

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

172, Lenin Sarani : Calcutta - 13.

14th January, 1972.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE:CITU OFFICE BEARERS' MEETING.

An extended meeting of the Office-bearers of the CITU was held in Calcutta on 13th January 1972. Com. B. T. Ranadive, President, CITU, presided over the meeting. The following communique has been issued after the meeting.

"The CITU expresses its grave concern at the growing murderous attacks on its leaders and cadres, organised by the Ruling Congress in West Bengal through anti-social elements with the active connivance and encouragement by the police officials. Several trade union offices have been ransacked and records destroyed. A reign of terror has been let loose to intimidate the workers where the CITU is strong. Despite several complaints the police officials refuse to take any action while recklessly go on arresting CITU activists on fictitious charges.

"The recent pre-planned attack on the residence of Com. K. G. Bose, President National Federation of P & T Employees is a part of the conspiracy the ruling party is hatching to smash the trade union and democratic movement with the help of hooligans. The CITU strongly condemns this cowardly act and demands immediate stoppage to such crimes. The CITU expresses its fear that, if the ruling Congress continue its game with full co-operation of police officials, the forthcoming Assembly elections in West Bengal are not likely to be free and fair.

"The CITU therefore calls upon its affiliated unions and other trade unions all over the country who value democracy to rally behind the working class and the people of West Bengal and observe one day as Anti-Repression Day during the week from January 31 to February 6. Rallies and demonstrations should be organised in this week to condemn these repressive and gangster acts. It further decides that the resolutions passed in the meeting should be sent to the Prime Minister and Governor of West Bengal.

"The meeting decides that a deputation of the CITU including Com. B. T. Ranadive, President and Com. P. Ramamurti, General Secretary, should meet the President of India to demand end to all these atrocities."

"The CITU considers the anti-Indian attitude taken by the U.S. Government during the struggle of the people of Bangladesh as a serious affront to India's sovereignty. It endorses the initiative taken by the CITU Centre in calling upon all the Central Trade Unions to unitedly campaign for nationalisation of all U.S. owned concerns and moratorium on debt payment to the U.S. Government. The meeting calls upon the working class to launch a united campaign throughout the country on these questions so that the Government of India is forced to take firm steps against U.S. imperialists."

"The CITU congratulates the 16,000 Simpson Workers in Tamilnadu who fought unitedly against the anti-labour policy of the DMK Government and defeated the attacks on their trade union and democratic rights.

"The meeting decides to defer the meeting of the Working Committee in view of the coming elections. Date and venue of the meeting will be decided by the Office-bearers after the elections.

"The meeting expresses its deep sense of sorrow at the premature death of Com. Rajen Sinha, leader of North Bengal tea plantation workers and Member of the General Council of the CITU. It conveys its condolences to the bereaved members of the family of Com. Sinha."

MIC PANDAY
Secretary.

The News Editor,

for favour of publication.