

Press Statement.

30th October, 1970.

On Observation of Durgapur Day on Nov.1.

Com.B.T.Ranadive, President, C.I.T.U., has issued the following statement to the Press:

Sixty thousand workers of Durgapur heroically faced unheard of repression of 15,000 C.R.P. and thousands of other armed forces during the eleven days strike in the middle of August last. After the withdrawal of the strike they have been courageously fighting the large-scale victimisation of management and disruption of the local A.I.T.U.C. and I.N.T.U.C. leadership. The total number of charge-sheets in all the plants amounted to about 10,000 and a list of workers whose services have been terminated runs into hundreds.

Never before had the trade union movement to encounter such brutal police repression and victimisation of the management. Functioning through the irresponsible President's rule, the Indira Gandhi Government is bent on suppressing the T.U. movement in Durgapur. This onslaught constitutes a challenge to the entire T.U. movement in India.

The Working Committee meeting of CITU held at Jaipur in the first week of October has given a call to observe Durgapur Day on November 1 all over India to express solidarity with the fighting workers and popularise their struggle.

The CITU appeals to all the trade unions irrespective of their affiliation to co-operate with CITU unions in observing the Durgapur Day on an all-India scale and send contributions to the Durgapur Fund being raised by the CITU to strengthen the struggle of Durgapur workers.

The CITU congratulates the workers of Steel Melting Shop of the Durgapur Steel Plant for unitedly resisting the conspiracy of the management to go back from their former commitments and impose new workloads and adverse working conditions on the workers.

The CITU takes strong objection to the official threat to close down the plant. The Government and the local officials, out to smash the organised strength of the union, are deliberately creating an impasse to bring about the closure of the plant. The fact that the strike of the Smelting Shop has to be supported by the INTU leaders throws a floodlight on the arbitrary and lawless behaviour of the management. If in pursuance of their plan of mass victimisation, the Durgapur plant is closed the officials will have to be branded as common criminals out for sabotage.

The CITU draws the attention of the people to the fact that as in the police department of W.Bengal, the initiative is now seized in Durgapur by local officials the ministers only being their rubber stamps. The democratic public must intervene against this and prevent the selfish officials from carrying on their plans of mass victimisation.

The CITU calls upon all its unions to demand an end to all victimisation measures in all the factories of Durgapur

It further calls upon them to demand withdrawal of all repressive measures and complete restoration of trade union rights. §

For favour of publication:

The Editor,
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B. T. Ranadive
(B. T. Ranadive)

President,
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§ The CITU further condemns the British management of A V B for arbitrarily discharging 32 and suspending 160 workers and demands immediate action from the Government to stop these vindictive measures forthwith.