

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS
WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING
NEW DELHI - APRIL 24-26, 1972

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CIRCULAR NO . 5/72

25th March, 1972.

TO ALL WORKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Re : Meeting of the working Committee.

Dear Comrades,

A meeting of the Working Committee of the CITU will be held in New Delhi on 24th, 25th and 26th of April, 1972 to consider the following agenda :

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the last meeting of the Working Committee held at Coimbatore on June 10, 1971.
2. Report by Com. B.T. Ranadive, President, CITU on present political and economic situation.
3. Report by General Secretary Com. P. Ramamurti on the activities of the CITU since the meeting of the General Council held at Coimbatore.
4. Report on the CITU journal The Working Class and the CITU publications.
5. Report on West Bengal situation and tasks of the working class.
6. Proposal to hold the First Biennial Conference of the CITU .
7. Consideration of new applications for affiliation to the CITU.
8. Functioning of the U.P. State Committee of the CITU.
9. Statement of Accounts for the year 1971.
10. Resolutions .
11. Any ~~extra~~ other subject with the permission of the Chair.

All comrades are requested to intimate the date and time of their arrival to :

Com. T. M. Nagarajan, General Secretary,
Delhi State Committee of CITU,
C/o 4, Ashok Road, New Delhi - 1.

Comrades should note that they will have to bear the expenses of food during the meeting. Comrades who want to reserve their tickets for the return journey are requested to remit the money in advance on the above address along with the details of the reservation.

Comrades who desire to sent draft of resolutions for consideration of the Working Committee are requested to send them to the Centre so as to reach Calcutta not later than 15th April 1972.
With Greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Sd/- M.K. Pandhe
Secretary

N.B.

The meeting will begin at 9.00 A.M. on 24th March 1972. Comrades should reach New Delhi well in advance so as to enable them to attend the meeting in time .

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING - NEW DELHI - 24-26th April, 1972

24th April, 1972.

Opening speech of Com.B.T.Ranadive at the
Working Committee meeting held on 24-26th
April, 1972 at New Delhi.

Comrades,

Nearly a year has passed since we met in Coimbatore last June. Since then quick political and economic developments have taken place in our country. The most challenging development is in relation to our trade unions in W.Bengal. Our organisations, our workers, and leaders there are under constant semi-fascist attacks, leading to assaults, arson and murder. Comrades, let us all remember the heroic comrades who have fallen victims to the assassin's dagger, among them is our beloved comrade of the General Council, Comrade Sunil Sen.

Their memory will remain ever green in our minds and inspire us to defend the trade union movement and serve the working class.

Before I turn to the internal developments, let us all remember that on the eve of the May Day the working class sees the forces of the Vietnamese people advancing rapidly despite the monstrous and barbarous bombing by the American imperialists. The entire peoples of the world await with bated breath the outcome of this mighty struggle which is being waged for the freedom of the Asian people, in fact for the freedom of all peoples. The working class of India hails this new advance of the Vietnamese struggle and is conscious that in fighting the American imperialists the Vietnamese forces of liberation are fighting the battle against the common enemy, American imperialism who only a few months back threatened India with its Seventh Fleet.

It is however, a matter of deep regret that even at this crucial hour the entire Socialist Camp and especially the two great Socialist countries and their Communist Parties are still unable to unite and put their joint might in support of this historic struggle. The working class deeply sympathetic with the struggle of the Vietnamese people, must ceaselessly endeavour to see that the Socialist camp stands united behind one of the greatest struggle in human history, and take positive steps to ensure its victory.

The working class of India must express its united will to support the people of Vietnam and denounce the American aggression. I think a call must be issued by your organisation to all other central organisations to observe a common Vietnam Day and express the solidarity of India's working class with the fighting people of Vietnam.

May their heroism and sacrifice be crowned with the ultimate triumph - cleansing their soil of the filthy American aggressors!

The Bangla Dosh struggle

Last year witnessed a number of important changes not only in the world but also in the Indian Sub-Continent.

It saw the arrogance of the aggressive American imperialists who are more than ever determined to dominate the Indian Ocean and create a threat for India. It witnessed the American Seventh Fleet coming very near intervening in the Bangla Desh struggle to enslave the people of Bangla Desh and to intimidate the people of India.

The Indian people were kept in ignorance about the real role of the American imperialists by the ruling Congress and the Govt. The intervention of American imperialism in the Indian Sub-Continent with its open help to the martial law regime in Pakistan in the Indo-Pak War and its threat of intervention in Bangla Desh directly followed from its aim of domination of Asia. But the Indian people had never seen it in such a naked form.

In spite of the military help given by the USA to the Pakistani regime and in spite of one of the most brutal massacres of recent times, the Bangla Desh people won their freedom, broke up the British created Pakistan and inflicted a defeat on American imperialism in the Sub-Continent. This was done with the help of the Indian people, with the intervention of the Indian Army and with the support of the Soviet Union. This really constitutes an outstanding development of the last year for the people of India and for the working class of India.

The CITU salutes the people and working class of Bangla Desh and fervently hopes they will unitedly march to further victories.

But the struggle in Bangla Desh is still in a critical condition. Only the first phase has ended with the rout of Pakistani forces but the American agents and counter-revolutionary army bands, former collaborators, are still undermining the freedom of the Bangla Desh people. The ruling elements there pursue policies which hamper the growth and the democratic initiatives of the masses, the workers, the peasants, the students, who alone can ensure final victory for the struggle. The Govt. of India pursues narrow ends. There is a danger that the sacrifice and martyrdom of the Bangla Desh people, notwithstanding, the struggle might be compromised and the people deprived of the final advance to freedom and democracy.

It will be a fatal blunder for the working class of India to be indifferent to the outcome of the struggle in Bangla Desh. Any set-back there will be a set-back for our movement here. The working class of India with its international outlook must consider the advance of the Bangla Desh workers as one more step in the advance of the forces of people's democracy and Socialism in the Sub-Continent.

Solidarity with workers of Pakistan

It is equally important for the working class of India to contribute its best to promote an understanding between the people of India and the people of Pakistan as well as to help in every possible way the advance of the democratic forces and the working class in Pakistan. The American imperialists have profited from the animosities created by the reactionary ruling classes of Pakistan to continue their game of making Asians fight Asians. The anti-Indian and anti-Pakistani feelings have helped neither people. On the other hand, they have helped the Pakistani rulers to smother the democratic aspirations of the working class and the people of Pakistan. Every step

forward of the democratic movement, there, every step forward in the mutual understanding between the working class of India and Pakistan helps the cause of democracy and socialism in the Sub-Continent, including the cause of the working class and people of Pakistan. After the Indo-Pak war, to promote this understanding, to fight the designs of reactionaries, to do everything to ensure the success of the Bangladesh people, have become the international responsibilities of the working class of India which it has to discharge if it seeks to remain as a part of the world working class movement.

Terror in West Bengal.

The most outstanding development in India since the last May Day has been the spread of the semi-fascist terror in West Bengal, the invasion of trade union offices by Congress-hired goonda gangs, the attacks of the goondas on the working class localities, the loot, arson and rape under the Congress regime. The Congress regime which everywhere boasts its loyalty to parliamentary democracy has bared its semi-fascist monstrous face in West Bengal confirming the Marxist truth that the capitalist landlord classes throw all democratic norms to the wind, the moment they go against their interests. This semi-fascist terror in West Bengal has been there now for the last two years. It has already claimed the lives of more than 650 of our comrades who have been butchered at the hands of the gangsters, or fallen victims to police bullets. It has also seen a number of rapes on women some of whom are active workers in the democratic movement and it is now witnessing, after the last election, invasion of factories by goondas who intimidate the workers to join the INTUC. In some of the biggest factories it has become difficult for the entire active cadres of unions and party to enter the factory to do their daily jobs. More than three hundred trade union offices of unions belonging to the CITU, the two UTUCs and other organisations have been occupied by police protected hirelings. The office of Sen-Raleigh Employees' Union is an among those occupied by them. In large areas, no meeting can be held, no trade union office can be opened and no known trade union worker can either go to his factory or live in his locality. In the period before and after the elections, nearly 40,000 people have had to leave their residences because of the regular and systematic attack of goondas in the entire locality. Those who had to go away from their residences include the most prominent leaders of the workers, and trade unions, central and State Government employees, leaders of Life Insurance employees, leaders of students' organisations and women workers, teachers and professors.

This spells a great danger for the democratic movement in India and a great danger for the working class. These developments show that the ruling classes of India afraid of the growing strength of the Left. forces have started in West Bengal subverting parliamentary elections and that they are establishing a trend towards one party dictatorship, a trend which threatens the existence of other democratic parties also. The logical outcome of this trend is the virtual illegalisation of the trade union movement and the terror that is unleashed. The working class and the people of India must defeat this trend and the line pursued in West Bengal before it becomes a danger to the other States.

The entire bourgeois press is concealing the barbarities and cruelties perpetrated in W. Bengal and obstructing the fight against them. It-for the working class of India /is to carry on campaign in defence of our W. Bengal comrades in defence of the W. Bengal trade union movement and in defence of the democratic movement in the whole of India.

Our task is difficult because the party which is launching these attacks in W. Bengal not only controls the big newspapers; it also has been returned in large majorities to the Assemblies in various States. Notwithstanding its influence and capacity to mislead wide sections all our unions, every member of union must gird up his loins to enlighten the working Class and rouse its anger against the repression in W. Bengal.

A reactionary role.

Comrades, one cannot mention without anger and indignation the role played by some leaders of the INTUC and the AITUC in W. Bengal. When the workers, our unions are under this inhuman attack, there is no protest, no solidarity, no sympathy from them. On the other hand, they do everything to screen the Congress crimes and slander the attacked workers. Some of them are openly helping the goondas.

But the hirelings seek to make a thorough sweep and now complaints are coming from some AITUC unions that they are being attacked. Some of them have lodged public protests. This is the shape of things to come. None but a stooge union will be allowed to exist and it is our earbest appeal to the AITUC and all trade union leaders to retrace their steps before it is too late. This is the time to show a common front to the attackers for the very existence of the trade union movement is at stake.

Comrades, last year has again been a year of suffering, and privations for the working class. Last year it will be remembered that the Finance Minister made a claim that the economy was poised for a big advance, our General Secretary's report to the Coimbatore Session refuted this and stated the recession was not lifting.

Events have proved the correctness of our statement and Mr. Chavan had to admit that he was wrong. The deceleratory trend in industrial production became pronounced in the latter half of 1970, i.e. before Mr. Chavan made a claim for economy being poised for a big advance. That period showed a rise of nearly 3 per cent compared to the corresponding period of 1969. And in 1971, i.e. (January/August 1971) the rise in industrial production index was only 2.0 per cent. The rise for the entire financial year 1971/72 is expected to be between 3.5 to 4 percent as compared with 4.8 per cent last year.

Is it not strange that this stagnation in industry should continue despite four successive food harvests? It is not strange if we remember that rural set-up in India which impoverishes the mass of lower sections while making the upper sections the beneficiaries of agricultural advance and good harvests. To quote the economic survey "With successive years of good harvest and an aggregate increase of national income by more than 10 per cent over the preceding two years, it was reasonable to expect a buoyancy in demand of consumer products. Such a denouement has not fully come about. Even though

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per capita income has increased significantly, during recent years, the income elasticities of expenditure for such items as pulses, oils, sugar, tea, etc. seem to be so high that a large part of the increase in income is being siphoned off by these items and little left for pushing up the demand for manufactured products."

Shorn of verniage the above quotation means that the benefits from large harvests was so small so far as the mass of peasants etc. are concerned, that they had hardly enough to satisfy their immediate food demands, leaving very little to be spent for manufactured goods.

Thus the rural set-up of land concentration and semi-feudal relations once again is the cause of industrial stagnation and the working class and the people have to pay a heavy price for the Congress luxury of carrying on the landlords and rural rich on its shoulders. The neglect and indifference to this central question of Indian economy by the trade unions now directly affects the jobs and livelihood of the workers. Both workers and peasants must pay heavily for neglect in building their alliance.

Thanks to this last year saw innumerable closures, lock-outs and throwing out of employment of tens of thousands of workers. In W. Bengal alone those thrown out numbered 140,000. The untold suffering that all this caused, the ruination of many families, the hardships and starvation can only be realised by those who have to go through them.

At the beginning of the last year itself the total number of factories closed were as high as 2,436. Since then some may have opened but the situation continues to be grave for the workers. Factories employing thousands have remained closed for more than a year. The workers unprovided with any employment benefit are forced to shift for themselves. So far as the Cotton Textile Mills are concerned the situation continues to deteriorate throughout the year. In 1970, the number of mills closed was 48. By March 1971, it rose to 52; by June to 67 and in August it was as high as 64.

Shady methods

The unscrupulous methods adopted by the Congress Govt. with its talk of Socialism and garibi hatao must be noted. The employers were allowed to indulge in prolonged lock-outs and closures with complete impunity. Not only no action was taken against them but they were helped by slanderous propaganda that labour troubles were at the root of these closures. It is only of late that the Govt. is talking of restricting the employers' right of closure though all this is just to fool the workers.

When the workers agitated for the re-opening of the factories, the Govt. did not hesitate to exploit their plight to thrust wage cuts, cut in dearness allowance and deprivation of all rights under labour legislation. The Maharashtra and the DMK Govts. put these unscrupulous conditions on the statute book, enabling the Govt. when it took over closed factories to deny the workers the right of provident fund, D.A. etc. Recently the Central Act followed these provisions closely and the W. Bengal Govt. helped the same employers of textile mills to push down wage cuts and workload on the workers.

Every effort is made to pass on the burdens of the crisis to the workers. Every means which is paraded as intended for giving relief to the workers in reality is one which deprives them of some rights.

There are many other methods adopted by the Govt. to cheat the workers. It must be stated that the trade union movement does not show the required vigilance to react to these and scotch the mischief at the start. The heavy taxation of the Govt., the deficit financing, the spiralling prices all make living costlier day by day. But the cost of living index prepared officially was frozen for months to deprive the workers of additional dearness allowance. Between December 1970 and June 1971 the working class consumer price index number base 1960 was virtually frozen. It was 186 in January, by Oct. it was only 196. This is nothing but a fraudulent manipulation of the index number to suit the needs of the employing class and effect a cut in real wages. It is on the basis of this manipulation that cuts in D.A. have been effected, notably a cut of over Rs.9 for the 2½ lakhs of jute workers of W.Bengal. But it was perhaps left to the Madras State officials to break all records and rig the index number openly and in the most blatant manner. It seems ... that according to the official calculation the cost of living is going down rapidly notwithstanding the rise in prices. It is but proper that all trade unions have protested against the robbery of the workers.

The pilfering of the provident Fund, the enactment of the ESI benefits, the use of contract labour to avoid D.A., provident fund, etc. are some of the other methods used openly with the connivance of the government to defraud the workers. The misuse of the workers' contributions for their own needs has now become a regular habit with the employers and the Government refuses to prescribe drastic punishment for the offenders.

Recession continues

The year 1972 does not promise to offer any relief to the workers. All the factors operating in the earlier period are operating together with some new factors. It almost seems certain that the small peasant will be once more made the scapegoat of falling prices which might lead to the narrowing of the rural market. The rising foreign debt payments and the present cut-off in American aid creates the necessity for the capitalist and their Govt. to increase exports at competitive prices, at lower prices, i.e. at the expense of the workers, the small producer or people's needs. This foretells of a new attack on the industrial workers who will be asked to accept extra workload without increase in wages.

Moratorium on strikes

It is not surprising, therefore, that such slogans as moratorium on strikes for three years have been raised in the most authoritarian quarters. Though under pressure of trade union opinion they have been repudiated, still back-stage intrigues and exchanges are going on to put into effect. The consortium of the three trade union organisations which is being knocked together by the Labour Minister is intended to serve this very purpose.

It is not only the need of exports that presages a further attack on the workers in the coming months. In the name of giving a lift to the production, the Govt. is making further concessions to the monopolists. There is the proposal to have a joint sector of Govt. and monopolists; there is a proposal to allow the monopolists to expand their production. The fact that the monopolists do not expand production without high profits means that the workers will have to foot the bill.

Besides, in the name of developing backward regions the monopolists are being given concessions to exploit the workers of these regions at the cheapest rate and lower the wage levels in the country. Similarly foreign monopolists are being invited to open their concerns in India promising them cheap labour. The moratorium proposal is to guarantee them uninterrupted supply of labour and big profits. Ministers openly advertise that cheap labour in India is available for exploitation. The excuse is the need to earn foreign exchange. It is to be stipulated that the entire production of these factories will be exported.

Self-Reliance

Comrades, the Govt. and the employers are adept in manufacturing slogans with a patriotic cover to attack the workers and to alienate the sympathy of other democratic sections from them.

During the Indo-Pak War over Bangla Desh they demanded a ban on all strikes in the name of defence, with the name of national defence they smashed a number of strikes. The AITUC, the INTUC and HMS leaders readily join in this game and supported the Govt.

The CITU gave its full support to the war, called upon the workers to contribute their best at the same time, refused to accept the burdens or abjure the right to strike. Now and again in the name of self-reliance the workers' interests are being jeopardised. The words "self-reliance" in the mouth of official spokesmen only mean meeting the shortage in foreign aid by producing surpluses which would place more profits in the hands of the capitalists. There is thus no control of private profits, no limitation, but just producing more surpluses - i.e. only the workers must work more. This is yet another method of making the workers the scapegoat of the situation created by fall in foreign aid and especially due to the cutting off of aid by the arrogant American imperialists. As the Economic Survey puts it "The case of self-reliance should consist of efforts at raising the domestic rate of savings on the one hand and greater imports substitutes and export promotion on the other.."

The working class, the trade union movement and the entire people stand for economic independence from foreign monopolists, from the U.S. imperialists. It is the working class and the common man that have to meet the burden of repayment of foreign debts which today amounts to not less than the annual wage of two million workers. Apart from direct exploitation this dependence creates a danger to our national freedom and sovereignty, placing strategic lever in the hands of USA and foreign monopolists.

How the USA used this stranglehold during the vital days of war over Bangla Desh, is fresh in the memory of everybody. It threatened to paralyse our economy by withholding its so-called 'aid' and even used military pressure.

