate to the needs of the current requirement. "Up till now," he pointed out, "...only they were considered to be the real communists who were able to surrender unconditionally and happily the individual interest to social interest, place the cause of revolution and party above all and subordinate individual interest to the cause of revolution and society...But this can not be

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Cultural Revolution in China initiated by Mao Zedong was a magnificent battle against neo-revisionism

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considered as the adequate standard for the leading communists in the context of present day life....the individual's struggle for emancipation has reached a new and complex height....a more intense and arduous struggle is to be conducted for complete identification of the self interest with the interest of society through unflagging dedication and constant vigil." (SW, Vol. I, p.241, 244) Alongside he pointed out that in the socialist society, "a new type of economism, of hankering for 'material incentive' and 'benefit may grow among the common workers.... Such a mentality breeds a typical individualistic and opportunistic trend.... As a result, this economism in a socialist system is a great obstacle in the way of identification of individual interest with social interest. This economism-individualism in a socialist system...I have... termed 'socialist individualism' (ibid p.221-23) Then he forewarned that "the object of the Cultural Revolution in China is to fight and eradicate that very trend of bourgeois individualism, falling victim to which some of the leaders and workers are taking to the capitalist road....following revisionist outlook and path... But the present programme of Cultural Revolution will not be able to free the party completely from the danger of reappearance of revisionism in future" if they are "not able to correctly grasp the nature of this phenomenon and give it a theoretical basis" and "can not get over these weaknesses and shortcomings in conducting theoretical and ideological struggles" (ibid p.238, 246)

We know that how after Mao's death, the phenomenon of 'socialist individualism' and allowing standard of communist morality to remain static despite accentuation of the problem of individualism posed greatest obstacle before the essential task of identifying individual interest with social interest and facilitated modern revisionist thoughts and ideas to take upper hand, muddle thinking, distort the basic tenets of Marxism-Leninism and cause tremendous harm to the struggle of emancipation of the proletariat. This point does assume significant importance in the face of

newer and newer attacks of the bourgeoisie on the communist movement. The bourgeoisie constantly haunted by the fear of anti-capitalist revolution tries to capitalize on every possible opportunity to wreck or rattle proletarian revolutionary movement. So if there is flaw in grasping essential ideological questions, slack in the struggle for attaining true communist character on the edifice of enriched understanding of the invincible science of Marxism-Leninism, the exploiting bourgeoisie would spare no time in arraying all its arsenal to precipitate further confusion, convolute the whole issue by propagating distortions, twists and mal-representations of various nature through planting of its agents in the working class movement. That is why, it has, of late been throwing its gauntlet behind the modern revisionists who, wearing cloak of Marxism-Leninism and parroting Marxist vocabularies, are carrying out these jobs with extreme loyalty to its class-interest. This is how the modern revisionism acts as agent of capitalism, thwarts growth and development of revolutionary working class movement by invoking all kinds of reformist thoughts and preaching hated doctrine of class collaboration and class amity, fosters all kinds of economism-opportunism, creates illusion about bourgeois parliamentary system and social-order, continues to backstab the cause of international communist movement and world proletarian revolution and retards social progress.

Thus, it is the modern revisionists who are discharging the role of treacherous social democracy and hence are popped up and pitch forked by the bourgeoisie as 'communists', given widest publicity in the media. It is also noteworthy that after the dismantling of the Soviet Union and East European socialist countries, all the parties that came to power of the new capitalist states had the name "Social Democratic" attached to them and with alacrity they are pursuing bourgeois liberalism-reformism. It is not for nothing that resurrected bourgeoisie in those countries could repose abiding confidence in them. Here, the bourgeoisie has made no mistake

after all! And these parties in different capitalist countries also are preaching class amity, corrupting revolutionary essence of Marxism-Leninism, communist outlook, code and behaviour and thus under the garb of communist vocabulary, practising capitalism. It is in this context that Stalin's emphasis on the imperative need to put an end to social-democratism, now finding its refuge in modern revisionism, assumes primacy.

