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PRESS STATEMENT BY COM. B.T.RANADIVE, PRESIDENT, CITU.

ON THE FORMATION OF NATIONAL
COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS.

It is no surprise that the Labour Minister describes the formation of a National Council of the All India Trade Union Congress, Indian National Trade Union Congress and the Hind Mazdoor Sabha as a historic agreement. He has every reason to be satisfied over it because he has been the main inspirer and guide of the negotiations that were taking place to bring the three organisations together. The purpose of Mr. Khadilkar was to forge an instrument which will enable the Government to impose its labour policy on the working class and at the same time, provide a facade of labour support to all its measures.

The coming together of these three organisations is nothing short of an alliance of the Government and the pro-Government parties on the T.U. front. It is not a combination to resist the anti-working class policies of the Government but one to give prestige to the measures which the Government is planning against the working class and at the same time divide the T.U. movement and facilitate the task of the administration to suppress the left T.U.s. The basis of this unity is made quite clear by Mr. Khadilkar. It is to lend support to the reactionary recommendations of the National Labour Commission which seek to impose arbitration on the workers and to eliminate the right to strike. Another reactionary proposal is to reject ballot as the basis of trade union recognition and have it decided through verification by a High Court Judge. The basic right of the workers to decide who should represent them in the vital negotiations with the employers is being done away with by the Government and the three central organisations have shamelessly decided to sell it. It is this that is the basis of the so-called unity of the three organisations.

The three organisations are signing a pact with the help of the Labour Minister and in support of Government's policies when the Government has unleashed widespread terror in West Bengal against the T.U. movement and virtually illegalised a large number of militant T.U.s. Occupation of T.U. offices by gangsters, murders of T.U. leaders, forcible contributions from the workers and victimisation of militant T.U. leaders constitute the order of the day in West Bengal under the Congress rule. Instead of protesting against this monstrosity, joining hands with the other militant T.U.s to defeat this offensive of the Government, the three organisations have decided to come together to lend their support to Government policies and split the ranks of the workers. The agreement is no doubt historic because very rarely in Indian T.U. history was there such a blatant betrayal of T.U. rights by trade union leaders to suit the convenience of the ruling party and curry favour with it. The Right Communist leaders who are shooting down workers in Kerala in partnership with the ruling party have no scruples in surrendering the rights of the working class all over India.

The CITU warns the Government that this method of creating fake support through subservient organisations will not deceive the workers and will not contribute to industrial peace. It has invariably failed where it has tried to bye-pass the real representatives of the workers and impose agreements through its own nominees. The CITU warns the workers that this formation of so-called National Council of the three organisations is but a prelude to further attacks by the Government and the capitalist class on their rights and standard of living. It is an instrument through which the Government seeks to mislead the democratic opinion and isolate the militant working class movement.

Let all militant unions and their central organisations expose this game of the Government and its labour lieutenants and take firm steps to maintain and develop the unity of the T.U.s in the common fight against the attacks on democratic and T.U. rights.

M.K. Pandey
Secretary.

The News Editor,

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favour of publication.