



THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

Joint Communiqué by All Union Central Council of Trade Unions, Moscow, USSR and Centre of Indian Trade Unions, New Delhi, India

FROM April 8 to April 14, 1985, a delegation of the All Union Central Council of Trade Unions led by V.V. Kulik, Secretary of the Ukrainian Republican Council of Trade Unions, visited India following the invitation of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions.

Talks were held between the delegation of the AUCCTU and the delegation of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions led by its President, B.T. Ranadive.

The talks were held in the spirit of friendship and mutual understanding.

During its stay in India, the AUCCTU delegation visited many places in Delhi, Agra and the Bharat Heavy Electrical Plant at Haridwar and got acquainted with the internal political situation in the country. The delegates had meetings and talks with Indian workers, trade union leaders and activists of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions.

The two delegations mainly discussed the international situation and war dangers.

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions approved and supported the major foreign political initiatives of the Soviet State aimed at maintaining peace, curbing the arms race of the missile-nuclear armaments, prevention of the militarisation of space, at averting the threat of a new world war, strengthening the trust between countries and peoples.

They agreed that the responsibility for the serious aggravation of the international situation and the on-going arms race is borne by international imperialism which by its policy of blackmail and violence, direct interference in the internal affairs of sovereign independent states creates in the world a

climate of instability and distrust in the relations between the states, oppose the socio-liberatory struggle of the people.

Both delegations agreed that one of the most important tasks of the trade unions of today is the prevention of the threat of war, ensuring a peaceful future for mankind.

Next May all progressive mankind will be marking a remarkable date—the 40th Anniversary of the Victory over German fascism and Japanese militarism. The Second World War, the bloodiest war in the entire history of mankind, has carried out fifty million human lives, teaching the main lesson to the peoples of the world—one should fight against war before it is started. The historical experience teaches us: to maintain peace it is necessary that all peace forces should take joint actions against the aggressive course of imperialism. In this context both trade union centres voiced their desire to cooperate in the struggle for the consolidation of the unity of actions of the working class for the sake of achieving peace on our planet.

Both delegations expressed concern over the escalation of the militaristic preparations of the United States in the Indian Ocean. They fully supported the demands of the workers of Asian countries regarding the dismantlement of all foreign bases in that region and turning the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace.

The delegation of the AUCCTU on behalf of the Soviet working people expressed approval for the peaceable foreign policy of the Indian government, constructive efforts taken by India for turning the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace, for the establishment in South Asia of the relationship of genuine good neighbourliness and cooperation.

Observe 40th Anniversary of Victory over Fascism : May 1 to 9

In the course of the talks the representatives of the AUCCTU and the CITU voiced satisfaction over the development of bilateral ties, noting that the exchange of delegations between the two trade union centres contributes to the deepening of mutual understanding between the Soviet and Indian workers and their trade unions. They have reaffirmed their mutual desire for a closer and better development of the Soviet-Indian trade union contacts, both within the framework of the trade union centres and the branch trade unions through the exchange of trade union delegations, lecturers, information materials, printed matter and so on.

According to the opinion of both sides, the visit of the AUCCTU delegation in India and its meetings and talks with the leadership of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions were fruitful and useful and have made an effective contribution towards strengthening friendship and cooperation between the workers and peoples of the Soviet Union and India.

The AUCCTU delegation has extended an invitation to the delegation of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions to visit the Soviet Union. The CITU leadership has accepted this invitation with thanks.

On behalf of AUCCTU
Sd. V.V. Kulik, Secy. of
Ukrainian Republican
Council of Trade Unions.

On behalf of the CITU
Sd. B.T. Ranadive,
President of Centre of
Indian Trade Unions.

New Delhi, 13th April, 1985.

The above joint communique was issued on April 13 in a press conference held at Constitution Club, V.P. House, New Delhi.

The delegation of AUCCTU consisting of Com. V.V. Kulik, Secretary of the Ukrainian Republican Council of Trade Unions and Com Konstantin Touzikov, member of the International Department of AUCCTU reached India on April 8 for fraternal discussions with CITU. The invitation to AUCCTU was extended by Com. B.T. Ranadive on behalf of CITU.

The same evening they called on the CITU leadership at the CITU Central Office. Com. Samar Mukherjee, General Secretary alongwith Com. E. Balanandan, Treasurer; Comrades M.K. Pandhe, Nrisingha Chakrabarty, P.K. Ganguly, Secretaries and Com. Vimal Ranadive, Working Committee member of CITU received them. The AUCCTU Comrades presented momentos to CITU.

In his welcome address (*Printed hereunder*), Com. Samar Mukherjee expressed the confidence that through such bilateral discussions the already existing strong bonds of fraternity between AUCCTU and CITU would be further strengthened and the struggle for peace against the danger of nuclear war created by imperialism headed by USA can be further intensified. Wide ranging issues were discussed during this meeting and Com. V.V. Kulik proposed for the joint communique. The CITU leadership accepted the proposal. During the following few days the AUCCTU comrades had discussions with Com. B.T. Ranadive in this respect which were participated by Com. Nrisingha Chakrabarty also.

The Joint Communique was finalised and signed by Com. V.V. Kulik and Com. B.T. Ranadive in a luncheon session hosted by CITU at Hotel Kanishka on April 13. Apart from Com. Kulik,



Luncheon Session: Signing the Joint Communique

Com. Touzikov and Com. BTR, those who participated in the lunch were comrades M.K. Pandhe, Nrisingha Chakrabarty, P.K. Ganguly, Vimal Ranadive, Sushil Bhattacharjee, Jogender Sharma, Ranjit Basu and Ashoke, who took snaps during the luncheon session and later during the press conference and the meeting of workers held Constitution Club.

The meeting at the Constitution Club was attended by workers mobilised by the Delhi State Com-

mittee of CITU, and several Members of the Parliament belonging to CPI (M). Addressing the gathering Com. Kulik and Com. BTR expressed the resolve to strengthen the bond of fraternity between the two organisations. They hailed the 40th Anniversary of the Victory over German Fascism and expressed the resolve to carry forward the struggle for peace under the banner of proletarian internationalism against the present day danger of a



Com. Kulik (above) and Com. B.T. Ranadive (below) Speaking at Constitution Club



nuclear holocaust created by the U.S. imperialists in pursuance of their aim to exterminate the achievement of socialism and dominate the world.

After the meeting, Com. B.T. Ranadive presented mementos to the AUCCTU comrades on behalf of

CITU. Com Vimal Ranadive also presented mementos to them on behalf of All India Plantation Workers Federation. Mementos were presented by representatives of BHEL Employees Union also.

During their stay at the Capital, the CITU also



Com. BTR presenting memento to Com. Kulik (above) and Com. Touzikov (below)



made some other programmes for the AUCCTU comrades. Com Ranjit Basu accompanied the comrades in these programmes.

On 9th April the delegates visited Teen Murti Bhavan and the Parliament and witnessed the Lok Sabha proceedings for an hour. The next day they visited Raj Ghat, Shantivana, Red Forte, Qutab Minar and other places in and around Delhi. In the evening they also witnessed affmagic show by P.C. Sorcar. During these two days they also met the leaders of AITUC and INTUC.

On 11th April, the delegation was taken to Agra where they visited the Taj Mahal and other monuments. The next day arrangements were made for the delegation to visit Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. plant at Hardwar. The delegates were taken around this impressive Indo-Soviet joint collaboration plant where they also talked to the workers about the relationship between the employees and the managements, about the facilities provided to the workers and on various other aspects. The management had arranged a lunch in their honour and after that they were taken around for a sight seeing trip upto Laxman Jhoola.

WELCOME ADDRESS BY COM. SAMAR MUKHERJEE,

Dear Comrade Vladimir Kulik and Comrade Konstantin Touzhikov.

On behalf of the Secretariat of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions, I thank the All Union Central Council of Trade Unions and your good self for having responded to the invitation extended by Com. B.T. Ranadive, President of our organisation for visiting our country. Due to earlier commitments, our President is not able to be present here today, which, we hope, would be excused.

Your visit to our country is taking place at a time when the working class all over the world are preparing to observe the 40th anniversary of Victory over fascism on the 9th May next. The Secretariat of Centre of Indian Trade Unions has decided to celebrate the anniversary from 1st May to 9th May, so that we could reach the maximum number of the workers and make them aware of the present danger as well as the great role which was played by the Soviet Union in the anti-fascist war in the 1940s.

We are aware of the fact that the imperialists led by the Reagan Administration of USA from their design of global domination are feverishly arming themselves in order to establish their military superiority. They have not only deployed the Pershing II and Cruise missiles which are first-strike weapons around the Soviet Union and other Socialist states of East Europe turning the entire



Com. Vimal Ranadive presenting memento to Com. Kulik



Com. Vimal Ranadive presenting memento to Com. Touzikov

Europe into a hot-bed of war, but also are spending huge sums to start their star-war and chemical-war programmes. The world is on the brink of a nuclear holocaust which threatens the human civilisation with extinction. We are also aware that the U.S. imperialists have openly declared that their attack is against socialism which they want to destroy.

The working class and the people of our country have noted the genuine desire of the Soviet Union for peace. The CITU has noted with appreciation the initiative taken by the Govt. of USSR under the leadership of the Communist Party of Soviet Union and the All Union Central Council of Trade Unions, in their unilateral declaration of not being the first to use nuclear weapons and other such peace proposals including moratorium on nuclear weapons without giving up the defence needs of the country.

The CITU has noted the struggle for peace throughout the world is being intensified by the participation of international trade union movement. We realise that we have to further strengthen our struggle for peace. We take every opportunity to rouse the Indian Working Class in their international duty so as to strengthen the peace movement in our country. Your visit will help us in creating further awareness among the Working Class and the people of our country.

Above all your visit is going to strengthen the already existing strong bonds of friendship between our two organisations. We would try to make your stay with us eventful. The high standard of living and comfort attained by the Socialist Soviet Republic cannot be made available to you here. There are bound to be some shortcomings which we intend to cover through our warmth and friendship.

We keenly desire you a happy stay in India. We are sure that your visit will enable us to have a free exchange of our views which would surely result in further strengthening our friendly relations. With these words, I once again welcome you among our midst.

Editorial Board

P. Ramamurti (*Chairman*)

**Manoranjan Roy, Niren Ghosh,
M.M. Lawrence, P.K. Ganguly**

M.K. Pandhe

May Day Appeal of CITU

THIS May Day the working class of the world and progressive humanity celebrates 40th anniversary of the gigantic victory of the anti-fascist forces led by the people of the Soviet Union and its Red army. This was the biggest world event after the October revolution and it changed the face of the world. It led to the victory of socialism over one third of the world. It led to the collapse of the old colonial system. It ensured the victory of the Great Chinese revolution and facilitated India's victory in her freedom struggle.

The Soviet people had to bear the brunt of war. They sacrificed millions of life. They went through the horrors of the war for four years. The cities and towns were destroyed. But they fought back and drove the enemy from their soil. They sacrificed millions of lives to see that other countries were liberated and free.

The anti-fascist war became a grand rally of the people of the world, of the international working class to defeat fascism and to protect freedom. Though the imperialist governments delayed their intervention against the fascist forces for a long time, the second front had to be opened and British and American soldiers shed their blood along with their Soviet brothers to defeat Hitler. They were aided by French and Yugoslav partisans, by Polish and Czechoslovak fighters.

This international rally of working class and freedom loving peoples not only defeated Hitler, it foiled the designs of imperialist powers to shape the post-war world in their own interests, to preserve the old colonial system and the enslavement of countries like India.

Recalling the heroism of the Red army and the Soviet people on this 40th anniversary of anti-fascist victory the CITU recalls the historic importance of this grand international solidarity. Such solidarity is urgently necessary today because the world is again faced with the danger of war—a destructive nuclear war.

The imperialist powers headed by the USA are bent upon reaching the point of no return. They have rejected one proposal after another made by the USSR for preserving peace. They have rejected the proposal for abjuring nuclear first strike; they have rejected the proposal for nuclear freeze and nuclear disarmament. The USA continues on its star war programme and has again refused to respond to unilateral soviet moratorium on deployment of missiles in Europe.

The imperialists are preparing for war against the USSR to destroy the gains of socialism, to destroy the gains of anti-fascist victory. By unleashing war which will engulf all countries, the imperialists seek

to establish their domination over the world. In actual fact it may lead to endless destruction making the earth uninhabitable for the human race.

This attack against freedom, democracy and socialism, this threat to human existence must be defeated by impregnable solidarity of all peoples, of the entire international working class.

The CITU calls upon India's workers, all trade unions to throw their strength in the fight against war, to raise their voice for peace and strengthen the world peace movement.

The year that has passed since last May 1st was a year of great trials and tests for India's working class. Never before was the working class distress so acute. Never before did the Cong (I) Govt. pursue its callous class policies so blatantly and unashamedly.

Hundreds of factories were closed or locked out; thousands of smaller concerns were closed and tens of thousands of workers thrown on the streets without job, without unemployment relief. The Central Government continues its ban on new recruitment closing avenues of jobs to all new entrants.

The cotton textile, jute, engineering, coir and cashewnut industries saw closures and lockouts on a big scale. The total number of registered unemployed in cities reached 2.36 crores.

Joblessness was accompanied by high prices and rise in the cost of living.

The unions fought against this attack and workers bravely held out for months facing police repression and terror.

They got the support and sympathy from the two left front governments of West Bengal and Tripura who did their best to relieve the situation and requested the central government to take over and nationalise sick industrial concerns so that the workers' jobs could be saved.

In the midst of this the working class was faced with the challenge to national unity coming from the secessionist forces in Punjab. The Cong (I) Government not only failed to meet it properly, but it exacerbated the situation beyond repair. The Akali leadership adopted a more and more opportunist and anti-national stand yielding to communal and the extremist pressure. The year saw blatant imperialist support to the Punjab secessionists. It saw the dastardly murder of Indira Gandhi plotted by imperialist agencies.

The CITU calls upon all trade union centres, all trade unions and workers to consider how far they

were able to meet these developments. It is clear that the unity of the trade union movement already achieved proved insufficient to cope with them. The employers and the Government were able to get away with prolonged lockouts and closures which required a much stronger unity to defeat them.

The working class like the rest of the people, was swept away by consideration of national unity and its intense feeling over Indira's assassination and voted for the Cong(I) in the Parliamentary elections.

The result is that the same party whose policies are responsible for closure, lockouts, and massive unemployment, the same party which enacted a series of anti-working class laws like the ESMA, the MISA, and the NSA, the party whose ambitions for one party rule are well known has been installed in power at the centre.

In their concern for national unity the workers along with the people have voted for the party which has shown its incapacity to protect national unity.

Had the organised trade union movement unitedly taken the question of defending national unity, had it with one voice exposed imperialist plots and simultaneously thrown all its weight to defend the economic interests of the workers the election would have shown better results for the country and for the people.

The failure to effectively resist the onslaught of the crisis of the economy, the failure to throw full weight of the trade unions in support of democratic and left forces has landed the country and the people in a perilous situation.

In this situation of growing attacks of divisive forces, and the government's incapacity to meet them, the imperialists are pressurising for a change in the foreign policy of our country, the policy of non-alignment, of friendship with USSR and support to liberation struggles. The working class must remain vigilant against these pressures.

The working class and the trade union movement must put in the forefront the defence of national unity, the fight against secessionist elements in Punjab and elsewhere, welcome all genuine measures proposed by the government in this direction while criticising its delay, half-heartedness and errors and expose and oppose those who like some Akali leaders fan the flame of communal passions, surrender to secessionist elements in the name of defending the interests of the Sikhs.

The Cong(I) Party after returning to power has lost no time in baring its ugly anti-people, anti-working class face, its open servility before the capitalists and the wealthy.

Disregarding the interests of the people who voted for it, it has produced a budget which makes the Indian people, the peasant, the agricultural worker, the worker and the middle classes the scape goat of the economic situation.

Those who have been victims of closures, of high prices, of denial of remunerative return for their produce, are now saddled with huge tax burdens. The common man has to bear a huge tax burden of 1400 crores. He will have to bear the burden of rising prices inevitable under the deficit budget. The prices of necessity of life like milk, sugar, pulses, edible oils have already risen forcing cuts in the family budgets. The concessions offered by raising eligibility limit for bonus and reduction of income tax for middle class salary earners will not meet even a part of the additional burden.

As against this the capitalists, the private sectors, the investors, the creators of black money, are given concessions one after the other.

The budget leaves the unemployed in the cities who number not less than 2.3 crores to their fate. There is no unemployment allowance for them no relief for them. On the contrary it provides for greater and greater introduction of computers, relaxes all earlier restriction on them and reduces excise and other duties, all of which will lead to massacre of jobs. So also the import liberalised policy which will take away jobs from Indian workers.

This callous policy is being pursued when 463 big undertakings have gone sick and more than 60000 small concerns are also declared being in the same conditions. The effects of the budget proposals will lead to a big increase in the defenceless army of the unemployed. The unemployed in the village numbers many more and the proposed scheme will not meet even a fringe of the problem. The government refuses to nationalise the sick concerns a demand repeatedly made by the trade union movement. They have also rejected the demand for nationalisation of the cotton textile and jute industry.

More dangerous are the implications of some other policy steps. The public sector is being denigrated, the private sector is openly preferred and in the name of promoting advanced technology multinationals are given an opening into the economy. To ease the situation for the private sector Indian monopolists are being released from a number of restrictions. Net effect is to open the working class and the people to the full blast of private exploitation and to place the Indian economy under the growing influence of the multinationals, a danger to our economic freedom. Economic planning, which exercises some control over private and foreign investment is being down graded if not completely scuttled.

Last year besides has seen an aggravation of the relation among the states of the sub-continent. While the people and the working class of Pakistan are waging a just struggle for democracy, the rulers of Pakistan are importing arms from USA to prepare for a conflict with India. The USA is sending sophisticated arms into the country in pursuit of its global designs.

The military ruler of the Bangladesh is crushing the democratic movement in the country and relying more and more on USA help to fight its own people. The reactionary government of Srilanka massacres Tamils by hundreds and is openly hostile to India and is encouraged by Britain and USA. India is being surrounded by a ring of hostile states. The working class can neglect this peril at its own cost.

While meeting this challenge and rousing the working class against imperialist designs the workers, all unions, must send messages of solidarity to the workers and the people of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Srilanka in their struggle for democratic rights. The problem of peace between India and all these countries, of Tamils in Srilanka can be solved with the united will of the peoples and not by the clash of arms so desired by the imperialists.

The arduous task facing the movement should not lead to despair. The trade union movement in the country, the most organised section of our people has enough strength, if it is fully mobilised, to meet the new offensive. The unity already achieved must be deepened and broadened still further and must be expressed on all issues affecting the people and nation. The CITU repeats its call for a confederation of all trade union centres and federations to symbolise the beginning of the deeper unity that is necessary.

On May Day the CITU calls upon all trade unions to fight the anti-people budget provisions and plan working class action to demand changes in government's economic policies.

All trade unions should demand immediate nationalisation of jute and cotton textile industry and nationalisation of all sick concerns, and lifting of all closures.