Social Democracy in Indian Context

We have seen above that social democracy, at international level, appeared with two trends, right and left. While the right trend of social chauvinism (Scheidemann, Noske and Co.) degenerated into reactionary bourgeois parties or groups, the left-wing (Kautsky and Co.) deceived the workers with 'left' phrases. As Stalin observed, "In order that the fight against social democracy may be waged successfully, a stress must be laid on the fight against the so-called "left-wing" of social democracy, the left-wing, which, by playing with 'left' phrases and thus adroitly deceiving the workers, is retarding their mass defection from social democracy. It is obvious that unless the 'left' social democrats are routed it will be impossible to overcome social democracy in general." (Problems of Leninism, Chinese ed., 1976, p-346)

In the Indian scenario also, social democracy betrayed two trends, right and left. The right social democracy was best represented by Jay Prakash Narayan, Rammanohar Lohia, J.B. Mehta, Narendra Dev and their ilk who rallied behind the 'Socialist Party'. The left social democracy found its abode in CPI, CPI(M) and their associates.

The 'Socialist Party', the right-wing social democratic party, at one time, spoke of Marxism and socialism in our country. But, later on, they parted with Marxism, became anti-Marxists and propagated 'Democratic Socialism' which was nothing but a variety of social democracy brought in through jugglery of terminologies. It was no new a coinage. The term 'Democratic Socialism' was long in use by Bernstein, the British Labourites and the like. Democratic socialism does not envisage total social ownership of the means of

production and distribution. This variant of socialism does not aim at abolition of private property. 'Regulated capitalism', 'national socialism', 'socialistic pattern of society' –were the kinds of contemplations in their philosophy. First of all, they held that the bourgeois parliamentary elections taking place in the capitalist countries are 'real' democratic elections of the people. Secondly, they thought that scoring a victory in such elections meant winning state power by the people. Thirdly, there was, according to them, no question of demolishing the state-power comprising a military-police-bureaucracy nexus. Fourthly, they preached that they would acquire power by peaceful means only. And finally they presumed that the state has no class character. These socialists with their 'Socialist party' degenerated into a prototype of British labour party and finally got fragmented into various insignificant political groups. The various trade union organizations like HMS, HMP etc. run by this brand of socialists represented the "first trend" (as categorized by Lenin) of debased social democracy in India, "objectively... bribed by the bourgeoisie".

Modern Revisionism in India

As with the passage of time the role of the 'right' social democracy became exposed and to that extent exhausted, the void was gradually filled up by the rise of 'left' social democrats. To have a comprehensive idea of this 'left' social democracy in India, it is imperative to understand the role and character of the party that originated with the name Communist Party of India (CPI) and later split into innumerable groups and factions. Right from the day of its inception, the CPI notwithstanding the name board it carried did not grow following the Leninist principles of setting up a revolutionary party of the proletariat. Naturally, being unable to develop as a real communist party, it, in a class divided society, reflected petty-bourgeois class thoughts. Neither the CPI(M), born out of the first split of the parent organization in 1964 nor any of the subsequent factions could grasp the all-important point that it was

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CPI(M) and CPI hailed Glasnost and Perestroika — the blueprint of counter-revolution

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absolutely necessary to have break with the revisionist and non-Marxist process of thinking of the old party. They carried the heritage of the same old mental make up, method of analysis and method of approach peculiar to social democracy and betrayed their social democratic character in all international and national questions. From the limited purpose of reaping electoral harvest by encasing on the simmering discontent of the people against capitalist exploitation, they used to participate in the democratic movements but never allowed these movements to be led to their logical culmination. In between, they, true to their social-democratic character as representative of modern revisionism, used to make some patchwork or strike some compromise and fizzle out the issues.

This class character of theirs was manifest in other international and national stands also. The undivided CPI, it may be recalled hailed the 20th congress of the CPSU that marked the advent of modern revisionism. Both CPI and CPI(M), like all revisionist parties, lauded the programme of 'Glasnost and Perestroika' of revisionist Gorbachev of Soviet Russia, as opening up the horizon of democracy inside socialism, while the formulation was actually a blueprint for counter-revolution. The CPI(M) suggested to Gorbachev that he should give free and wider play to small-scale production (vide C.C. document of CPI(M) 1988-1991) which, as Lenin taught us, acts as the mainstay of capitalism inside socialism and a source of counter-revolution. Carried by revisionist outlook, both the CPI and CPI(M) denounced the great and magnificent 'Cultural Revolution of China' much to the glee of the bourgeois reactionaries. The CPI(M) has now found in modern revisionist line of Deng Xiao Ping of China, "the Chinese Khrushchov", a mentor for itself in pursuance of its pro-capitalist policies, open flaunting of the prescriptions of capitalist globalization wreaking havoc in the people's life.