The slogan of self-sufficiency is mainly by the stopping of American 'aid' and not a new policy of dispensing with loans from all imperialist countries.

The stoppage of American loans creates a difficult situation for Indian economy. The Government wants to belittle it because it wants to conceal from the people the

depth of our dependence on the U.S.A. Twenty percent or more of India's imports have been hitherto financed by U.S. 'aid', which roughly amounted to not less than 40 per cent of all aid secured by the country. It seems that the gap in external assistance would now widen to Rs.850 crores and make it difficult to realise the modified targets of the Fourth Plan.

It is obvious that unless drastic measures are taken the situation cannot be brought under control. Failure to do so will lead to slow down, closures, further unemployment and attacks on the workers and the people.

To feed the industries, foreign exchange must be saved. The biggest source of drain is foreign debt repayments, especially to the USA. These payments now amount to Rs.435 crores, a substantial part going to the USA. Any one who is serious about self-sufficiency, etc. must agree to declare at least a moratorium on all debt payments of the State, at least those of the USA. The moratorium will ease the situation substantially and be a weapon of countering the American threat. It is equally necessary to nationalise all American concerns beginning with the oil companies. The American capital has been earning the highest rate of profit in India, higher than anywhere else and its nationalisation will place substantial funds in the hands of the State.

This is the way in which patriotic initiative for ending dependence on the USA should be taken. But the Govt. has no such intentions. It wants to repay all the obligations and create more surpluses at the expense of the workers.

Needless to say complete independence of our economy cannot be secured without nationalisation of all foreign monopoly concerns, the concerns of Indian monopolists and a radical land reforms, and that it cannot be achieved within the framework of building a capitalist economy.

A question may be asked, Are the American creditors entitled to the repayment of their debts? Do their debts represent the value that they force on us? The Economic Survey is now forced to admit that "loan-financed imports have to be procured in the countries offering loans regardless of price and other conditions," i.e. India was cheated both in regard to prices and the quality of material supplied. And now the workers are asked to reimburse the cheats.

While the working class had warned that loans were an instrument of foreign pressure, the Govt. denied it all these years. Now the Survey has to say "recent developments have made it clear that it is yet another instrument of diplomacy which is liable to be deployed against us at a time of critical need."

Fight for unity

During the last year, the struggle of the working class for united action has secured considerable success in some States. Faced with the growing attacks on their standard of living under the stress of the recession, the mass of workers readily joined in common action and the trade union leaders in many industries and States had to accept the fact. Perhaps in recent times there were not to be

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found so many prolonged and big strikes led jointly by unions belonging to different central organisations between whom there was always a political barrier. Last year is remarkable for the number of common actions in which the CITU, the INTUC and the AITUC unions came together to defend the workers though every one knows that in many questions of policies they can be sharply divided. Equally significant was the united front of the CITU, the AITUC, the HMS and the INTUC and several other federations last May which took a common stand against the Govt.'s anti-labour policy and demanded with one voice recognition of trade unions based on secret ballot of the working class. Following this there were also united observance of days against employers' attacks, against rising prices and the erosion of real wages of the working class. There were also simultaneous actions though not joint in the proper sense of the term on the bonus issue. These have been notable achievements.

But in recent months there is a counter-attack against this growing unity in the ranks of the workers and there is a systematic attempt to isolate the CITU and other left Central Trade Union organisations. The Labour Dept. of the Govt. of India is taking a lead in this and the top leaders of the INTUC, HMS and the AITUC have joined hands to come together and in one way or another undermine the unity that was built in the earlier part of the year. The formation of a joint council by these three organisations, their climb-down on the question of ballot as the basis of trade union recognition, their acceptance of verification as the main basis of recognition, all these point out that a new front of these organisations is being built to fight the militant trend for unity in the trade union movement.

To meet this new move it is more than ever necessary to redouble our efforts to build unity and united actions and fight the disruptive leadership. The working class needs unity more than before as a big offensive is looming ahead and new anti-working class legislation is on the anvil. There is no doubt that the policy of disrupting the ranks of the working class and allying with the ruling party will be disowned by growingly large numbers. The experience of the last year will not be forgotten by the workers.

In W. Bengal, the situation is radically different with goonda attacks on our unions. Even then the fight for united resistance has to be continued in the context of the concrete situation. A remarkable example of our determination to fight for unity is to be seen in the role we are playing in relation to the looming struggle of jute workers of W. Bengal.

Last year has seen a remarkable resistance in the working class in defending its standard of living and advancing new claims. But at the same time, it has also brought to the forefront a problem which confronts the trade union movement as a serious menace to its very existence. The neglect of this problem or a mere superficial recognition of it will spell great danger to the future of trade unions. During the course of last year alone, the registered unemployment in the cities rose by 25%, i.e. 4 to 5 million. Considering that according to official

statistics only 43 to 45% of the city unemployed are registered, the total urban unemployment may easily raise the figure to 10 million. Along with this is of course the mass unemployment in rural areas. It is estimated by well-known economists that in another few years that is less than a decade the figure of unemployed in India will rise to 60 million. It seems in the coming few years almost every child born in the working class family will be stamped with the birth-mark of either a destitute or unemployed.

Face to face with this colossal problem the Govt. has no solution to offer except misleading the people with a few schemes and announcing expenditure of a few crores of rupees. Almost all these schemes relate to the rural areas and will hardly have an impact on the situation there. So far as the cities and industrial areas are concerned, the Govt. cannot boast of any measures except some assurances for re-opening some of the closed factories and that too, on the basis of depriving the workers of all the benefits under the existing law, cutting their dearness allowance and even the basic wage.

The people and the working class are paying heavily for allowing the Congress to impose the capitalist path on India. Unemployment is an inevitable accompaniment of all capitalist societies. America has nearly 6 million unemployed. In England unemployment has reached the highest figure since the war, it exceeded the million mark; several other countries including W. Germany are daily adding to their number of unemployed. Obviously, to end unemployment finally it is necessary to abandon the capitalist path and go over to Socialism which alone as in USSR and China, can put an end to the unemployment problem. This truth has to be mastered by the working class.

The trade union movement has to take up this problem and demand some immediate measures of relief to the unemployed. All the trade unions must come together to demand that a law must be passed ensuring minimum benefits for all those who are ready to work and for whom there is no work. This should include not only the industrial workers, and the rural workers but also the educated unemployed, the clerks, professors, the engineers, all of whom must be provided with unemployment benefit. Secondly, all trade unions and all democratic organisations including the organisation of employees must come together and demand a change in the Constitution providing as one of the fundamental rights the right to work. Also a movement should be launched in various cities, corporations and municipalities to see that they provide immediate relief to the needy unemployed and their families. The success of this movement depends upon the joint efforts of all the trade unions, their central organisations and the mass of workers. All the trade unions have to take up the question because its neglect has already created a dangerous situation. With so many lakhs unemployed and unconnected with the trade union movement, is it possible to defend the standard of living of the workers or to conduct strikes? If the unemployed do not see the trade unions fighting for them are they likely to fight and support the workers when they are on strike? It is very strange that there is hardly one instance in which the organised trade union movement has taken cudgels on behalf of the unemployed. Perhaps, the solitary exception is that of the Coimbatore Textile mill

workers who during their strike championed the demand of the unemployed and forced the Govt. to open some mills. The existence of this mass unemployment has already become a danger to organised trade union activity. Besides, their very frustration is used by the capitalist class, the Govt. and the Congress party to attack the organised trade union movement. This is being strikingly seen in W. Bengal where a section of the unemployed youth acts as goonda gangs of Congress and occupy trade union offices, kill trade union leaders and terrorise workers. This danger in this form was not there before. It is now making its appearance on the Indian scene. One must remember that Hitler used the frustration of the unemployed youth to inflict fascism on Germany. The ruling party is already exploiting the unemployed youth for their own purpose, in W. Bengal. The trade union movement can neglect this question only at its own peril.

There is no doubt that in the coming year the CITU following its policy of forging new alliances with the mass of workers and other organisations, overcoming the resistance of the reformist leaders of various organisations, will succeed in discharging the new responsibilities created by the developments of last year and raise the movement qualitatively to a higher level. Against the terror that is being unleashed against the trade unions in W. Bengal, and the trend towards one party dictatorship, against the rise of semi-fascist tendencies and combatting the problem of unemployment and defending the jobs and livelihood of the workers, the united trade union movement should forge ahead making its contribution to the advance of the democratic movement in India and opening the way to the development of the struggle for Socialism in this country.

Socialism - ours and theirs

Comrades, our movement must take note of the ruling party's cry of Socialism. The ruling party talks of Socialism. But what is working class Socialism? Socialism means the abolition of exploitation of man by man, it means abolition of unemployment and poverty. It can be achieved only under the rule of the working class and the toiling masses, i.e. after the abolition of the capitalist State and capture of political power by the working class. That power is necessary because Socialism cannot be established without abolishing private property in the means of production and distribution, without socialising all the factories and concerns owned by the capitalists and all the means of distribution. Then alone society can be organised on the basis of freedom from exploitation. Socialism is inconsistent with the maintenance of Tatas and Birlas and with the public sector helping them to gather more profits. A Govt. which cannot even nationalise the foreign concerns and the monopolists is cheating the people when it talks of Socialism. It is only maintaining the capitalist structure under the cry of Socialism. It is for our T.U. movement to make the masses realise what exactly Socialism is and how the ruling party's Socialism is just a stunt to defend the present capitalist order..

The destiny of the T.U. movement is to take the working class and the country towards the proletarian

Socialism which really means freedom from unemployment, poverty and exploitation. If the T.U. movement forgets this objective, directs itself only in the channel of daily economic conflicts, it will become a narrow petty sectarian movement unable even to defend its daily interests.

(8)

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING

NEW DELHI 24 -²⁶ APRIL, 1972

Report by Com. P. Ramamurti, General Secretary CITU

Comrades,

After the Coimbatore General Council meeting Com. Sunil Sen, member of the General Council of CITU and a prominent trade union leader of Dum Dum area was shot dead in front of his house and his body was taken away by the gangsters of the Congress (R). The body was found only next day. I pay my homage to the memory of this valient fighter whose indomitable courage had inspired thousands of workers in West Bengal and elsewhere.

I also express my deep felt grief over the untimely death of Com. Rajen Sinha a member of our General Council and prominent trade union leader of plantation workers in North Bengal. Com. Sinha was a tireless worker and extremely popular among the workers.

I further pay my homage to hundreds of heroic workers of the CITU in West Bengal who have courageously faced death at the hands of anti-social elements and police. Their supreme sacrifices have kept the CITU flag flying high despite brutal repression under the Congress (R). Let us also not forget at this time that several of our comrades in West Bengal are either in jails or warrants have been issued against them. I have no doubt that the CITU cadres in West Bengal will face this ordeal bravely and with the solidarity support from the working class and the democratic movements outside Bengal they will come out successfully by overcoming all difficulties facing them.

This raises the question of campaign throughout the country of solidarity with the working class of West Bengal. There is a near-complete blackout in the country about the terror that is unleashed on the fighting workers of West Bengal. In these conditions dissemination of the full facts of this terror among the workers and other democratic sections all over the country and mobilising them against this terror assumes tremendous importance.

We are meeting ten months after the General Council meeting held at Coimbatore from 12th to 14th June 1971. The period is full of important developments in the national and international fields which have far reaching consequences for the working class and democratic movements in our country. Com. B.T. Ranadive has already dealt with these issues in greater detail in his report and hence I do not consider it necessary to refer to them once again during my report. This Report will be in the nature of a work report.

The issues facing the working class were of such importance that a meeting of the Working Committee is extremely necessary. However due to circumstances beyond our control like the Indo-Pakistan War over the question of Bangladesh and Assembly elections we had no other alternative but to postpone the meeting. The office-bearers felt it necessary to obtain the opinion of the members of the Working Committee before taking a final decision in the matter. On 2nd January 1972 a circular letter was issued and out of 44 members 32 responded. Except one, all the members agreed with the proposal to postpone the meeting. (A list of members who responded to the circular is given in Annexure 1.)

As in the past the working class of West Bengal was at the forefront of the struggles against the onslaught of the capital. The strike wave continued unabated in the later part of 1971 when protracted struggles were launched by workers in most of the industries.

The historic 2 bandhs towered all the industrial actions when millions downed their tools in protest not only against capitalist inroads in their living conditions and job security but for trade union and democratic rights as well as for political aspirations of the people. The General Strike and Hartal of August 23 focussed the attention of the entire country against police repression along with the vital economic demands of the workers. It also pressed the demand for recognition of the Government of Bangladesh^{which} the Congress Government was avoiding to suit the interests of the ruling party.

The Second General Strike and Hartal of October 13 was a mighty protest of the working people of West Bengal against most arbitrary dismissal of 13 top leaders of the State Government employees and dismissal of 32 leaders and workers of Ordnance factories in Calcutta industrial area.

In both the strikes the West Bengal State Committee of CITU played an important role in bringing round other trade union centres which were earlier showing hesitation or opposition to join the action. The Government deployed huge police and CRP forces to intimidate the strikers. Even army was asked to remain on 'alert'. Congress (R) gangsters armed with bombs, pipe-guns and other lethal weapons were openly parading the streets to maintain "law and order" along with the CRP and the police and carried on ruthless attacks on working class localities with a view to terrorise them and compel them to report for duties. All the machinations however failed due to the remarkable unity achieved among the workers on both the occasions.

The deepening crisis in engineering industry in West Bengal and failure of the Central Government to take any effective measures forced several strike struggles of engineering workers. All the workers downed their tools on July 20 in protest against the proposed D.A. cut of Rs. 12 in view of the fictitious fall in the price index. The call of the strike was jointly given by 5 federations of engineering workers.

The workers of Hindusthan Cables Rupnarayanpur went on strike on June 29 under the CITU leadership demanding withdrawal of colsure and stopping retrenchment measures. Twelve thousand workers and employees of Jessop resorted to sit in and boycotted bonus on June 28 demanding higher bonus. The Jay Engineering Workers went on strike on August 18 in protest against the breach of the agreement by the management. The strikers held a big demonstration before Raj Bhavan.

The workers of MAMC Durgapur despite repeated threats of closure by the management observed tool-down strike on September 5 demanding 8.33 per cent bonus. The strike was jointly organised by the CITU, INTUC and the AITUC unions. The workers again went on two day strike on September 11 and 12 on the same demand.

The 3,500 workers of Sen Raleigh Co. against closure of the factory was a long drawn struggle. The management planned retrenchment of hundreds of workers by cutting down the production level and increasing the workload on workers. The workers fought the closure heroically and faced all types of privations. Despite all efforts by the management and the AITUC and INTUC led company unions, workers stood firm and refused to be cowed down by the blackmailing tactics. They received moral and material support from the trade unions in West Bengal and outside. The Sen Raleigh Employees Union (CITU) courageously led the workers whose morale was high in spite of arrest of several leaders under false murder cases, when they were released by the court under MISA.

The Congress Government, seeing the unity and determination of workers resorted to gangster tactics. A reign of terror was let loose in the housing colony. Goondas with arms paraded the locality and indiscriminately beat the workers and their families. The office of the union built from the

collections made among the mass of workers was ransacked and forcibly occupied by the INTUC goondas. None of the INTUC goondas were arrested. While most of the Executive Committee members of the union were either arrested or warrants of arrest issued against them.

The workers continued to resist the goonda menace and ultimately the factory was opened after signing an agreement with the Sen Raleigh Employees Union. The forcible occupation of the union office is still not given up while the terrorisation tactics continue as before.

The Hind Motor workers struggle for higher bonus led to repression on the workers. They had to organise a day's strike on January 1 in protest against the arrest of union leaders. The workers however ultimately won 20 per cent bonus from the Birla management. Engineering workers of Raniganj and Jay Kay Nagar went on strike on January 18 in protest against the arrest of their leader under MISA.

The workers of Braithwaite Works fought a prolonged struggle against a lock out declared by the management since October and subsequent arrest of union leaders. Ultimately the management was forced to sign an agreement with the CITU union on December 3 and reopen the factory.

Other notable strike struggles of engineering works are those of J.K. Steel Rishra for higher bonus three day strike in October by workers of Damodar Iron and Steel Works Raniganj for bonus, time rate wages etc. The management declared lock out from October 27.

Most of the struggles were led by the CITU unions who have been organised under 1.30 lakh strong Federation of Metal and Engineering workers unions. A Conference of the Federation held in August 28 and 29 in Calcutta led to consolidation of the movement of engineering workers in the State.

In Darjeeling tea gardens one day strike was organised on July 6 for reinstatement of 2 victimised workers and protest against police repression. The workers of Mongudi tea estate (Jalpaiguri) secured 8 % bonus on September 20 after a prolonged struggle.

The workers of tea plantation industry won an important victory in their struggle for wage rise when the Wage Fixation Committee for the industry reached a settlement on February 9. According to the settlement all daily rated workers and other categories of staff in the tea plantations in Dooars, Terai and Darjeeling area got a wage rise with effect from April 1, 1971. In the past the wage level of Dibrugarh plantation workers was always higher than Dooars and even the last Tea Plantation Wage Board awarded 13 paise per day higher than Dooars. The present agreement in West Bengal has now altered the position with regard to wages.

The textile workers fought several struggles against closures and retrenchment. The management of Kesoram Rayon Tribeni declared a lock out since August 21 in the wake of an industrial dispute. The AITUC and INTUC leaders openly sided with the management to sabotage the struggle. The one day strike of workers of Hindusthan Cotton Mills Belgharia against retrenchment and for higher bonus was a complete success. The Hosiery workers of Calcutta organised one day strike on July 22 demanding reopening of 12 closed factories for over 2 months. After 70 days of struggle on July 26 the factories were opened following the tripartite settlement. The workers of Hanuman Cotton Mills after fight for more than 6 months against closure organised one thousand strong demonstration in front of Raj Bhavan demanding immediate reopening of the Mills. After closure of 812 days Mohini Mills, Belghoria reopened on December 17 following a tripartite settlement as a result of which the management was forced to concede a wage-rise of Rs. 20, bonus and gratuity etc.