The trade union must strongly protest against plans for increased unemployment, relaxation of the control over monopolists, and new scope given to multinationals. A united demand should be made to provide unemployment relief and right to work to be included as a fundamental right in the Constitution.

On May day the united voice of working class must be raised for ensuring a stable price level arresting all price increase ensuring remunerative prices for the peasant's produce, proper wage for agricultural workers, and effective public distribution system for supplying necessities of the life to the people.

On May Day the trade unions must resolve that they will relentlessly fight against all attacks on democratic rights by the Cong (I) government, against, its machinations against the two left governments and its efforts to topple any state ministry of the opposition.

The trade Union movement owes a special responsibility to defend the two left front governments of West Bengal and Tripura who have been loyally protecting the interests of the workers and the people. Never before were the workers in these states so free to conduct their struggle without repression, of interference from the Police and the administration. Never before did any administration throw its weight in favour of workers and toilers to settle dispute in their interests. The two governments declined to use the NSA, ESMA and the MISA against the workers and the people. The trade union movement regards them as advanced out posts of the democratic movement.

The trade unions demand withdrawal of NSA and ESMA and warns the Government against its plans to curb the freedom of trade union movement by introducing new legislation.

On May Day the trade unions must resolve to fight for maintaining the integrity of the country and against the imperialist and their divisive agents.

On May Day the trade unions raise the banner of international solidarity, celebrate the anti-fascist victory day and raise their voice against the US plans for nuclear war.

Convention of Public Sector Unions

A convention of unions affiliated and friendly to CITU will be held at Bangalore on 27-28 May to review the working of the Public Sector undertakings and the problems faced by the workers. It will also consider the steps to co-ordinate the CITU activities in the public sector undertakings. B.T. Ranadive, President and Samar Mukherjee, General Secretary, CITU will participate in the deliberations of the meeting. Each affiliated union can send 2 representatives to participate in the meeting. Comrades will have to pay Rs. 20/- for food charges.

Comrades should inform about their arrival schedule and return reservations by remitting money to

C. Nanjundappa,
General Secretary, Reception Committee,
All India Public Sector Unions' Convention,
Canara Bank Staff Union Office,
220 II Floor,
Cubbonpet Main Road,
Bangalore-560022

40th Anniversary of Anti-Fascist Victory

B.T. Ranadive

IN the midst of hectic efforts of the US imperialists to unleash a nuclear war the 40th anniversary of the anti-fascist victory comes as a great source of inspiration.

Never before in human history man's desire and love for freedom was put to such severe test. Never before millions of lives were demanded as the price for preserving freedom. The people of the Soviet Union passed this severe test and turned the tide in favour of mankind's freedom. Their courage, sacrifice and suffering will be recalled on May 9 this year and will inspire the entire humanity to stand on guard and foil the efforts of present-day plotters against peace and freedom.

The mighty victory of the forces of socialism, peace and democracy against the forces of fascist imperialism opened a new era in world history. It was the second turning point in world history after the great triumph of the October Socialist Revolution. It released a mighty wave of liberation struggles. As a consequence of the victory led by the Socialist Soviet Union the nations of Europe could breathe freely in Peace, the Nazi war machine having been crushed by the heroic Red Army. The urge for freedom led to the nations of East Europe making a transition to socialism. The victory led to the rout of the forces of Japanese imperialism and ensured the victory of Chinese revolution ending up the emergence of Socialist China followed by the emergence of Socialist Vietnam and Korea. As a result one-third of the world became socialist. The balance of class forces changed in favour of the working class and the people. The wave continued and facilitated the achievement of independence by India and other nations of Asia and Africa. The old colonial system collapsed and the face of the entire world was changed beyond recognition.

The Soviet people, the Red Army and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union headed by Stalin were the architects of this grand victory. The Western allies played supporting role, the liberation movements in Nazi occupied territories especially France where the French Communists distinguished themselves made valuable contributions in blood and sufferings. And yet the main brunt had to be borne by the Red Army and the Soviet people. The courage of the Red Army, navy and air forces personnel, the military skill of the Soviet commanders and the precise and inspiring political guidance of the CPSU proved decisive in this titanic battle which was the first military confrontation in a gigantic scale between two social systems.

In more than three years of brutal warfare the Red Army smashed Hitler's war-machine, routed his forces and cleared the country of Nazi attackers. But it did not stop at its borders. It went in pur-

suit of the mortal enemy of freedom to deliver other lands from their bondage. Warsaw and Bucharest, Prague and Budapest, Sofia, Vienna and Berlin were liberated in quick succession. Even those lands where the Red Army did not intervene directly to rout the German forces understood its contribution to their liberation. Charles De Gaulle the leader of the free French said in December 1944, "The French know what Soviet Russia has done for them, and they know that it was Soviet Russia who played the main role in their liberation". In May 1945 U.S. President Harry Truman said, "We fully appreciate the magnificent contributions made by the mighty Soviet Union to the cause of civilisation and liberty". In a message to Stalin, Churchill said in February 1945, "Future generations will acknowledge their debts to the Red Army as unreservedly as do we who have lived to witness the proud achievements".

Mao-ze-Dong wrote at the time, "The Red Army has come to help the Chinese people to expel the aggressors. This has never happened in the history of China before. The influence of this event is invaluable." Assessing the importance and effects of the great victory Kim-Il-Sung said, "The great victory of the Soviet Union in the Second World War, the defeat of imperialist Japan by the Soviet army ensured the liberation of our country from prolonged colonial domination and the way to a new free life for the Korean people".

Equally eloquent was the comment of the great German writer Thomas Mann after the banner of victory was raised over the Reichstag. He said, "That is a great hour not only for the victors but also for Germany, the hour the dragon was slain. The fearsome and insane monster called national socialism has expired, and Germany at any rate has been delivered of the stigma of being called a country of Hitler.

The total transformatory character of the anti-fascist victory was summed up later by a meeting of the world communist Parties in 1957 when it declared the post-victory period as a new epoch of transition from capitalism to socialism, an epoch when the international socialist system is becoming the decisive factor determining the course of world developments, an epoch of national liberation and socialist revolution, an epoch of rapid decay and disintegration of colonialism, an epoch of the collapse of imperialism, and the final victory of socialism and communism on a world scale.

In the year before the war the Western imperialist countries, especially France and Britain were egging on Hitler to attack the Soviet Union. They were encouraging his aggressive moves by making concessions after concessions. Their game was to embroil

Hitler in a war with Soviet Union which they thought would weaken both especially the Soviet Union. They would then intervene to dictate terms to the USSR and cripple or destroy the socialist state. Stalin warned them that this plot will turn against them. The Soviet Union proposed collective security against Hitler. It asked Britain and France to join with USSR to check Hitler's aggression but Britain and France rejected the proposal for collective security.

The West European countries had to pay heavily for their refusal to accept collective security and their encouragement to the aggressors. Hitler suddenly turned against them and crippled them in a short time. Within a year of the declaration of the imperialist war the point of dispute was of redistribution of colonies between the power blocs — France and the rest of Europe lay prostrate before the march of Nazi armies. The resistance of the European countries crumbled one after another and there seemed to be no power, no army capable of offering resistance to the triumphant Nazi hordes. France and the rest of Europe went under occupation of Nazi troops and England was awaiting its turn of invasion and attack. The loss of liberty of millions in Western Europe, their enslavement and massacre was the sequel of the policy pursued by imperialist powers the policy of anti-Soviet hatred and support to Nazi aggressors.

On 22nd June 1941 Hitler launched a perfidious attack against the USSR and started a war which was to end in his defeat and give a terrific blow to the imperialist system. The attempt to destroy socialism was to end in weakening the world capitalist system, its abolition over one-third of the world. But this end result depended on how the Soviet Union, the CPSU and the forces of the Red Army withstood and faced the responsibility history placed on them. Political misjudgement, military or diplomatic misjudgement, would have proved disastrous. Combination of military skill, political vision with clarity and diplomatic manoeuvring and flexibility were all required to lead this gigantic struggle. Its problems were many. Every effort was needed, high diplomatic skill was necessary to fully utilise the split in the imperialist camp and secure the support of powers nearly vanquished or threatened with attack by Hitler. Their hesitations and treachery had to be overcome while keeping the anti-Hitler coalition intact. For the least excuse they were prepared to stab the USSR in the back to ensure a terribly weakened Soviet Union in the course of the war. But help in supplies and military action from them was essential to shorten the war and save lot of destruction and losses.

Besides the new allies had their own reactionary ideas about the shape of the post-war world. They wanted to strengthen the system they represented and extend their domination over nations and countries overrun by Hitler. They also aimed at establishing their supremacy over the countries neighbouring the USSR. The post-war world was to be

the same as before the war except for the disappearing of the Hitler regime.

Such was the contradictory situation facing the Soviet Union on June 22nd. But the CPSU and Stalin mastered it and were successful in guiding the course of war consistently with its liberationist aims.

On July 4, 1941 Stalin addressed the Soviet people over the Moscow Radio. His speech expressed the line of the Central Committee of the CPSU. Stalin talked about the liberationist significance of the war.

He said, "Our war for the freedom of our motherland will merge with the struggle of the peoples of Europe and America for their independence, for democratic liberties. It will be united front of the peoples who stand for freedom and against enslavement and threats of enslavement of Hitler's fascist armies".

The war was to be conducted not as a war between army and army, but between the foreign army and the entire people including its army. This was the great difference in the conduct of war in the Soviet Union and in other countries which Hitler attacked and subjugated. In those Western countries when their armies were facing the Nazi army the people had no role to play. In France in fact the panicky movement of the people in face of German invasion obstructed the movement of the French army. In England Churchill asked the people to stay put in their houses in cases the Germans invaded the country.

But Stalin gave different directives: "In areas occupied by the enemy, guerilla units, mounted and foot, must be formed, sabotage groups must be organised to combat enemy units, to foment guerilla warfare everywhere, to blow up bridges and roads, damage telephone and telegraph lines, and set fire to forests, stores and transports. In occupied territories, countries, conditions must be made unbearable for the enemy and all its accomplices. They must be tormented and annihilated at every step and all their measures frustrated".

The order of the Day said, "The strength of the Red Army lies, finally, in that it does not and cannot feel racial hatred for other peoples, including the German people, that it has been trained to recognise the equality of all peoples and races, and to respect the right of other peoples. The Germans' racial theory and their practice of racial hatred have led all freedom-loving peoples to become enemies of fascist Germany. The USSR's theory of racial equality and its practice of respecting the rights of other peoples have led all freedom-loving peoples to become friends of the Soviet Union."

The casualties were colossal. In four months of warfare the Red Army lost 350,000 killed and 358,000 missing. The wounded numbered 10,20,000. The Germans lost 4,50,000 men killed, wounded

and taken prisoners. This is sufficient to explain the intensity of the war.

The fate of humanity was being decided on the soil of the Soviet Union. Everything depended on the course of military events. By the autumn of 1941 German armies were surrounding Leningrad, they had taken Kiev and were threateningly approaching Moscow. By October-November the Nazis launched a huge offensive to capture Moscow. They wanted to be safe in the capital before the onset of Russian winter. Powerful forces were thrown into the battle by the German High Command but they got bogged down before the valorous resistance of the Red Army and the equally valorous resistance of the volunteers.

Weeks of the resistance wore down the German army and eroded its morale. Its line of communications were endangered. Its casualties were colossal. Its capacity to launch an offensive and move further had been sapped. On December 6, 1941 the Red Army launched its offensive, supported by great number of tanks and planes. The Germans were in no position to meet this offensive. They beat a hasty retreat abandoning their weapons, equipment and supply trains. Fifty enemy divisions were smashed in the offensive which recaptured 11,000 localities including over sixty big and small towns and frustrated the German plans for the capture of Moscow.

By 23rd February 1942, the 24th anniversary of the Red Army, Stalin was able to announce, "In a brief space of time the Red Army dealt successive blows at the German fascist troops at Rostov-on-Don and Tikhunin, in the Crimea and near Moscow. In the fierce battles near Moscow the Red Army hrew back the enemy from Moscow and is still continuing to push him westward. The Moscow and Leningrad regions have been completely cleared of all German invaders".

The German defeat at Moscow was the first signal of turn of the tide. It smashed the myth of German invincibility and the German plan of invading Russia within six weeks. It led to important developments outside the Soviet Union. The enslaved people of Europe saw a ray of hope and felt a new urge to organise their resistance. Led by the Communists the freedom fighters in France, Yugoslavia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Norway and other countries took courage to strike at the enemy, destroy air fields and bridges, sabotage enemy transport and derail his troop trains. Across the borders peoples of defeated countries were now joining hands with the Red Army and the Soviet people in the common battle against fascism.

In all these eventful months of heroic resistance and huge loss of life the Western powers were sitting on their haunches refusing to lift a finger and some of them still hopeful that the colossal destruction will exhaust the Soviet Union and they will be in a position to dictate terms to the socialist state —

onerous conditions for help or dictatorial terms after the end of the war.

They repeatedly betrayed their promises of opening the second front in Europe, of sending their armies into France. They promised to do it in 1941. They did not. They promised in 1942 and 1943. They went back on it. They opened the second front in 1944 after the Red Army had driven the Germans from the Soviet soil.

But the nemesis was not slow to come. Japan which expected to attack the Soviet Union weakened by Nazi attacks and advance realised that Nazi victory was not ensured. She realised that Hitler's plan of vanquishing the USSR within eight weeks proved an empty dream. The failure to advance on Moscow made it clear that the war was going to be a protracted one and the Soviet Union had enough strength to give the same robuff to Japan if she attacked her. There was no prospect of easy victory here. So the waiting Japan suddenly attacked the western powers who had become observers of the anti-fascist war.

On the 7th November 1941, a day after the Soviet counter-offensive started on the Moscow front, the Japanese treacherously attacked the main United States naval base at Pearl Harbour and destroyed or put out of commission the entire United States Pacific fleet, including eight battleships. By May 1942, within six months, the Japanese occupied Malays, Burma, the Philippines and Indonesia, spreading the war to Asia.

Having reaped the reward for their passivity the U.S. Government suddenly woke to the responsibility of fighting fascism. On January 1, 1942, a joint declaration was signed at Washington by 16 allied states including the USA, the USSR, Great Britain, China, Poland and Yugoslavia. The signatory states undertook to cooperate to defeat the fascist bloc and further agreed not to conclude a separate peace.

The battle of Stalingrad which ended in February 1943 marked a decisive turning point in the anti-fascist war. Hitler's defeat now appeared inevitable. Frustrated before Moscow, Hitler made a last effort in the summer of 1942 and launched a new drive. By then Hitler had committed 249 divisions on the Soviet front. By August 23rd German forces achieving a breakthrough reached the Volga at a point north-west of Stalingrad. Stalingrad proved Hitler's doom. With unparalleled heroism the defenders fought back, now experienced armed forces foiled every move of the enemy. "The fury of the battle mounted, until over 2,000,000 men, 26,000 guns and mortars, over 2,000 tanks and some 2,000 planes were disputing the possession of the city. More than 1,00,000 strikes were carried out by the German air force and something like 1,000,000 bombs were dropped in the course of the battle".

Having brought the enemy to a stop the Red

Army launched its counter-offensive on November 19, 1942 and by February the battle of Stalingrad ended in complete victory of Soviet armies. Twenty two picked enemy divisions were smashed and over 90,000 officers and men surrendered.

The historic importance of the Stalingrad victory was well summed up by the paper *Tribuna* of Polish Workers' Party in the following words: "The defence of Stalingrad is the turning point of the war. It is there, at Stalingrad, that the fascist plans of conquering the world have collapsed. It is there at the Stalingrad front, that the courage of the Soviet soldiers, the heroism of the entire population of the city have become a symbol. A symbol of the insurmountable strength of the Red Army, of the invincible staunchness of the Soviet people, the invincible might of socialism". (Quoted from *International Affairs*, No. 12, 1984)

By November 7, 1944, on the 27th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, Stalin was able to declare in Order of the Day No. 220: "The Red Army has restored freedom to tens of millions of Soviet people. The Soviet State frontiers which the Hitler hordes wantonly violated on June 22, 1941, have been restored along their whole length from the Black Sea to the Barents Sea.

"Thus the past year witnessed the complete liberation of our Soviet soil from the German fascist invaders.

"Having consummated the liberation of its native soil from the Hitler regime, the Red Army is now helping the peoples of Poland, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia to break the chains of fascist slavery and to secure their freedom and independence".

Inspired by the successes of the Red Army people in a number of neighbouring countries were rising to fight the fascists and their stooge governments. In Rumania on August 23, 1944 Antonescu dictatorship was overthrown, a new democratic government was formed which concluded an agreement with the allies and declared war on Germany.

On September 5, 1944 Soviet forces crossed into Bulgaria and on September 9 the communist-led Patriotic Front raised popular revolt against the reactionary ruling clique and set up a new government which concluded an armistice with the allies and declared war on Germany. The same happened in Hungary as soon as the Red forces entered the country to fight the Hungarian fascist forces. A new national provisional government was formed in December 1944 and it declared war on Germany. In Yugoslavia the Soviet forces rendered help to the Peoples' Liberation Army by Tito. By January 1945 Czechoslovakia was liberated and by February 1945, the Soviet forces fighting shoulder to shoulder with the First Polish Army chased the Germans out of Warsaw.

Now started a race for Berlin. The forces of the

western powers who had overcome German resistance wanted to be the first to reach Hitler's capital. Hitler was awaiting them hoping to strike a deal with them at this late hour. But nothing could stop the Red Army. By April 21 it carried the fighting into the suburbs of Berlin and by 25th it completely encircled the city. There was fierce fighting all over the city. The German losses South-East of Berlin were 60,000 killed and 1,20,000 taken prisoners.

On the night of April 30 the flag of victory, the Red Flag was hoisted over the roof of Reichstag. On May 2 the Berlin garrison laid down its arms. Hitler and Goebbels committed suicide. On the night of 8th May, an act of unconditional surrender on behalf of Germany was signed at Berlin by the representatives of the German High Command. The war ended with the liberation of occupied Europe leading to revolutions in a number of countries and change over to a new socialist system.

The war in the Far East ended only a few months later. The Anglo-American combination was on the offensive but not yet confident of defeating Japan unaided. And they did not shrink from asking the USSR which had already experienced tremendous losses to join them in the fight against Japan. The Soviet Union fulfilling the agreement at Yalta declared war on Japan on August 9, 1945 and within a short time forced the Kwantung army to lay down its arms.

The Japanese surrender was only a question of days. But Truman directed American planes to drop atom bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This was a monstrous act of human genocide. On September 9 Japan signed an act of unconditional surrender ending the Far East war and opening the door of liberation to several countries of Asia and ensuring the victory of the Chinese revolution.

The direct impact of the anti-fascist victory on the liberation struggles of Asian countries is often not seen. In fact imperialist scribes and bourgeois nationalist leaders of these countries are at pains to minimise the powerful freedom impulse given by the victory.

The Japanese defeat led to a massive liberation movement, and Burma, Indonesia, Malaya, Korea and Vietnam rose in revolt. They drove out the Japanese and made it impossible for the former enslavers, Dutch, British and French imperialists to establish their domination.