In the national politics also, the CPI(M), CPI, instead of taking initiative for building a correct left democratic alternative to dominant

vote-based bourgeois politics have always been on the look out for finding allies inside the most trusted bourgeois parties of the land to buttress their agenda for securing a place in the bourgeois power politics. Once the CPI(M) discovered within the Congress party led by Smt. Indira Gandhi a "healthy trend" and befriended with her on so many issues while the CPI went a step ahead in forging alliance with the Indira Congress. Today, both of them are directly supporting the Congress government at the Centre. In between, the CPI(M), CPI alternatively shifted their choice, overtly or covertly, between the Congress and the anti-Congress bourgeois forces like the BJP and others to gain in parliamentary politics. Instead of building up of nation-wide mass struggle with left and democratic forces against the anti-people policies of the government, they are engaged in finding out allies in the bandwagon of monopolists-capitalists and curry the favour of the ruling class for pelf and power. Saddled in power in West Bengal, Tripura and Kerala, the CPI(M) is now openly following a pro-capitalist policy, exhorting workers to capitulate to the whims and dictates of the monopolists and MNCs, fomenting class-collaborationist approach, increasingly spreading parliamentary illusions, and above all ruthlessly crushing class and mass struggles from within and outside. The service being extended to the ruling Indian bourgeoisie as well as foreign monopoly capital by these pseudo-Marxists in the present era of decadent moribund capitalism by way of arresting surge of democratic mass movement conducive to anti-capitalist revolutionary movement and giving pass to all the anti-people policies diffusing the voice of opposition is unique in the annals of perfidious social democratic politics. Compromise between labour and capital is at its best in the role of the CPI(M) and its power-greedy associates. The bourgeoisie is also reciprocating with alacrity, providing them with all necessary money-media-muscle power to expand sphere of influence in parliamentary politics. It has become imperative for the genuine revolutionary forces to free the working class movement from the

pernicious influence of debased social democracy by exhausting and exposing these protagonists of modern revisionism.

Fight Debased Social Democracy, Modern Revisionism to the end

It was for this reason that Stalin made a categorical statement that "It is impossible to put an end to capitalism without putting an end to social democratism." Stalin asked to intensify the fight "above all, against the 'left' wing, as being the social buttress of capitalism." Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, founder General Secretary of our party and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era, also emphasized likewise that "Social democracy is the last prop of capitalism in the present era of imperialism and proletarian revolution." (SW, Vol.II, p.61)

So we have seen that social democracy, in the debased form of the day mainly manifest in 'Modern Revisionism' has become a great menace to the growth of revolutionary consciousness of the working class. Specially, after the fall of the socialist Soviet state and China going the capitalist way, there is a renewed fierce attack on genuine Marxism and so is the imperativeness to defend and develop this noble ideology on the basis of enriched understanding. As no revolution can be accomplished today without fighting out social democracy in its 'modern revisionist' form, so also the fight against social democracy is impossible without assimilating the essence of the most advanced and correct revolutionary theory of the day. But the task is not that easy. In every country, these modern revisionists posing themselves as

friends of the working class and waving the flag of Marxism are duping the toiling masses. The struggle to extricate the very root of modern revisionism and completely isolate the modern revisionists from the masses is complex, arduous and painstaking, full of twists and turns. There ought to be a sustained ideological struggle. Every moment the bourgeois ideological root of every step or action of modern revisionism has to be laid bare. The forewarning of Stalin should not loose sight of ours at any point of time. Our party, since the time 20th Congress of CPSU in 1956, has been trying to alert the revolutionary workers of all countries about the danger of 'Modern Revisionism'. But due to lack of appropriate communication channels, our sounding of caution could not reach out to the larger sections of world people at that time. We hope, along with the great teachings of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin-Mao, the exposition and genesis of 'Modern Revisionism' as propounded by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh will illumine the path. The torch-bearers of proletarian revolutionary movement will carry out intense ideological-political struggle to defeat all shades of modern revisionism, elevate their own ideological-cultural standard by relentlessly trying to completely merge individual interest with social interest and lead world revolution to victory. Let us call — fight debased social democracy, the modern revisionism, with renewed vigour armed with the teachings of Lenin-Stalin-Mao and thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and build up genuine revolutionary struggle of the masses on the edifice of higher proletarian ethics and culture.



