

C E N T R E O F

Phone No. 23-3708

INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

172, Lenin Sarani, CALCUTTA - 13

16th December, 1970

Press Statement

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

The CITU strongly condemns the use of IAF pilots in the dispute between the Indian Airlines and the Commercial pilots. The latter have raised the question of safety of the passengers in connection with the new Avro HS 748 planes and neither the public nor the Government can ignore it. The Airlines and the Government have yet to satisfy the people that the Avro guarantees the required safety in flight. Hitherto official statements have been equivocal and have not met the specific points raised by the pilots' association. Instead the Airline authorities have resorted to intimidation and victimisation of the pilots, and arrest under the notorious Essential Services Act. The Airlines employees have decided to take up the challenge and stand in solidarity with the pilots. The use of IAF in this dispute must be denounced as a disgraceful and anti-democratic act leading to estrangement between the people and the defence personnel. The trade union movement have always protested against the misuse of army or other personnel for purposes of strike breaking, and the CITU calls on all central organisation, to launch their emphatic protest in the present case also.

FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION

To

The Editor,

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P. Singh
(Parmeshwar Singh)
for