India was no exception. The end of the war, the victory against Japan and Germany led to revolts in the armed forces of India. The personnel of these forces, now imbued the patriotism and democratic ideals preached during the anti-fascist war, were not prepared to remain slaves. The rebellion of the Royal Indian Navy in the harbour of Bombay came as a final warning to Britain that India could not be subdued with the aid of the Indian armed forces.

(Contd. on page 20)

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE VICTORY OVER FASCISM

On the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union

(On the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the Victory over Fascism, we are publishing hereunder excerpts from the speeches of Com. J.V. Stalin delivered during the war against the Fascist Germany — Editor)

Radio Address, July 3, 1941

COMRADES! Citizens! Brothers and Sisters! Men of our army and navy!

The perfidious military attack by Hitler Germany on our motherland, begun on June 22, is continuing. Are the German fascist troops really invincible as the braggart fascist propagandists are ceaselessly trumpeting? Of course not! History shows that there are no invincible armies and that there never have been. Napoleon's army was considered invincible, but it was beaten successively by the troops of Russia, England and Germany. Kaiser Wilhelm's German army in the period of the first imperialist war was also considered an invincible army, but it was defeated several times by Russian and Anglo-French troops. The same must be said of Hitler's German fascist army today. This army has not yet met with serious resistance on the continent of Europe. Only on our territory has it met with serious resistance. And if as a result of this resistance the finest divisions of the German fascist army have been defeated by our Red Army, it shows that Hitler's fascist army can also be and will be defeated as were the armies of Napoleon and Wilhelm.

In consequence of this war which has been forced upon us, our country has come to death grips with its bitterest and most cunning enemy — German fascism. Our troops are fighting heroically against an enemy heavily armed with tanks and aircraft. Overcoming numerous difficulties, the Red Army and Red Navy are self-sacrificingly fighting for every inch of Soviet soil. Side by side with the Red Army, the entire Soviet people is rising in defence of our native land.

The enemy is cruel and implacable. He is out to restore the rule of the landlords, to restore Tsarism, to destroy the national culture and the national existence as states of the Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Lithuanians, Latvians. Uzbeks, Tatars, Moldavians, Georgians, Armenians, Azerbaijanians and the other free peoples of the Soviet Unions, to Germanize them, to convert them into the slaves of German princes and barons. Thus, the issue is one of the life and death for the Soviet State, of life and death for the peoples of the USSR of whether the

peoples of the Soviet Union shall be free or fall into slavery. The Soviet people must realise this and cease to be careless; they must mobilise themselves and reorganise all their work on a new war footing, where there can be no mercy for the enemy.

Our people must know no fear in the fight and must selflessly join our Patriotic War of liberation against the fascist enslavers. Lenin, the great founder of our state, used to say that the chief virtues of Soviet men and women must be courage, valour, fearlessness in struggle, readiness to fight together with the people against the enemies of our country. These splendid Bolshevik virtues must be acquired by the millions and millions of men of the Red Army and of the Red Navy, by all the peoples of the Soviet Union.

Comrades! Our forces are countless. The overweening enemy will soon be convinced of this. Side by side with the Red Army many thousands of workers, collective farmers and intellectuals are rising to fight the enemy aggressor. The masses of our people will rise up in their millions. All forces for the support of our heroic Red Army and our glorious Red Navy! All forces of the people for routing the enemy! Forward to victory!

Germany's Preparation for War

That Germany was preparing for an all out war of conquest, was indicated by its rate of production of military equipment. In 1934 it built 840 planes; in 1936—2530; in 1938—3350 and in 1939—4733 planes. Its war productions increased 22 times from 1934 to 1940.

Its armed forces also grew at rapid pace. In 1936 it had 36 Divisions; in 1938—52, and in 1939—103 Divisions. The total numerical strength of the German army rose from 1,04,218 to 37,54,104 officers and men between 1932 and 1939 — an increase of more than 35 times. By the middle of 1941 it totalled to more than 7.3 millions.

The US imperialists are following the same path!!

24th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution (November 6, 1941)

Comrades! Twenty-four years have elapsed since the victory of the October Socialist Revolution and

the establishment of the Soviet system in our country. It is customary at meetings in celebration of the anniversary of the October Revolution to review our achievements in the realm of peaceful construction for the past year. But the past year has not only been one of peaceful construction, it has also been a year of war with the German invaders who perfidiously attacked our peace loving country.

The German fascist invaders are despoiling our country, destroying the towns and villages created by the efforts of the workers, peasants and intellectuals. Hitler's horders are slaughtering and outraging the civilian population of our country, showing no mercy to women, children or the aged. Our brothers in those regions of our country which the Germans have seized are groaning beneath the yoke of the German oppressors. Rivers of enemy blood have been shed by the men of our Army and Navy, who are defending the honour and liberty of their native land, manfully repulsing the attacks of a bestial enemy and setting examples of valour and heroism.

There can be no doubt that as a result of the four months of war, Germany, whose reserves of manpower are already giving out, has been far more weakened than the Soviet Union, whose reserves are only just beginning to come into full play. In launching their attack on our country the German fascist invaders calculated that they would be able to "finish off" the Soviet Union for certain in one and a half or two months, and in this short period would succeed in reaching the Urals. How is it to be explained that the "blitzkrieg" which succeeded in Western Europe, failed and collapsed in the East?

What did the German fascist strategists count on when they asserted that they would finish off the Soviet Union in two months and reach the Urals in this short period? They seriously counted in the first place on creating a universal coalition against the USSR, on enlisting Great Britain and the USA in this coalition, after frightening the ruling circles of these countries with the spectre of revolution, and thus completely isolating our country from other powers. The Germans knew that their policy of laying on the class antagonisms in the different countries and the antagonisms between these countries and the Land of Soviets had already produced results in France, the rulers of which, after allowing themselves to be scared by the spectre of revolution, in their fright laid their country at the feet of Hitler and renounced all resistance. The German fascist strategists thought that the same thing would happen in the case of Great Britain and the United States. The notorious Hess was in fact sent to England by the German fascists precisely to persuade the English statesmen to join in a universal campaign against the USSR. But the Germans sadly miscalculated (Applause). Notwithstanding all Hess's efforts, Great Britain and the United States, far from joining the campaign of the German fascist invaders against the USSR, proved to be in one camp with

the USSR against Hitler Germany. Far from being isolated, the USSR acquired new allies in the shape of Great Britain, the United States and countries occupied by the Germans. It turns out that the German policy of playing on antagonisms and using the spectre of revolution has lost its efficacy and is unsuitable in the new situation. Not only is it unsuitable, it is even fraught with grave danger for the German invaders, for under the new conditions of the war it leads to diametrically opposite results.

Failure of the "Blitzkrieg"

The very first days and months of fighting showed the invaders the strength of the defending side. The so-called "Blitzkrieg" started tumbling. While during the Western campaign in May and June, 1940, when France was defeated, Belgium and Holland occupied and the British army was driven away, from the continent, the land force of Wehrmacht lost 1253 officers and 26,455 men, within a little over a month of fighting on the Soviet-German front they lost 2446 officers and 46,533 men. In the period from June 22 to July 5, 1941, the German Air Force lost 807 planes of all types and between July 6 and 19 it lost 477 planes.

Secondly, the Germans counted on the Soviet system being unstable, on the Soviet rear being unstable, and believed that after the very first serious blow and the first reverses suffered by the Red Army conflicts would break out between the workers and peasants, that squabbling would begin among the peoples of the USSR, that uprisings would occur, and the country would break up into its component parts, and this, it was expected, would facilitate the advance of the German invaders right up to the Urals. But here, too, the Germans sadly miscalculated. Far from weakening, the reverses of the Red Army only served still further to strengthen both the alliance of the workers and peasants and the friendship of the peoples of the USSR (Applause). More, they converted the family of peoples of the USSR, into a single and unshakeable camp, selflessly supporting their Red Army and their Red Navy. Never has the Soviet rear been so firm as it is today (Loud applause). It is quite likely that if any other country had lost as much territory as we have lost now it would not have stood the test and would have fallen into decline. If the Soviet system has stood the test so well and has even strengthened its near, it must mean that the Soviet system is now a most stable one. (Loud applause).

Lastly, the German invaders counted on the weakness of the Red Army and Red Navy, believing that the German army and German navy would succeed at the very first blow in overwhelming and scattering our Army and Navy and opening the way for an unhindered advance into the depths of our country.

But here, too, the Germans sadly miscalculated, overrating their own strength and underrating our Army and Navy. Of course, our Army and Navy are still young, they have been fighting for only four months, they have not yet succeeded in becoming a thoroughly seasoned Army and Navy, whereas they are confronted by the seasoned navy and seasoned army of the Germans, who have already been at war for two years. But, in the first place, the morale of our Army is higher than that of the German, for it is defending its native land against alien invaders and believes in the justice of its cause, whereas the German army is waging a war of annexation, is plundering a foreign country, and is unable to believe even for a moment in the justice of its vile cause. There can be no doubt that the idea of defending their native land, which is what our people are fighting for, is bound to breed, and actually is breeding in our Army heroes who cement the Red Army, whereas the idea of seizing and plundering a foreign country, which is what the Germans are in fact waging the war for, is bound to breed, and actually is breeding in the German army professional looters, devoid of all moral principles and corrupting the German army. Secondly, as it advances into the interior of our country, the German army is moving farther and farther away from its own German rear, is forced to operate in hostile surroundings, is forced to create a new rear in an alien country, a rear, moreover, that is being disrupted by our guerillas — all of which is radically disorganising the supply of the German army, causes it to fear its own rear and destroys its faith in the stability of its position, whereas our Army is operating in its own native surroundings, enjoys the constant support of its rear, is assured of supplies of men, munitions and food, and has a profound faith in its rear. That is why our Army has proved to be stronger than the Germans anticipated and the German army weaker than might have been expected, judging by the boastful self-advertisement of the German invaders. The defence of Leningrad and Moscow, where our divisions lately wiped out about thirty seasoned German divisions, shows that in the fire of our Patriotic War there are being forged, and already have been forged, new Soviet men and commanders, airmen, antillermen, mortar men, tankmen, infantrymen, and sailors, who tomorrow will become the terror of the German army. (Loud applause).

There can be no doubt that all these factors, taken together, predetermined the inevitable collapse of the "Blitzkrieg" in the East.

Reasons for the Temporary Reverses of Our Army

All that, of course, is true. But it is likewise true that alongside these favourable factors, there are a number of factors that are unfavourable for the Red Army, as a result of which our Army is suffering temporary reverses, is obliged to retreat and to surrender a number of regions of our country to the enemy. What are these unfavourable factors? What

are the reasons for the temporary military reverses of the Red Army?

One of the reasons for the reverses of the Red Army is that absence of a second front in Europe against the German fascist troops. The fact of the matter is that at the present time there are no armies of Great Britain or the United States of America on the European continent to wage war against the German fascist troops, with the result that the Germans are not compelled to divide their forces and to wage war on two fronts, in the West and in the East. Well, the effect of this is that the Germans, considering their rear in the West secure, are able to send all their troops and the troops of their allies in Europe against our country. The situation at present is such that our country is waging a war of liberation singlehanded, without military help from anyone, against the combined forces of the Germans, Finns, Rumanians, Italians and Hungarians.

There can be no doubt that the absence of a second front in Europe against the Germans greatly eases the position of the German army. But neither can there be any doubt that the appearance of a second front on the European continent — and it must unquestionably appear in the near future (loud applause) — will materially ease the position of our Army to the detriment of the German army.

What are the "National Socialists"?

In our country the German invaders, i.e., the Hitlerites, are usually called fascists. The Hitlerites, it appears, consider this wrong and obstinately persist in calling themselves "National-Socialists." Hence, the Germans are trying to assure us that the Hitler party, the party of German invaders, which is plundering Europe and has engineered this startling attack on our socialist country, is a socialist party. Is this possible? What can there be in common between socialism and the bestial Hitlerite invaders who are plundering and oppressing the nations of Europe?

Can the Hitlerites be regarded as nationalists? No, they cannot. Actually, the Hitlerites are now not nationalists but imperialists. As long as the Hitleries were engaged in assembling the German lands and reuniting the Rhine district, Austria, etc., there might have been some ground for calling them nationalists. But after they seized foreign territories and enslaved European nations — the Czechs, Slovaks, Poles, Norwegians, Danes, Netherlanders, Belgians, the French, Serbs, Greeks, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, the inhabitants of the Baltic countries, etc., — and began to reach out for world domination, the Hitlerite party ceased to be a nationalist party, for from that moment it became an imperialist, predatory, oppressor party.

The Hitlerite party is a party of imperialists, and of the most rapacious and predatory imperialists in the world at that.

Can the Hitlerites be regarded as socialists? No,

they cannot. Actually the Hitlerites are the sworn enemies of socialism, arrant reactionaries and Black-Hundreds who have robbed the working class and the peoples of Europe of the most elementary democratic liberties. In order to cover up their reactionary, Black-Hundred nature, the Hitlerites denounce the internal regime of England and America as a plutocratic regime. But in England and the United States there are elementary democratic liberties, there are trade unions of workers and salaried employees, there are workers' parties, there are parliaments; whereas in Germany, under the Hitler regime, all these institutions have been destroyed. One need but compare these two sets of facts to perceive the reactionary nature of the Hitler regime and the utter hypocrisy of the German fascist buncombe about a plutocratic regime in England and in America. In point of fact the Hitler regime is a copy of the reactionary regime which existed in Russia under Tsarism. As we know, the Hitlerites suppress the rights of the workers, the rights of the intellectuals and the rights of nations as readily as the Tsarist regime suppressed them; they organize medieval pogroms against the Jews as readily as the Tsarist regime did.

The Hitlerite party is a party of enemies of democratic liberties, a party of medieval reaction and Black-Hundred pogroms.

And if these brazen imperialists and arrant reactionaries still continue to don the toga of "nationalists", and "socialists" they do so for the purpose of deceiving the people, of hoodwinking the credulous and of using the flag of "nationalism" and "socialism" to cover up their predatory imperialist nature.

Crows decked in peacocks' feathers. ... But no matter how much crows may deck themselves in peacock's feathers, they will not cease to be crows.

"We must resort to all means," says Hitler, "to bring about the conquest of the world by the Germans. If our hearts are set on establishing our great German Reich we must above all things force out and exterminate the Slavonic nations — the Russians, Poles, Czechs, Slovaks, Bulgarians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians. There is no reason why this should not be done".

"Man," says Hitler, "is a born sinner; he can be ruled only by force. In dealing with him all means are permissible. When policy requires it we should lie, betray and even kill".

"Kill everyone who is opposed to us", says Goering. "Kill, kill Not you will answer for this, but I! Hence, kill"

"I emancipate man," says Hitler, "from the humiliating chimera which is called conscience. Conscience, like education, cripples men. My advantage is that I am not deterred by any considerations, theoretical or moral."

In an order of the day dated September 25, issued by the German command to the 489th Infantry Regiment, found on a dead German non-commissioned office, it is stated:

"I order fire to be opened upon every Russian as soon as he appears within a distance of 600 metres. The Russians must know that they are faced by a resolute foe from whom they cannot expect any mercy."

In one of the appeals of the German command to the soldiers, found on the dead body of Lieutenant Gustav Ziegel, a native of Frankfurt-on-Main, we read:

"You have no heart or nerves; they are not needed in war. Eradicate every trace of pity and sympathy from your heart — kill every Russian, every Soviet person. Do not hesitate, whether you have an old man or a woman, a girl or boy before you, kill! Thereby you will save your own life, ensure the future of your family and win eternal glory".

The Nazi Barbarism

In the enemy occupied Soviet territory there was not a single town. Where the fascists did not carry out mass executions. According to incomplete data, they killed about 5 million people in the Ukraine, 2.2 millions in Byelorussia and about 1.7 millions in the Russian Federation. The total number of victims among civilians in all the occupied countries was a staggering 28 millions. In this war for the first time, in history, the number of victims among civilians far exceeded the number killed in action.

The Nazis massacred millions of people in the death camps of Auschwitz, Dachau, Maidanek, Sachsenhausen, Buchenwald and other places. Six million Soviet citizens were put in hard labour camps in Germany and the occupied countries. To this day millions of people mourn the premature death of their kith and kin.

The nuclear and star war plan now being prepared by the U.S imperialists threatens extinction of humanity itself!

There you have the programme and instructions of the leaders of the Hitlerite party and of the Hitlerite command, the programme and instructions of men who have lost all semblance of humanity and have sunk to the level of wild beasts.

And these men, destitute of conscience and honour, these men with the morals of beasts, have the insolence to call for the extermination of the great Russian nation, the nation of Plekhanov and

Lenin, Belinsky and Chernyshevsky, Pushkin and Tolstoy, Glinka and Chaikovsky, Gorky and Chekov, Sechenov and Pavlov, Repin and Surikov, Suvorov and Kutuzov ! ...

The German invaders want a war of extermination against the peoples of the U.S.S.R. Well, if the Germans want a war of extermination they will get it. (Loud and prolonged applause.) From now on our task, the task of the peoples of the U.S.S.R. the task of the men, commanders and the political personnel of our Army and our Navy is to exterminate to a man all the Germans who have intruded into the territory of our country as invaders. (Loud applause. "Hear, hear!" Cheers.)

No mercy should be shown the German invaders! Death to the German invaders!

Material Damage to USSR

The material damage caused to Soviet Union by Hitlerite fascism were hitherto unknown in history. The invaders demolished more than 6 million buildings and rendered 25 million people homeless. They destroyed 32,000 industrial plants; 65,000 km of railways; 4100 railway stations; 14,000 railway bridges; blew up 16,000 locomotives and 4,28,000 carriages; demolished 40,000 hospitals and other medical institutions and 84,000 schools. Colossal damage was caused to agriculture. The Nazis plundered and shipped to Germany huge quantities of grain, 7 million horses, 17 million cattle, 27 million sheep and goats and 110 million poultry.

Our Tasks

Lenin distinguished between two kinds of war — predatory, and therefore unjust wars, and wars of liberation, just wars. The Germans are now waging a predatory war, an unjust war, for the purpose of seizing foreign territory and subjugating foreign peoples. That is why all honest people must rise against the German invaders, as enemies. Unlike Hitler Germany, the Soviet Union and its allies are waging a war of liberation, a just war, for the purpose of liberating the enslaved peoples of Europe and the USSR from Hitler's tyranny. That is why all honest people must support the armies of the USSR, Great Britain and the other Allies, as armies of liberation.

We have not, and cannot have, any such war aims as the seizure of foreign territories and the subjugation of foreign peoples — whether it be the peoples and territories of Europe or the peoples and territories of Asia, including Iran. Our first aim is to liberate our territories and our peoples from the German fascist yoke.

We have not, cannot have, any such war aims as

that of imposing our will and our regime upon the Slavonic or other enslaved nations of Europe, who are expecting our help. Our aim is to help these nations in the struggle for liberation they are waging against Hitler's tyranny and then to leave it to them quite freely to arrange their lives on their lands as they think fit. There must be no interference whatever in the internal affairs of other nations!

But if these aims are to be achieved, we must crush the military might of the German invaders, we must destroy to the last man the German forces of occupation who have intruded into our country for the purpose of enslaving it. (Loud and prolonged applause.)