The workers of Annapurna Cotton Mills had to fight against closure for over 15 months. During this period management did its best to use the starvation of the workers to force them to accept retrenchment and increase in the workload. The CITU union however refused to sign a treacherous agreement. The factory was reopened during December in the wake of rising demand of cloth in Bangladesh.

The workers of State Electricity Board went on one day strike on September 25 demanding revision of pay scales, bonus, gratuity etc. They also observed a "Protest Week" from Nov. 22-25 demanding withdrawal of mass suspension orders, stoppage of arrests of workers and attacks on trade union rights. After prolonged struggle, including 4 day strike in November, 14,000 workers and employees of DVC won a minimum wage of Rs. 227 and group benefit of Rs. 30 by an agreement on March 27. The strike was jointly led by DVC staff association and the INTUC union.

Among the other notable struggles in West Bengal are - one day token strike on July 4 by Cinema employees in Calcutta and Behala demanding implementation of minimum wage decisions and reopening of closed cinema houses; strike of Municipal employees of Panihati from September 2 in protest against suppression of the Municipality; half day strike on September 6 and strikes on September 11 and 16 by the employees of Dock Labour Board demanding 20% bonus; one day strike of Private Bus employees of North Bengal transport companies demanding Puja bonus, D.A., etc; strikes of two thousand bakery workers of 100 bakeries in Calcutta on September for higher wages; strike of workers in Carrier Transport on September 15 demanding lifting of lock out in Dooars and Premier transport companies; strike and demonstration on September 24 by Brooke Bond employees against lay off of 800 workers; strike of civic employees of Howrah Municipality from February 22 demanding revision of pay scales, D.A. at Government rates, strike of workers of Hindusthan Construction, Haldia on September 23 in protest against death of 5 workers and injuring 40; strike of workers in 21 factories in Belghoria region including Texmaco, Bharat Woolen Mills etc. for higher bonus and strike of workers in 23 concerns in Baranagore area for higher bonus.

The State Government employees and other salaried employees continued their struggles to defend their interests. All the mercantile employees in Calcutta observed two hour pen-down strike on July 5 demanding stoppage of closures and attacks by goondas against employees. The West Bengal State Government employees went on strike between 2 and 5 p.m. on July 16 demanding stoppage of goonda attacks against employees, cease work on September 14, 15 and 16 by the State Government employees against dismissal of 12 leaders of their movement by the Governor's order.

The All India State Government Employees Federation gave a call for observation of an all India Day on November 5 as "West Bengal Solidarity Day". Thousands of demonstrations and rallies were held throughout India. One week strike of ESI employees in West Bengal which began on November 1 continued for over one week in support of demand for house rent allowance and other demands. The strike was withdrawn after obtaining an assurance of settling the demands expeditiously.

The First Conference of the West Bengal State Committee of CITU held on September 17-19 at Asansol registered a significant advance in united struggles of the workers in the State. The Conference contributed considerably to the consolidation of CITU's strength in West Bengal. It demonstrated clearly that the policy of unity and struggle had proved to be correct. Thousands of workers belonging to INTUC, AITUC had joined the ranks of the CITU in several industries throughout the State.

The Congress Government and the capitalist class in West Bengal alarmed by the spectacular rise of CITU and having failed to disrupt struggles embarked upon the path of resorting to semi-fascist repression against the CITU and the working class. As a result of these attacks the trade union

prevalent among the mass of workers in West Bengal. The strike call earlier given by Bengal Chatkal Mazdur Union which was consistently opposed by INTUC, AITUC and HMS leadership in the past is being supported by them now. This shows that the game of disruptive forces can be defeated only if the working class stands united and is determined to fight for their demands.

The struggle of the working class in West Bengal for improvement in their working and living conditions and for trade union and democratic rights will need solidarity support from working class of other States. The battle for saving democracy in West Bengal must be converted into an all India battle in order to preserve the gains of the movement.

The workers in Kerala have also fought several struggles during the last 10 months drawing various sections into strike actions.

About 80,000 plantation workers in Malabar region observed one day strike on March 21 to press for the demand of minimum wage of Rs. 5 per day, 20 per cent bonus, higher D.A. The strike was sponsored by the joint Action Council comprising of CITU, INTUC, AITUC, HMS and UTUC unions. A statewide indefinite strike is also planned unitedly if the demands are not conceded. The strike of Nelliampati which began in December 1971 over the demand for rise in wages, permanent service for temporary workers etc. continued for over a month. This strike also was led unitedly by all the unions. However the strike of Kalapatta which began in early January this year was led only by the CITU union.

The perpetual crisis in coir industry forced the coir workers to launch series of strike actions. About 1,25,000 coir workers of Anjuthengu Mooppiri Coir zone struck work on January 24 demanding payment of minimum wages. The struggle was led by joint struggle committee of CITU, AITUC and INTUC unions. There was an indefinite strike from February 8 which was followed by satyagraha of workers at Trivandrum. During this struggle Achutha Menon Government's police lathi charged the workers at Mallappuram. All 5 lakh workers downed their tools on March 13 and picketed Government offices demanding wage rise etc. Though the strike was sponsored by CITU, INTUC, AITUC and HMS unions, AITUC and INTUC withdrew at the last moment. Police arrested hundreds of workers all over Kerala. When the workers of Darragh Smail Coir factory demonstrated demanding take over of the concern by the coir corporation, the AITUC representative on the Board of Directors of the Coir Corporation opposed the demand. A Convention organised by the CITU on March 12 decided to form a Federation to coordinate the struggles in the industry in Kerala.

The question of reopening of the Cashew factories and revision in policy regarding distribution of raw nut by STC was a matter of prolonged agitation in the State. Mass picketing was organised in Quilon and other centres. Over one lakh cashew workers employed in factories went on one day strike on August 12 last year. The strike call was jointly given by CITU AITUC and UTUC to press the charter of Demand^s which included demands like central assistance to the industry and take over of 50 closed factories.

The workers of Idikki Project went on strike from January 8, demanding recruitment of old retrenched workers under contractors. 200 picketing workers were arrested. On January 11 however the strike spread to Kulamau Dam area and Idikki High Dam area. The refusal of the Government to concede this just demand brought all the power workers together and a joint call was given to organise indefinite strike from January 16. However the Government came to an agreement approving taking back the retrenched employees on duties.

On January 23 the union Government banned all strikes for 6 months at Idikki under the DIR. Twelve unions including those belonging to CITU and AITUC organised demonstrations on February 13 in protest against the ban.

movement is facing an unprecedented situation in the State.

Thousands of active cadres and leaders have been detained under the Prevention of Violent Activities Act and Maintenance of Internal Security Act while warrants have been pending against tens of thousands. Thousands more are involved in fictitious offenses like murder etc. with ulterior motive of preventing them from participating in the normal activities of the unions. The vindictiveness of the Government was further seen in transfer of detenues to other States and thus preventing them from meeting their family members and other relatives.

Promulgation of section 144, curfew, combing operations, posting of CRP and military at vantage positions, encircling the entire locality has become a matter of routine in West Bengal. The Government's assurance to police that there would be no judicial enquiry into police firing has emboldened police to resort to most brutal suppression on the toiling people.

The unprecedented use of anti-social elements against the activists in trade union and democratic movement has let loose a reign of terror in industrial belts all over West Bengal. These gangsters of the ruling Congress, who parade as volunteers of Chhatra Parishad and Yuba Congress, are getting open support from the police and the CRP. They attack the working class localities with murderous weapons under supervision of police and kill, maim the workers and their family members. Women are raped, workers houses raised to the ground or their belongings stolen. Instead of arresting these gangsters the police arrest workers and people launching complaints against these goondas. Police stations blatantly refuse to register complaints against the Congress hoodlums.

More than 650 leaders and activists have lost their lives to these murderous assaults and police torture during the last 2 years.

These anti-social elements have so far physically occupied or burnt over 200 offices belonging to CITU unions. I have already mentioned in this report about the case of Sen Raleigh Employees Union. The office of Hindusthan Steel Employees Union Durgapur has been recently ransacked by anti-social elements. But there are many other examples. No CITU union is allowed to function normally in the entire Barrackpore belt.

Seeing the mounting discontent among the people the Congress (R) was not feeling confident of winning majority in the recent assembly elections. It therefore conspired with the leadership of the Right Communist Party and hatched a conspiracy to rig the elections in West Bengal with the help of police, authorities and goonda gangs. Millions of voters were not allowed to cast their votes by capturing the booths with the armed might. Even counting was reduced to a farce and results were manipulated to boost the strength of the Congress and its tail Right Communist Party.

The attacks on trade union and democratic movement were intensified after the so-called elections. The new police minister openly stated that the workers opposing increase in the workload would be detained under MISA. About 40,000 workers and the activists have been forced to leave their residential quarters and threats of murder have been given to several others. Even the West Bengal State Committee has been threatened with action if it failed to vacate the premises.

The working class of West Bengal however is resisting courageously these semi-fascist gangsterism. A convention jointly organised on 16th April by CITU, UTUC, UTUC (Lenin Sarani) in Calcutta expresses its firm determination to fight back this menace and defeat it with all might. The new unity of the trade union organisations in West Bengal will immensely strengthen the resistance of the workers to the rising fascist tendencies.

The strike call in Jute industry on May 8 shows the urge for unity

Seven thousand Ministerial employees of the State Electricity Board observed one day strike on September 15 demanding higher pay scales. The Kerala Chief Minister threatened to ban the strike and ultimately the union government banned strikes in all power stations in Kerala.

The unscrupulous toddy shop contractors provoked several struggles of toddy tappers. Under the leadership of All Kerala Toddy Tappers Federation 3,000 toddy tappers resorted to mass picketing in 8 districts on September 20. 5,000 toddy tappers in Palghat district went on strike on January 24 demanding implementation of earlier decisions and deposit of PF money by toddy shop contractors. The toddy tappers of Quilon district also struck work for similar demands.

The strike of 8,500 workers of Gwalior Rayons, Mavoor for bonus lasted for two months. The strike was sponsored by Joint Council of Action comprising of CITU, AITUC, INTUC, HMS and other unions. At the call of the joint council of action. Calicut Bandh was observed on October 26 in which nearly 1.5 lakh workers participated.

The textile workers also were on the path of strike struggles. Over one thousand handloom workers of Calicut went on indefinite strike in October demanding rise in wages and D.A. linked with consumer price index. Four thousand Khadi weaving and spinning workers of Cannanore district went on strike since September 23 demanding higher wages. The strike of spinning workers continued over 3 months.

The workers of Prabhat Engineering Works Badagara organised satyagraha under CITU leadership for 52 days since November 1971 in support of their demand for reopening of the closed factory and reinstatement of retrenched employees. The police arrested President of the union while the management closed 7 other units vindictively. Twenty four day strike of Firewood Boat workers of Ambalapuzha workers demanding wage rise and security of services etc. was led by CITU union and won success.

All workers of Kanjirapuzha dam struck work for one day in December in protest against attacks by INTUC/bus workers, bus porters, workers of vegetable markets, oil and saw mill Trichur went on strike on December 31 in protest against the arrest of CITU leaders in Trichur. Workers throughout Kerala organised demonstrations on January 20 in protest against police and goonda attacks on workers.

and youth Congress hoodlums. Private

Two thousand workers of the HMT factory Kalamassery went on indefinite strike since March 16 demanding interim relief and revision of promotion rules. The strike was withdrawn after settlement with the management. The strike of workers in Kerala Malleables Kottayam on a charter of demands continued for 33 days in February March.

Ten day strike by riggers at Cochin Port in July August ^{against} irregularities committed by Dock Labour Board was ultimately settled through mediation of the chairman. The strike of tally clerks of Cochin Port ended on February 23 when the Dock Labour Board accepted demand for 8.33 % bonus for 1970-71.

The State and Central Government employees also fought several struggles in Kerala. The P & T employees all over Kerala on October 5 demanding withdrawal of victimisation measures following 1968 strike and under the P.D. Act. The NGO's at Calicut carried their satyagraha demanding permanency of temporary workers and increase in age of retirement etc. for 210 days. Achutha Menon Government imposed break in service of NGO when they went on one day strike protest. The Kerala Chief Minister also openly advocated wage freeze when the State Government employees demanded interim relief at par with Central Government employees.

The agricultural workers of Kerala organised several strikes during the period. 50,000 agricultural workers of Palghat district observed one day

strike in September for higher wages. 15,000 workers of Changanasery Taluk went on strike on October 14 protesting against police and goonda attacks. Agricultural workers all over Kerala went on strike on October 19 demanding withdrawal of false cases against trade union leaders. In Alleppey district alone one lakh workers participated in the strike while in Palghat district 56,000 participated. 50,000 agricultural workers of Kottayam observed one day strike and held demonstrations on December 28 in protest against murder of 3 union workers and stabbing of 7 women workers by goondas. The agricultural workers of Kuttanad and coir workers of Alleppey joined the strike to express their solidarity.

The Kerala State Council of the CITU which met in Eloor on April 7-9 reviewed the struggles in Kerala and observed the growing urge of unity among the workers for struggles. The State Council took appropriate measures to strengthen industrywise organisations so that the struggles are more concerted and widespread. The CITU has emerged in Kerala as a builder of trade union unity which was seen from all the major struggles in the State during the recent past.

There was a big upswing of strike struggles in Tamilnadu after the last General Council meeting at Coimbatore. The Cotton textile workers in Coimbatore took a leading part in these united struggles. Twice they went on indefinite General strikes during this period. A joint action committee consisting of CITU, AITUC, Congress (R) and SSP unions was formed to conduct the struggle for higher bonus than available under the Bonus Act. The strike which began on October 5 continued upto October 20, and was participated by about 40,000 workers. The second strike was more militant in character. It was in support of 19 point charter of demands which included demands like need-based minimum wages, reopening of closed units. The strike commenced on February 12 covering 76 mills in Coimbatore district. Hundreds of picketing workers were arrested and a student died in jail.

Coimbatore district bundh was organised unitedly on March 1 in support of textile workers. Textile workers of Tamilnadu went on indefinite strike from March 3 in support of these demands. Despite gangster tactics used by the managements and the DMK the strike was successful. Solidarity actions were organised by LIC and bank employees. Picketing spread in taluk centres. 90 hosiery workers of Tirupur also joined the picketing. The struggle lasted till March 12 when the Government and the employees were forced to concede some of the demands. Though the DMK led unions opposed the struggles their following was drawn in the struggle.

The workers of Buckingham & Carnatic Mills Madras struck work in September demanding arrears of wages and again in January against cut in wages. The DMK members of the executive who opposed the strike were forced to resign by the workers. 8,000 hosiery workers of Tirupur went on strike from February 7 demanding implementation of the Factories Act provisions and recommendations of the Wage Board.

The long drawn struggle of the Simpson group employees against arbitrary imposition of a DMK leader on the workers by the Government was unique in many ways. After forcing the elected leader of the union to resign by gangster methods the DMK foisted leader signed a treacherous 3 year agreement with the management accepting increase in the workload, Sunday working without overtime payment etc.

The workers fought against the betrayal and a Joint Action Committee was formed comprising of CITU, AITUC, INTUC and HMS. On September 9 the Government arrested Com. V.P. Chintan, Com. Kuchelar and others under the MISA and lock out was declared in one unit on October 15. DMK gangsters attacked workers with the help of police to terrorise the workers. On December 26 indefinite strike was started by 18,000 workers which soon spread to other factories belonging to Simpson Group. The striking workers had to face severe police repression. Hundreds of workers were assaulted and arrested, 110 workers

retrenched and termination notices served on 325 others. When the Joint Action Committee gave call for strike throughout the State on January 11, the Government climbed down and agreed to remove the stooge leaders and appointed a six member committee to look after the union activity pending the new elections.

The agreement however did not last long since the non-CITU representatives on the committee unilaterally announced the dissolution of the committee on March 3. On March 13 the Simpson workers held a big demonstration and the attempt of other leaders to bypass the CITU was foiled. The settlement was arrived at along with Com. Kuchelar and the CITU. The Committee was again reconstituted and issue was thus settled for the time being.

The 1,500 employees of Hindusthan Teleprinters led by the CITU union began work to rule in October demanding revision of earlier agreement on job evaluation. The refusal of the management to come to settlement led to a strike from November 8. Laying off of hundreds of workers was immediate provocation by the management. The Union Government instead of bringing pressure on the management banned the strike under DIR. The strike was called off on December 9 in the wake of national emergency.

The workers of public sector Hindusthan Photo Films Factory in Ooty demanding better service conditions started stay in strike on July 20 and the management declared lock out. 133 workers were suspended and 105 arrested during the strike. The strike was withdrawn without any settlement. The workers again went on strike from April 6 to 15 over non-fulfilment of their demands. Two hundred workers were arrested while taking out a demonstration on April 13. When ^{the management agreed to withdraw some} victimisation measures and the strike was withdrawn.

The workers of Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi who began their strike from January 23 for higher bonus a reinstatement of suspended workers. The DMK police resorted to brutal repression. A peaceful rally of workers was lathi charged on January 27 and arrested workers were beaten up in police lock up. The Government ultimately had to climb down and the strike was settled on February 7. During the strike of Metal Box workers in Madras which began on December 1 under CITU leadership the DMK hired goondas attacked the workers. The police instead of imprisoning the culprits arrested 4 workers. The Junior engineers and technical staff of Neveli Lignite Corporation resorted to work to rule from September 27 for 38 point charter of demands including promotion facilities, removal of anomalies etc. The struggle continued for 7 days. The management charge-sheeted 419 workers but ultimately had to concede the demands of the workers.

600 listed workers and 2,000 ore handling workers at Madras Harbour went on stay in strike from August 9 demanding higher bonus. The strike was called off on September 3 after the settlement. 600 Laskar and Tally clerks of Marine department of Madras Port struck work from August 27 demanding permanency, withdrawal of charge sheets and revision in classification of nomenclature of some categories. This strike also was withdrawn on September 3 after assurances by the port authorities. Two thousand boatmen and 3,000 dock workers of Tuticorin struck work on January 21 protesting against failure of the authorities to find a missing cargo boat.

The last 10 months in Tamilnadu several strikes of handloom workers and weavers took place demanding better wages, adequate supply of yarn at cheap rates etc. The deteriorating conditions of this strata of the working class is driving them towards destitution which is reflected in militancy of their struggles.

