

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

172, Lenin Sarani : Calcutta - 13.

16th February, 1972.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE:

CITU CONDEMNS REPRESSION
ON BRITISH COAL MINERS.

Com. P. Ramamurti, General Secretary, CITU, has written the following letter to General Secretary, National Union of Mine Workers, 222, Euston Road, London NW-1 supporting the coal miners' strike in U.K.

"The Centre of Indian Trade Unions congratulates the 280,000 mine-workers of U.K. who are on strike for more than 5 weeks in support of the demand for a 12% wage rise. The Indian workers are proud that the British miners are heroically conducting this strike and we request you to convey the feelings of Indian workers to the striking miners in U.K.

"The CITU strongly condemns the invoking of the emergency powers by the Heath Government to suppress the strike. We also condemn the brutal repression on the picketing miners by the police. We have already conveyed our feelings to your Prime Minister in a letter, a copy of which is enclosed herewith for your information.

"The CITU wishes all success to the mine-workers of U.K. in their just struggle.

"We are awaiting details of the struggle from you so that we can keep the Indian workers informed about it.

With Greetings."

Com. P. Ramamurti, General Secretary, CITU, has written the following letter to Mr. Edward Heath, Prime Minister, Government of United Kingdom, London, condemning the repression on striking coal miners in U.K.

"The Centre of Indian Trade Unions wholeheartedly supports the demand of wage rise of 280,000 miners in U.K. who have been forced to down their tools for more than 5 weeks. The strike has resulted in slowing down the wheels of several other industries due to the power and fuel crisis while millions of people had to face hardships as a result of electric power cuts.

"The CITU considers that the responsibility for this long-drawn strike solely rests with your Government which has miserably failed to settle the reasonable demands of the workers. Your Government further went to the extent of invoking emergency powers to suppress the striking workers. Your police mercilessly attacked the picketing mine workers on many occasions in England and Scotland.

"The CITU strongly condemns these repressive measures and demands their immediate withdrawal.

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