But to achieve this our Army and Navy must receive active and effective support from our entire country; all our workers and office employees, men and women, must work with might and main in the factories and supply the front with even greater quantities of tanks, anti-tank rifles and guns, aircraft, antillery, mortars, machine guns, rifles and ammunition; our collective farmers, men and women, must work with might and main in their fields and supply the front and the country with ever greater quantities of grain, meat, raw materials for the industries; our entire country and all the peoples of the USSR must organise in a single fighting camp, waging, together with our Army and Navy, the great war of liberation for the honour and freedom of our country, for the rout of the German armies.

This is the task now. We can and must accomplish this task. Only when we have accomplished this task and have routed the German invaders can we achieve a lasting and just peace.

Fight until the German invaders are utterly routed! (Loud applause). Fight for the liberation of all the oppressed peoples who are groaning under the yoke of Hitler's tyranny! (Loud applause.) Long live our Red Army and our Red Navy! (Loud applause.) Long live our glorious motherland! (Loud applause.) Ours is a just cause—victory will be ours!

Speech Delivered at the Joint Celebration Meeting of the Moscow Soviet of Working Peoples Deputies and Representatives of Moscow Party and Public Organisations, November 6, 1943.

For the third time our country is celebrating the anniversary of her people's revolution in the midst of the Patriotic War. The past year—from the 25th to the 26th Anniversary of the October Revolution—marked the decisive turn in the course of our Patriotic War. From the purely military point of view, the defeat of the German troops on our front towards the end of the present year was predetermined by two major events: the Battle of Stalingrad and the Battle of Kursk. The battle of Stalingrad presaged the decline of the German fascist army, the Battle of Kursk brought it to the brink of disaster.

The Red Army would not have been able to

achieve the success it has achieved had it not received the assistance of the people, had it not been for the self-sacrificing efforts of the Soviet people in the factories, collieries, mines, in the transport system and in agriculture. All the peoples of the Soviet Union rose as one to defend their country, rightly regarding the present Patriotic War as the common cause of all the working people irrespective of nationality or religion. This is the source of the strength of the Soviet Union....

The Sacrifice of the Soviet People

In the life or death struggle against Fascism, the Soviet People showed their finest moral qualities and political determination, their complete solidarity and readiness to defend the country, the achievement of Socialism, whatever may be the sacrifices. In the years of war, the share of USSR state budget totalled 582,400 million Roubles. In addition to this there were voluntary contributions by Soviet citizens to the Defence Fund, which totalled to about 118,000 million Roubles. No army in the world had known such vast popular support.

The war took the lives of more than 20 million Soviet Citizens, i.e., 40 per cent of the total number killed in Second World War.

This is why the Soviet people do not want another war. Hence the struggle against war and for peace and for the defence of Socialism.

As in the years of peaceful construction, so in the days of war, the leading and guiding force of the Soviet people has been the Party of Lenin, the Bolshevik Party. No party has enjoyed, or enjoys, such prestige among the masses of the people as our Bolshevik Party. This is natural. Under the leadership of the Bolshevik Party, the workers, peasants & intellectuals of our country won their freedom and built up socialist society. In this Patriotic War the Party has been the inspirer and organiser of the nationwide struggle against the fascist invaders.

The experience of the war has proved that the Soviet system is not only the best system for organizing the economic and cultural development of a country in the period of peaceful construction, but also the best system for mobilizing all the forces of the people to resist an enemy in wartime. The Soviet Government that was set up twenty-six years ago transformed our country in a historically short period of time into an impregnable fortress. The Red Army's rear is more stable and reliable than that of any other army in the world. This is the source of the strength of the Soviet Union. (Loud and prolonged applause)...

The war has reached the stage of completing the expulsion of the invaders from Soviet territory and

of liquidating the fascist "new order in Europe". The day is not far distant when we shall have completely driven the enemy from the Ukraine and Byelorussia and from the Leningrad and Kalinin Regions, and have liberated the peoples of the Crimea, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Moldavia and the Karelo-Finish Republic from the German invaders.

Speech Delivered at the Joint Celebration Meeting of the Moscow Soviet of Working Peoples Deputies and Representatives of Moscow Party and Public Organizations, November 6, 1944

This is the fourth time our country is celebrating the anniversary of the Soviet Revolution amidst the conditions of our Patriotic War against the German fascist invaders. Whereas during the first two years of war the German troops were on the offensive and were advancing into the interior of our country, while the Red Army was obliged to wage defensive battles, and whereas the third year of the war marked the radical turning point on our front, when the Red Army developed powerful offensive operations, defeated the Germans in a series of decisive battles, cleared the German troops out of two-thirds of Soviet territory and compelled them to pass to the defensive, all this time waging the war against the German troops single-handed without receiving any substantial support from the Allies, the fourth year of the war proved to be a year of decisive victories for the Soviet armies and the armies of our Allies over the German troops, while the Germans were compelled to wage war on two fronts, and were hurled back to the frontiers of Germany.

To win the war against Germany means consummating a great historical cause. But winning the war does not yet mean ensuring the peoples a durable peace and reliable security in the future. The task is not only to win the war, but also to prevent the outbreak of fresh aggression and another war.

An Address to the People: May 9, 1945

Comrades! Fellow countrymen and countrywomen The great day of victory over Germany has arrived. Fascist Germany, forced to her knees by the Red Army and the troops of our Allies, has admitted defeat and has announced her unconditional surrender. On May 7 a preliminary act of surrender was signed in Rheims. On May 8 in Berlin, representatives of the German High Command, in the presence of representatives of the Supreme Command of the Allied troops and of the Supreme Command of the Soviet troops, signed the final act of surrender, which came into effect at 24 hours on May 8. The great sacrifices we have made for the freedom and independence of our country, the incalculable privation and suffering our people have endured during the war, our intense labours in the rear and at the front, laid at the alter of our motherland have not been in vain; they have been crowned by complete victory over the enemy.

To mark our complete victory over Germany, today, May 9, Victory Day, at 22 hours Moscow, the capital of our country, will on behalf of our country, salute the valiant troops of the Red Army and the ships and units of our Navy who achieved this brilliant victory with thirty artillery salvoes from one thousand guns.

An Address to the People: September 2, 1945

Comrades! Fellow countrymen and countrywomen! Today, September 2, political and military representatives of Japan signed an act of unconditional surrender. Utterly defeated on sea and land, and completely surrounded by the armed forces of the United Nations, Japan has admitted defeat and has laid down her arms. Two hotbeds of world fascism and world aggression had been formed on the eve of the present World War: Germany in the West and Japan in the East. It was they who unleashed the Second World War. It was they who brought mankind and civilization to the brink of doom. The hotbed of world aggression in the West was destroyed four months ago and, as a result, Germany was forced to capitulate. Four months later the hotbed of aggression in the East was destroyed and, as a result, Japan, Germany's principal ally, was also compelled to sign an act of capitulation. This signifies the end of the Second World War. Now we can say that the conditions necessary for peace all over the world have been gained.

But the American Brigands?

Since the Second World War, imperialism led by the USA have been responsible for the outbreak of hundred wars and armed conflicts. Within 30 years after the end of the war, the USA spent over 1,60,000 million dollars for the arms race. But for the Reagan administration that is not enough. The Pentagon plans to raise military spending to an astronomical figure of 17,00,00,00,00,000 dollars during the 1983-87 period. Inheriting from his predecessors, Ronald Reagan is bent upon to wreck all agreements, spurn the peace proposals of the Soviet Union and gradually bring the world to the brink of a nuclear holocaust.

(Contd. from page 13)

And behind the armed forces stood the people who though temporarily silenced in 1942 were far from being crushed and reconciled. They were held in check only by the Congress leaders. The British army, which had been asked to shed its blood to defend democracy against fascism could not be relied upon to re-conquer India. The British had to retire from India post haste compelled by the new situation following the defeat of the fascist forces. The victory besides led to the defeat of the Churchill Govt. in Britain and the return of the Labour Party to power. The Labour Party and the British T.U.C. were already committed to support Indian independence during the course of the war.

But these victories achieved by martial valour and military skill would not have succeeded in changing the face of the world and achieving the liberationist goals, had they not been backed by continuous political and diplomatic struggle against the class policies of the Soviet allies — the USA and Britain. This was to be seen at the Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam conferences which could take proper decisions only after a strong fight put up by the USSR.

All this should show how not only on the battle field but on the diplomatic and political field the Soviet leadership led by the CPSU headed by Stalin had to wage a continuous fight to ensure the achievements of the liberationist aims of the war. It was a conscious fight waged by a party based on the proletarian outlook of Marxism-Leninism and firmly believing in the revolutionary processes of world history.

The victory of the war of liberation proved to be the biggest turning point in world history after the October revolution. But since then the imperialists led by the USA are making furious attempt to change the course of the world, and destroy the gains of the anti-fascist victory. The USA imperialists pursuing their dream of world domination and filled by intense hatred for socialism and freedom of the formerly subject nations, are doing their best to install reactionary regimes every where and above all organise a nuclear war against the USSR.

Reagan's plan for star war, his refusal to negotiate a halt to nuclear weapons and open support to aggressors are part of the plan for world domination. The danger of nuclear war hungs over the world. The experience of the second world war, the agony and sufferings it entailed, the massacre of millions and the immense destruction it resulted in all, warns us to carry on a determined fight against present day war mongers the successors of Hitler. They call on all to wage a determined struggle for peace till the war mongers are completely isolated and paralysed. While honouring the Red Army heroes on the 40th anniversary of the anti-fascist victory, the voice against war, the voice for peace must be raised determinedly and Reagan's war plans completely frustrated.

Declaration of the Presidential Committee

[On March 22-25 Moscow played host to a session of the Presidential Committee of the World Peace Council which adopted the following declaration on the 40th Anniversary of the Victory over Fascism and an appeal to the peoples of the world — "No to Star Wars".]

THIS year the peoples of the world are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the great victory over nazi Germany and militarist Japan in World War II. Forty years ago, the dark night of fascist enslavement and genocide ended. The criminal conspiracy of the nazis to reverse the course of history and establish a fascist "new order" was smashed. The future of world civilization, progress and democracy was saved from the plague of fascism.

Thousands of cities, towns and villages were destroyed. Fifty million peoples lost their lives — some on the battle-fields, some in the Resistance movement, some tortured to death in concentration camps, some in gas chambers, some in air raids, and many more, far from the front lines, from hunger and hardship. The peace we have now had for forty years was obtained at a terrible price. And that was a "conventional" war, not a nuclear one.

But the nazis' crimes against humanity must never be forgotten.

The victory over Hitler's Germany and militarist Japan gave rise to great political and social changes, to an upsurge of forces of peace and progress throughout the world, to the emergence of a community of socialist nations. The old colonial empires crumbled and over 70 new states were born. A surging movement of the peoples for peace, the most powerful movement of our time, swept across the world.

We pay tribute to the memory of those in many lands who gave their lives in the struggle against fascism. All humanity salutes the Soviet people who made a decisive contribution to that victory.

The peoples of the anti-Hitler coalition fought side by side. The coalition was a great brotherhood of fighters against fascism. The blood they shed together cemented the alliance of forces for peace. They proved that no differences in political and social systems, no divergence of views could be obstacles to a joint struggle against the common danger. What was true in the war against fascism is even more true today in the face of the threat of nuclear catastrophe. Now, as 40 years ago, what is vital is a great alliance of forces of peace.

Let 1985, the year of the 40th anniversary of victory, become the year of unity of all peace forces in the struggle to prevent a nuclear war!

History has proved that fascism breeds war. Today

the danger of a resurgence of fascism is real. The warning signals are increasing: terrorist acts by neo-fascist gangs in different countries, the growing propaganda of racism, the revanchist claims to the territory of neighbouring countries; all of these are constant reminders of this danger. For example, take the tragedy of Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti and Paraguay, the reign of terror in South Africa, the bloody crimes of Israel in Lebanon and in the Arab lands it has seized, of the counter revolutionaries in Afghanistan, Angola, Mozambique and Nicaragua, and of the Pol Pot butchers in Kampuchea.

Peoples of the world, be on your guard: Stop the war before it breaks out!

This most important lesson of history has never been as relevant as in this age of nuclear weapons, for the criminal adventures of those who today want to dominate the world can entail the destruction of our civilization unless they are stopped.

The historic decisions made at Yalta and Potsdam are thorns in the flesh of those who dream of revanchism, those who, under the banner of another "crusade" against socialism, would like to turn back the clock of history. The attempts being made to revise the postwar territorial and political settlements in Europe must be rejected.

The threat to peace in Europe stems not from the alleged "division" of the continent, nor from the existence of states with different social systems. The danger arises from the feverish arms drive let loose by the United States and its closest NATO allies, who have abandoned the policy of detente and cooperation pursued in the 1970s and have begun to station US first-strike nuclear weapons in Western Europe against the will of the peoples.

Today the world is faced with a new threat — one without parallel in history.

The frantic efforts of the present U.S. Administration to carry the arms drive into outer space spell disaster not only to one country or another, but to all humanity. If outer space becomes a theatre of military operations, then instead of general and complete disarmament so desired by the peoples of the world, the arms buildup would be complete — on Earth and in outer space — and this would be uncontrollable and irreversible.

But this grave danger can and must be averted. The Soviet-American talks in Geneva on space and nuclear armaments give grounds for hope. These talks were made possible, in no small measure, by the powerful pressure of the peace forces of the

world. Today it is absolutely essential to do everything so that the joint commitment taken by the two sides before the whole world on the substance and aims of the talks will be translated into reality. The talks must lead to effective agreements to prevent an arms drive in outer space, to stop the arms race on Earth, and to ban all nuclear weapons everywhere. The hopes of the peoples shall not be frustrated!

The World Peace Council calls for the renunciation of the U.S. plans for militarization of outer space!

It calls for a freeze on the nuclear arsenals of both sides, a halt to the deployment of new types of nuclear missiles in Europe, and the removal of those missiles already deployed. It also calls for a total ban on nuclear weapons tests, for a commitment by all nuclear powers to renounce the first use of nuclear weapons, for the dismantling of all foreign nuclear bases, for the creation of nuclear weapon-free zones and for drastic cuts in military budgets. We support the campaign against visits to ports by warships carrying nuclear weapons. The total prohibition and elimination of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction are the crucial tasks of the peace movement.

The World Peace Council calls upon the forces of peace in all countries to celebrate the 40th anniversary of victory by taking mass actions for peace, against the threat of nuclear war, which has increased with the militarization of outer space, against revanchism and neo-fascism, against the madness of the arms race, against the policy of aggression and intervention, in defence of the freedom and independence of the peoples, for the right of the peoples to live in peace.

The fate of Grenada is a stern warning. The United States is continuing to threaten Cuba and to blockade it. Today the clouds of war are gathering over Nicaragua. This calls for most vigorous and concerted efforts in protest against the imperialist policy of arbitrary action and violence, and in defence of the legal right of the people of Nicaragua to self-determination and freedom.

The danger of war is increasing in different parts of the world — South-east Asia, the Indian Ocean and the Pacific. The arming of Pakistan by the United States is endangering peace and security in that region. The situation in the Middle East is of particular concern. The buildup of US nuclear weapons in South Korea and the provocative Team Spirit manoeuvres create a grave situation in the Far East.

Peace is indivisible. So also is our joint struggle for an end to the nuclear threat, our solidarity with the struggle for national liberation.

This struggle demands a pooling of efforts of the world movement for peace, security and disarmament

with the struggle of the peoples of the developing countries for their rights, for the liquidation of the harsh legacy of colonialism, and for fair and equitable international economic relations. The urgent problems of development cannot be solved and hunger cannot be eliminated while the arms race continues. The same forces that are building up tension throughout the world and escalating the arms drive are responsible for the sufferings of those who have fallen victim to imperialist oppression and exploitation.

The World Peace Council urges mass support for the Delhi Declaration of six states from four continents calling for an immediate freeze on the development, production, testing and deployment of nuclear weapons and for preventing an arms race in outer space. It proposes that May 22, 1985 — the anniversary of the first Appeal launched by the six states — be marked as a World Day of Mass Action in support of the Delhi Declaration.

The World Peace Council also calls for broadly-based and coordinated actions by peace forces in this year's notable event, the 10th anniversary of the Final Act of the European Security Conference in Helsinki.

Bearing in mind that 1985 is the 40th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the WPC calls upon the peace forces to observe August 6 and 9 as Days of International Joint Action for Eliminating Nuclear Weapons, so that the tragedies of these cities will never be repeated.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the United Nations. The World Peace Council calls for active support of the U.N. decisions, which contribute to the cause of peace, disarmament and development, and elimination of colonialism, racism and apartheid. There is an urgent need for the widest participation in the International Year of Youth, International Year of Peace and the World Disarmament Campaign proclaimed by the United Nations.

Peoples of the world! Forty years after the great victory over fascism the World Peace Council addresses this message to you:

Turn this year of the 40th anniversary of the victory over fascism into the year of victory over the threat of nuclear war!

Meeting of NCC with Federations

A meeting of the constituents of the National Campaign Committee and industrywise federations will be held at Constitution Club, V.P. House Rafi Marg, New Delhi on May 23 at 4 P.M. to consider new programmes of joint movement against closures, lockouts etc. Representatives of the federations are requested to attend the meeting.

No to "Star Wars"!

Appeal to the Peoples of the World

HUMANITY faces the gravest danger: all life on our planet is threatened.

In defiance of the clearly expressed will of millions of women and men of all continents and the overwhelming majority of government, the U.S. preparations for "star wars" are going ahead relentlessly.

The so-called "strategic defence initiative" has nothing "defensive" about it.

The actual purpose is to secure nuclear first-strike capability from behind a "space shield", and thus threaten and dominate the whole world. That is why while speeding up the space weapons programme, the United States has increased the rate of developing strategic nuclear weapons, of stationing its medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe and of the production of barbarous neutron, chemical and other weapons of mass destruction.

Militarisation of outer space would mean the start of a new, extremely dangerous type of arms

race, increasing confrontation and the threat of a global holocaust.

Peoples and governments pledged to peace from all over the world welcome the beginning of the Soviet-American negotiations in Geneva, which provide an opportunity to prevent the arms race in outer space, to stop and then reverse it on Earth, with the aim of total elimination of all nuclear weapons.

But the U.S. insistence on the implementation of its "stars wars" plans threatens to wreck the talks.

"The 'star wars' plans must be stopped now! The Geneva negotiations must succeed!"

We call on all peace movements and organisations, all peoples and government which stand for peace and the prevention of nuclear war, to raise their voices louder than ever in a worldwide campaign against the militarisation of outer space.

If the "star wars" plans are not stopped today, it could be too late tomorrow.

No to "star wars"! is the common call of all peace forces. Other space must serve peace and progress!