The first State Conference of the Tamilnadu State Committee held on July 16-18 was an important step towards consolidating the CITU activities in the State. The State Committee called upon all the CITU unions to observe CITU week from September 12-19 and popularised the line of unity and struggle pursued by the CITU. The day was well observed throughout the State. The

Tamilnadu State Committee in its meeting held at Nellikuppam on September 25-26 decided to intensify the united struggles of the workers. It also observed that despite opposition of DMK leadership a large number of DMK workers are joining the path of struggle throughout the State and at some places even the DMK unions have been forced to join the struggles.

The most important struggle of the workers in Maharashtra during the last 10 months was the strike of two lakh workers of textile mills in Bombay from October 11 for 8.33 per cent minimum bonus. The unity of the textile workers was so remarkable that the INTUC workers also joined the strike in a big way. Despite Dange's opposition to join hands with the CITU during strike struggle the ranks of the AITUC were working with CITU activists to make the strike a success. Though the strike had to be withdrawn without achieving the demands in full, the workers could get higher bonus that was available under the Bonus Act or majority recommendations of the Bonus Commission. Strikes also have been leading textile centres in Maharashtra like Nagpur, Sholapur, Akola, Kohlapur on the same issue.

1,600 workers in the Government controlled Mohata Mills and Swatram Mills in Akola struck work on September 22 demanding restoration of wage cut, rise in D.A. and payment of PF. The workers of Government owned India United Mills gheraoed the General Manager on September 25 for higher bonus. The workers of Sawatram Mills once again went on strike in March to press acceptance of the demands raised earlier.

The employees of BEST in Bombay observed strike on October 2 demanding withdrawal of new work schedule.

Six thousand Municipal workers of Bhiwandi struck work from January 19 demanding withdrawal of dismissal orders on 22 workers 4,000 Class IV and technical employees of Poona Municipal Corporation went on indefinite strike from February 11 demanding implementation of revised pay scales. This was withdrawn after 4 days when the demands were conceded by the authorities. 40,000 Kotwals throughout Maharashtra on indefinite strike from February 10 demanding parity of pay with Class IV employees.

Other notable struggles in Maharashtra were indefinite strike of water works employees of Nasik Municipality demanding arrears of pay, strike of 6,000 employees of Hindusthan Aeronautics Nasik in November in protest against the ill-treatment of employees.

Maharashtra State Committee of CITU observed a week from January 18-25 during which CITU unions held meetings and demonstrations at factory gates condemning role of U.S. imperialism. On January 25 an impressive demonstration was organised in Bombay. More than 50,000 signatures were collected on the Memorandum demanding nationalisation of U.S. concerns and India and moratorium on U.S. debt repayment. 5,000 booklets explaining the U.S. imperialist role in India were sold among the workers during the week.

In Andhra, 1500 rice mill-workers went on strike from December 13 to 17 demanding 8 per cent bonus, wage rise and P.F. benefits. The strike was a complete success. About 400 workers engaged in construction of Godavari bridge went on strike on December 24 demanding overtime wages and leave facilities. The Contractors accepted their demands and the strike was withdrawn on January 1. However the employers went back from their commitment and another strike took place from February 27 which continued for about a month. Ultimately, after bitter struggle the Contractors had to accept the demands in full. 300 Workers of Barium Chemicals went on strike from April 3 demanding wages and D.A. as per Wage Board recommendations, bonus, night shift allowance and reinstatement of dismissed workers. During conciliation proceeding 7 workers were victimised which provoked the strike. It was jointly led by CITU and INPUC Unions. Motor Transport workers in East Godavari District went on strike from February 2 demanding implementation of the Wage Board recommendations. Three days later the employers accepted the demand and the strike was settled.

In Bihar the workers of Burkunda and Karanpur Collieries went on strike on October 12 in protest against failure of the NCDC management to provide timely medical aid to a worker who was electrocuted while on duty. The workers formed a Joint Committee of Action of all unions including the INTUC. Employees of Headquarters of NCDC went on strike on October 17 in support of 8 point charter of demands. The coal mine workers of Korba also went on strike on October 19 on similar demands.

The movement of bonus boycott by TISCO workers in Jamshedpur on September 13-15 was of great significance to T.U. movement in Bihar. This boycott came in the wake of anti-working class agreement signed by the INTUC union. On September 7 an impressive demonstration was organised by TISCO Karmachari Union, a new organisation formed by the militant workers. The workers demanded 20 per cent bonus for which the Tata management issued chargesheets against several union activists.

Workers of J.D.Stone & Co., Adityapur went on strike on November 8 demanding recognition of union and stoppage of repressive measures. The strike was led by the CITU Union. The Manager immediately replied by declaring a lock-out and suspended 4 leaders. The strike was withdrawn in the wake of declaration of national emergency. Taking advantage of this the management discharged 16 workers. In Adityapur the workers had to strike in April once again due to the non-settlement of their demands.

The workers of India Machinery, Patna struck work from September 21 demanding withdrawal of victimisation measures. The Government deployed CRP and the army while leading workers were arrested to suppress the strike. The strike was conducted under the leadership of CITU Union.

In Kanpur (U.P.) workers of J.K.Rayon went on 76 days strike during July-August in support of charter of demands. There was large scale repression and victimisation. The strike was withdrawn on the assurance given by the Chief Minister to settle their demands. The workers of Maheshwari Devi Jute Mill organised a strike for higher wages etc. which was successful. On October 16, over 25000 Cotton Textile workers went on strike in support of demand of 8.33 per cent minimum bonus.

The workers of Indian Explosive Ltd., Fertilizer Division, Kanpur downed their tools on August 20 in support of charter of demand submitted two months ago. After a week long struggle the management had to sign a settlement with the CITU affiliated IEL Employees Union.

In New Delhi over one thousand workers in posh hotels and restaurants in the second week of June demanding implementation of the Wage Board recommendations. The strike continued for two and a half months due to pro-employer attitude of Jan Sangh administration. A co-ordination Committee of CITU and AITUC Union was formed to conduct the struggle. A settlement was arrived at after a long and bitter struggle. The CITU Unions in Delhi collected funds and held demonstrations in support of the struggle.

The employees of National Council of Applied Economic Research New Delhi went on strike on February 2 demanding reinstatement of 70 victimised employees and acceptance of charter of demands. 500 workers of Durga Enterprise Ltd.(Dalmia) struck work for over 2 months in October-November demanding compensation to a dead workers widow and withdrawal of suspension order on 16 union activists. The management of National Herald daily declared lock-out in December to force the workers to accept 4 per cent bonus. The workers demanded 10 per cent bonus and stoppage of retrenchment measures.

Delhi State Committee of CITU held demonstrations in December denouncing U.S. role on the question of Bangladesh.

PROBLEMS OF TRADE UNION UNITY

In my report to the General Council at Coimbatore the background of the Conference of representatives of Central Trade Union Organisations and National Federations held in New Delhi on 18th and 19th May 1971 and the declaration of the conference with eight point programme were explained in somewhat detail. A resolution adopted by the General Council welcomed the declaration as "a firm base around which the working class can be mobilised" and called upon the CITU unions to take initiative in the matter and bring out actions at local, regional, state and all-India level.

The CITU State Committees in West Bengal, Andhra, Tamilnadu, Bihar, Punjab and Assam have made efforts to contact other central trade union organisations. There was no response from the other organisations in Bihar, Tamilnadu and Punjab. In Andhra a Convention was organised on 31st July 1971 at Hyderabad and a Coordination Committee was formed to plan united action on issues facing the working class in the State. However, the Coordination Committee could not function.

In West Bengal, the AITUC and HMS leadership while refusing to join hands with CITU brought forward irrelevant issues like Code of Conduct etc. to be discussed as a precondition for united actions. Therefore, the Rashtriya Sangram Samiti in its Convention held in July 18 at Calcutta decided to independently mobilise the workers and organise a General Strike and Hartal in August. The propaganda made by the constituents of Samiti created a new atmosphere in the State and other trade union organisations including the INTUC had to agree for a joint meeting on August 2 to discuss the common issues and to chart out united action. In this meeting a 16 point charter of demands was adopted. It was unanimously decided to go in for Bengal Bundh on August 25 which was later on postponed to August 27.

The magnificent unity achieved by all the trade unions in West Bengal electrified the atmosphere throughout the State but alarmed the Congress leaders in New Delhi. Union Labour Minister Shri R.K. Khadilkar hurriedly convened a meeting of representatives of all the Central Trade Unions in New Delhi on August 22 and gave some vague assurances without any concrete commitment. In the meeting the representatives of organisations other than that of CITU failed to take a categorical stand. The CITU representatives however remained firm and stuck to the decision of strike. The newspapers even reported that CITU was completely isolated.

However, the urge for unity in West Bengal was so powerful that after returning from New Delhi leaders of other organisations found it difficult to implement their commitments in New Delhi. Except INTUC and HMS all other trade union centres supported the strike call which was a grand success despite repressive measures of the Government. Even the INTUC and HMS dared not openly come over against the strike, though they dissociated from it.

The response of the AITUC and HMS leadership to CITU's efforts for united actions was getting cooler as the days passed by due to involvement of the leaderships of these organisations with INTUC in negotiations on the question of recognition of trade unions and allied matter, at the instance of the Government of India, who were and are anxious to get these organisations to unite and toe the Government's line so they could parade this as isolation of CITU. In fact the Government of India was paying for the air fare for about a dozen representatives of these organisations meeting from time to time at different places in the country.

On behalf of CITU I therefore took up this question with HMS and AITUC leaders. In identical letters addressed both these organisations on September 19, I wrote:

"Though the HMS and AITUC have found no time to meet us and chalk out a programme, I find from the newspapers that you have found sufficient time to meet the INTUC, which did not subscribe to the declaration...."

I further wrote:

"I would like to know even now if you are agreeable to any thing in furtherance of the Declaration. Otherwise, we may as well announce publicly that the Committee cannot function and thus put an end to the deception of the working class, whose expectations had been roused by the Declaration and formation of the convening committee."

This was on the eve of the tripartite meeting convened by Union Labour Minister at Bombay on 20th September on the question of bonus. The CITU was also invited to the meeting and I attended this meeting on its behalf. Though all the trade unions demanded 8.33 per cent minimum bonus in the meeting our efforts to bring about an all-India movement to realise the demand did not succeed. Even a meeting to discuss this question could not be held after the tripartite meeting.

The representatives of the other trade union centres viz AITUC, HMS and INTUC could not say 'no' to my suggestion that we should meet immediately after the tripartite meeting. But in practice they avoided and scuttled the meeting. Their avoidance of such a meeting is quite understandable in view of the understanding which, according to the unrebutted statement of the Labour Minister Shri Khadilkar, that the INTUC and AITUC leaders had reached with the Labour Minister and the employers clandestinely

I had again discussed with the leaders of other Central trade unions prior to the Twenty Seventh Session of the Indian Labour Conference in New Delhi held on October 22 and 23. Though a common approach could be evolved on the question of bonus and gratuity, the INTUC, AITUC and HMS leaders made question of recognition of trade unions their internal affair. Before the tripartite meeting I wrote to Shri Khadilkar stating that if CITU was not invited to the meeting its decisions would not be binding on our organisation. The Government therefore agreed to invite us as an observer and I attended the Session on behalf of CITU. The tripartite meeting could not achieve any tangible results. The trade union representatives unitedly emphasised immediate acceptance of principles of 8.33 per cent bonus but the employers wanted to use dilatory tactics by referring the matter to another Bonus Committee. The Government refused to take a firm position and issue was left to the decision of the Government.

CITU however continued efforts for a united call for action on common issues. A meeting of the representatives of AITUC, CITU and HMS was held in New Delhi on November 11. It was decided to observe a day during December throughout India and raise a powerful voice against rising prices of essential commodities, for minimum bonus of 8.33 per cent and one month's gratuity to all workers without any preconditions. Accordingly a call was given to observe the day unitedly during December 5-12.

The decisions were no doubt an advance in the direction of united action. However the statement published in the name of AITUC, HMS and CITU on November 19 suffered from a basic weakness which might have ended in diverting people's attention from the main source of evil. Therefore Com. B.T. Ranadive in his note which was circulated to the Working Committee members pointed out that instead of attacking the Government for its responsibility in rising prices an attempt was made to blame only hoarders and speculators while ignoring deficit financing, inflation and high taxation.

The statement while correctly attacking the Central Bill on gratuity did not criticise the Kerala and West Bengal measures on gratuity which also contained the same retrograde provisions.

However due to the outbreak of India-Pakistan War on the question of Bangladesh the week could not be observed. The AITUC and HMS leadership did not show their readiness to join united action on these pressing questions.

During the Indo-Pak hostilities in December last the AITUC, INTUC and HMS leadership gave up their right to strike. CITU was the only organisation which asserted the workers right to strike if they are attacked by the employers even during national emergency.

In a tripartite meeting convened by the Union Labour Minister on 5th December 1971 the CITU representative Com. Md. Ismail categorically stated that CITU would not be a party to a declaration imposing a blanket ban on strike of workers. Again on 16th December when a bigger gathering of tripartite character was held in New Delhi I once again opposed any restriction on workers right to strike and demanded release of detenus, withdrawal of DIR and other legislation that curb the trade union and democratic right of the workers.

Even after end of war the Labour Minister appointed a Working Party to concretise measures to give effect to the declaration of December 5. The representation of INTUC, AITUC and HMS joined it and advocated boosting of production in the name of self-reliance totally ignoring that it would involve increase in the workload on the workers and retrenchment of workers.

The Working Party also discussed the new industrial relations machinery which they hope would bring down the strikes and lock outs. It is reported that some tentative agreement has already been reached between the INTUC, AITUC and HMS about the new proposal of class collaboration. These leaders have accepted arbitration as the solution though they call it voluntary. During the arbitration proceedings the trade union leaders would agree not to resort to strike action. The arbitrators' award is of course binding.

Thus they have given up path of class struggle and accepted the path of class collaboration. In these circumstances, their agreement to form a National Council of Trade Unions from among themselves to evolve a common approach on all issues facing the working class is in reality an agreement to jointly strive to blunt the edge of workers struggles. It is an attempt to gang up against CITU instead of uniting with it in struggles to win the pressing demands of the workers.

They are giving up secret ballot as the only criterion for trade union recognition and accept verification under the so called independent machinery headed by a judicial person. The leaders of AITUC and HMS who have correctly stressed for over 20 years the principle of secret ballot for recognition is a basic principle of democracy in the trade union movement, and who had subscribed to the demand for secret ballot in the Joint Declaration of May 1971, surrendered before INTUC and gave up the principles. The claim that the new machinery will also resort to secret ballot if the difference between the verified membership of two unions is marginal is a fig leaf. In practice the verification machinery always favours the pro-employers' union and verification can and will be so manoeuvred that no occasion will arise to resort to secret ballot. It is therefore a sell out by these two organisations of the workers interests.

The political alignments of parties that are controlling the INTUC, AITUC and HMS are bringing these organisations together against the interests of the workers. They are also afraid of growing influence of the CITU. Their increasing isolation from the workers due to their class collaborationist policies is also bringing them together with the fond hope of gaining new prestige under official patronage.

However, there is no doubt that the working class of India will overcome these attempts to divert it from the path of class struggle and fight when it is attacked by the capitalist class. The ranks of INTUC, AITUC and HMS will come together in the united struggles as before to protect their interests. The CITU therefore will have to redouble its efforts to build united actions at local levels in order to defend the standard of living of the working class.

IMPLEMENTATION OF EARLIER DECISIONS

I will now review the steps taken by the CITU Centre to implement the decisions of the last General Council meeting.

In my report at Coimbatore I stated that the monthly journal of the CITU "The Working Class" would commence publication soon. The office bearers took immediate steps in the matter and constituted an Editorial Board consisting of Comrades B.T. Ranadive, P. Ramamurti, Monoranjan Roy, Niren Ghosh, Sudhin Kumar and M.K. Pandhe (Editor). The journal has commenced publication since September and so far 8 issues have been published. The circulation is about 4,000 and CITU has not to give any financial assistance to the journal, so far. I am not going into details since already a separate report is being presented to this meeting.

The General Council took certain decisions regarding industrywise functioning.

Plantation: It was decided to call an all India Plantation Workers Conference in Kerala in the first week of January 1972. Accordingly a preparatory Committee was formed with Com. Monoranjan Roy as the Convenor and the Conference was fixed at Vandiperiyar (Kerala) on January 4-5, 1972. The CITU Centre took all steps to prepare report, resolutions and other documents of the Conference. However due to request from Kerala State Committee of CITU to postpone the Conference in view of rains in the high ranges the Conference had to be postponed. No new dates have been fixed so far.

Engineering: The General Council appointed a Sub-Committee with Robin Mukherjee as the Convenor to prepare a report on the industry and the position of workers. He prepared a questionnaire which was circulated to all unions in the industry. The response was extremely disappointing. The Committee did not meet to consider the steps to be taken to coordinate the CITU activities in the industry.

Tyre and Rubber: A meeting of the activists in this industry was planned in New Delhi, but due to the non-participation of many comrades the meeting could not succeed. No later date could be fixed for the meeting.

Road Transport: It was decided that a meeting of comrades should be convened to collect detailed reports and suggest measures to coordinate activities of the CITU in the industry. However, due to the lack of preparations and inability of any comrade in the industry to help the centre in the matter the meeting could not be convened so far.

Paper: It was decided that Com. Robin Sen should act as Coordinator of our activities in this industry. He was entrusted with the responsibility to convene a meeting of comrades working in the industry. However no progress has been made in this regard. Comrade Robin Sen's attention was drawn by the centre to this state of affairs.

Mining: The General Council decided that the centre should take steps to convene a meeting of representatives of unions working in mining industry. The centre has not been able to convene such a meeting so far.

Jute: The office-bearers decided that Com. Kamal Sarkar should coordinate the activities in the jute industry. Accordingly a circular letter was sent to all the State Committees where jute unions are existing. Com. Sarkar has since been keeping contact with various jute unions. It is proposed to call a meeting of all jute unions soon to plan all-India strike to achieve the long standing demands of jute workers.

Bidi: A demand was raised for formation of a Federation of unions in this industry. However since the General Council no union has come forward to take responsibility in this regard.