Mammoth gathering of Anganwadi Workers & Helpers on Parliament Street, Delhi braving torrential rain to participate in the 'March to Parliament' on 25 July'06 organized by Joint Platform of Action, to press for 6-point charter of demand. (Inset) Comrade Achintya Sinha, All India President, JPA, addressing.

Justice, equity, flexibility, reciprocity be made basis for solution of Kashmir problem

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to them, over and above the unrelenting crisis in their life at the hands of capitalism-imperialism.

Terrorism was on the backseat when socialism existed with full might

It must be recorded here that these acts of mindless violence and killing could not make their headway, or even were not to be found except as stray incidents or very rare instances, when socialism as a world order existed with its full might, socialist movement was living and vibrant, united and militant mass and class struggles of different sections of toiling people, were being systematically conducted under the leadership of revolutionary and progressive forces in this or that country all over the world. The impact of these struggles sent shivers down the capitalists-imperialists. They could not ever think of branding those legitimate movements of people as acts of terrorism. But as and when, modern revisionism sprouted and sent its fangs as the worst enemy of people from within to bring ebbs to the sprawling class and mass struggles, counter revolution swamped the erstwhile socialist countries one after another and the mighty socialist camp that had developed embracing nearly a third of the world, collapsed, the plight and misery of common people increased at par. It was a great set back to the cause of the people. Revamped capitalism-imperialism faced a world without resistance and deterrent. Their assault and onslaught on every walk of people's life, — economic, political, social, and cultural — multiplied with yet more ferocity. In absence of correct leadership, people failed to identify real enemy and did not get proper direction in conducting their legitimate struggle against this all embracing attack of resurrected despotic capitalism and its machinations.

It was at this dark phase of human history that the world witnessed emergence and spread of different kinds of divisive forces aided and abetted by the capitalist rulers to diffuse people's outrage by canalizing their simmering discontent in the wrong way. To shield the real enemy and throw a spanner in the fighting unity of

different sections of the toiling people these divisive forces, exploiting people's sentiments and passion and taking advantage of the low level of their political consciousness, fabricated some imaginary causes of their plight and penury, pitted one section against the other by fomenting fanaticism in them on grounds of religion, caste, ethnicity, language or such other elements of people's life that lay dormant, and sprang up with violent attacks avowedly against injustice and oppression. But in reality the entire brunt was to be borne by the people only as each of these fights against imaginary enemies resulted in fratricidal bloodbath, internecine squabbles and infighting, each attack making ground for a counter-attack, and thus invariably ending into abject failure and increased plight of all. The instigating forces and the attacks perpetrated by them had always overt or covert support, even direct sponsorship of capitalists-imperialists, for these forces and attacks served nothing else but the class-interest of the ruling exploiting capitalists-imperialists who fiddled when the various sections of the toiling masses were pitted against each other in an exercise of self-annihilation, torn apart into religious, ethnic, separate communities mutually at war and thus distracted and disunited. It has also been seen that on certain occasions when a kind of mass movements against the anti-people policies of the bourgeois government surged forth with involvement of the common people (be it on the right cause or not, in the ultimate analysis), the divisive forces playing on anti-establishment sentiment of the masses managed to take the rein, cunningly canalize the wrath of the aggrieved people in the wrong direction and then set out with indiscriminate killing of innocent people as the means of struggle. In the process, apart from precipitating disaffection among different sections of the people, toiling masses who were in the vortex of movement at one stage, were dragged into disgust and frustration, gradually turning against movement and political activities as a whole. It was in this way that these divisive activities which at times are manifest in the form of mindless terrorist violence

increasingly stood as great hindrance before organization of mass and class struggles against capitalism.