TURN THIS YEAR OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VICTORY OVER FASCISM INTO THE YEAR OF VICTORY OVER THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR

FSUI Condemns Malpractices by Authorities

FOR the last two months the Seamen's Employment Office, Calcutta, failed miserably to supply any unemployed seamen to any of the 5 Shipping companies despite their repeated placings of indents to the Director, Seamen's Employment Office, Calcutta. Recently a Calcutta High Court order said: "That out of the total available jobs of 2,552, 50 per cent of the same to be given to the "GENERAL" — Roster Seamen, numbering 4,210 and rest 50 per cent to be given to the "COMPANY" — Roster-Seaman, numbering 5,216 and within 4 months from 14 JANUARY, 1985, the uncalled for defunct Seamen's Employment Board of this Seamen's Recruiting Port of Calcutta, which is a statutory Body, should be reconstituted to decide the question of supplying India's seamen from this Port of Calcutta, as per demands and other matters in connection to India's registered seamen's employment and Rosters". The Order as to 50 : 50 is nothing but an interlocutory order and stands valid only upto the date of the reconstitution of the Seamen's Employment Board. But despite Court Order, the said Board has not yet been reconstituted and without the existence of Seamen's Employment Board the question of equidistribution of available jobs to both the Roster-seamen cannot at all be decided as per Rule 39 of the Indian Merchant

Shipping (Seamen's Employment Office, Calcutta), Rules, 1954. The "GENERAL" — Roster-seamen who got no reserved job opportunities are very much keen to get the said interlocutory order implemented, but the 5 "COMPANT" — Roster-seamen are at the same time apprehending reduction of job opportunities by virtue of the order. This has created an impasse in selection of seamen.

The Mercantile Marine Department, Calcutta in collusion with the Director, Seamen's Employment Office is continuously indulging in all sorts of conspiracies to instigate the two groups of India's seamen to confront with each other. Moreover, they are making conspiracies to transfer some of the departments from Calcutta to Bombay or Madras. They are also secretly inciting the anti-social elements of different areas to foil all jobs of Mercantile Marine Department and Shipping Office to malign particularly the newly recognised Forward Seamen's Union of India (CITU) and unemployed seamen of this Port of Calcutta. In a statement issued on April 3, the Forward Seamen's Union of India (CITU) condemned all such sorts of conspiracies against seamen and their Union and urged upon the authorities to give up such maltactics and to solve the basic problems of employed India's seamen immediately.

The Changing Industrial Panorama in West Bengal

BUILDING UP THE MOMENTUM OF GROWTH IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE

The industry of West Bengal has come a long way in the last seven years. Constant and consistent support and guidance from the Left Front Government has led to the reversal of the trend of anarchy and stagnation that had crippled the development of this important sector.

Combined efforts for industrialization, clear priorities in generating employment possibilities, unprecedented emphasis on labour welfare and extensive inputs in the cottage and small industries—all these have built up the vital momentum of growth.

The Electronic Estate at Taratola, the Electronic Complex at Salt Lake, the Falta Export Processing Zone, the proposed Petro-Chemical Project at Haldia, the growth Centres at Siliguri, Uluberia, Budge Budge, Cooch Behar and Farakka — each and every project bears testimony to the massive efforts the government is making every day. The true significance of these achievements in the socio-economic progress of West Bengal can be perceived clearly in the context of constraints of the State Government in the sector of big industries.

Growth in employment in both large and medium, as well as the cottage and small scale sectors also shows the result of the sincere endeavour employed by the Government. Employment in the organised sector has increased considerably.

In cottage and small industries, from electronics to handloom, from leather to silk, major growth is leading to newer employments. Existing employments are being strongly protected. Price preference policies, regular supply of raw materials and liberal incentives have created a favourable situation. The Govt. is helping to promote hundreds of new units every year with active assistance through developmental agencies and financial institutions.

Many problems are yet to be solved, many major steps yet to be taken, but here is a people's Government working relentlessly in the interest of the toiling masses. Committed to the growth of industries and the welfare of the workers, West Bengal marches towards a brighter tomorrow.

Seven Years of Spearheading People's Struggle

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

ICA-2015/85

State Govt, Employees to Observe National Demands Day

FIVE million state Government employees of the country will observe 'National Demands Day' by holding massive demonstrations and rallies on 15 May throughout the country from the state capitals down to the Block Head Quarters on 7 point charter of demands. This was decided by the National Executive of the All India State Government Employees' Federation in its meeting at New Delhi on 30 & 31 March.

The 7-point demands are: To control price rise by effecting radical change in the economic policy of the Central Government and strengthening and widening of the Public distribution system; 8.33 per cent Bonus to State Employees; Interim relief to State employees on Central pattern pending pay parity with the public sector employees; Full Central D.A. with arrears; Devolution of more funds by the Central Government to the State Governments; Vacation of all victimisation of the State Employees in different states and scrapping of all anti-employee enactments and Ordinances by the Central and the State Governments and Full Trade Union and Democratic rights for the State Employees.

The meeting expressed deep resentment at the new fare and freight hikes resorted in the Railway Budget and the heavy imposts made in the General Budget which has already given a further upward push to the price-spiral. The meeting noted that the new imposts have far outweighed the fringe reliefs and have put heavy burdens on the wage-earners. It further noted that while on the one hand the inflationary spiral is severely eroding the real wages of the employees, they are not getting due compensation by way of D.A. regularly. In some states they are lagging far behind in respect of Central D.A. Moreover, Bonus which is being enjoyed by all sections of the workers and employees is yet being denied to the state employees. Only in four States 15 to 18 days bonus has been paid. In one state as in Karnataka the Chief Minister has even disputed the concept of bonus to the state employees. The state employees are denied from interim relief too.

While urging the state governments to fulfil those genuine demands of the employees, the National Executive has also demanded greater devolution of funds from the centre to the states, as otherwise the interests of the state employees as well as states' developmental works will continue to suffer. In some states, like J & K, Orissa and Haryana the State Governments are still pursuing their policy of victimisation. The National Executive has also demanded vacation of all such victimisations.

The National Executive while calling upon the state employees to make the National Demands Day on 15 May a challenging success, cautioned the state

governments as well as the central government to take steps to fulfil those demands failing which bigger and more militant struggle of the employees will inevitably follow.

Social Security for Building and Construction Workers

THE Ministry of Labour has constituted a tripartite Study Group for Building and Construction Industry to examine the difficulties in the way of implementation of Social Security Legislations in the industry. CITU is represented by Nrisingha Chakrabarty in the group.

The First meeting of the Study Group was held on April 22, under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Labour. Welcoming the members the Chairman said that efforts should be made to identify the problems before the workers of the Building and Construction industry as a whole. Nrisingha Chakrabarty pointed out that this effort to consider the problems of the workers in the Building and Construction Industry as a whole, before the social security legislations are discussed, is a welcome step. He pointed out that the introduction of most modern and sophisticated technology has added new dimensions to the industry. The industry is now grouped in the following parts, viz roads and buildings, bridges, steel construction, thermal and hydel power construction and railway construction. He said that although the roads, buildings and bridges and thermal power construction are represented through the two concerns viz. NBCC and NPCC, the other specialised branches of construction are not associated with this committee and he requested that members from railways, steel, and power should be included in this committee. The Chairman agreed to consider these aspects.

In the general discussion in regard to the approach to the problems members raised many questions. On behalf of CITU it was pointed out that mere raising the problem orally would not specify the problems. It would be better to submit papers on the problem and circulated them among the members which could be discussed and the problems sorted out. The Chairman accepted this procedure and it was decided that within a month the members must submit their papers to the Ministry of Labour which would be circulated among the members. The next meeting, however, in regard to the problem of social security legislation would be held by the middle of May.

BEFI General Council Meeting

THE General Council of Bank Employees Federation of India (BEFI) met at Vijayawada on 4th and 5th April. Leading functionaries representing more than one lakh bank employees throughout the country attended. The meeting took serious note of the bankers' bid for massive installation of sophisticated labour displacing machines and computers, costing several hundred crores of rupees, to take over by phases almost all types of banking operations presently done manually. Detailed scheme has been chalked out by Rangarajan Committee which was appointed for the purpose. The meeting deplored in this connection the agreement of 8th September, 1983 by which three employee-organisations in the banking sector viz., AIBEA, NCBE and INBEC had conceded to the bankers unbridled power to introduce all sorts of electronic machines, micro-processors and giant computers in replacement of human labour. On an average about 25,000 educated youths are recruited in banks annually. Even a partial implementation of this agreement and the bankers' scheme will not only stop fresh employment completely but also some 50,000 existing staff will become surplus and ultimately forced out of the industry by premature retirement, etc. One Ledger Posting Machine alone managed by two persons will take away eight others' jobs. In coming two years such machines are intended to be installed in 10,000 out of 45,000 bank offices. The impact of the proposed 20 big and small computers in Head/Zonal/Regional offices of banks is going to be much more if the scheme is allowed to succeed. The managements of several banks have already announced embargo on recruitment for two years.

In order that many of the existing work hands are rendered surplus in larger offices can be systematically dispersed and diverted to other offices which are not to be mechanised in first phase, mass transfer of employees including officers is being effected as matter of compulsion. Large scale retrenchment is being resorted to. To check the employees' opposition to these attacks, rampant punitive measures in the name of so-called discipline are of late become a regular feature in banks in all regions. Already in different banks employees in various regions have come out in revolt. The General Council of BEFI decided to give organised shape to this.

The unprecedented corruption and embezzlement of funds in banks in which several top personnel including Chairman and Executive Directors etc. are reported to be involved, have come to light. Disclosure of bank scandals defrauding the country to the tune of several hundred crores of rupees is just the tip of an iceberg concealing more than what has come to light and reveal beyond doubt who the real culprits are. Instead of meting out exemplary punishment and serious endeavours to locate and root out dishonest persons at the policy making

levels, what is being done is mere gimmickry to hide the real state of affairs. The Council decided to motivate employees to unearth and expose the frauds and corruption.

The General Council while deprecating all these, called upon bank employees of the country to make a common cause, irrespective of affiliations, and join organised movements against bankers' and Government's attacks of various sorts including compulsory mass transfers and in defence of job security, against transference of manual jobs to machines/computers and so forth. Considering that the situation is fast worsening, the meeting decided to build up country-wide strong agitations including strike actions. The BEFI appealed to all sections of people, trade unions, organisations of students and youth to support and help the bank employees in their struggle against automation which is essentially linked to the fight against unemployment.

The meeting, inter-alia, adopted resolutions condemning the grossly anti-people railway and general budgets giving unprecedented concessions to monopolists, multinationals and big business, imposing heavy burden on common people by severe inflationary push to the entire economy with concomitant effects on prices of essential commodities, and drastic curtailment of welfare measures. The meeting demanded removal of all restrictions as regards eligibility and quantum of bonus to employees and immediate payment of withheld CDS (ITP) instalment. In another resolution on Bhopal disaster, the meeting demanded take over of Union Carbide concerns in India without compensation, adequate relief to the surviving victims as well as reversal of Government policy towards trans-national corporations and other agencies which are playing havoc with the lives and living of the people and resource of the country.

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New Delhi — 110 001.

National Campaign Committee Calls for Protest Movement Against Central Govt's New Policies

THE National Campaign Committee of Trade Unions (NCC) in its meeting held in New Delhi on 3rd April, 1985 strongly condemned the new economic policies of the Government of India as reflected in the General and Railway Budgets for the year 1985-86. These Budgets constitute direct attacks on the common people through additional taxation and deficit financing as per conditionalities of the International Monetary Fund. The Budgets further give fantastic concessions to the big business houses and multinationals who have been openly expressing their glee after their introduction of the Budget in Parliament. Indrajit Gupta, M.P. General Secretary AITUC presided over the meeting.

The meeting noted the recent modifications in the payment of Bonus providing increase in the entitlement from Rs. 750 to Rs. 1600 but considers it to be totally inadequate. The meeting therefore demanded removal of all ceilings and restrictions in the Payment of Bonus Act so that all workers and employees are paid bonus without any preconditions.

The meeting expressed concern at the recent thinking of the Govt. of India regarding constitution of the Wage Boards in different industries in private and public sectors replacing bipartite negotiation and settlement. Already Wage Board for Sugar Industry has been announced and similar wage boards are being considered for other industries. The meeting reiterated its earlier stand that the right of collective bargaining and bipartite wage negotiations should continue in the industries.

The NCC further expressed its concern at the talk of new and higher technologies by the official spokesmen without taking into account the growing unemployment in the country. The skyrocketing of prices of essential commodities have already started after the Budget. This is also drastically reducing the standard of living of the people.

The meeting condemned the attitude of the Bureau of Public Enterprises and representatives of the Govt. of India on the question of upward revision of the D.A. rate for the public sector employees which resulted in failure of talks in the Tripartite Committee on D.A. in Public Sector Undertakings. The NCC therefore calls upon the workers and unions in public sector undertakings to observe a Protest Day on 25th April by holding demonstrations and rallies against the rigid stand of the Govt. and in support of the demand of Rs. 2 per point of rise in the price of index as unitedly demanded by all the workers representatives on the Tripartite DA Committee.

The meeting expressed its grave concern at the

continued threat of closure, lock-out, retrenchment and lay-offs in the industrial undertakings. The total number of sick and closed units has gone up to 63,000 according to official spokesman. The meeting reiterated the demands of the All India Convention against retrenchment, closure, lockout, lay-off and denotification held in New Delhi last year and called upon all the unions to observe an All India Day on 15th May 1985 by holding rallies in support of these demands. It was also decided to organise state level conventions till the middle of August to mobilise workers for further action.

The meeting supported the demands of the unions in 67 public sector undertakings (who are covered by the Pay Commission scales) for payment of interim relief awarded by the Pay Commission.

The meeting considered the problems of unorganised workers and decided to prepare a programme of action in support of their demands decided by the Second National Convention of NCC held in New Delhi on August 21, 1983.

The meeting was attended by Samar Mukherjee, M.K. Pandhe (CITU), R.K. Bhakt (BMS), T.N. Siddhanta (AITUC), Ramesh Agrawal (HMS), J.S. Dara (ITUC), Prithish Chanda, R.K. Sharma (UTUC-LS), Pratul Chowdhury (UTUC) and D.D. Shastri (TUCC).

Extravaganza by BHEL

THE BHEL management is gearing up its entire machinery for the extravaganza of the year — KALA MILAN-1985. Even though the KALA MILAN is organised under the BHEL Ladies' Club, the money is spent by BHEL and the management misutilises the machinery only to project its upper echelons. The telephones, telex, teletypewriter and manpower are extensively used and the BHEL exchequer is drained on auditorium, decorations, catering, conveyance, etc for these echelons to enjoy the luxuries of five star hotels in Delhi. While the management drains the BHEL exchequer in this manner, it is delaying the settlement of the employees' most genuine demands on the plea of avoiding additional expenditure. Issuing a statement on April 3, M.M. Verghese, Secretary of the All India BHEL Power Employees' Union strongly criticised the management for indulging in such extravaganza while the demands of the employees are hanging fire and urged upon the workers to raise their voice of protest against such malpractices.

Workers Fight Back Attempts of Closure

THE management of M/s. Makers Development Services, Bombay who had taken over the stone quarries at Kailaras and Semai — Madhya Pradesh which have been operating for the past eighty years decided to close down the quarries at Kailaras. The excuse trotted out was that the stones were sub-standard. The officially patronised INTUC union agreed to the proposed closure. The management offered the workers alternate employment at Semai, 15 Kilometres away without the benefits and opportunities which were available at Kailaras. It was understood that the management was intending to mechanise the quarries in order to garner super-profits. The workers opposed this move. The workers of Kailaras struck work against this from March '85 and the workers of Semai also joined their brethren of Kailaras for a solution of this problem.

The question was referred to the Labour department at Bhopal, as well as the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central). But the issue could not be settled.

The exasperated workers, all 300 of them, came to New Delhi and were sitting in a Dharna at the Boat Clubs from the evening of 8th April '85 to the evening of 9th April '85. Thus the irony was that while the Labour Minister was meeting the Labour Representatives for a discussion on the Industrial Relations situation, the workers, victims of closure, were sitting at Dharna for a solution of their problem.

Samar Mukherjee, General Secretary-CITU issued the following statement on April 8, 1985.

"The CITU strongly condemns the closure of stone quarries in Kailaras, Madhya Pradesh which have been serving the A.C.C. Cement Factory for all these years. The management now intends to close down the quarries in order to introduce mechanisation in quest of super profit.

The CITU also condemns the reported move of the management to offer employment at another quarry at a far away place without proper housing. The intention is that the workers because of the trouble inherent in daily commuting would voluntarily leave their jobs.

Three hundred workers who are facing retrenchment due to this closure have come to Delhi and are going to sit in a Dharna at the Boat Club from 5 P.M. today till 6 P.M. tomorrow (i.e. 9th April '85) with a view to attract the attention of the Government to their problem. The CITU demands that the Government should intervene for a negotiated settlement."

He also addressed the workers while they were on Dharna on 8-4-'85.

A delegation of workers led by Nrisingha Chakrabarty, Secretary-CITU, Badal Saroj and Bahadur Singh Dhakar met the Labour Minister on April 10, submitted a memorandum and explained the

position. The memorandum of the workers contained the following demands.

(1) Reopen Kailaras quarry mines, (2) All the facilities in Kailaras mines must be extended to the Semai mines and (3) Regularise casual workers. He advised the Chief Labour Commissioner (C) to immediately intervene. The Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) at Jabalpur was advised to visit Kailaras and settle the demands.

Conference of AIPEU

THE 12th Conference of All India Postal Employees Union, Postman Class IV and EDA was held at Madras from March 15 to 19. The conference expressed deep concern at the rise of the divisive and secessionist forces backed by imperialism to destabilise the country. It called upon the members to unitedly fight these forces and preserve the unity and integrity of the country. It also called upon the members to expose the war mongering US imperialism and step up the struggle for peace against the danger of a nuclear war. Deliberating on the national situation the conference made a scathing criticism of the anti-labour and pro-monopolist policy of the government. Referring to the unabated incidence of closures, lockouts and industrial sickness, it appealed to the NFPTE and the confederation to join the mainstream of the NCC movement against these anti-social acts which were the outcome of the 37 years of so called development under the capitalist path by the Government of India. The last budget was the glaring example of the anti-people and pro-monopolist, pro-multinational and pro-feudal policies of the government. The conference directed all its branches to rise in protest actions against these policies.

Deliberating on the problems of Extra Departmental Assistants, the conference congratulated the workers for their successful strike on September 19, 1984 and recorded it as a red letter day for the entire postman class IV and EDAs. In the background of appointment of a one-man committee for EDAs, the conference reiterated the demands of interim relief, DA, pro-rate wages and regularisation of the EDAs with all facilities as granted to the departmental employees. The conference condemned the government for delaying the implementation of arbitration awards and finalisation of the problems in JCM and directed the branches to build up movements on these sectional demands. It further called upon the branches to launch powerful campaign demanding the second interim relief and also to extend full support to the RMS workers on whom fresh attacks have been launched in the form of abolition of SDRs and increase in work load. The conference elected Sada Ram Tahwar and K. Adinarian as the President and General Secretary respectively.