It has been the experience of the centre that unless some comrades spare some time for all India coordination it will not be possible for the centre to take responsibilities. Generally there is a tendency that the centre should take up the responsibility of running these organisations. However, unless comrades show their readiness to take specific responsibilities under the direction of the centre industrywise activities and coordination will not be successful.

It is not necessary to emphasise here the need for industrywise functioning. However, comrades should realise their responsibilities in this regard. Otherwise the All India Organisation formed in industries may remain on paper as is the case of the AITUC.

Taking into account the mounting discontent among the workers on the working of the ESI Corporation the General Council discussed the question and decided to form a sub-committee to study the operation of the Scheme. The members of the Committee: Comrades Dinen Bhattacharyya (Convenor), S.Y. Kolhatkar, Bisweshwar Ganguly, Nallasivam and P. Balachandran. A draft of the questionnaire was prepared and circulated among the members of the Committee. The 3 members of the Committee met on 7th November but the centre has so far not received any report of the work done. It is however learnt that the original questionnaire was not found suitable and some modifications were suggested in the meeting. The centre has not received the modified questionnaire so far. From the reports available with the centre it appears that the Sub-Committee did not make much progress in collecting the data etc. The Convenor has failed to discharge his responsibility while the members on their own have not shown enthusiasm about the work of the Committee.

The campaign launched by CITU unions after the General Council meeting on the Employees Family Pension Scheme created a good atmosphere throughout the country. By and large the workers have not opted for the scheme. The CITU campaign even put the AITUC and HMS leadership on the defensive and they had to change their earlier stand on the issue. Even the INTUC had to demand that the scheme should be voluntary to all the workers including those who join in service after introduction of the scheme.

The publication brought out and sold in different languages by the CITU State Committees is as follows:

Malayalam	13,000	Tamil	7,000
Telugu	2,000	Marathi	5,000
English	5,000	Hindi	2,000
Gujarati	1,000		
	Total		37,000

The booklet was reproduced in some journals brought out by other trade unions also. The initiative was correctly taken by the CITU on this question in time and clear-cut line was given to the working class. The impact of the campaign was so effective that within 6 months after launching the scheme the Government had to talk of modifying the scheme.

It is however likely that the Government may give some nominal concessions in the form of higher pensionary benefits and lump-sum payment without touching its anti-worker provisions. The CITU will have to be vigilant on this question and once again educate the workers on the basis of demands raised in the resolution adopted by the last General Council meeting.

The CITU was asked by the Government in September to submit a list for verification of membership for the year 1970. Accordingly a list was prepared and submitted to the Government on 30th October 1971. The list contained 1851 unions with a total membership of 8,92,049. However we could not supply registration number of 243 unions with 39,746 membership. Many of these

unions had registration numbers but they failed to supply it to the centre in time. Some unions had made no efforts to get registration number as a result of which their membership was not verified. One union failed to fulfil necessary technical requirement of affiliation in time and hence its membership of 32,000 was also excluded from verification. Thus a membership of 71,746 was not verified. Out of the unions verified the Labour Ministry officials wrote to 637 unions with a membership of 197,233 that they did not either submit their annual return or did not mention their affiliation to the CITU in the annual return. Many unions though submitted returns received notices and launched complaints to the Labour Department. In West Bengal the cases were so large that the matters had to be taken up with the Regional Labour Commissioner and the Records of Registrar of Trade Union was again checked up. Eviction of large number of unions from their offices also created some difficulty in submitting papers of these unions with the authorities.

The verification results are not yet ready. If the CITU's verified membership is shown to be above 4 lakhs we will be invited to participate in the Indian Labour Conference and other tripartite bodies. From all indications it appears that CITU will get the required membership for its entry in the tripartite apparatus in the country.

The CITU, however will not join the tripartite machinery with any illusions. It will continue to champion the cause of the working class in the forum and fight against every vacillation and weakness shown by other central trade union organisations.

The CITU will have to make prior arrangement to give guidance to the participation of our nominees in various tripartite committees so that they will be able to fulfil their responsibilities effectively.

I had not been able to submit a report on our publication programme during the last two years. In this period we have brought out 14 titles, 8 in English, 4 in Hindi and 2 in Bengali. The centre has so far realised about Rs. 5,000 from the sale proceeds of the literature. This comes to approximately half the amount we spent on the publications. The present stock position of each of the book is given in Annexure 5. It is found that some State Committees have not paid adequate attention to the task of sale of CITU literature seriously.

Kerala State Committee has published in Malayalam most of the CITU publications and a campaign to sell the publications had been organised in the State. Tamilnadu and Andhra have published some booklets. In West Bengal however most of the CITU publications have not been published in Bengali though there is a good demand for CITU literature.

The organisation of sale of literature of CITU is a weapon in our hands to educate the working class so that it can effectively discharge its responsibility in the present period. If the State Committees take this question more seriously it will be possible to bring out more publications by the centre. We should also take steps to clear the stock of the old publications so that our investment is not locked up for a long time.

During the last two years we have been able to establish a functioning centre which is playing the role of coordinating the activities of the CITU in different States. We have a staff of 4 comrades in the office and with the help of West Bengal State Committee we have been able to get part time help of 6 comrades. Com. Pandhe is looking after the work of the centre under the guidance of Com. B.T. Ranadive. Com. Kamal Sarkar is visiting the office almost daily and available for consultations.

Though the general work is carried out regularly the question of representation to the authorities on various issues needs more attention. The cases have to be pursued in Delhi since all the Central Government offices are

situated here. Unfortunately this side is not properly looked into and we have to make suitable arrangements to do these jobs effectively and in time. Since we are getting of late more and more grievances from unions, we should streamline our machinery in this regard without any delay.

The office-bearers have been meeting from time to time to discuss matters of immediate importance. Comrades available in Calcutta are normally called to these meetings. I personally could not attend many meetings because of my frequent tours in different States. However, attempts have been made to convene extended meetings of office-bearers for wider consultations. Since the last General Council meeting there were 2 such meetings in which members of the Working Committee available in West Bengal were invited. These meetings have helped in having a check-up of the work of the centre and giving direction of pressing issues affecting the working class. A list of office-bearers meetings and participation of members in them is given in Annexure 4.

It is however true that office-bearers are expected to take more responsibilities in discharging the duties of the centre. Since some of them are pre-occupied with other activities they are unable to spare enough time for doing the centralised work. If they take some specific responsibilities then the centre would be able to take additional responsibilities and the centre's activities will be more efficiently carried out.

In this connection I cannot but note that the task of developing the base of the CITU in States where we are weak should be given more emphasis by the centre. Unfortunately we have not been able to pay much attention to this aspect so far. This is possible only if all the office-bearers discharge their responsibilities provided in the CITU Constitution. Particularly, I feel that comrades from West Bengal who are office-bearers of the CITU can play more positive role in building and developing our centralised activities.

A word must be said about the activities of the State Committees which are expected to act as the direct link between the centre and the unions. Except West Bengal and to some extent Kerala and Tamilnadu our State Committees do not have day to day activities. They do not send to the centre regular reports of activities in their States and take appropriate steps to ensure full implementations of the decisions of the CITU at various levels.

Our Constitution provides that the State Committees should meet at least once in 3 months. However, not all the State Committees are following the provision of the Constitution in this regard. Detailed reports of the meetings of the State Committees are not sent to the centre. Since the meetings of the State Committees are a forum to have a check-up on our activities in the State, it is advisable that a representative from the centre should attend these meetings from time to time, if not regularly.

The State Committees have to make more efforts to ensure collective leadership at all levels. They should also pay special attention to see that individual unions function in a democratic manner. The trend of individual functioning which corroded the activities of the AITUC may creep in midst our functioning, unless we guard against these tendencies.

The workers of Mangalore in Karnatak organised Bundh on November 12 in protest against rising prices and unemployment as per call of the local CITU.

The two lakh State Government employees in Rajasthan went on indefinite strike in February demanding interim relief at par with the Central Government employees. Despite brutal police repression and victimisation the Rajasthan Government was forced to concede the demand of the employees.

In Assam the closure of Peco Printing under Karam Chand Thapar from July 31 led to a long drawn struggle of employees.

The struggle of 8000 construction workers under Bhilai Steel Plant management took mass casual leave and demonstrated before the Prime Minister demanding job security. A Joint Committee of all the unions was formed which forced the management to assure that all the workers would be absorbed in the Steel Plant.

The struggles of the railway workers are also on the rise despite the opposition of NFIR and AIRF leadership. The strike of 10,000 N.E. Railway employees at Gorakhpur which began on September 27 continued for 62 days. The main demand of the workers was the stoppage of retrenchment, corruption and victimisation. The police and the RPF resorted to repression on the strikers but failed to break their morale. Finally, the Railway Minister agreed to consider the demands and assured to implement the agreement.

The management of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works and the police combined to suppress the CLW Labour Union. The attempts were made to transfer all the Office-bearers of the Union but the strong opposition voiced by the workers forced the management to retrace its steps. The attacks against the Union however continued in different forms. The jeep of the Union has been seized by the police, the General Secretary of the Union and other active workers have been detained under MISA. Goondas are given free hand to terrorise the workers.

Goonda attacks against the railwaymen in West Bengal continue to increase. In Asansol and Sealdah Division as well as in Golmuhar and Bamangachi Colonies (Howrah) they are more frequent. There was a mass deputation of railwaymen to the Governor on March 4.

The railwaymen in Eastern Railway held a Convention in Ranaghat in September and organised a six thousand strong demonstration before the General Manager on September 14. In Katihar a leader of the Joint Council of Action has been detained under the MISA.

The Bank employees in India have also been marching ahead. 7000 employees of Union Bank of India started their work-to-rule movement since October 25 for realisation of their 23 point Charter of Demands. The Board of Directors of the bank refused to negotiate with the Union leaders and the Bombay employees had to gherao the Directors and force them to talk to the Union. The negotiations resulted in a settlement.

The Reserve Bank employees in Calcutta struck work for 2 hours on September 11 demanding release of some arrested workers detained under Preventive Acts. The offices of UCO Bank resorted to work-to-rule in July demanding fair promotion policy and restoration of cut in their salary.

The Central Government employees continued to struggle for need-based minimum wage and against delatory tactics with regard to publication of Third Pay Commission Report. Several local struggles and actions have taken place throughout the country. To sabotage the all-India struggle the Government tried to disrupt the National Federation of P & T Employees, premier organisation of the Central Government employees. The Government openly patronised the

minority in the Union and raised a bogey that the dispute existed in the Federation. This gross interference of the internal affairs of the trade unions was strongly resisted by the P & T employees whose local organisations sent hundreds of telegrams to the Minister demanding recognition to the constitutionally elected leadership which includes Comrades K.G. Bose and Rajan.

The 40 lakh State Government employees are struggling for salaries at par with Central Government employees which the State Government bosses are stoutly opposing. In Jammu & Kashmir on April 15 there was pen-down strike by one lakh State Government employees on this question.

The Anti-Repression Day observed throughout the country during January 31 and February 6 by the CITU Unions and the response of the workers to the call of the CITU clearly indicates that the working class of India can be roused in protest against the brutal terror of the police and gangsters of the Congress(R). The working class of India can also be drawn in solidarity actions if it is mobilised for support of the workers in West Bengal. The CITU should redouble its activities in this regard so that the task of defending democracy in West Bengal is given priority in CITU's activities.

We have seen that despite growing repression the workers and employees in all sectors of economy all fighting a grim struggle to preserve and improve their living conditions. Though the leadership of AITUC, INTUC and HMS has been trying to keep themselves aloof from united struggles the review shows that several united actions have taken place all over the country. The growing feeling of class solidarity among the mass of workers is crossing the barriers of organisational affiliations and bringing millions of workers together on common issues.

In this report, I have only made an attempt to cover some of the major struggles which have taken place since the last General Council meeting. However they sufficiently highlight the reality that it is only through unity and united struggles that the working class of India can march forward and defeat the offensive of the capitalist class.

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Working Committee Meeting
New Delhi, 24 - 26 April, 1972.

Annexure - 1

Response from the Working Committee Members
to the proposal of the Office-bearers for
postponement of the Working Committee Meeting.

1) Names of comrades who replied in the affirmative:-

1. Com. Suhrid Mallick Chowdhury	17. Com. C. A. Peter
2. " Kamal Sarkar	18. " C. Kannan
3. " Md. Ismail	19. " Harisadhan Mitra
4. " B. T. Ranadive	20. " Chandi Prasad
5. " Mohan Punamia	21. " P. Satyanarayana
6. " Biren Roy	22. " S. Y. Kolhatkar
7. " P. Ramamurti	23. " K. P. Ghosh
8. " K. Ramani	24. " N. Prasad Rao
9. " Samar Mukherjee	25. " Jyoti Basu
10. " Bimal Chatterjee	26. " Monoranjan Roy
11. " Dinen Bhattacharya	27. " S. Suryanarayana Rao
12. " M. K. Pandhe	28. " E. Balanandan
13. " Parimal	29. " A. Nallasivan
14. " T. Ayyappan	30. " R. Mukherjee
15. " R. Umanath	31. " A. Balasubramaniam
16. " Ram Asrey	
	Total = 31

2) Names of comrades who replied in the negative:-

1. Com. Robin Chatterjee	Total = 1
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3) Names of comrades who did not reply to the Circular:-

1. Com. Sudhin Kumar
2. " Niren Ghosh
3. " Ravi Sinha
4. " Krishna Khopkar
5. " Gerald Pereira
6. " O. Bharathan
7. " K. N. Ravindranath
8. " Ajit Mukherjee
9. " O. P. Joseph
10. " K. Anandan Nambiar
11. " Santi Ghatak
12. " Benoy Chowdhury

Total = 12

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Working Committee Meeting
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ANNEXURE - 2

List of Press Statements issued by the
 CITU since the Coimbatore General Council meeting.

<u>Date of issue</u>	<u>Issued by whom</u>	<u>Subject</u>
9.10.71	B.T.Ranadive, President, CITU.	On murderous attacks on T.U. leaders in Durgapur
12.10.71	- do -	On strikes of textile workers in Bombay, Coimbatore and Ahmedabad.
12.10.71	- do -	On General strike and Bengal Bandh.
20.10.71	- do -	On taking over of coking coal mines.
8.11.71		Office-bearers criticise the Ordinance to take over Industrial Units.
23.11.71	B. T. Ranadive, President, CITU.	On stoppage of publication of Daily Newspapers in Calcutta.
27.11.71	Monoranjan Roy & M.K.Pandhe Secretaries, CITU.	On murderous attack on prisoners in Alipore Jail.
4.12.71	Monoranjan Roy, Niren Ghosh & M.K.Pandhe, Secretaries, CITU.	On Pakistan's attack on India.
14.12.71	B.T.Ranadive, President, CITU.	On U.S. Conspiracy against India and Bangladesh
30.12.71	- do -	On U.S. Bombing of North Vietnam.
27.1.72	- do -	On attacks by anti-social elements in Durgapur.

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ANNEXURE - 3

C I R C U L A R S I S S U E D :

<u>No.</u>	<u>Issued to whom</u>	<u>Date of issue</u>	<u>Subject.</u>
15/71	All State Committees	9.7.71	Efforts for united action at State levels on common issues facing the working class.
16/71	All Unions in Eng. Industry.	23.7.71	Information on Engineering Industry.
17/71	All State Committees	24.7.71	Monthly Journal of the CITU 'THE WORKING CLASS'.
18/71	- do -	15.9.71	Verification of CITU membership for the year 1970
19/71	All State Committees & General Council Members	18.10.71	Observation of November 5 as "West Bengal Day"
20/71	All Unions in Plantation Industry	15.11.71	On all India Plantation Workers Conference.
21/71	All State Committees & General Council Members.	17.11.71	On observation a day against closures and for higher bonus and gratuity.
22/71	All State Committees & Working Committee Members	24.11.71	On observation of a day during week December 5 - 12.
23/71	All Plantation Unions	14.12.71	All India Plantation Workers' Conference.
24/71	All Plantation Unions	28.12.71	Postponement of all India Plantation Workers' Conference.
1/72	Working Committee Members	2.1.72	Proposal to defer the convening of the Working Committee Meeting.
2/72	All Affiliated Unions	18.1.72	On observation of 'Anti-Repression Day' between Jan. 31 - Feb. 6.
3/72	All State Committees	13.2.72	Campaign against repression on T.U. and Democratic movement in West Bengal.
4/72	- do -	7.3.72	Repression on T.U. and democratic movement in West Bengal.
5/72	All Working Committee Members	25.3.72	Meeting of the Working Committee.
6/72	All Affiliated Unions.	30.3.72	Payment of affiliation fee and submission of annual return for the year 1971.

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Working Committee Meeting
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ANNEXURE - 4

Office-bearers Meeting held after the
 Coimbatore General Council Meeting.