Thus it leaves no doubt that so long as class and mass struggles are not developed on the basis of correct base political line, this menacing game with people's life cannot be abated.

Increased fan up of communal frenzy triggering terrorist acts

Coming back to the increasing incidents of bomb blasts and such other terrorist activities in India as are called in common parlance, we have already said earlier that government ought take stringent administrative measures to guarantee the safety of the people and bring to book all those responsible in terminating so many innocent lives through planted explosions. We also like to mention in this connection that the way the arch communal and fundamentalist forces like the RSS-BJP are regrouping, gathering more strength, raising frenzied slogans, posing threat to the minorities and even perpetrating attacks on them, has gripped the minority people with a sense of grave insecurity. Even on the eve of the last bomb blasts in Mumbai, the Shiv Sena supporters, in show of supposed protest against alleged desecration of a statue of the late wife of their supremo, went berserk and attempted to fan up communal passion. Just after the blast, VHP-Shiv Sena elements resorted to vandalism in Surat and attacked places of religion of the minorities. Narendra Modi, the infamous architect of anti-Muslim pogrom in Gujarat, had been rushed to Mumbai to reap harvest from the recent incidents. Obviously this formed a part of frantic efforts of RSS-BJP-Shiv Sena gang to retrieve their support base by flaring communal frenzy and thereby regain the seat of power. And such moves in turn, created panic and restlessness afresh among the minorities, particularly when they found the governments, at the state and centre, standing not just as inept showpiece of governance but even lacking the minimum administrative neutrality and often acting as partisan, as had been the case during Gujarat pogrom and elsewhere. This frightening situation is perpetrating. Unless these rabid communal forces

are ideologically contained and the fear psychosis haunting the minorities is removed by handling the situation with a firm hand and completely incapacitating the rabid communal elements, the danger of spurt in terrorist acts cannot be eliminated.

Only democratic mass movement can deter communal buccaneering

But these communal forces can not be combated or contained by preaching sermons or managing to defeat them in one or two elections by forging electoral alliances with so-called secularists. Repeatedly, on one and all occasions, our party has been drawing attention of common people of the country to the grave danger of the fire and venom of communalism, that the RSS-BJP combine has been spreading throughout the land with the sole objective of riding to power on the strength of that dangerous, divisive politics. The reality vindicates our repeated warning. Despite defeat of the BJP in the last parliamentary election, the menace of communalism could not be thwarted. It can only be defeated, as we have been reiterating time and again, by dispelling the communal traits from the mental framework of the masses through a sustained massive ideological-cultural movement right from the grass root level. Such ideological-cultural movement can only be conducted successfully only if there is a tide of united democratic movement of toiling people of all sections of life and society, irrespective of religion, caste, creed, ethnicity and language developed on the edifice of higher cultural standard, loftier sense of moral values and ethics, on the burning problems of life. It is only in the milieu of such intense mass struggle that communalism-separatism-chauvinism and all other shades of divisiveness lose ground. Unfortunately, this essential movement could not be built up due to reluctance on the part of the CPI(M), CPI who thought it prudent to abandon the path of movement and join the bandwagon of bourgeois vote-politics for pelf and power. And in absence of such movements, the RSS-BJP-VHP combine is going whole hog to

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Powerful united mass movement and communal harmony — the bulwark in fighting terrorism-fundamentalism

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spread its communal venom to generate warped mindset among the people. So unless there is release of an intense movement to thwart the sinister move of the Hindutva brigade and in the process enhance the security of the minorities, the terrorist forces would receive further boost and incidents of orchestrated violence and killing of innocents will swell in number. Whatever might have happened in the past, it is high time that the leaderships of the CPI (M), CPI recognize the need of the hour, shun their narrow sectarian vote politics and embrace the course of united democratic movement and accelerate the process of extirpation of the menace of communalism, ethnic rancour and such other divisive sermons.