Convention of Working Women

A convention of the working women in various fields of work in Durgapur Steel Plant and Alloy Steel Plant comprising of 300 delegates representing 2000 working women was held on 28th March at Durgapur under the auspices of Steel Workers' Federation of India. Vimala Ranadive, Secretary, All India Co-ordination Committee of Working Women and Banani Biswas, leader of Democratic Women's Association of West Bengal addressed the convention. The convention discussed the general problems of women as a whole and what they face as working women in particular. The delegates expressed their apprehension that modernisation would create a serious problem by making redundancies and resolved to build up effective resistance against it. Many of the delegates mentioned the absence of creche. The women working under contractors gave vent to their great resentments over their non-employment in permanent jobs even after 20/22 years. They mentioned the lack of medical and educational facilities though they performed most hazardous and laborious jobs. Many delegates dealt upon the problems of conveyance to working place and accommodation. The nursing staff did not even have any room to change their dress. Vimala Ranadive called upon the working women to fight out the problems through united massive struggles.

Successful Strike by Nurses

Over 1000 nurses of Jay Prakash Narayan Hospital, G B Pant Hospital and Guru Nanak Eye Centre of Delhi went on strike from April 11 demanding implementation of the previous agreement which was arrived at after their one day strike in September 1984. The Delhi administration instead of settling the demands came heavily upon the nurses, imposed ESMA and illegalised the strike. The office bearers were arrested. But the nurses stood undaunted and carried on the strike defying the ban. Ultimately the administration had to bow down and make an agreement with the nurses' association. CITU and AICCWW issued statements supporting the strike and condemning the imposition of ESMA. They congratulated the nurses for their successful struggle. According to the agreement, uniform arrears will be paid along with the April salaries, unmarried nurses will receive house rents, an operation theatre allowance of Rs. 30/- was granted, stipend for student nurses was raised to Rs. 300/-, selection grade will be given to part time nurses and the demand for increase of uniform allowance from Rs. 300/- to Rs. 1000/- was referred to the Pay Commission.

THE 14th Conference of the Federation of Medical and Sales Representatives Associations of India (FMRAI) was held at Kanpur from April 7 to 11. The conference was inaugurated by Sukomal Sen, MP, General Secretary of All India State Government Employees Federation. Sukomal Sen elaborated the serious international situation threatened with the danger of war, the imperialist conspiracies within the country giving rise to the divisive and secessionist forces and also pinpointed to the pro-monopolist and pro-multinational policy of the Government of India heaping miseries on the people. He urged upon the workers to build up united movement on the issues. Among others who greeted the conference were P.K. Ganguly, Secretary, CITU and Laxmi Saigal, President of All India Jute Workers Federation. The conference was attended by over 400 delegates and observers. The conference being held in the background of a successful countrywide strike on 25th March, there was a lot of enthusiasm among the delegates to participate in the deliberations. More than 40 comrades participated in the General Secretary's report which had a lively discussion and was adopted unanimously. The conference adopted resolutions on peace against war, on national unity and integrity, on the anti-labour policies of the government of India, on the Bhopal gas tragedy, on the role of multinationals, etc. It resolved to carry forward a sustained struggle against the management of Raptakos Brett till all the victimised employees are taken in.

The open session of the conference was converted into a public meeting which was addressed by B.T. Ranadive, President of CITU. The members took out a procession which culminated in the public meeting at Ramashray Part. Congratulating the members for their successful strike, B.T. Ranadive urged upon the workers to merge their struggle with the mainstream of the working class movement in the country. While condemning the imperialist conspiracies behind the murder of Indira Gandhi, he called upon the workers to raise their political consciousness and see the black hands of imperialism to destabilise the country by boosting the divisive and secessionist forces. He stressed that while the workers have to champion the cause of unity and integrity of the country, they have also to fight the danger of nuclear war created by the US imperialists. In the national scene they have to fight against the pro-monopolist and pro-multinational policies of the government as openly reflected in the budget and demand for an alternative economic policy.

The rally was joined by workers of various other industries also, mobilised by the Kanpur unit of CITU. Earlier, the conference elected George Verghese and J.S. Majumdar as the President and General Secretary respectively.

Rural Workers' Problems

A seminar on Asian rural workers' problems was held at New Delhi from April 17 to 19. It was the second Seminar organised by the Standing Committee of Trade Union Organisations of Agricultural, Forestry and Plantation Workers and Working peasants in the Asian Countries after the Madras Seminar held in April, 1981, under the auspices of the Trade Union International of Agricultural, Forestry and Plantation Workers. From India the Seminar was attended by H.K.S. Surjeet, Vice President and P.K. Tandon, Secretary of All India Kishan Sabha; P.K. Kunjachan, General Secretary, All India Agricultural Worker's Union. Ananda Pathak, Vice President, Vimal Ranadive, General Secretary and Manik Sanyal, Working Committee member of All India Plantation Workers' Federation, and Z.A. Ahmed, and Indradeep Sinha, President and General Secretary, P.K. Kodyan, General Secretary and L. Reddy of the other Kishan Sabha and Agricultural Workers' Union respectively. The other countries represented were Bangladesh by Nurul Anowar, General Secretary, Bangladesh Agricultural Farm Labour Federation; Malayasia by S.J. Tilak of National Union of Plantation Workers and Sri Lanka by S. Natesan of United Plantation Workers Union. The TUI was represented by its Secretary, Valerie Kalashnikov. Apart from above, representatives from ILO and FAO also attended the Seminar.

The Seminar discussed draft documents placed on Asian Agrarian Movement — Achievements, Problems and Tasks; Situation of the Forestry Workers in Asia and on Conventions, Recommendations, etc of the ILO. The document on Asian Agrarian Movement noted that the rural workers in Asian Countries continue to suffer from the inherent socio-economic system, unemployment and under-employment with appalling poverty, hunger and malnutrition, indebtedness, lack of social and political status and widespread illiteracy. The policy of the economic development of the region has resulted in increasing inequality in the distribution of land and other productive assets, growing numbers of agricultural labourers and giving rise to inflationary spiral and declining the rural wage rate. The document said that the objective of distributing incremental income to the rural poor cannot be achieved without a prior redistribution of the income generating assets, notably land, water rights, productive equipment, livestock, credits at low interests, medical and social services, etc. Dealing with India, the document referred to the disastrous living and working conditions of the agricultural workers and small peasants and the upsurge of struggle by them demanding remunerative prices for the agricultural produce and on other issues. It pointed out that land reforms have

been implemented only where left-democratic governments are in power. It stressed that for radical and democratic agrarian reforms full participation of rural workers and small peasants in all decisions is necessary and the frame work of the struggles has to be for real rural development to put an end to the economic, social and political power of big landlords, monopolies and transnational corporations to ensure social justice for the rural population. The document further stressed that the struggle against the nefarious activities of the monopolies and transnationals is an integral part of the struggle for peace and development and it calls for the struggle for a halt of arms race and for disarmament.

The document on forestry stressed the important role of forestry in rural development to meet the needs in fuel, fodder and natural products and for the preservation of ecological balance. But forestry in the Asian region is subject to rapacious destruction by the transnationals and monopolists to meet their need of international market of timber for profits. So the organisations of forestry workers should build up struggles for utilisation of this wealth in the interest of the people. The document on ILO conventions stressed the need for ratification and implementation of the various conventions and urged upon the organisations to inform the ILO about the violations so that pressure could be exerted on the concerned member governments to follow the minimum ILO standards.

H.K.S. Surjeet, agreeing with the basic approach of the document submitted a paper on the agrarian problem with particular reference to India. He said that growing landlessness has been the major feature in India over the past many years. The so-called land reforms have not resulted in breaking the land monopoly. Millions of tenants and share croppers tilling the land for decades are being evicted. The change which has been brought out is the growing development of capitalism in agriculture. The benefits of new technology called the "green revolution" are being cornered by the rural rich. Therefore, without solving the problem of land reforms, giving surplus land to the landless, the problem of rural poverty cannot be tackled. He emphasised the statement in the document that the struggle for land in India is closely linked with the struggle for power and the ruling classes show no political will to implement even those land reform laws enacted by their government. These have been implemented only where the left governments are in power. The Central government has not even given approval to the existing legislations enacted by the left front government of W. Bengal and the then LDF government of Kerala. He referred to the

massive struggles of the agricultural workers and the Kishan rallies for remunerative prices and gave examples from various sectors like wheat, sugar cane, jute, cotton, tobacco, rubber, potato, cashewnuts, coconuts, etc. where the growers are ruthlessly fleeced due to denial of remunerative prices, while the wholesale prices have been spiralling. Apart from this, the increasing ferocity of floods which has been attributed by the ecologists to denudation of forests at the origin of the rivers, has turned the rural poor to destitutes. Despite this, the deforestation process has been continuing unabated due to the holy alliance between the officials and the monopolists running forest based industries. He also referred to the rise of divisive and secessionist forces backed by imperialism which has posed a challenge to the class unity of the mass of peasants and agricultural workers. These forces work under various flags and slogans and try to divide the masses on caste and communal basis. The present separatist movements in N.E. region and in Punjab have posed a challenge to the democratic movement of the peasantry. He stressed the necessity of the peasant movement to actively intervene and defeat the divisive forces to maintain the unity of the country and advance the democratic movement.

Referring to the 40th Anniversary of the Victory over German Fascism, he said the whole humanity is threatened again by imperialism, now with a nuclear holocaust. This time it is US imperialism and the target is the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries, to exterminate the achievements of socialism and dominate the world. This underlines the need to develop a mass peace movement in the Asian region drawing in the mass of peasantry under the vortex of the movement.

Vimal Ranadive submitted a paper on the problems of the plantation workers. She pointed out that in between the two conferences the conditions of the plantation workers had further deteriorated. There was more unemployment, real wages had gone down and poverty was acute. The attack on trade union rights had increased and the multinationals are being given a free hand to exploit the workers. She placed overall data of increasing unemployment, price rise and closures and lockouts and said that the plantation workers were also gripped with the deepening economic crisis and found it difficult to make the both ends meet. She referred to draconian measures like NSA and ESMA which constituted blatant attacks on trade union rights of the workers and briefed the developing united struggles of the workers, peasantry and the agricultural labourers. She fully endorsed the slogan of nationalisation of big plantations and foreign trade with workers participation in view of the growing closure and sickness of the gardens throwing thousands of workers out of employment.

Endorsing the document stressing the need for land reforms, she highlighted the performance of the left

front governments of West Bengal and Tripura who have distributed thousands of acres of land to the landless. With regard to the implementation of the Plantation Labour Act also, she said that wherever strong movement was developed, the managements were compelled to implement it like in West Bengal and Kerala. Referring to forestry in India, she said that the forest Workers' Unions at Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts have been championing the cause of preserving and expansion of forests. Previously, the forest workers in West Bengal were living like serfs with a daily wage of 0.75 paise only. But after the installation of the Left Front Government, now they are getting a minimum wage of Rs. 9.50 daily. However, their struggle is on for further betterment of their working and service conditions, supported by the left front government. Concluding her paper, she was in full agreement that peace and development are mutually interlinked and called for a broad based struggle for peace and for a halt to the arms race.

The Seminar also discussed the problem of joint struggle by the organisations of the jute growers and jute mill workers and formed a committee consisting of H.K.S. Surjeet, P.K. Kodiyan and B.D. Joshi to plan out a conference of the jute growers and mill workers to give a concrete shape to their united movements. It also formed a committee consisting of Vimal Ranadive and P.K. Kodiyan to explore the possibility of setting up a separate all India organisation of forestry workers.

The seminar concluded by adopting an appeal and a declaration to step up united struggles of the agricultural, plantation and forestry workers on the issues discussed and to wage unremitting struggle for peace demanding a halt to arms race and for disarmament.

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Conference of Steel Workers

THE 24th conference of the Hindustan Steel Employees Union was held at Durgapur from March 29 to 31. The conference was attended by over 1800 delegates. Inaugurating the conference, M.K. Pandhe, Secretary, CITU explained the crisis in the steel industry and the growing attacks on the workers. Highlighting the role of Steel Workers' Federation of India, he urged upon the workers to step up united struggles to meet the situation. Jibon Roy, Jt. Secretary placed the report on behalf the secretariat. He reviewed the major issues faced by the union. He also explained the international and national situation which affected the workers and stressed the need to strengthen the unity to fight the divisive forces and also to fulfil their international task to fight the war danger. Sisir Banerjee and Paksi submitted the work reports on Durgapur and Alloy Steel Plant branches and A.P. Das, member of the Standing Committee on Safety in Steel explained the activities of the Committee. The conference elected a council with Dilip Majumdar as the President.

B.T. Ranadive, President, CITU addressed the mammoth open rally at Lal Maidan on March 31. He stressed the importance of the steel workers in the working class movement in the country. Referr-

ing to the recent Assembly elections, he said that the people were getting disillusioned with policies of the government which was reflected by the recent budget that has strengthened the grip of the monopolists and multinationals over the country's economy and will hit hard the working class and the common people. He called upon the workers to observe protest rallies against the budget. He also called upon them to step up the struggle for peace and observe the 40th Anniversary of the Victory against fascism. Jyoti Basu, Vice President of CITU and Chief Minister of W. Bengal also addressed the rally and criticised the centre for making political discrimination against W. Bengal.

Movement Against Budget

RESPONDING to the call of CITU, workers in following states organised protest actions against the Union General and Railway Budgets:

West Bengal: Massive demonstrations have been held in March and April by industrial workers and other sections of working people. These culminated in "rail roko" on March 19, and then in April in the second phase of movement, dharnas were staged in a large number of railway stations throughout the state.

Tripura: From April 16 a week long programme of demonstrations, processions, rallies and dharnas were staged all over the state participated by all sections of workers.

Maharashtra: Industrial workers came in procession from different areas and factories and converged in a public meeting at Vanamali Hall in Bombay on March 23. Among those who spoke were P. Sanzgiri, Sudhir Yardi, A.B. Sawant, K.L. Bajaj and Dhan Singh Bhutala.

Bihar: From April 15 to 22 the workers and employees of various industries held rallies, demonstrations, dharnas, processions and public meetings all over the state demanding withdrawal of the imposts in the general and railway budget.

Haryana: On April 2 at Sonapat, CITU organised massive demonstrations at the railway station and the bus stand against the railway and general budget. From April 15 to 22 again week long demonstrations and rallies were held at Rohtak, Sonapat and other industrial centres in the State.

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New Labour Policy or Old Wine in a New Bottle

Nrisingha Chakrabarty

AN impression was sought to be created that the Minister of Labour Shri T. Anjaiah, is trying to frame a new labour policy. He called for a meeting with the representatives of Central Trade Union Organisations on April 9 which was followed by a meeting with the employers' representatives on the following day. The exercise however revealed that Shri T. Anjaiah with professed concern for the unorganised labour, is trying to pass on the same old anti-labour policy as the new 'Labour Policy' reminding one of the age-old Proverb, "Old wine in a new bottle".

Anti-Strike Stance

Firstly the agenda was fixed by the Govt. and although CITU's nominee for the meeting, Nrisingha Chakraborty raised some other issues, they were not included. The notes on the agenda, which were supplied in three parts with a trickle-down effect could not be studied properly. The purpose of the meeting was quite clear from the speech of the Minister which said "It is only in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and co-operation rather than confrontation and tension that we can achieve the common objective of increase in production and productivity and improvement in the conditions of work and life of the work force." The Agenda included an item on voluntary arbitration which was paraded as the panacea of all evils in industrial relations.

One has also to read the amendments to the Trade Unions Act proposed in the notes which empowered the Registrar of Trade Unions to cancel the certificate of registration of the Union if he was satisfied that said union has "called for or participated in any illegal strike" and provided for "a conviction under I.D. Act being disqualification for office-bearers for a registered union."

These pronouncements together with the proposed amendments to the Trade Union Act as reflected in the note left no doubt that the thrust of the new labour policy is avowedly anti-strike. Many representatives even after being repetitive, opposed this anti-strike stance.

Government Abdicating its Responsibility

Nrisingha Chakrabarty, Secretary-CITU drew the attention of the Minister to the fact that the notes have been drafted in a manner which indicated that the Govt. was trying to abdicate its responsibility. For example a look at the notes on Industrial Relations situation will reveal as if it is entirely between the owners and the workmen and the Govt. had no role to play. At the same time the workmen have been singled out for violence. He pointed out that Govt. of India have not yet ratified the ILO

Convention No. 87 and 98 concerning Freedom of Association, Right to Organise and Right to Collective Bargaining though over a hundred countries have already ratified the same and the entire labour force including the INTUC has demanded such ratification. He further said that the Govt. of India had not drawn up a law or rules for compulsory recognition of collective bargaining agent simply because the INTUC does not accept the most democratic principle of secret ballot while all the remaining organisations have advocated this. For unleashing of violence, he said that the managements are primarily responsible for the same as they have unleashed violence on the workers employing anti-social elements as Security Guards. It was also pointed out that the agenda papers admit that 179150 workers have been retrenched due to closure during 1981 to 1984 according to the information available with the Labour Bureau at Simla, though in reality many more have been affected. The papers do not reveal what steps the Govt. of India have already taken or want now to take in this respect.

Govt. Going Back on Agreed Decision

The other reasons for deterioration in the industrial relations situation is due to Govt's going back on agreed decisions. He pointed out that the unanimous decision of the 15th Indian Labour Conference about the 'Need based Minimum Wage' has not been implemented yet. The new wage agreement concluded in CIWTC has not been implemented even though three months have passed while the agreement provided that it would be implemented within one month. Similar is the case with an agreement in IDPL. All these are perhaps due to interference by BPE, which should be disbanded.

He also pointed out that the Central Standing Committee on Rural Unorganised Labour had unanimously finalised a draft of a comprehensive legislation for Agricultural Labour in 1980. But the same has not been enacted yet, thus undermining the efficacy of the tripartite Govt. Bodies.

Collapse of Labour and Safety Legislations

The CITU representative pointed out that there is virtually a collapse of all labour and safety legislations. The Bhopal disaster is a mere pointer. The removal of the Chief Inspector of Safety and other petty officers in Bhopal are only an attempt to mollify the public opinion. The problem is much deeper. How the MNC, M/s Carbide could engage in such dangerous operation without revealing the risk and hazard before getting license and what the Govt. did before issuing a licence? There were earlier, deaths also. This applied to many factories dealing with toxic subjects. Some of the mills are

very old and worn out. Some affect the environment also.

The organised labour has repeatedly pointed out that in the rural areas the powerful landlords have unleashed terrible repression including murder, arson and rape on the agricultural labourers who are fighting for implementation of the minimum wages fixed by the Govt. under the law. There is no government machinery to protect them. The police often collude with them. The Supreme Court had in the past 4-5 years handed out several pronouncements against the unscrupulous contractors and the managements in the public and private sector (principal employers) for denial of the benefits due under Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, Inter State Migrant Labour Act, Abolition of Bonded Labour Act, etc. to the poor labourers and had passed strictures against the government's inaction and cavalier dealing about such violations of labour laws. There is a virtual collapse of all these beneficial legislations, as far as the labour are concerned.