1. 14.7.1971 Present - Com. Niren Ghosh, Com. Monoranjan Roy, Com. M.K.Pandhe, Com. Sudhin Kumar, Com. Kamal Sarkar.
2. 28.8.1971 Present - Com. Kamal Sarkar, Com. M. K. Pandhe, Com. Niren Ghosh, Com. Monoranjan Roy..
3. 9.9.1971 Present - Com. Niren Ghosh, Com. Kamal Sarkar, Com. Suhrid Mullick Chowdhury, Com. M. K. Pandhe.
4. 22.9.1971 Present - Com. B. T. Ranadive, Com. Md. Ismail, Com. M. K. Pandhe, Com. Kamal Sarkar, Com. Monoranjan Roy.
5. 18.10.1971 Present - Com. B.T.Ranadive, Com. Md. Ismail, Com. Suhrid Mullick Chowdhury, Com. Monoranjan Roy, Com. M. K. Pandhe.
6. 7.11.1971 Present - (Extended) Com. B.T.Ranadive, Com. P. Ramamurti, Com. M. K. Pandhe, Com. Suhrid Mullick Chowdhury, Com. S. Y. Kolhatkar, Com. A. Balasubramaniam, Com. N. Prasada Rao, Com. Mohan Punamia, Com. Kamal Sarkar, Com. Monoranjan Roy, Com. Bimal Chatterjee, Com. Jyoti Basu, Com. Niren Ghosh, Com. Md. Ismail, Com. Biren Roy, Com. Samar Mukherjee, Com. E. Balanandan, Com. Shanti Bose.
7. 22.11.1971 Present - Com. B.T.Ranadive, Com. Sudhin Kumar, Com. Kamal Sarkar, Com. Monoranjan Roy, Com. M. K. Pandhe.
8. 13.12.1971 Present - Com. B.T.Ranadive, Com. Suhrid Mullick Chowdhury, Com. M. K. Pandhe, Com. Monoranjan Roy, Com. Kamal Sarkar, Com. Sudhin Kumar, Com. Md. Ismail.
9. 3.1.1972 Present - Com. B.T.Ranadive, Com. Md. Ismail, Com. Kamal Sarkar, Com. Suhrid Mullick Chowdhury.
10. 13.1.1972 (Extended) Present - Com. B.T.Ranadive, Com. N. Prasada Rao, Com. Jyoti Basu, Com. P. Ramamurti, Com. Suhrid Mullick Chowdhury, Com. Kamal Sarkar, Com. Robin Mukherjee, Com. M. K. Pandhe, Com. Samar Mukherjee, Com. Bimal Chatterjee, Com. Krishna Pada Ghosh, Com. Monoranjan Roy, Com. Biren Roy, Com. Shanti Bose (Observer), Com. Balasubramaniam, Com. S.Y.Kolhatkar; Com. Sudhin Kumar, Com. Mohan Punamia.
11. 24.3.1972 Present - Com. B. T. Ranadive, Com. P. Ramamurti, Com. Niren Ghosh, Com. M.K. Pandhe, Com. Kamal Sarkar.

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New Delhi, 24-26 April, 1972

ANNEXURE - 5

Statement showing copies printed and present stocks of CITU publications.

Name of the Publication	Copies printed	Present stocks
1. Forward to Unity and Struggle	2000	610
2. Constitution of the CITU (English)	2000	269
3. - do - (Hindi)	2000	1066
4. Fight Against Repression and Disruption (Jaipur Working Committee Report)	1000	301
5. Unmask and Defeat Anti-Labour Policies of the Congress Government	2000	1274
6. Surging Tide of Working Class Struggles (Coimbatore General Council Meeting Report)	2000	1112
7. Samyukta Trade Union Andolanki Nayi Disha (Hindi)	2000	1233
8. Indian Railwaymen Forge Ahead (English)	3000	70
9. - do - (Hindi)	2000	200
10. - do - (Bengali)*	5000	400
11. Employees Family Pension Scheme - A Hoax**	2000	861
12. - do - (Hindi)***	1000	241
13. Railwaymen and the Third Pay Commission (English)	2000	552
14. - do - (Bengali)	8000	564
15. - do - (Hindi)	3000	In Press

* The booklet was published on behalf of West Bengal State Committee of CITU. But the circulation was organised through the Centre.

** The publication was brought out in co-operation with Maharashtra State Committee of the CITU.

*** The publication was brought out in co-operation with Bihar State Committee of the CITU.

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CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Working Committee Meeting

New Delhi, 24 - 26 April, 1972.

A NOTE ON THE U.P. STATE
COMMITTEE OF C.I.T.U.

In U.P. a State Committee was in existence as a constituent of the AITUC before the formation of the CITU. In July 1968 Dange personally went to Kanpur to engineer a split and by resorting to dishonest methods formed another State Committee rival to the Committee elected in the Conference. Since then two parallel Committees were in existence in U.P.

After the formation of the CITU, the first General Council meeting decided that the former U.P. State Committee of AITUC should be transformed into U.P. State Committee of the CITU. However, the CITU Centre had received no report of holding of any State wide meeting of representative of U.P. unions or the members of the U.P. State Committee to implement such a decision.

The first U.P. State Conference of CITU was held at Saharanpur on 26th and 27th December 1970. Com. B. T. Ranadive, President, CITU attended the Conference on behalf of the CITU Centre. However, he was surprised to find that no written report of the General Secretary was submitted nor any draft resolutions were prepared and circulated among the delegates. Care was also not taken to ensure that all the unions participating in the Conference have paid affiliation fee in full to the Centre. In the Meeting of Office-bearers of the CITU held in January 1971 Com. Ranadive noted that it was the most disorganised State Conference of the CITU.

Com. Ranadive had to strongly criticise in the Conference that no meeting of the State Committee was held prior to the Conference. On the question of functioning of the CITU in the State he gave certain directives but despite his enquiries about implementation of the decision of Sharanpur Conference he could not get any reply to his letter. Despite his suggestion that a State Committee meeting should be convened, no such meeting was organised. This manner of functioning was criticised during the Working Committee meeting at Coimbatore held in the middle of June and the General Secretary of the CITU agreed to hold the meeting.

As per decision of the Office-bearers meeting of the CITU held on 13th July, 1971 Com. Pandhe wrote to Com. Ravi Sinha, General Secretary U.P. State Committee of CITU on 14th July 1971 that a meeting of the U.P. State Committee should be called on 7th or 8th August 1971 when Com. Kamal Sarkar would visit Kanpur. Com. Ravi Sinha however replied on 23rd July 1971 that the U.P. State Committee meeting was called on 1st and 2nd August much before receiving the letter from the Centre. When the dates of the State Committee meeting was fixed the Centre was not informed earlier. Com. Kamal Sarkar was prepared to adjust his programme to suit the convenience of the U.P. State Committee. However, when Com. Kamal Sarkar after his reaching Kanpur on 7th August 1971 gave a note in writing to Com. Ravi Sinha, regarding the jobs to be done by the U.P. State Committee. However no action was taken by the State Committee on the note.

The U.P. State Committee did not send a report of the State Committee meeting held on 1st and 2nd August 1971 to the Centre.

The Office-bearers meeting held on 22nd November 1971 considered holding of the CITU Working Committee meeting at Kanpur preferably in January 1972. It was decided to write to U.P. State Committee of CITU and find out whether it would be possible to make arrangements there. Accordingly, a letter was sent on 25th November 1971 to the General-

Secretary U.P. State Committee. The letter however was not replied by the State Committee.

The Working Committee meeting had to be postponed due to various reasons known to Working Committee members.

Again on 18th February Com. Pandhe wrote to U.P. State Committee of CITU whether they could still hold the Working Committee meeting at Kanpur. He criticised the failure of the State Committee to reply to Centre's letter. However the State Committee did not send any reply to this letter also.

Several letters sent by the Centre have not been replied by the State Committee in a similar manner. The State Committee has sent no report on the action taken by the State Committee on the circulars issued by the CITU Centre or the campaigns launched by the CITU.

There is every reason to conclude that the Office of the U.P. State Committee does not function. It has no lively contact with local unions. The leading Office-bearers of the State Committee do not see eye to eye each other and the strained relationship has gone deeper into the ranks who are getting demoralised due to the behaviour of the leadership.

In view of this Com. B. T. Ranadive wrote to the U.P. State Committee stating that a meeting of the State Committee should be convened on 28th and 29th April, 1972 and he would personally attend it.

In connection with the functioning of the U.P. State Committee of CITU, the major responsibility is that of Com. Ravi Sinha who failed to reply to letters of the Centre and implement decisions taken by Committees. His non-serious attitude about the functioning of the State Committee and persistent refusal to carry out the directive of the higher authorities has resulted in deteriorating the state of affairs in U.P.

The matters are being referred to the Working Committee because despite Centre's efforts the leadership of CITU in U.P. has failed to behave in a responsible way.

In Kanpur and other Industrial Centres several struggles have been conducted under the leadership of the CITU. However it has not been possible to consolidate the CITU movement in the State due to the non-functioning of the State Committee. Several new comrades who have come closer to the CITU are also feeling demoralised about this state of affairs.

The Working Committee members are requested to give their suggestions for improvement of the state of affairs in U.P. so that CITU activities in the State can be brought on a sound footing.

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CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Working Committee Meeting

New Delhi, 24 - 26 April, 1972.

A REPORT ON CITU JOURNAL THE WORKING CLASS

The Working Committee meeting of the CITU held at Jaipur on 4th - 6th October 1970 had directed the Office-bearers to take suitable steps to bring a bulletin or a journal of the CITU at an early date.

However, the Office-bearers found it difficult to bring out such a journal within first six months due to non-availability of proper cadre to bring out such a journal and other technical difficulties.

The demand for the journal was being raised by comrades from below quite frequently and Office-bearers made efforts to overcome the difficulties.

In the meeting of the Office-bearers it was decided that the title of the journal should be The Working Class and Com. Monoranjan Roy Secretary CITU was authorised to file in an application to bring out the journal. He filed an application in May itself.

In another meeting of Office-bearers it was decided that the following comrades should function as the Editorial Board

Com. B. T. Ranadive (Chairman), Com. P. Ramamurti, Com. Niren Ghosh, Com. Monoranjan Roy, Com. Sudhin Kumar and Com. M. K. Pandhe (Editor).

The first issue was brought out in September 1971 and since then 4000 copies are being printed. From the month of January we got postal concession while a newsprint licence was also obtained from the month of April.

The response to the journal in different States can be seen from the following statement:

STATEMENT NO.1

On Circulation and Arrears of The Working Class/April issue upto 15th April.

State	Total No. of Agencies	Copies Supplied Agency	Subscribers.	Total arrears Agency's due upto April 15	No. of C.I.T.U affiliated unions who are subscribers.
W.Bengal	11	1218	128	Rs. 86.60	30
Bihar	12	176	30	" 167.80	
Mysore	5	126	23	" 132.50	14
Tamilnadu	5	175	66	" 198.00	10
Punjab	4	70	30	" 103.50	2
Assam	4	41	8	" 47.10	1
New Delhi	3	110	9	" 162.50	
Kerala	3	150	68	" 112.50	21

Contd -

Bombay	2	57	34	Rs. 20.20	2
M. P.	2	20	18	" 12.00	
Maharashtra	1	35	7	" 20.50	1
Rajasthan	1	12	6	" 3.60	
U. P.	1	15	27	" 11.50	4
Tripura	1	10	5	" 9.00	
Andhra Pradesh	1	70	44	" 41.00	1
Goa			4		1
Gujarat			9		
Orissa			16		
Haryana			5		
H. P.			3		
J & K			1		
Cash Sale		223			
Foreign Agency	1	5			
Foreign Subscriber			2		
Complementary:					
In India		56			
Outside India		24			
Sale on Credit		185			
		<u>2778</u>	<u>538</u>	<u>Rs.1128.30</u>	<u>87</u>

= 3316 copies distributed

4000 copies printed

Due to repression and gangsterism in West Bengal the circulation has fallen during March and April by about 500.

It is also seen that in some States the circulation of the journal does not keep in with the strength of the CITU. Not all the State Committees have taken keen interest in boosting the circulation. In some of the leading industrial centres efforts have not yet been made to start agency of the journal.

It is also found that payment of arrears are not made promptly by some centres. The State Committees should see that all the agents show promptness in this regard. The total arrears of payment and deposit amount to Rs.1128.30. Though these are against the deposits from the agents still the amount of arrears is quite high. Major arrears are in Bihar, Mysore, Delhi and Tamilnadu. The management will have no other alternative but to stop the agencies if the dues are not cleared.

The financial position of the journal is seen from the Statement No.2

STATEMENT NO.2

Statement of Account of The Working Class
(Sept. 1971 - 15th April 1972)

<u>I N C O M E</u>	Rs. P.	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	Rs. P.
Security Deposit	918.00	Printing Charges (Including Paper Sept-March)	5048.75
Subscription	2523.30	Salary from Jan.'72 to March '72	600.00
Cash Sale	4625.48	News Print(for April)	382.50
		Postage Stamps	324.81
		Stationary	57.13
		Miscellaneous	84.12
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total	8066.78	Total	6497.31
	=====		=====

In the early stages since we did not have the newsprint licence and the postal concession we had to spend about Rs.150 more per month on that account. Now the position has been eased to some extent.

In the beginning we did not have the manager to look after the circulation of the journal. However, since January we have appointed Com. Nikhil Gupta as full time manager on payment of Rs.200 as monthly allowances. His wages are paid from the Working Class funds.

In order to have a separate estimate of the performance of the journal the Office-bearers decided to keep The Working Class funds in a separate account. The account is jointly operated by Comrades Sudhin Kumar, Monoranjan Roy and M. K. Pandhe.

The statement makes it clear that CITU has not spent anything so far on account of The Working Class. However, there is no scope for complacency in the matter. The Statement indicates that the journal is just managing somehow financially.

The experience of the last 8 months of running the journal tells us that if the circulation stabilises at 4000 we are in a position to make both ends meet somehow. To make it run properly it is necessary to increase the circulation upto 5000. If the State Committees co-operate in this task it may not be difficult to increase the circulation.

Since the journal is in English there are difficulties in pushing up sales among the mass of workers. Yet the CITU State Committees and unions can enrol subscribers among salaried employees and educated workers.

It appears that many CITU unions have not enrolled themselves as subscribers of the journal. The State Committees should see that every CITU union takes a copy of the journal so that the message of the CITU reaches every union regularly.

It is also necessary that State Committees take initiative in bringing out journals in regional languages. Andhra State Committees has already brought out a monthly journal Karmika Lokam since November 1971 while Maharashtra Committee is bringing out a weekly journal Warg Yudhha from 1st of May next.

Kerala State Committee has applied for declaration in Malayalam language. West Bengal State Conference of the CITU held at Asansol in September 1971 decided to bring out a journal in Bengali language.

The need for a Hindi journal of the CITU is strongly felt by the cadres. However due to non-availability of proper staff the Centre is finding it difficult to bring it out.

The Editorial Board has been meeting every month. Apart from the members of the Editorial Boards we have been inviting Comrades Biren Roy, Prasanta Ghosh, Amiya Bose, Subir Poddar who are doing work in the journal. Com. Sudarshan Roy Chowdhury was working in the journal till the end of December 1971. He joined as a member of the staff of the West Bengal State Committee and now not working in the journal.

Com. B. T. Ranadive has been regularly writing in the journal and giving overall guidance in bringing out the journal. However, the Editorial Board on the whole has not functioned properly. Some of the members could not attend the meeting regularly and contribute to the journal. There is much scope for improvement in the standard of the journal which is possible only if the Editorial Board discharges its responsibility efficiently.

The State Committees can also help by giving suggestions for the improvement of the journal and by contributing reports and articles on the working class movements in the respective States. At present we are not getting regular reports from the State which is a serious handicap in popularising the struggles conducted by our unions.

The Working Committee members are expected to give their suggestions for improvement of the journal that it can discharge its responsibility more effectively in days to come.

DURGAPUR WORKERS URGE

DEFEND TRADE UNION
AND
DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

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DURGAPUR TRADE UNION COORDINATION COMMITTEE

April 17, 1972.

Press conference addressed by Sri Dilip Mazumder, Sri Sukhen Sarkar and Sri Probhat Chatterjee of DTUCC held in the office of CITU West Bengal Committee at 249, Bepin Behari Ganguly Street, Calcutta-12 :

The terror and repression let loose in Durgapur industrial belt after the fall of the United Front Government in West Bengal, has been greatly intensified by the ruling Congress following the rigged election held on 11th March, 1972, to eliminate all CITU affiliated unions and to suppress the class conscious workers of Durgapur.

The safety and security of the workers are at stake and the right 'to form unions and associations' and to function them with freedom is under attack.

The gangsters and local rowdies of Congress (R) with direct help from police, CRP and local administration are openly attacking the workers and unions with bombs, pistols and rifles. The method adopted by them is as follows :

1. Forcibly occupying offices of CITU unions.
2. Forcing the workers to join unions of Congress (R). Those who refuse to join are assaulted and threatened with murder and prevented from reporting to their duties.
3. The Office Bearers, Executive Committee members and leading workers of CITU affiliated unions are threatened with murder and evicted from their quarters and prevented from reporting to their duties in respective factories.

4. Forcibly collecting money from workers and their families and assault and humiliate them when they refuse to oblige the rowdies.
5. The workers are told to sign bonds distributed by Congress (R) rowdies purported to be a declaration from the worker that he has erred in following the wrong policies of CITU union and as such he voluntarily resigns from CITU union and joins the union of Congress (R). The workers are told that those who would refuse to sign this bond, would not be allowed to stay in Durgapur or to work in the factories.
6. House of the workers looted and also burnt.
7. The leaders and active workers of CITU unions are implicated in false cases and arrested by police. When this method proves insufficient, Trade unions leaders are detained without trial.

Immediately following the election, two workers Sri Sujit Debsarman of Sagarbhangra Colony and Ajit Das of D. P. L. Colony were murdered and five workers were stabbed in Durgapur.

The union office of A. V. B. Employees' Union at AVB Colony and Sagarbhangra Colony were forcibly occupied. The union office of Hindustan Steel Employees' Union was looted.

The union leaders of Durgapur Project Employees' Union and Durgapur Chemical Employees' Union are forcibly prevented from opening the union office and to function from there.

The workers were victims of a series of attacks in the post election period. Some of the incidents are listed below :

DURGAPUR STEEL PLANT :

1. On 15th March Congress rowdies—Jahar Saha and Banu Bose used most abusive language to humiliate the family

members of Shri Phani Bhattacharjee and Shri Anil Ghosh. When Sri Bhattacharjee and Shri Ghosh strongly protested against the behaviour of the rowdies, the rowdies threatened them with revolvers.

2. On 16th March, 1972 about 25 Congress rowdies attacked the house of Shri Dipak Mullick at 14/3, Einestine Avenue in presense of police. The family members of Sri Dipak Mullick were insulted and humiliated by the rowdies.
3. On 16th March Congress (R) rowdies attacked the house of Shri Subodh Biswas at 5/8, Marconi Avenne and threatened to murder the inmates. Even the children of the house were beaten.
4. On the same day i. e. 16th March, the rowdies also attacked the house of Sri Hiralal Chanda at 10/46 Einestine Avenue. Police put off the street lights of Einestine Avenue when the rowdies carried on the attack.
5. On 16th March Congress rowdies—Jahor Saha and two others—threatened with murder Sri Tarapada Acharjee of 20/3, Bidyapati Road and Sri Sukumar Malakar of 20/12, Bidyapati Road. The rowdies asked Sri Badal Sharma to vacate his house at 9/13 Bidyapati Road and threatened of dire consequences if he did not obey them.
6. On 16th March when the houses of the workers of Newton Avenue and Einestine Avenue were attacked the rowdies assaulted Sri Gauri Sankar Mazumder, D. D. Chatterjee and Lakshman Banik.
7. On 29th March Congress rowdies attacked the house of Sri Amar Ganguly of 6th Street of Ranaprotap Road. The rowdies also attacked the house of Sri P. Roy, Vice President of Hindustan Steel Employees' Union at 11th Street of Ranaprotap Road. The house of Shri Ajit Chatterjee and Shri Soumen Chakrabarty were attacked by the rowdies o ↗ the same day.