Minority community people must integrate their struggle for security with the united people's movement against capitalism

It is heartening to note that larger section of the minority people has been denouncing in no uncertain term the acts of mindless violence, serial blasts and dastardly killing of innocent people, notwithstanding the fact that they feel extreme insecurity in the face of the administration and the government, who were supposed to stand in their stead on questions of safety and security, are themselves acting as partisan and increasingly showing lack of minimum neutrality and civility. It is also true that such utterly irresponsible and callous stand on the part of the power that be is ranking many of them, generating in them despair as well as ire and making them vulnerable to

counter-communalist provocations. People of the minority communities should never forget even for a minute that to fight back and eradicate the communalism of RSS- BJP, counter communal forces can never act as the protector. Rather any weakening the prospect and strength of the united democratic movement of the toiling people, irrespective of caste, creed or religion against exploitative capitalist order, the root of all evils, would only strengthen the hands of communal-divisive forces, the protégés of the ruling bourgeoisie which need be contained, curbed and eradicated. The minority people must remain ever vigilant to ensure

that those unholy counter communal forces do not earn any quarter from any act of theirs, for that will simply mean strengthening and spreading the base of the RSS-BJP among the masses, in return. So, immediately they need to develop massive and intense movement against the government demanding full security and safety and integrate this movement of theirs with the united democratic movement of people of all sections and communities, minority and majority alike on the burning problems of life. The minority people must also realize that until and unless the oppressed and tormented minority people can be saved from and brought out of the control of fascist, communal forces, the attacks, the insecurity and uncertainty prevailing now, cannot be stopped for once and all and more than that, united democratic movement of the people cannot be built up. Counter communalism can only breed more communal frenzy. Reprisal will only give way to counter-reprisal and so on. Nobody with any modicum of sanity can approve of this, for such moves will merely prove themselves as self-defeating, suicidal. The real weapon to fight terrorism, wipe out the danger of Hindutva-brand communalism of RSS-BJP lies, as stated above, in developing and accentuating the people's movement on the edifice of higher cultural values and ethics.

Fighting terrorism and fundamentalism intimately linked with correct and just solution of Kashmir problem

In this connection, it may be added that a just, equitable and lasting solution of the Kashmir problem has a great bearing in freeing the country from such terrorist incursions. Undeniably, the lingering and ferocious terrorist activities that are going on in Jammu and Kashmir virtually since the nineteen eighties, the explosive situation that exists in that state, the grievous killings and counter-killings that have been rocking the state without any respite; all this cast their shadow in the spread of the terrorist activities discussed above, all this provide fuel for them, direct or indirect. On the question of finding out a tangible and lasting solution of the Kashmir problem, long since we have been underlining the urgency of reaching at a correct

and just solution.

There cannot be any debate over the settled fact that following accession to Indian state after independence, Kashmir is an integral part of India, legally, juridically and traditionally but nonetheless we have inherited a political problem centering on the state. Failure to bring about a political solution coupled with continuous neglect to the urges and aspirations of the Kashmir people by the ruling Indian bourgeoisie, non-fulfillment of the promises in regard to grant of special status to the state as per the terms enunciated in the Instrument of Accession and limitless oppression of Indian capitalism have made the situation in the state restive. Apart from the unresolved political questions, pathetic plight of the poor Kashmiri people forced to bear the added burden of merciless, endless and yet fruitless killing have become the concern of people of whole India. Naturally a peaceful solution is the crying need of the people of that state and India as well. We, from our party, have repeatedly said, the latest about a year back, that notwithstanding the serious political problems that exist centering round the state, there must be relentless and patient attempts to arrive at political solution through dialogue and discussion between India and Pakistan, undisputedly paying every respect and heed to the aspirations, wishes and feelings of the Kashmiri people themselves irrespective of their religion and such other divisions. Yet we find that the ambience of terror has eclipsed the state to such an extent that can only be termed limitless. Particularly devastating and menacing is the state terror let loose on the common villagers in the name of fighting terrorism, by the army and the government. It can be well imagined how the people are suffering from torture, injuries, rapes and molestations of women when the coercive police, military and Paramilitary forces crackdown like an avalanche over the people. They pick up and even shoot to kill any person, particularly the young, simply on the suspicion that he or she might have link with the terrorists. They press upon the villagers, at the points of bayonet, to act for them with a view to identifying the terrorists, exposing miserably the myth of their much-

pampered, yet corrupt to the bone, intelligence service. Even the election process is monitored at gunpoint. On the spot enquiries made from time to time by various human rights and civil liberty organizations have revealed scores of common features in the methods of mass torture followed and their consequences.