Collousness Towards Workers in Sick Industries

The CITU does not agree to the formulation made in the agenda notes that "industrial sickness which is inevitable in the process of industrial progress and technological shifts cannot be totally eliminated". In fact there is an agreed tripartite decision in the 25th Indian Labour Conference which decided to set up a standing Cell to monitor industrial sickness which was never implemented. The industrial sickness has mainly arisen because of the fact that the owners after deriving the maximum profits out of the undertaking had diverted the funds to the new undertakings in the quest for super profits. Hence the incidence of growing sickness. The CITU representative pointed out that if the Standing Cell had been set up much of the wastage of public funds could have been stopped. For example by December end 1979 only 1623 crores were involved in 22366 sick units which jumped to 80110 with a sum of Rs. 3101 crores of public financial institutions' funds having been blocked. This could have been avoided. Besides the Govt. has now changed its policy. It has refused to take over and nationalise the sick-industries and take stern steps against the management who are responsible for the industrial sickness. The Agenda papers show that already 1.80 lakh of workers have been retrenched due to closure. Many have not been reported to the Labour Bureau at all. The Govt. has not provided anything for them. CITU opposed denotification.

Giving Licence to Mismanagement

The CITU also does not agree to the proposal of setting up of co-operatives of power loom workers with "the cost of powerloom adjusted against terminal benefits payable to workers consequent to closure". Giving the licence to a retrenched worker for power loom, in reality, means giving the licence of mis-management of finances by the private sector.

The problems in the textile is far deeper and has many facets which cannot be treated in such a lackadaisical manner. The CITU demanded nationalisation of Textile industry. The CITU representative opposed voluntary arbitration and the retrograde measures suggested for amendment to Trade Union Act.

He also pointed out that he would take up other issues when discussion on the agenda would start. He supported the idea that the agenda was too heavy to be disposed off on any single day.

Though the meeting lasted for the whole day, no item of the agenda was taken up for discussion. After one round of general discussion, other members desired to speak which was allowed. The members spoke on all items on agenda or outside it, after the Union Labour Minister's welcome speech and finally without going into the agenda items, the Minister concluded with a few words indicating holding of the Indian Labour Conference shortly.

A Prelude to the Next Indian Labour Conference

This meeting appeared to be a prelude to holding of Indian Labour Conference. The Govt., being aware of the fact that like the earlier occasion, any attempt to call both the labour and the employer together in the shape of Labour Conference may again result into boycott or opposition, might have taken this course in order to show to the ILO, that the Govt. is consulting both the labour and the employers' representatives on all important issues. The subjects chosen for discussion on April 9, Minister's statement at the end of the discussion that he would set up a small standing committee to pursue and prepare papers for discussion by all concerned, indicate some sort of revival of the earlier "Standing Committee" of Labour Conference. Even the number of representatives invited to this meeting was not uniform. INTUC was allowed to send 5 representatives, BMS-3, HMS and UTUC-L/S had 2 each while the UTUC, AITUC, CITU, TUCC and NLO had one each in the meeting. The allocation of numbers of representatives had appeared to have been made in consonance with the wishes of INTUC who have been insisting on the implementation of the 1980 verification results. Some other organisations like the UTUC-L/s have also been demanding this.

The Labour Minister concluded by saying that this is the first of several consultations with the labour and the management. He stated that a small high powered standing committee will be set up to discuss all these issues so that the papers prepared by the standing committee can be discussed at all levels including the level of Conference of the Labour Ministers and thereafter Indian Labour Conference can be called for finalisation. He dwelt at length about the rural un-organised labour emphasising the need to give them succour. He said employers had deprived the workers of their rightful wages. The organised trade union movement must come in support of them. The meeting was then declared closed.

Two Hours for Twenty Crores of Rural Unorganised Workers

THE Central Standing Committee on Rural Unorganised Labour met at New Delhi on March 25, 1985 at 3 P.M. and concluded its business by 5.30 P.M. as the Union Labour Minister was required to attend a Cabinet Meeting at 6 P.M. Within these two hours and a half the question of upliftment of about 20 crores of rural unorganised labour was discussed and the honourable members departed, many without any satisfaction.

As soon as the notice of the meeting was received, Nrisingha Chakrabarty Secretary-CITU and P.K. Kunjachan, General Secretary, All India Agricultural Workers Union, Members of the Committee, had sent their agenda. Items like 'Benefits to Casual Workers' and 'Contract Labour System' suggested by CITU was not included in the agenda on the ground that there is another Committee and a law on contract labour.

The meeting of the standing committee was chaired by Shri T. Anjaiah, Union Labour Minister. In the welcome address by Shri H.M.S. Bhatnagar, Labour Secretary, it was pointed out that the Govt. had sanctioned appointment of 1000 Rural Organisers in as many Blocks in 14 states against which only 744 are in position. They are being paid Rs. 250/- per month as salary and allowances, only 100 organisers in Gujarat get a monthly salary of Rs. 400/- with travelling allowance of Rs. 10/- per day with the state Govt. support. The State Government has appointed a Rural Labour Commissioner and the organisers have to work through rural labour welfare centres established in the state.

With such a short time being available the demand that the meeting should proceed in a business like manner settling each item of agenda could not be put into practice. Members expressed their views on all items.

Both Nrisingha Chakrabarty and Kunjachan demanded revision of minimum wages and enactment of comprehensive Legislation for the Agricultural Workers. Kunjachan also demanded pension, welfare and social security scheme for agricultural workers and setting up of an Enquiry Committee — a demand supported by 3-4 others.

Nrisingha Chakrabarty pointed out that although a unanimous report was submitted by the Study group on Brick Kiln Industry in July last year no enactment has yet been made though all members desired immediate enactment. In such a circumstances what will be the fate of the study groups in leather industry and Building and Construction industry which were constituted nearly three months back, but have not met even once since then. The papers showed that Study Groups have also been set up for handloom and powerloom industry

(Nov '84) and for Fishermen (January '85) about which the members of the Standing Committee had been kept in dark. Composition of such committees should be notified to all members of the standing Committee so that any member who is not included in the committee can present his views to the study group.

Nrisingha Chakrabarty wanted to know as to why the scheme of appointing Rural Organisers has been limited to 14 states only. Besides what check can be exercised on their work, unless the Gujarat pattern is implemented. He also stated that protecting agricultural workers against the attacks of the landlords on their struggle for implementation of minimum-wage is very important. It should, therefore, be clarified if these Rural Organisers have any authority in such matters.

One of the items of Agenda suggested by CITU representative was about housing for rural workers. The ministry submitted a detailed note which stated that a scheme for allotting house sites and extending construction assistance (total Rs. 750/- per family) was introduced in 1971 in central sector which was transferred to state sector in 1974. In the Sixth Plan period 51.92 lakh families have been allotted house sites upto 31-1-85 against the target of 67.70 lakh. Similarly construction assistance has been given to 17.64 lakh families against the target of 35.97 lakhs. The agenda papers suggested that some more funds for NREP/RLEGP could be earmarked for rural housing scheme. Chakrabarty criticised the inadequacy and tardy progress of the scheme.

The Labour Minister in his concluding remarks stated that there is some overlapping in the functions of several committees. A combined meeting of these committees dealing with Rural Unorganised Labour will be called in near future and the problems would be discussed thoroughly.

Working Committee Meeting

The Working Committee meeting of CITU will be held at Trivandrum on 31st May, 1st and 2nd June, 1985. The meeting will start at 9.30 A.M. on 31st May. All comrades are requested to reach Trivandrum one day before. The comrades are requested to write about arrival schedule and return reservations by remitting money to:

The General Secretary,
Kerala State Committee of CITU, CITU
HOUSE,
Maloor Road, Vanchiyoore,
TRIVANDRUM — 695 001.

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		Delhi-110001. Phone: 343775

Karim Mansion
787, Anna Salai,
Madras-600002. Phone: 85206

ICA-2016/85

AIREC Streamlines Organisation

AFTER broadening its base by admitting four more categorical unions including the All India Loco Running Staff Association as its constituents, the All India Railway Employees' Confederation (AIREC) which had thus become the united platform of virtually all major categorical unions on Indian Railways, launched upon a programme aimed at consolidating the organisation, in terms of the decision of its Lucknow Conference held in September last year. According to a spokesman, it is impossible to fulfil its objective, namely, to build up most broad based unity of all railwaymen and their organisations in order to defeat the anti-labour policies of the Govt., to fight the divisive forces backed by imperialism and also for struggle against the danger of a nuclear holocaust, unless the AIREC itself is strengthened. But, he said, the programme was interrupted by the serious developments that took place towards the end of the year viz the dastardly assassination of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi followed by wide-spread communal violence over a large part of the country. The Lok Sabha polls also followed closely. A month after the elections on February 3, the Working Committee of the AIREC met in Delhi. After reviewing the situation it decided to resume the organisational programme.

According to the spokesman, in first round of the programme, Divisional and Zonal units of the AIREC would be set up where they did not exist. New bodies would be elected in place of the old where they were already in existence. This would be done in workers' meetings or Conferences under the guidance of its central leadership. Two teams consisting of Central leaders of different constituents were formed by the working committee, one led by the President of AIREC, the other by the Secretary General, for guiding Divisional and Zonal Conferences.

According to the spokesman, such conferences have already been held in many Divisions. Conscious workers have come forward enthusiastically for the success of the programme.

N.F. Railway: AIREC Formed

Zonal unit of AIREC for the NF Rly. has been formed in a Conference held at Alipurduar on 29-31, March, 1985.

Fifteen years back, the NF Rly. units of different categorical unions came together to form a joint platform, the United Committee of Railwaymen, (UCR). Unwavering struggle led by the organisation for the cause of railwaymen and immense sacrifice made by its leadership and workers, principled fight against opportunist and disruptive tendencies dis-

played by different sections at different times, including recognised unions, and untiring effort for unity won for the UCR an unique position among the workers of NF Rly. The organisation convened its conference at Alipurduar on 29-31, March which was to be its last conference because it is from this Conference that decision has been taken to transform the UCR into the Zonal unit of the AIREC. The decision was prompted by the need for closer integration of the struggle of NF Rly workers with countrywide struggle of railwaymen.

The conference was inaugurated by N.S. Bhangoo, Secretary General, AIREC after the Chairman of the reception Committee Prof. Sukumar Pal delivered his welcome address. S.K. Dhar, Secretary General of All India Loco Running Staff Association, explained the issues before the railway trade union movement and its tasks ahead. Leaders of various fraternal organisations greeted the conference.

Besides the leaders of the AIREC and its constituents the delegate session which was attended by 1200 delegates was also addressed by Samar Mukherjee, General Secretary, CITU.

Samar Mukherjee, who was the main speaker at the open session attended by several thousand people from all walks of life, while analysing the international and national situation warned the workers about the imperialist war danger, the danger from the divisive forces backed by imperialists, pointed out the growing economic offensive launched by the new Government on the workers and the common people at whose cost benefit was being conferred on the rich once again through recent budget and called upon the workers to come forward for struggle to change the present social structure based on exploitation. Among other speakers was Amal Ghosh Dastidar, General Secretary, Assam State CITU. The resolutions adopted included those on war danger, price rise, on filling up of vacancies in the Railways. One resolution demanded incorporation of right to work in the constitution as a fundamental right.

The Zonal executive committee of the newly formed Zonal AIREC with Ajit Chatterjee as President and Harumohan Das as General Secretary was elected unanimously.

AIREC-Eastern Railway

As a part of AIREC organisational programme, Divisional Annual Conference of AIREC was held in Sealdah Division on 7th April at Naihati Municipal Hall. It was attended by 4 hundred delegates. Annual conference was also held in Danapur Division. In Dhanbad, Asansol and Howrah Divisions

workers' conferences were held in the Second week of April. Divisional annual general Meeting in Dhanbad Division was already held on 19th March, with more than 200 delegates attending.

Eastern Railwaymen's Union

The Working Committee of Eastern Railwaymen's Union met at Katwa on 9th and 10th April. Referring to the callous attitude of the Govt. and the railway administration towards the grievances of railwaymen, Bimal Dey, President of the union, criticised the tendency of too much reliance on negotiation owing to which development of powerful mass movement is hampered. Recalling the '74 strike and the role of the NCCRS, he called upon all to create the same atmosphere as prevailed before the strike. General Secretary, Sujit Roy emphasised the importance of united struggle of all organisations of railwaymen and spoke of the need for persuading the AIRF to initiate movement.

S.E. Rly. "Dharna" by Station Masters

As part of the all India programme of the station masters Association, 48 hours Dharna organised by the Divisional unit was staged by the station masters of Bilaspur Division at Bilaspur station, to press 14 point general demands as well as some local demands.

AILRSA

S.K. Dhar, Secretary General All India Loco Run-

ning Staff Association has addressed a letter to the Railway Minister, Shri Bansilal in which he has presented a list of burning grievances of the Loco Running Staff. Assuring the Minister of "full co-operation in keeping the wheel moving punctually and safely" he has expressed hope that the grievances would be redressed early.

One of the major demands is the condonation of break in services. "Several thousands of loco running staff of Indian Railways are suffering for the last five years, from the effects of break in service". Several hundreds who have retired from service are deprived of their retirement benefit. Several of them have died and their families are starving.

Dhar has demanded immediate reinstatement of those who have been removed from service or have been compulsorily retired. As many as 700 loco running staff has been thrown out of job in connection with the agitation of 1980-81. "The entire running staff feel that the administration is very vindictive" Dhar has written, and, according to him "these actions are acting as deterrent against their zeal to work whole heartedly for improving the efficiency of railway operation". The demands reiterated in this letter includes 10 hours duty from signing on to signing off, restructuring demands relating to selection and direct recruitment and newly introduced educational qualification and age restriction, those relating to protection for medically decategorised loco running staff and others.

Consumer Price Index Numbers

Base 1960

State/Centre	Nov. 1984	Dec. 1984	Jan. 1985	Bangalore	649	648	648	Coonoor	650	664	670
Andhra Pradesh				Chikamagalur	598	590	595	Madurai	639	638	631
Gudur	540	530	531	Kolar G.F.	604	694	593	U.P.			
Guntur	648	635	638	Kerala				Kanpur	574	558	563
Hyderabad	612	603	595	Alleppey	676	659	672	Saharanpur	587	582	585
Assam				Alwaye	638	637	643	Varanasi	677	661	657
Digboi	588	583	578	Mundakayam	589	588	606	West Bengal			
Doom Dooma	485	473	468	Madhya Pradesh				Asansol	590	576	581
Labac	447	465	478	Balaghat	615	607	592	Calcutta	599	577	574
Mariani	517	512	513	Bhopal	629	625	623	Darjeeling	501	489	482
Rangapara	535	510	497	Gwalior	593	584	582	Howrah	549	538	529
Bihar				Indore	609	606	608	Jalpaiguri	498	485	481
Jamshedpur	542	529	525	Maharashtra				Raniganj	530	511	504
Jharia	536	521	515	Bombay	618	612	613	Delhi Territory	605	598	600
Kodarma	595	584	581	Nagpur	614	614	610	Other Centres			
Monghyr	593	581	587	Sholapur	623	625	623	Berhampur ('49)	901	861	847
Noamundi	528	523	518	Orissa				Cuttack ('49)	765	792	786
Gujarat				Barbil	552	552	552	Jabalpur ('49)	781	772	774
Ahmedabad	580	573	572	Sambalpur	608	598	593	Beawar ('51-52)	670	681	689
Bhavanagar	588	593	588	Punjab				Tripura ('61)	521	527	541
Haryana				Amritsar	588	580	586	H.P. ('65)	425	425	427
Yamunanagar	585	578	581	Rajasthan				Goa ('66)	436	438	441
J. & K.				Ajmer	584	581	580	Bhilai ('66)	399	394	397
Srinagar	638	611	613	Jaipur	607	601	609	Bhilwara ('66)	340	343	346
Karnataka				Tamil Nadu				Chhindwara ('66)	309	310	309
Ammathi	619	612	607	Madras	592	593	595	Kothagudem ('66)	395	392	394
				Coimbatore	626	639	641	Rourkela ('66)	394	390	386
								All India ('60)	595	588	588

(Figures in bracket indicate base year)

CITU Secretariat Decisions

- * **Public Sector Employees Meeting at Bangalore on May 27-28, 1985 to Review the Situation and Draw Further Programmes.**
- * **Working Committee Meeting at Trivandrum on 31 May — 2 June, 1985 to Consider Further Movement in the Context of Policy Change by the Government.**
- * **Protest Against Exclusion from Tripartite Bodies.**

THE Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) Secretariat met at 6, Talkatora Road, on 19th April, 1985 under the Presidentship of Comrade B.T. Ranadive, President, CITU. Other members who were present were Comrades Samar Mukherjee, E. Balanandan, Nrisingha Chakrabarty and P.K. Ganguly.

The meeting reviewed the growing bonds of international relations of CITU. It noted that despite some shortcomings the general outcome of the visit of the Soviet Delegation at CITU's invitation was good. The Secretariat decided to accept the invitations of both the Confederation General of Italian Labour (CGIL) to attend their XIth Congress and also from All China Federation of Trade Unions to send a delegation of 5 to 7 comrades in second or third quarter of this year. The names of the delegation are to be fixed after consultation in the Working Committee.

The Secretariat recorded its strong protest against the exclusion of CITU from various statutory bodies and Committees. The fact that the CITU has maintained a principled stand in regard to verification of membership of Central Trade Union Organisations and did not take part in the verification in 1980, should not be considered as its weakness. The Secretariat wanted to remind the Govt. of India that exclusion of CITU is incompatible with the underlying theme of workers participation in management without which well being of the industries would be at stake. For example, can any problem in the Jute industry be solved without the concurrence and active participation of CITU? The Secretariat demanded that the policy of exclusion should be changed.

The Secretariat noted that the E.S.I. (Amendment) Act 1984 was enacted without prior consultation with the organised labour and the contributions have been increased unilaterally while the benefits have been reduced. It decided to refer the issue to the Working Committee for a discussion and further action.

The Secretariat noted the developments about the holding of a meeting of the public sector employees at Bangalore on the 27th and 28th May, '85. In the background of the attempt to scuttle the public sector, the meeting should review our work and decide the future course of actions. The Secretariat has noted the circumstances under which the revision of D.A. neutralisation rates to Rs. 1.65p per point had come about. It was noted that the central T.Us could break the BPE's resistance on the D.A issue.

While the general situation will be tackled in this meeting, the problem of Calcutta Port should be discussed in the Working Committee meeting of CITU.

The Secretariat has finally decided that a meeting of the Working Committee will be held at Trivandrum on 31st May — 2nd June '85 to review the present situation of Industrial relation, growing incidence of industrial sickness and refusal to nationalise, the policy of liberalisation of imports, concessions to the monopolies and multinationals and take concrete decisions.

The Secretariat meeting heard the report about preparation of the Seminar on Bhopal Gas tragedy to be held at New Delhi on 24th May 1985 and decided the composition of CITU delegation.

Communal Harmony Week in Punjab

THE Punjab State Committee of CITU organised Communal Harmony week from 15th to 21st April throughout the state by holding rallies and processions in Amritsar, Rajpura, Sangrur, Chandigarh, Abohar and other centres. In these rallies the CITU criticised the role of the Central Govt. and the Akali leadership in their failure to find out political solution to the problems. The rallies pointed out that the working conditions came under attack by the employers taking advantage of the presence of army and para military forces. In several instances special courts were used to suppress legitimate struggles of the workers. The speakers in the rallies condemned the extremists for helping the imperialist and divisive forces. The rallies appealed to all the trade unions and democratic forces in the state to maintain communal harmony so that the problems of Punjab can be settled amicably to the benefit of all the communities in the state. Among those who addressed these rallies were M.K. Pandhe, Mangat Ram Pasla, Bhag Singh Sajjan and Balwant Singh.