8. The house of Sri Madhab Roy at 21/9, Ashoke Avenue was looted by the rowdies and younger brother of Sri Roy was severely beaten.
9. Dilip Dey of 22/2, Ashoke Avenue was so severely beaten that he had to be hospitalised.
10. The house of Shri Satyabrata Sanyal at 21/2, Ashoke Avenue was attacked and the belongings were damaged.
11. Congress rowdies dragged out Shri Debabrata Ghosh from his quarter at 22/4, Ashoke Avenue and severely assaulted him. Shri Ghosh had to be hospitalised.
12. On 18th April, 1972 Shri Dilip Mukherjee, a worker of the Co-operative Society was beaten by the rowdies in Mahiskapur Road of Steel Township.
13. Shri Madhav Ojha an employee of Slag Bank and Shri Rebati Das of Foundry Department were severely beaten by the rowdies of 2nd April, 1972.
14. On 8th April Congress rowdies attacked the house of workers in Einestine Avenue and demolished one school of small children. The attack was led by Shri Hiren Sengupta.
15. On 9th April Congress rowdies attacked the workers of Edison Road with bombs and firearms and assaulted Shri Manash Mukherjee, Rathin Majumder, Milan Bhattacharjee, A. K. Panda, H. L. Dey and others in presence of police. Police, however, arrested eleven workers who were attacked by the rowdies.
16. On 9th April Congress rowdies attacked the office of CITU affiliated Hindustan Steel Employees' Union at 20/7, Edison Road and looted the typewriter and destroyed all union records.
17. The rowdies also assaulted Shri Anil Ghosh, M. N. Bose, Phani Bhattacharjee and N. C. Paul of Bidyapati Road.

The rowdies handed over Shri Phani Bhattacharjee to police after severely assaulting him.

18. The Service of Sri Dayamay Ruidas, employee of Durgapur Steel Plant and activist of the H. S. E. Union was terminated without assigning any reason.

ALLOY STEEL PLANT :

1. On 12th April Shri N. K. Chatterjee was attacked by Congress rowdies while he was going to factory duty. Sri Chatterjee was stabbed.
2. On 18th March Congress rowdies kidnapped Shri Nabin Chatterjee and assaulted him. Shri Joydev Das was also assaulted on the same day.

A. V. B. FACTORY :

1. On 13th March Congress rowdies attacked the quarters of Shri Biswanath Chowdhury and Shri T. N. Gupta, General Secretary and Asstt. Secretary of A. V. B. Employees' Union.
2. On 14th March 30 leading workers of the union were evicted from their quarters and forced to leave the township at the point of guns.
3. On 15th March Congress rowdies attacked the house of Shri C. P. Sinha. Shri Sinha was not at his quarter at that time. The rowdies assaulted the younger brother of Shri Sinha. Shri Sinha's brother had a small shop in Swapna Market which was looted by the rowdies.
4. On 16th March Congress rowdies asked the employees of Co-operative Society to tender resignation from their job and to leave the township.
5. On 23rd March Congress rowdies forcibly occupied the office of A. V. B. Employees' Union in presence of police.

6. On 25th March night Congress rowdies attacked the house of Shri Bibhu Chakrabarty. Shri Bibhu Chakrabarty was not at home at that time. The rowdies asked his father to vacate the house. Next morning the rowdies came with firearms and forcibly dragged out Shri Chakrabarty's old father and took possession of the house.
7. On 31st March Congress rowdies dragged out Shri Kalicharan Maity from his house and severely assaulted him.
8. On 1st April Congress rowdies looted the quarters of Shri B. K. Mukherjee and Shri S. K. Mukherjee—quarters No. RR-278 and RR-272.
9. On 8th April Congress rowdies assaulted Shri Niranjana Karar.
10. The workers are forced by Congress rowdies to join the union of Congress (R). When the workers come to punch their cards inside the factory to record their attendance, the rowdies force them to sign the membership form of Congress (R) union. The workers are not allowed to punch their cards as long as they do not sign the membership form. Shri Atin Mukherjee, Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police, specially posted in A. V. B. Township threaten to arrest the workers and evict them from their quarter if they do not join the union of Congress (R).
11. Congress rowdies and Shri Atin Mukherjee, the police officer do not allow the workers even to purchase their daily necessities from the market, who refuse to join the union of Congress (R). When wives of those workers go for marketing, the rowdies and Shri Atin Mukherjee insult and humiliated them and prevent them from going to market.

12. Shri B. K. Ghosh, the Industrial Relation Officer of ACC-Vickers-Babcock Ltd., Durgapur is the main conspirator and the Congress rowdies and police are acting under his instruction to wreck CITU affiliated A. V. B. Employees' Union.

DURGAPUR CHEMICAL :

1. On 19th March Congress rowdies attacked Shri Mahadev Bairagi with iron rods and seriously injured him. Shri Bairagi is still in hospital.
2. The leading workers of CITU affiliated Durgapur Chemical Employees' Union Shri Asoke Bose, Manoj Bag, Dipak Dey, Sukumar Bardhan, Debidas Roy, Balaram Paul were attacked by Congress rowdies and severely beaten.
3. The following office bearers and Leading workers of CITU Union are forcibly prevented by Congress rowdies from reporting to their duties in the factory :
 - Shri P. K. Roy, Asstt. Secretary
 - „ R. C. Datta, Asstt. Secretary
 - „ Susanta Bose, Executive Member
 - „ Swapan Mukherjee, Executive Member
 - „ Panchanan Banerjee, Executive Member
 - „ Shamal Chatterjee
 - „ Sowmen Dutta
4. Most of the office bearers and Executive Committee members have been evicted from their quarters and forced to leave the township under threats of murder.
5. The Workers are forced to join the union of Congress (R). Those who refuse are assaulted. A number of letters were written to Factory Management but uptil now no action has been taken to ensure safety and security of the workers.

MINING & ALLIED MACHINERY CORPORATION :

1. On 12th March Congress rowdies attacked Shri Arjun Dhar, Achut Chakrabarty and Ratan Ghatak—the active workers of CITU affiliated Heavy Engineering Employees' Union.
2. On 16th March Congress rowdies came in a Ambassador Car (WGJ 3517) searched for Shri Dilip Nandy in the Township (Viswakarma Nagar) and threatened to murder him when they (rowdies) get him.
3. Shri Jaladhar Manna, Executive Committee Member of HEE Union was arrested by police on 7th February, '72 in a false case. His bail was granted by the court. On 16th March when Union leaders went to release him from prison Shri Manna was detained without trial under MISA.
4. On 16th March Shri Rakhal Bhattacharjee, General Secretary of H.E.E. Union was detained without trial under MISA.
5. Shri Haradhan Das was attacked by Congress rowdies and stabbed on 30th March. Shri Asoke Banerjee and Shri Dipak Aich were the leaders of the gang which attacked Sri Das.
6. Sri Dilip Roy Chowdhury and Sri Amal Basu, active workers of H. E. E. Union were evicted from their quarters in Sagarbhanga Colony by Congress rowdies with threats of murder.
7. In violation of the practice to recruit new hands through Employment Exchange, Congress rowdies are given direct employment to terrorise the workers inside the factory.

SANKEY WHEEL (Guest Keen Williams) :

1. Shri Jogesh Das, Haripada Chakrabarty and Bimal Banerjee were assaulted by Congress rowdies before the factory gate.

2. Known anti-social elements—Jagannath Dutta, Sarat Talapatra and Sukumar Chowdhury are giving threatening to murder the active workers.
3. Sri Harilal Ghosh is prevented from reporting to his duties by Congress rowdies.

DURGAPUR STATE TRANSPORT SERVICE :

1. Congress rowdies attacked the office of D.S.T.S. Employees' Union and burnt all union records.
2. The following workers are prevented from reporting to their duties :

Sri Mihir Sen
 „ Mihir Rudra
 „ Ajit Biswas
 „ Prabir Chakraborty
 „ Santosh Layak
 „ Kartik Purakayat
 „ Kasi Chakraborty
 „ D. P. Bose
 „ V. K. Rajan
 „ Swapan Banerjee
 „ Jyan Das
 „ Shanti Mazumdar

3. Sri Swapan Banerjee was severely assaulted and forced to resign from CITU affiliated D S.T.S. Employees' Union. Sri G. Das was also severely assaulted and told by Congress rowdies not to attend his duties.
4. Sri Kartick Chandra Purakayat was attacked by Congress rowdies on 21. 3. 72, 31. 3. 72 and 7. 4. 72 and Sri Prabir Chakraborty was attacked on 7. 4. 72. Both of them were severely beaten. Sri Purakait and Sri Chakraborty in written representation informed all these incidents to the Chief Executive Officer, Durgapur State Transport

Board and demanded measure for their safety and security. But no action has so far been taken. The rowdies assemble everyday at the gate of the Depot and prevent the workers from coming to their duties.

DURGAPUR NOTIFIED AREA AUTHORITY :

Sri Ashoke Mozumdar, Office Assistant and Joint Secretary of D. N. A. A. Employees' Union is forcibly prevented by Congress rowdies from joining his duty. Other workers and employees of D. N. A. A. are regularly threatened that they would not be allowed to stay in Durgapur if they do not join the Union of Congress (R).

DURGAPUR PROJECT LIMITED :

1. **On 14th March 1972** Sarbasri Taraprasad Ghose of Electrical Division, Sital Chatterjee of the Office of Deputy Chief Engineer and Karuna Pal, Driver of Water Works were severely assaulted and taken to Hospital.
2. **On 15th March, 1972** Sarbastri Rabin Sen, Chargeman of the Tar & By-Products Plant, Vice-President of the D.P.L. Employees' Union, N. G. Sen—Coke-Oven Operator, Gr.-1 and Sudhir Chakraborty, Hospital (Ambulance) Driver were severely assaulted and taken to the Hospital.
3. **On 21st March, 1972** Sarbasri Satyan Senyal, Gr-I Operator of Tar & By-Product Plant and Sihangshu Chowdhury of Tar & By-Products Plant, Gr-1 Operator were physically assaulted and were removed to hospital.
4. **On 22nd March, 1972** Sarbasri Satya Bose, Power Plant (Mech.) Setai Saha, Fitter, Central Workshop, Subhash Sarkar, Foreman, Coal Washery were assaulted and taken to hospital.
5. **On 25th March, 1972** Sri Sisir Kundu, Tech. Gr. III of Mech./Division was assaulted severely when he was

coming from his duty. He was beaten by broken bottle in his head and chin.

6. On 12th April, 1972 Sri Nikhil Chatterjee of Tr. Section was stabbed by Congress rowdies while he was going to the Factory to report to duty in "C" Shift.

7. The following Union leaders and active workers of CITU Union were evicted from Coke-Oven Township (Durgapur Project) and forcibly prevented from reporting to their duties :

- I Sukhen Sarkar, Vice-President.
- II) Asit Mitra, Secretary.
- III) Joy Narayan Chakraborty, Secretary.
- IV) Priya Lal Das, Assistant Secretary.
- V) Utpal Roy Burman, Sr. Boy, Canteen.
- VI) Mrinal Sarkar, -Do-
- VII) Bishu Mazumdar, Driver.
- VIII) Jatin Chakraborty, Clerk.
- IX) Pabitra Pal, Vice-President.
- X) Arabinda Sarkar, Clerk.
- XI) Ranjit Dhar, Clerk.
- XII) Tamal Das Gupta, Operator.
- XIII) Tarun Bose, Assistant Secretary.
- XIV) Biplab Bose, -Do-
- XV) Kalyan Biswas, Committee Member.

8. **WORKERS EVICTED FROM THEIR QUARTERS AND FORCED TO LEAVE DURGAPUR.**

Dilip Chatterjee	Dy. Chief Engineer's Office.
Uday Hazra	Town Administration Office.
Bishtu Mozumdar	Dy. Chief Office.
Santosh Chakraborty	Hospital.
Utpal Banerjee	Canteen,
Sukdev Mukherjee	Canteen.

Benoy Neogi	Central Workshop Office.
Nanda Dulal Mukherjee	-Do-
Paritosh Datta	Coal Washery.
Manik Ghosh	Coal Washery.
Sisir Kundu	Mech/Divn.
Mridul Das Gupta	Central Testing Cell.
Bhagilal Balmiki	Town Sweeper.
Manna Balmiki	-Do-
Tapan Sarkar	Traffic.
Satya Mukherjee	Traffic.
Shamal Ghosh	Power Plant Mech.
Arun Raha	-Do-
Pradyat Chatterjee	COKE-OVEN.
Dwipen Munshi	-Do-
A. Chatterjee	Gas Plant.
Sukumar Kaibiatya	Security.
Fatik Banerjee	Security.
Kalyan Biswas	Power Plant.
Mukul Mukherjee	Traffic.
Paritosh Datta	Coal Washery (Operation)

9. Gangsters and rowdies of Congress (R) are forcibly entering into the quarters of the active members and supporters of the Durgapur Project Employees' Union and threatening to murder them if they do not resign from their jobs and vacate their quarters. The representatives of the Union met Sri Zaenul Abedin, Minister-in-charge of State Undertakings, Government of West Bengal on 7th April '72 and requested him to take measure for safety and security of the workers and to ensure that the workers could report to their duties with full security. The Minister categorically said that no such assurance would be given by the Government and the workers should themselves find their own security which indirectly meant that the workers and Union leaders should join the Union of Congress (R) as otherwise no safety or security could be guaranteed.

CONTRACTORS LABOUR OF DURGAPUR STEEL PROJECT :

About 120 workers of C I T U affiliated Union have been retrenched and in their place Congress rowdies have been given employment.

The Office of CITU affiliated United Contractors Workers Union at Benachitty was twice attacked by Congress rowdies.

SHOP EMPLOYEES :

Congress rowdies are forcing the shop owners to terminate the services of workers who are members of CITU affiliated union. 8 leading union workers have already been dismissed to provide employment to Congress rowdies.

The Ruling Congress has employed the gangsters and local rowdies to physically anahilate the leaders and active workers of CITU affiliated unions. Out of 60,000 workers, 45,000 workers in Durgapur are associated with CITU Unions. The main purpose of the attacks is to crush this consolidated force of workers and to physically eliminate the existance of the organised unions affiliated to CITU.

This is happening all over West Bengal today.

The workers of Durgapur face this ordeal with courage. They are determined to defend their trade union and democratic rights earned through years of struggle.

Series of letters and representations were given to Government of West Bengal and Government of India urging upon them to take immediate measure for safety and security of workers and to retain Trade Union and democratic rights. But the Government instead of taking action against the gangsters and rowdies, are giving them direct encouragement. The Government is thus following a deliberate policy to crush trade union and democratic rights of the workers. If this attack

continues, it will not be confined to trade union sphere only. The ruling Congress in a determined manner is trying to distroy the very basis of democracy in our country. If this dangerous trend is not resisted by united movement of all sections of the democratic people, the attack will engulf the whole of India.

We, therefore, appeal to all workers and trade unions, to all democratic people of the country, irrespective of their political views, to take proper note of the gravity of the situation and extend their active co-operation in the struggle to defend democratic and trade union rights, not only in Durgapur but all over West Bengal.

We also appeal to the members of the Press to make their own investigation and hold aloft the freedom of Press in ventilating the incidents in order to safeguard trade union and democratic rights of the people.



REPORT ON WEST BENGAL
- POST ELECTION SITUATION

- * Placed in the meeting of the Working Committee, Centre of Indian Trade Unions, held in New Delhi, April 24-26, 1972.
- By Monoranjan Roy, General Secretary, Centre of Indian Trade Unions, WEST BENGAL COMMITTEE.

After we met in the meeting of the General Council of CITU at Coimbatore in June 1971, new developments of far reaching consequence has taken place in West Bengal. Immediately after our Coimbatore General Council meeting, the Congress(R)-Muslim League Coalition Government supported by the Right Communists and AITUC leadership, collapsed, the Legislative Assembly was dissolved and President's Rule was again imposed in West Bengal. In the following period terror and repression was let loose on a scale, not seen before in the post-independence era in India. The belts of organised working class and Kissan were the main target of attack and it reached a culminating stage on 11th March, 1972 when the election was made a farce of democracy.

In the earlier period, after the fall of United Front Government, the attack was organised under the cover of Naxalite terror. The police, CRP and administration carried on repression on the plea of suppressing the Naxalites. But the Naxalites were thoroughly exposed and the working class and the people of West Bengal courageously withstood the attacks. The working class and the people fought effectively to defend and maintain their economic gains achieved during the United Front Government and rallied in millions in State-wide strikes and hundreds of local Bunds to defend their political and democratic rights and on the demand for a fresh election. It was due to the unity of the working class and struggles of the working class, peasants and the masses, Congress(R) failed to secure absolute majority in 1971 election and equally failed to regain its hold in West Bengal. The Congress(R)-Muslim League Government had to exit before completion of 100 days. The working class and the fighting people of West Bengal could not be suppressed or subdued. It was in this background the terror and repression was let loose on an unprecedented scale and the gangsters of Congress(R) organised by Chhatra Parishad and Youth Congress along with Police and CRP started joint operation from July 1971.

TERROR AND REPRESSION BEFORE 1972 ELECTION :

In the new wave of attack, terror and repression was unleashed in those areas where working class and Kissan are most organised and the areas from where the candidates of Left Democratic parties are traditionally returned in election. The entire industrial belt of Barrackpore Sub-Division, Sonarpur, Kissan belt of South 24-Parganas district, in Calcutta - Beliaghata North and South, Jadavpur - Tollyganj area, Cossipore and North Calcutta, entire Burdwan district, organised Kissan belts of Birbhum district, industrial belts of Howrah and Hooghly district, Farraka and organised Kissan belts of various other districts were affected.

