

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Working Committee Meeting,
New Delhi, April 24 - 26, 1972.

25th April, 1972.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

RANADIVE CALLS FOR OBSERVANCE OF DAY ON VIETNAM BY ALL T. U. CENTRES.

Presiding over the meeting of the Working Committee of the CITU at New Delhi in Constitution Club, Com. B. T. Ranadive, President of the CITU in his opening speech on 24th April 1972, hailed the advance of the fighting forces of Vietnamese people and condemned American bombing raids which he described as barbarous. He called for solidarity with the working class and people of Vietnam and called for the observance of a joint Vietnam Day by all Central Trade Union Organisations to condemn American bombing and support the liberation struggle. Fervently wishing for success of the struggle he said "May their heroism and sacrifice be crowned with the ultimate triumph - cleansing their soil of the filthy American aggressors."

He described the victory of the Bangladesh people as a historic event and a big defeat for the American Imperialists. This could be achieved with the help of the Indian people, the Indian armed forces and the support of the Soviet Union. It is the duty of Indian working class to ensure that the people of Bangladesh were not robbed of the fruits of their struggle by pro-American conspirators and vested interests. It is the duty of the working class also to promote friendship with the people of Pakistan and express solidarity with the Pakistan working class in its struggle for democracy and economic advance. The working class must fight against Chauvinism which enables the American Imperialists to play Pakistan and India against each other.

Ranadive condemned the semifascist terror launched by the Congress regime in West Bengal and gave facts about unprecedented repression. He said more than three hundred trade union offices were under occupation of anti-social hirelings and attacks on working class and other localities were continuing. The attacks and the rigging of the recent elections disclose a trend towards one party dictatorship and he called on the leaders of the AITUC and other organisations to retrace their steps before it is too late and fight the new danger.

The economic situation he said offers no relief to the workers. Despite several good harvests, the rural market has not expanded. "The working class and the people have to pay a heavy price for the Congress luxury of carrying on the landlords and the other rural rich on its shoulders."

Strongly condemning the sufferings and privations imposed on the workers through closures-lockouts last year he lashed out against new methods of robbery of the working class, reopening closed factories the Government did not hesitate to exploit the worker's plight and impose wage ~~xxx~~ cuts and annulment of all rights under the various labour Acts. He sharply condemned the fraudulent manipulation of the cost of living index to escape the payment of increased dearness allowance. When prices were rising for months the working class cost of living index was frozen and remained constant. He said the Madras official index has broken all records in manipulation. He expressed fear that there would be further attacks on working class livelihood in the name of promoting exports. To get out of the economic mess created by themselves, the capitalists and the Government are seeking to promote exports by reducing costs, exports at competitive prices and they will seek to achieve

this through increased workload or indirect cut in earnings. He warned the working class against the looming attack and said that the proposal for "moratorium on strike" was a part of this drive.

Lending his full support to self-reliance of the economy, he said the Government was not serious about it. The first step should be the stoppage of all foreign debts payments to the USA, the nationalisation of American companies, beginning with the American Oil Companies. This however is not what the Government is contemplating. It wants to repay all foreign obligations and to be able to do this it seeks to create more surplus at the expense of the workers.

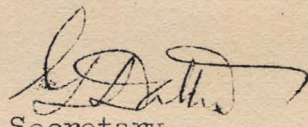
Welcoming the unity in action and struggles of the CITU, INTUC, AITUC and HMS that has been demonstrated in recent months, he criticised the formation of the Co-ordination of Council of the INTUC, HMS and AITUC as an attempt to disrupt the growing unity and isolate the CITU and other left trade union organisations.

Finally he appealed to all Central Organisations to come together and pay proper attention to the unemployment problem and said that the total number of unemployed was likely to reach the colossal figure of 60 millions within the next few years; he commented 'Every child born in a working class family will bear the birth mark of "unemployed" or destitute. He demanded immediate unemployment benefit for all unemployed including the educated unemployed and wanted a change in the Constitution to include the right to work under the fundamental rights. He warned that unless the problem is tackled the very existence of the trade union movement will be threatened.

The Working Committee will continue the meeting on 25th and 26th April.

Com. P. Ramamurti, General Secretary, CITU reviewed the T.U. struggles since the last 10 months and activities of the CITU in various States. He gave a brief account of the efforts made by the CITU towards T.U. unity. He criticised the leadership of the AITUC and HMS FOR ~~XX~~ violating the understanding arrived at in New Delhi in May last year in the all India Convention. These two organisations are now joining hands with the INTUC in opposing workers struggles, he said. Despite the opposition of the leadership of these organisations several united struggles have been organised in West Bengal, Kerala and Tamilnadu, with growing prices and taxation and resultant deterioration in working and living conditions the united struggles would continue to grow, Ramamurti observed.

Com. Monoranjan Roy, M.P., Secretary CITU gave a report on the repression on the T.U. and democratic movement in West Bengal.


for Secretary.

The News Editor,

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favour of publication.