Naturally the more there are such repressions, the wider is the alienation of people from the government and the army and it cannot be gainsaid that cumulative effect of all this including virtual choking of all democratic avenues has been the emergence of armed groups of multifarious hues out to retaliate and ventilate their aspirations by force of arms. No legitimate and permanent solution can be reached until and unless this horror of state terror is completely stopped. Any prospect of a peaceful solution will keep on receding back and the reign of terror and counter terror will go on ever mounting beyond all limits, if the idea of military solution is kept alive and proactive, hidden at the back of the discussion table. Unfortunately, leave aside the major bourgeois political parties, even the CPI (M)-CPI, proclaiming to be left, are remarkably reluctant to spend a word on this very legitimate demand of ending with state terror. On the contrary, on this or that plea they give blank cheque to the government, administration and the army to carry on their repressive acts, themselves encouraging different such measures.

Whatever might be our differences with those engaged in struggles against the government and the army in Kashmir on the question of ideology or on the goal of their struggles, we would like to remind them about one of the irrefutable teachings of history of people's movement. In order to succeed, a people's movement must have a correct base political line with correct delineating of the goal and method so that it becomes wholly acceptable to all sections of the struggling people irrespective of caste, religion or ethnicity who have to be bound in a granite-strong unity. So they need to convince the rest of Indians how they stand deprived and cheated by the Indian ruling capitalists and are being steamrolled by the police-army. It is

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SUCI condemns UNO resolution on North Korea and calls upon world people to foil US-backed imperialist conspiracy

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in course of a statement issued on July, 24, 2006, scathingly condemned the UN Security Council resolution of July, 15, 2006, imposing sanctions on North Korea for her recent missile tests and demanding her to suspend all her ballistic missile programmes. After dismantling of the USSR and the mighty socialist camp as a sequel to revisionist conspiracy aided and abetted by the imperialist forces throughout the world, the US imperialists, observed Comrade Mukherjee, are, in scant regard to world public opinion, arming themselves to the teeth, upgrading their nuclear armoury with all kinds of destructive arsenals and flaunting their military power to assert might as right, terrorize and intimidate all other nations, bully them to either surrender to their dictates or face the consequences which could even be a naked military invasion and occupation as it happened in Iraq. The US imperialists are continuously threatening Syria, Lebanon and Iran to genuflect before its command and are, in particular, hyper-active in destroying socialism in North Korea and Cuba as these two socialist states are proving to be blots in their scheme of wiping out scientific socialism through ploys and intrigues. But the resolute opposition of the people and governments of North Korea and Cuba as well as the wholehearted support they are receiving from the fighting working class and freedom loving populace of the world has, noted Comrade Mukherjee, successfully foiled all the machinations of the US brigands and its associates to tamper with socialism in these two reclusive socialist states. While North Korea is repeatedly demanding that US imperialists should refrain from interfering with her internal affairs, agree to bilateral talks to sort out the issues and guarantee her existence as a socialist state, the US imperialists in utter disdain to all established norms, values and principles as well as world public opinion, is bent upon crushing socialist Korea by concocting pretexts and invoking counterfeit charges. In fact, their aim, mentioned Comrade Mukherjee, is to encircle North Korea by establishing military bases in the adjacent countries like Japan and South Korea.

It is the imperialists headed by US imperialists who, pointed out Comrade Mukherjee, first developed destructive nuclear weapons, triggered nuclear holocaust in Hiroshima and Nagasaki not only killing