Strike in Bokaro Blast Furnace

THE workers in Blast Furnace of Bokaro Steel Plant downed their tools on 8th April in support of the demand for revision of incentive scheme, promotion policies and other pending issues. The local BJP leadership tried to make a political capital out of the strike and use the issue during the election campaign. This created difficulties in building unity of the workers. Bokaro Steel Mazdoor Union (CITU) organised a mass rally of the Steel workers at Vaishali Mode on 11th April which was addressed by M.K. Pandhe, Chandi Prasad, Yadav Prasad and others. The CITU called upon all the workers to maintain unity and not to allow the vested interests to make political capital out of their genuine demands. It criticised the SAIL management for its failure to revise the incentive scheme despite its commitment to the workers.

CITU Supports Struggle of Polisario Front

(Following an appeal by Union General De Trabajadores through the Asia Oceania Department of the Polisario Front, CITU extended support to the struggle. The correspondence is published hereunder.)

Frente Popular
Para La Liberacion
DE Saguia Elhamra and Rio DE Oro
Asia Oceania Department
Ref. nr.003/D.A.O/85

20 February 1985

The Asia-Oceania Department of the POLISARIO FRONT presents to your organisation its salutations and has the pleasure to send to it, herewith, the statement issued by the National Secretariat of the General Union of Workers of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro. (U.G.T. SA.RI.O), at the end of its meeting on 23 December 1984.

The U.G.T. SA. RI. O wishes to maintain and develop relations with all the Trade Unions of the world and so request you to send her all informations available about your organisation.

The Asia-Oceania Department avails itself of this opportunity to express to you its best wishes.

Asia Oceania Department of
The Polisario Front

Union General De Trabajadores
DE Saguia Hamra Rio De Oro
U.G.T. SA.RI. O

STATEMENT

The National Secretariat of the General Union of Workers of Saguia EL Hamra and Rio de Oro (U.G.T. SA. RI.O) met on 23 December 1984 under the Chairmanship of brother Bachir Mustapha Sayed, member of the Executive Committee and Head of the Permanent Secretariat of the POLISARIO FRONT Polit Bureau.

This meeting, attended by Abeida Cheikh and Mustapha Bouch, members of the POLISARIO FRONT Polit Bureau, was held in the framework of series of meetings held by the Sahrawi mass organisations in this decisive stage of our peoples liberation war during which our heroic popular Liberation Army entered the Second phase of its "Great Maghreb offensive", by completely destroying the "myth" of Hassan II's walls.

On this occasion, the U.G.T. SA. RI.O Secretariat paid tribute to the valiant combatants of the Sahrawi Popular Liberation Army, the artisans of our peoples glorious epics. and congratulated our people for the historic victories achieved in their national liberation struggle, coronated on the international level by the admission of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic to the Organisation of African

Unity, the numerous recognitions of our State, and the last resolution of the U.N.O. General Assembly. These victories conscreated the legitimacy of our people's struggle and the great isolation of the Moroccan agressor regime.

The National Secretariat strongly condemned the Moroccan military adventure which consists of the war escalate through the building of new defensive belts, just as much as it denounced also the savage repression practiced by Hassan II's terror regime in the occupied zones against our populations who are opposing, with force and heroism, the Moroccan occupation.

The U.G.T. SA. RI. O National Secretariat saluted the opporessed Moroccan People's insurrection—the working class at the head — against the throne of exploitation and corruption which has sold Moroccan territory to foreign monopolies, and by transforming it in intervention and aggression bases against Peoples and place for sonism and treason to the Arabs.

In this historic stage of our People's struggle, the U.G.T. SA. RI. O National Secretariat appeal to all Trade Unions of the world to support our people in their legitimate struggle against injustice and occupation forces.

March 18, 1985

Reply by CITU

Department Relations Exterieures
U.G.T. S.A. RI. O
B.P. 10—El-Mouradia
Alger (Algerie)

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) is happy to receive your communication No. nr. 003/D.A.O./85 dated 20th February 1985.

It would be a pleasure to establish friendly relations with the working class of the POLISARIO FRONT who are engaged in struggle for liberation of their country.

The CITU supports the cause for which the POLISARIO FRONT is fighting and salutes the struggling people. The CITU firmly believes that the friendly relations so established would develop into a firm friendship very soon. The CITU would be pleased to send all available information about our organisation. The name of the DEPARTMENT RELATIONS EXTERIEURES has been taken on our mailing list and our publications shall be sent to you in due course every month.

The CITU wishes success of your revolutionary struggle for liberation.

With greetings,

SAMAR MUKHERJEE
General Secretary

Achievement of Higher DA by Public Sector Employees

THE united movement of 2 million public sector employees has ultimately succeeded in forcing the Government of India to pay Rs. 1.65 per point rise in Consumer Price Index Numbers. Earlier the Tripartite Committee on DA for Public Sector Undertakings could not come to any conclusion on the rate of DA due to the opposition of the Director General of the Bureau of Public Enterprises to accept anything beyond Rs. 1.50 per point offered by the Government.

After the breakdown of talks the representatives of the trade unions on the Committee withdrew their earlier proposal of Rs. 1.75 per point and stated that they would be free to press for the demand of Rs. 2 per point. The National Campaign Committee gave a call for observation of an All India Protest Day on 25th April to raise the voice of public sector employees against the obdurate attitude of the Government of India.

The INTUC leadership was not prepared to join the United movement, but it agreed to support the demands of the workers from outside. Thus a complete unity of the entire workers in public sector was built against the Government's paltry offer of Rs. 1.50 per point.

Though the DA Committee met 12 times the Government representatives were harping on their earlier offer with the result that the workers' representatives were left with no other alternative but to press for ending the work of the DA Committee.

The public sector employees were preparing for one day strike to press for higher rate of DA. Several unions suggested that the National Campaign Committee should give such a call.

Seeing the mounting discontent among the public sector employees the Union Finance Minister V.P. Singh agreed to the following:

1. The rate of DA will be raised to Rs. 1.65 instead of Rs. 1.30.

2. The date of effect of the proposal would be from 1st April, 1985.

The proposal would mean that the workers in public sector would get upto 492 Consumer Price Index Number Rs. 1.30 DA point while they would start getting Rs. 1.65 from that index onwards. The Finance Minister announced the decision of the Govt. in Lok Sabha on 12th April.

The Finance Minister proposed that half the payment of arrears would be paid immediately while the other half will be paid after one year with 12 per cent interest.

The DA settlement is another significant achievement of public sector employees. This gain would not have been possible without the remarkable unity and determination to fight as shown by the public sector employees.

When the Finance Minister referred to the bad

performance of the public sector undertakings the trade union representatives pointed out the commitment of Pranab Mukherjee, former Minister of Finance that a bipartite committee would be constituted to monitor the working of the public sector undertakings. V.P. Singh assured that such a Committee would be formed without any further delay.

The Public Sector Employees movement has to consolidate the gains achieved by them and take up the issues about the malpractices prevalent in the public sector undertakings so that their performance can be improved.

Czechoslovakian TU delegates visit CITU

A delegation of the Central Council of Trade Unions of Czechoslovakia (URO) visited the Central office of CITU on April 1. The delegation consisted of Com. Vaclav Bezel, Vice President; Com. Vilian Kozik, Secretary, Foreign Affairs; Com. Eva Stroupova, member of International Department and Com. Lubos Interpretor. Accompanying the delegates was Com. Vladimir Konicek, Third Secretary of the Embassy of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic in India. The delegation was received by Sushila Gopalan, Vice-President, Nrisingha Chakraborty, P.K. Ganguly, Secretaries and Vimal Ranadive, Working Committee Member of CITU. The leadership of the two organisations expressed the resolve to strengthen their fraternal bond and extend cooperation to develop the struggle for peace against the war preparations by world imperialism headed by USA.

Bangladesh Farm Labour Leader Visits CITU

Com. Nurul Anowar, General Secretary of Bangladesh Farm Labour Federation visited CITU Office on April 20. P.K. Ganguly, Secretary, CITU and Kanai Banerjee received him and discussed wide ranging issues concerning the workers, peasantry and agricultural workers. They agreed to exchange journals and resolved to strengthen the bond of fraternity between the two organisations.

CITU Nomination

V.V. Sachindran, General Secretary, Kerala Fisherman Workers' Federation has been nominated to represent CITU in the Study Group on Fishermen formed by the Government of India.

CITU Denounces Joint US-Korea Manoeuvres Against DPRK

Responding to the appeal made by the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, Pyongyang, the CITU denounced the joint military exercises by USA and South Korea. CITU's letter and the reply are as under:

The Ambassador
Embassy of U.S.A. in India
Shanti Path
Chanakyapuri
New Delhi-110001

13 February, 1985

Sir,

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions strongly condemns the action of the Government of United States of America which along with the Government of South Korea has launched from 1st February, 1985 for 70 days joint military exercises "Team Spirit 85" with mobilisation of large forces of over 2,00,000 strong and sophisticated weapons of mass destruction. In these exercises the U.S. troops in South Korea and Pacific Region are being extensively deployed, thus directly threatening the people in the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea.

This military provocation is being resorted to at a time when the Government of Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea has proposed holding of tripartite talks between DPR of Korea, the United States and South Korea so that peaceful national unification could be achieved. Instead of accepting these reasonable proposal the Government of U.S.A. has resorted to such military exercises which would only increase the tension in the region.

We firmly believe that peaceful unification of Korea is in the interest of the entire people of Korea. However the military occupation of Korea is coming in the way of any fruitful negotiations for settlement of this longstanding problem.

While denouncing the U.S.A. and Korean joint military exercise, "Team Spirit 85" we demand that these exercises should be withdrawn forthwith and the Government of U.S. should positively respond to the just proposals of President Kim IL Sung for peaceful reunification of Korea which remained divided for over 40 years due to the imperialist policies pursued by the Government of U.S.A.

We hope you would convey our views to the Government of U.S.A.

Yours Fraternally,
M.K. Pandhe
Secretary

Reply dated 14th March '85 from the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, Pyongyang, DPRK

Dear Comrade,

We express our deep thanks to the Centre of Indian Trade Unions and to all members for the letter of solidarity with our people condemning the reckless joint military rehearsal "Team Spirit 85" being held by the U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppet clique.

Your international solidarity encourages our people who are struggling against the new war manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppet clique, for accelerating the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

We hope that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two organisations will become closer on the basis of the idea of independence, friendship and peace.

We sincerely wish you great successes in your just struggle for anti-imperialists, defending peace and defending the members' rights and benefit.

Sending Friendly Regards

SEMINAR ON BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY

Sponsored by the Central Trade Unions, the Seminar on the Bhopal Gas Tragedy will be held at Constitution Club, V.P. House, New Delhi on 24th May, 1985. The seminar will be participated by various Scientific Workers' Organisations and national federations. The national federations are to contribute Rs. 200/- each. The quota of delegates, the delegate fee and the subject matters of the papers are as follows:

Central Trade Unions	: 10 delegates each.
National Federations	: 3 delegates each.
Scientific Workers' Organisations	: 5 delegates each.
Delegate fee	Rs. 10/-per delegate.

Papers to be submitted on:

Report on Bhopal and the aftermath; Industrial and Public Safety; Occupational Health and Diseases. Legal aspects of the gas leak and Role of the multinationals.

All National Federations wishing to participate in the Seminar are requested to send the names of their delegates along with the contribution to the Central Office of CITU immediately along with the papers to be submitted if any.

International Struggles

United States

The Reagan administration has mounted up its open war against the trade unions and is utilising all means to bring the trade union leaders and the movement as a whole to its knees. Recently the US Government has taken a wide range of victimisation measures against the trade union leaders. Letters have been issued to the President of Federal Employees Union (1.3 million members), President of Postal Workers' Union and President, Postal Delivery Union, which read, "We have learned that you took part in the 1983-84 electoral campaign by support-

Bolivia

Bolivia was paralysed by a 16-day strike called by the Bolivian Workers' Centre (COB) on March 8. The strike was called in sympathy with the striking miners. About 15,000 miners arrived at La Paz to stage a demonstration. Negotiations between the COB leaders and the Government could not get off the ground as the extreme left COB leaders insisted on the Bolivian President's resignation and rejected the Government's offer. The strikers started to put up barricades in La Paz. However, 22 of the COB's 28 organisations voted to accept the Government's offer on March 23, when the COB called an end

Malpractices of Union Carbide

* This TNC, Union Carbide, through its negligence, was responsible for the death of over 2,500 people in Bhopal, India.

* The attitude of this US giant TNC can be described as "Let's get together and dampen down the call for a big public trial".

* The multinational believes that "an amicable settlement with the victims would be the best way of offering them compensation". Amicable indeed ... with over 2,500 dead and thousands of other victims.

* Union Carbide has started this manoeuvre in response to the Indian government's announcement that it intends to take the company to the US courts in an attempt to gain higher compensation for the victims in India.

* In Colombia, this company intends to break up its staff's collective agreement rather than negotiate with the trade union over a claims and demands platform dealing with health, housing, education and wages.

* In its battery plant in Kenya, Union Carbide has dismissed 282 out of 313 hourly paid staff because they refused to punch their time cards.

* In the United States, Union Carbide has been fined 3.9 million dollars for not telling the Environmental Protection Agency about the risks of diethyl sulphate for 4 years.

* In France, following an inquiry by the Atomic Energy Commission, it has been stated that an identical accident to the one in Bhopal could well take place during transportation of such products. Union Carbide management have not been very helpful to the Atomic Energy Commission during its inquiry. In the report submitted, several recommendations were made. But Union Carbide, in its quest for profits, judges them to be too costly.

* With increasing malpractices of this TNC, it is vital, for the trade unionist in the same TNC to get to know each other, send each other information and join efforts to have their demands met and halt the misdemeanours of the TNC. This is along the lines of the action of the WFTU Transnationals Commission and the Chemical TUI which are working together on the problems of safety at work and solidarity in struggles.

(Quoted from Flashes, March 29)

ing Democratic candidate Walter Mondale against the reelection of Republican Party candidate Ronald Reagan. Such behaviour is considered illegal. If you do not wish us to bring charges against you, you must retire before February 26th this year". These trade union leaders are being victimised purely and simply for having criticised various aspects of Ronald Reagan's policies. Commenting on the anti-democratic nature of these official letters, the President of the Postal Workers' Union said that the threatened charges, set up by the Reagan administration were the widespread attack on US trade union

to the strike.

Pakistan

Thousands of railway workers of Pakistan participated in a big demonstration at Lahore on February 22 demanding wage increases and restoration of democracy and peace. They condemned the railway management for ignoring the demands of the railway workers and demanded of the military ruler to release all political leaders arrested during the recent protest campaign and urged upon the various trade unions to give impetus to the struggle for restoration of democracy in the country.

Scotland

The Scottish TUC has called on all its affiliated unions to join the campaign for the reinstatement of all miners sacked during the year-long strike. A circular from the general council informs the unions that Scottish National Coal Board boss Albert Wheeler has "categorically refused" to consider each sacking case on its merits. STUC General Secretary Jimmy Milne adds: "This is obviously not acceptable to the NUM or to the miners, and represents total contempt of standard industrial relations. The general council believe that the opportunity should be available to all miners to resume work". A shop stewards' conference in Glasgow earlier this week resolved to take up the re-instatement campaign at workplaces throughout Scotland. Sacked miners will be invited to address workplace mass meetings. The 205 dismissed Scottish miners were in the forefront of a mighty rally on their behalf, assembling in Glasgow on March 17. Over 3,000 trade unionists rallying in George Square demanded an end to the oppression of sacked Scottish miners.

Lebanon

625 delegates, representing 252 political, trade union, popular, cultural, youth and women's organisations, as well as dozens of political figures, M.P.s and leaders of political parties and patriotic movements met on February 17 in Beirut in a National Conference to draw up a platform of struggle against the high cost of living and the monopolies. Held on the initiative of the National Federation of Lebanese Workers' and Employees' Unions (FENASOL), following the partial Israeli withdrawal from Sidon and the surrounding area brought about by the heroic struggle of the Lebanese National Resistance Front, this meeting was one of the largest democratic demonstrations in the history of Lebanon. It also reflected the development of the people's awareness, the nature of the social struggle and its tight interlinkage with the national struggle for the liberation of Lebanon and for democratic, political, economic and social reforms. A broad-based Preparatory Committee, comprising various political forces and trade union and democratic organisations waged an intense battle beforehand to prepare the Conference at regional and industrial level. In the majority of towns urban districts, villages and regions, huge popular assemblies were held to outline a plan of action and mobilize the broad masses around major claims and demands, elect representatives to the Conference and set up local coordination committees. The socio-economic crisis especially worsened following the Israeli invasion in 1982. Its consequences have been disastrous on the Lebanese economy and its infrastructure. The intervention by the USA and its imperialist allies, plus their destabilising policy, have put the finishing touches to the invasion. The government's policy, especially before the annulment of the May 17th Agreement and the withdrawal of marines sent in by the USA and its Western allies, have contributed to a worsening in the economic situation. The financial oligarchy and employers are making the workers bear the brunt of

these consequences and are seeking at the same time to take advantage of the situation to contain and finally destroy the trade union movement and the workers' gains.

In the face of this policy, which runs not only against the workers' interests but those of the majority of social sectors and threatens the very recovery of the country itself, the popular movement made aware of the situation by the trade unions and progressive forces is becoming much stronger. The Committee elected by the Conference decided upon a mass demonstration on March 26 and gave the government time until April 6 to meet the demands made, especially the rescinding of monopoly rights enshrined in Article 34, effective control over the country's ports and the importing of medicines and staple goods such as sugar, rice, oils, milk, etc. by the public sector and the cooperatives, plus a 25.8 per cent pay rise to be back-dated from the beginning of 1984. The workers and people of Lebanon, who are waging a struggle to free their country and foment its democratic development, independence and unity, are being spurred on by the international solidarity being increasingly projected to them.

Youth Unemployment in Western Europe

(Unemployed young people under 25 years of age as percentage of total unemployment)

FRG	23.4%
France	39.5%
Italy	47.4%
Holland	38.2%
Belgium	36.0%
Luxemburg	43.2%
Great Britain	37.6%
Ireland	29.9%
Denmark	29.0%

Philippines

On February 22, the Philippines Day of Action Against Imperialism, big rallies were held in front of the United States Embassy and of the US military bases in Manila and other cities in the Philippines. Filipino workers, students and young people participated in these rallies. They demanded of the United States to stop their interference in the internal affairs of the Philippines and dismantle all US military bases in their country.

Iceland

5,000 Iceland fishermen who were on strike for 7 weeks to demand wage rises, went back to work on March 5 after obtaining a 40 per cent wage increase from the Shipowners' Federation. The government has granted the fishermen various tax benefits. If the strike brought the fishing industry, which now assures 76 per cent of the island's export, to a standstill.