millions of innocent but crippling generations with radiation-borne diseases. It is the imperialist gangsters, reiterated Comrade Mukherjee, who are refusing to accept total and complete disarmament, both non-nuclear and nuclear, which alone can free the world from the danger of outbreak of nuclear warfare and on the contrary accelerating nuclear proliferation, keeping the situation surcharged by escalating tension, perpetrating hostilities, precipitating war, threatening security of the world people and indulging in mass killing and destruction of property to buttress their hegemonistic and expansionist agenda. The US imperialists and their accomplices while insisting on others to abandon nuclear programmes are however, pointed Comrade Mukherjee, arrogating to themselves sole right to develop all kinds of sophisticated nuclear stockpiling and other kinds of weapons of mass destruction so as to blackmail other countries to submit to their whims and dictates. In a situation where the despotic world-imperialism headed by US imperialism is out to polarize the world between those possessing nuclear power and those who are not, and the possessors issuing continuous threat to the non-possessors to either capitulate or perish, holding them at ransom through nuclear blackmailing, every sovereign country, asserted Comrade Mukherjee, has got inherent right to confront the aggressor squarely in order to defend her sovereignty and territorial integrity even if that warrants development of her own nuclear capabilities in self defence. Comrade Mukherjee also in this connection strongly deplored the Congress-led CPI(M)-backed UPA government for assuming the role of an indulgent onlooker to this heinous imperialist conspiracy to pursue overlordism and international gangsterism posing serious threat to world peace and sovereignty of various nations.

Demanding that US imperialists must guarantee forthwith the inviolability of North Korea as a sovereign socialist state, Comrade Mukherjee called upon the people round the globe to firmly stand by the government and people of socialist North Korea, frustrate the imperialist design to orchestrate counter-revolution in the socialist countries and build up a massive militant peace movement pressing for total and complete disarmament, both non-nuclear and nuclear.

Recent terrorist activities

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in this way that they ought to earn the confidence and support of all including that of the toiling populace of the world for their cause and integrate their movements with the broader democratic movement against capitalist misrule, so as to muster required strength, get impetus and direction to achieve success. Sporadic and terrorist methods of individual assassination or of generating intimidation will never help the purpose and hence need be abandoned. Retaliatory acts of violence will only cause more and more bloodshed eluding desired peace and emancipation.

Build up powerful united mass movement to eradicate terrorism-fundamentalism

At this very critical moment now the country faces, the people must close their rank and unite to bring about a just solution to the problem. Immediate task is to force

the government to dismantle the network of the anti-people forces orchestrating such violent incidents of serial blasts and grenade attacks on common innocent people of any and every community and take all adequate measures to guarantee full proof security of the minority community in particular. Simultaneously a fierce ideological-political struggle has to be released right from the grass root level embracing all sections of the toiling masses to eliminate even the last vestige of communalism-chauvinism-separatism and such other divisive mentalities. Alongside sufficient pressure has to be created by way of movement on the government and all others concerned to effect a just, equitable and lasting solution of the Kashmir problem and establish peace there. Only this way common people can build up the bulwark against all these heinous attacks on their life and livelihood.

It's Butchery — V. R. Krishna Iyer

V. R. Krishna Iyer, President, All India Anti-Imperialist Forum and former Supreme Court Judge in a statement on July 25, condemned the ongoing carnage at Lebanon and called it butchery. In the statement he said, inter alia :

“Two nations are at war — Israel and Lebanon. The terrible carnage began and continues, the blood and butchery being largely at the instance of Israel which dare not venture on such a diabolic attack without the backing of the U.S. and President Bush. What a catastrophe and countless homicide! What is the United Nations for? To remain mute and deaf, when massive slaughter is being aggressively inflicted with American support? India had historically been a leader of over hundred non-aligned nations and yet this leader — our country — has not protested against the unjust war.

“Do remember when Americans bombed the Lebanon Palace, India had condemned publicly this atrocity violative of international order. What has happened to our power of speech our cosmic conscience our international jurisprudence?

“I plead with the people of India, the political parties with guts and principle and those in power at the centre and in the states to tell the U.N. its duty to speak aloud and act now when the world suffers from the declaration of an open war by Israel. How preposterous would the World Order be if pusillanimous nations, in taciturnity surrender to a policy of silence when a big power backed aggressive stooge attacks a small power with none to protest.”

Strongly condemning the US-backed aggressive Israel's attack on Lebanon, protest demonstrations were held throughout the country under the banners of SUCI and All India Anti-Imperialist Forum.

We regret, we are unable to cover all the news for want of space.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : NIHAR MUKHERJEE