From this time direct move was initiated to disrupt the organised unions of CITU and to scare away the workers from CITU unions by creating large scale terror. The leaders of Chhatra Parishad and Youth Congress registered a number of new unions and started addressing the workers. In many places they established themselves in INTUC Unions.

The gangsters and local rowdies of Congress(R) first occupied the areas around big factories, terrorised the inhabitants and workers and then gradually immobilised the functioning of CITU unions. After this was accomplished, the hold was extended to factories, meetings and processions of workers were attacked and stopped. The union offices were either captured or forcibly prevented from functioning. This was the tactics of attack. The rowdies used to remain on guard duty at the gates of the factories forcibly collecting money from the workers and preventing key organisers of CITU unions from reporting to their duties. This was the pattern of attack seen in Dum Dum (Jessop factory), Tollygunj (Jay Engineering Works), Titagarh, Khardah, Dakhindary, Mahestolla and in various factories and Coal Mines in Durgapur-Asansol-Raniganj area. But the gangsters and rowdies of Congress(R) could not stand before workers resistance without the help of police and CRP.

/and

From July to October 1971, the gangsters and local rowdies used to initiate the attacks with police and CRP support on both the flanks. When the workers and local people came forward to resist the attacks, police and CRP covered the retreat of the gangsters and rowdies. After the gangsters fled away from the place, police and CRP came upon the workers and the people/resorted to indiscriminate firings, assaults and arrests. When the workers and the local people showed their undiminished courage and ability to resist the attacks of the gangsters and rowdies, the method of operation was changed. From November 1971 the gangsters, local rowdies, police and CRP started joint operation. The gangsters used the rifles of police and CRP. In various places they carried on operations donning the uniforms of police and CRP, moved in the vans of police and CRP in broad day light. A sizable section of known Naxalities joined the Congress(R) and openly participated in these operation. The local rowdies were appointed on a monthly pay of Rs.105/- as informers. When all these attacks failed to scare the people, patrolling by the army was used as a method to terrorise them.

A detailed report on the attacks on Trade Unions in West Bengal in the pre-election period has already been published in a booklet titled - "Stop this Reign of Terror in West Bengal" covering a forward by the President of CITU. This booklet has already been circulated and as such we are not going into the details of various incidents.

In the Kissan belts there was large scale eviction from lands. The poor and landless peasants unitedly resisted the attacks. Police and CRP were deployed to help the 'Jotedars' to harvest crop on lands cultivated by the poor and landless peasants, the 'benami' and vested land they got possession of during the United Front Government. The fighting kisans were most brutally tortured and killed in village Ghosh Pukur of Hooghly district, Bijur in Burdwan district and in various other places. Peasant women were molested, tortured and also killed. The peasants resistance was so effective that in village Alhadipur (Burdwan District) the administration deployed army to suppress the fighting peasants.

Even though it was an unequal fight before the combined the attacks of police, CRP and armed gangsters of Congress(R), the mood and urge for resistance of the working class and the people of West Bengal were expressed in two statewide general strike and 'bundh' in quick succession - one on 27th August and the other on 13th Oct '71. A general strike was observed earlier in april 1971 in support of the liberation struggle of Bangladesh.

INTUC and HMS opposed the general strikes of August and October 1971. AITUC supported their stand though outwardly demanded deferment of the general strike. But ultimately AITUC did not dare to openly oppose the strikes and had to fall in extending their support though in many factories their followers tried to disrupt it. Both the strikes were successfully held all over West Bengal despite opposition from INTUC and HMS.

In September 1971, Government of West Bengal dismissed 13 top leaders of State Government employees without assigning any reason. Central Government also dismissed 32 leaders and workers of Ordinance Factories in Calcutta under Presidential prerogative. One of the main demand of the state-wide general strike on 14th October 1971 was for their reinstatement.

On 8th January 1972 CITU WEST BENGAL COMMITTEE submitting a memorandum to the Governor of West Bengal in a mass deputation in protest against attacks on Trade Unions. On 9th January the representatives of CITU(WB) also met the Governor and demanded a thorough enquiry and to take effective measures to stop attacks on trade unions.

organised
A convention was jointly by CITU, UNUC and UTUC (Lenin Sarani) on 29th January 1972 in protest against attacks on Trade Unions and a mass meeting was jointly held on 12th February 1972 at Saheed Minar Maidan, Calcutta.

But the situation deteriorated more and more. After declaration of the election, terror and repression was further intensified. The administration, police, CRP and Congress(R) gangsters - all worked in unison. All attempts proved abortive to restore peaceful condition for a free and fair election.

ELECTION - A BIG FARCE

The terror created before the election reached its highest stage on the election day (i.e. 11th March 1972). In 51 constituencies, majority of which were working class areas, armed gangsters of Cong(R) with the help of police and CRP forcibly prevented election campaign for any candidate other than Congress(R) and its allies. The candidates of Left Front and their workers could neither contact the voters nor could hold any meeting.

On the election day, armed gangs with the help of Police and CRP occupied the booths. The voters were forced to cast votes in favour of Congress(R) and its allies. When the voters protested, they were scared away at the point of guns and votes were cast in absence of voters. In many constituencies voting was completed by 1 P.M. whereas in constituencies like Dum Dum and Khardah, voting was done the day before. In these constituencies, the candidates of Left Front were declared defeated by huge margin of votes - whereas in earlier elections they were elected by comfortable majority.

The conspirators did not stop there. All other methods were adopted to rig the election all over West Bengal. Ballot papers were tampered, ballot boxes were changed, counting was manipulated and defeated Congress(R) candidates were declared elected.

The people were thus denied the right of vote. Election was made a farce of democracy.

CITU West Bengal Committee issued a statement on 18th Mar 72 on the election in West Bengal and a copy is enclosed (Enclosure No.1).

From the election day itself, the armed gangs of Congress(R) further intensified the terror. The workers and supporters of left parties were attacked, their houses were looted and they were evicted from their houses. It was found impossible to function trade unions in hundreds of factories and establishments.

After the election there was no rejoicing among the people. On 20th March 1972 when the ministry of Congress(R) was formed, hardly two thousand people assembled before the Raj Bhavan, Calcutta (where oath was taken by the ministers) and about 1200 men assembled before the Writers Building. But in 1967 and 1969 when the United Front formed Government in West Bengal, hundreds of thousands of people thronged on the road and the entire area facing Raj Bhavan and Writers Building was a vast crowd of cheerful and rejoicing people.

The results of 1972 election in working class areas are given in the enclosure (enclosure No.2) along with result of election in 1967, 1969 and 1971 in West Bengal.

POST ELECTION SITUATION - ATTACK ON
TRADE UNIONS INTENSIFIED.

Before the election Congress(R) gave the slogan - 'One Nation, One Party, One Leader'. In wall writings during election campaign another slogan appeared - 'Indira Gandhi - the new sun of Asia'. From the very day of election the people had the taste of these slogans when armed gangs took control of the election machinery in collusion with police. From the evening of election day the armed commanders intensified their actions and declared that Congress(R) would get a thumping majority and everyone should bow to its dictates. The gangsters and rowdies openly declared that anti-Congress(R) forces would be physically eliminated and started forcible eviction of the workers and supporters of the Left Front parties. This process is still continuing. About 20,000 families have so far been evicted from areas like Dum Dum, Khardah, Titagarh, Noapara, Baranagar, Tollyganj, Beliaghata, Belgachia, Sonarpur, Maheshtolla, Durgapur, Kalna, Memari, Burdwan, Kanyapur and other places.

Armed with modern small arms - from pistols to steingun, the gangsters carried in planned attacks on workers and employees in various areas and on trade unions. The pattern of attack was as follows :

1. Forcibly occupying union offices of CITU, UTUC, UTUC (Lenin Sarani) and Trade Union Co-ordination. The union offices are also looted and burnt.
2. Forcing the workers and members of anti-Congress Left Trade Unions to join the union of Congress(R) and INTUC. Workers and employees are assaulted and threatened with murder if they refuse to oblige the rowdies and gangsters. This is followed by forcibly preventing the workers from reporting to their duties.
3. The office bearers, executive committee members and leading workers of unions of CITU, UTUC, UTUC(Lenin Sarani) and TUCC are threatened with murder and evicted from their houses and localities and prevented from reporting to their duties in factories and offices.
4. Forcibly collecting money from workers and their families and assault and humiliated the when they refuse to pay. The rowdies demand upto Rs.500/- and ask the workers to pay it for 'Atma Sudhhi' for remaining members of anti-Congress unions. The Secretaries and the Treasurers are being haunted by the hoodlums to get the existing funds of CITU unions.
5. The workers are forced to sign bonds or on blank papers which is subsequently used or voluntary resignations from these unions they belong to and becoming members of the unions formed by Congress(R).
6. The house of workers and union leaders looted and burnt.
7. The union leaders are prevented from contacting the workers and union functioning in any form - meetings, gate meetings, opening and

functioning of union offices are forcibly prevented.

Some of the incidents of attacks virtually illegalising trade union functioning - after the election are listed in Enclosure No.3.

Correspondence on forcible occupation of the office and own building of Sen-Raleigh Employees Union are clubbed together under enclosure No.4. On 23rd March 1972 the Labour Minister of West Bengal was officially informed about the forcible occupation of the union office. On 27th March the Labour Minister promised that the union office would be vacated and handed over to the leaders of SREU. On 31st March the Chief Minister and Labour Minister of West Bengal visited Sen-Raleigh Factory at Asansol. But the Union Office of SREU is still under occupation of Congress(R) rowdies.

The rowdies are very much after the funds of our unions. They ask the union leaders to hand over the funds to them. In Bengal Chemical Factory, Manicktolla, on 22nd March, 16 leading workers were prevented from reporting to their duties. The rowdies told as so long as they did not handover the funds of CITU affiliated union to them(rowdies), they would not be allowed to resume their duties. Some police officer came and asked the workers to hand over the funds to the rowdies to avoid trouble. The management also tried to pressurise the workers to hand over union funds to the rowdies. The attempt to grab union funds is a general feature in all disturbed areas.

Another feature of significance is the attempt to play one section of workers against the other on narrow provincial basis hitting at the root of working class unity which has developed through years of struggle.

The rowdies and unemployed youths are openly incited against the employees employed workers and employees. The rowdies are told, if they could prevent the workers and employees from coming to offices and factories, they(rowdies) would be given employment in their places.

The employers taking full advantage of the situation are giving employment to the rowdies and with their help have already curtailed wage and existing benefits. The rowdies are given open encouragement by the managements to terrorise the workers inside factories. In closed factories which were reopened after the election, the active workers of CITU unions were kept out of employment and rowdies were taken in their place.

The workers and union leaders who are prevented from reporting to duties, are dismissed by the employers on the plea of unauthorised absence.

These are the main features of the development in the post election period in so far as the workers and made unions are concerned. About 300 unions are already affected - CITU about 260 unions, UTUC - 14, UTUC(Lenin Sarani) - 22 and TUCC - 4. Trade union functioning in any form has become almost impossible in these unions and the area of operation of the rowdies is gradually being extended.

ATTITUDE OF INTUC AND AITUC LEADERSHIP.

AITUC and INTUC State leadership are jointly functioning at the top and till date they have not said anything against the attacks. Rather AITUC leadership openly encouraged the attacks on CITU and other unions.

On 27th March, 1972 when CITU representatives reported to the Labour Minister in the tripartite meeting about forcible occupation of the office of Sen-Raleigh Employees Union at Asansol and forcibly evicting the workers from their quarters, Sri Kalyan Roy, M.P. and Sri Nihar Mukherjee of AITUC openly supported the rowdies of Congress(R). Sri Nihar Mukherjee said - "If some body gets scared of his own and leave the house ~~ef-~~asubt-~~eeeee~~~~~~ or don't come, what

we can do ? But after some days, Sri Kalyan Roy, M.P. and Shri Nihar Mukherjee issued a joint statement protesting against attack on AITUC followers at Sen-Raleigh, Asansol though they did not mention Congress(R) rowdies who attacked AITUC men.

In factories and establishments where CITU unions are having dominating position, AITUC and Congress (R) rowdies are jointly operating to liquidate CITU unions. But the moment AITUC men try to show their independent initiative, Congress(R) rowdies do not spare them. In places where AITUC are having recognised unions, Congress (R) has registered new unions, and conflicts between AITUC men and Congress (R) are coming in the open. The workers and followers of AITUC are also prevented from functioning and it is alleged by local AITUC leadership that Congress (R) agreed earlier that unions under AITUC leadership would not be disturbed and now they were violating it. The conflict between AITUC men and Congress (R) rowdies at the base is yet to take shape, but the conflict is quite visible and it is more than certain that AITUC men would not be spared.

But on major trade union issues AITUC leadership is moving hand in hand with INTUC. AITUC leadership are showing more eagerness to maintain this unity. AITUC to-day is trying to extend its influence with the help of INTUC men. So, there is hardly any possibility for AITUC leadership to take any stand opposed to intuc or Congress (R) despite the conflicts between AITUC men with Congress (R) rowdies at the base.

Recently on Jute workers demands, INTUC, AITUC and HMS jointly took a different stand, reducing the demands of jute workers unitedly agreed upon earlier by all the unions. The unions of CITU, UTUC, UTUC(Lenin Sarani) and TUCC unitedly stood by the joint decision and demanded a minimum wage of Rs. 300/-. CITU union - Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union carried on continuous campaign for a united strike struggle in Jute industry on the common demands agreed upon earlier. But there was no response. Letters written by CITU union to INTUC, AITUC and HMS on jute workers strike were not replied to. INTUC, HMS and AITUC working together gave strike call in jute industry and refused to join CITU, UTUC, UTUC(Lenin Sarani) and TUCC. CITU, UTUC, UTUC(Lenin Sarani) and TUCC were thus forced to declare their strike decision in jute industry. But in both cases, the commencing date of strike is 8th May, 1972. While the common strike date has provided a basis for united action at the base, this possibility has put INTUC, AITUC and HMS combine into difficulties. For they know, once the strike takes place, the unity of workers at the base will completely jettison their ability to create disruption and as such, they are now trying to avoid the strikes in connivance with West Bengal Ministry.

MORALE OF THE WORKING CLASS :

It is true, that workers are terrorised and they are still not able to come out demonstratively against armed gangsterism. It is equally true that a section of workers has been forced to join the unions of Congress (R). But the workers have not changed their loyalty.

The workers fully realise the implication of the attacks on their trade unions and see the effect in reduction in wages, increase in workload and forcibly preventing their leaders from reporting to duties. Extracting money by the rowdies is directly affecting the workers daily lives. The

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workers who achieved considerable wage rise and improved their service condition since 1967 through united struggle are suddenly told to discord the path of struggle and they are not even allowed to protest against reduction of existing benefits. It is in this perspective the workers see the attacks on their unions and leaders who have guided them all these years through series of struggles.

The workers who were won over from the fold of INTUC & AITUC on the basis of concrete slogans of struggle and the workers having long experience of the anti-struggle role of INTUC and AITUC achieved considerable economic gains through struggle, would, for no conceivable reason, would go over to INTUC and AITUC and more particularly at a time when prices and taxes are increasing and real wage is declining.

But, at any rate, we can not leave the workers in the situation they are in, completely out of our touch. If we fail to keep contact with these workers and activise them despite all odds, it will create greater danger for the T.U. movement in the coming days, for if armed gangsterism once succeed in either suppressing the workers or to neutralise their fighting spirit, it will drastically affect the entire working class.

The workers in disturbed areas are already coming up, contacting their leaders and the workers and leaders are jointly trying to cope up with their task in the new situation. This is an encouraging trend though the progress will be slow.

The families of the workers are also alive to the danger. The wives of the workers and employees came in hundreds at Belghoria when the gangsters tried to kidnap Comrade Tewari and Com. Salim, General Secretary and Vice-President of Texmaco Workers Union, encircled the gangsters and saved their lives.

IN - FIGHTING IN CONGRESS :

The armed conflict between different rival group within Congress (R) immediately after the election, has brought to light more glaringly how these elements were used to rig the election and still being used to destroy trade union and democratic rights. In Krishnanagore, following the armed fight between two groups when one person was killed and several others were injured, curfew was clamped, carbine and steinguns were used by both the groups.

In Dhanbad, the armed men of Chhatra Parisad and Youth Congress of West Bengal, tried to capture forcibly the Eastern Railwaymen's Congress where so of them were arrested by Bihar police. The next day, Chhatra Parisad and Youth Congress declared strike in Eastern Railway, Sealdah Division and Rail movement was brought to stand-still. Congress (R) could not transfer the blame upon anybody on any plea and they were further exposed.

In National Rubber Factory, Kalyani on 19th April, 1972 the rift between two groups of Congress (R) resulted in a conflict between the rowdies and security staff of the factory when one rowdy was killed in firing and twelve others were injured.

Similar conflicts are taking place in various localities. And now the Secretary of Chhatra Parisad has given a call for surrendering the arms distributed to the rowdies before election. All these developments have it more clear before the people - how the election was rigged and how attacks are being continued by the armed gangs of Congress (R).

POSSIBILITY OF UNITED ACTION :

The united stand of CITU, UTUC, UTUC(Lenin Sarani) and Trade Union Co-ordination Centre (TUCC) against attack against Trade Unions has already created an impact giving considerable encouragement to workers and employees and opening up great scope for united struggle. Some of the statements jointly issued by the four organisations are enclosed (Enclosure No.5).

In a convention jointly organised by the four organisations the following decisions were taken :-

(a) On 11th May, 1972, ANTI-REPRESSION DAY will be observed all over West Bengal.

(b) During the Second week of May, 1972, a mass deputation will be organised at Esplanade, Calcutta when a memorandum will be submitted to the Chief Minister of West Bengal demanding safety and security to the employees prevented from reporting to duties and to allow them to resume their duties. Demand will be made for rehabilitation of evicted persons.

(c) A sustained campaign will be made in defence of Trade Union and democratic rights, against price and taxation, against unemployment and for wage rise.

May Day rally this year is being jointly observed by CITU, UTUC, UTUC(Lenin Sarani) and TUCC at Saheed Minar Maidan, Calcutta and leaflet has been jointly issued in Bengali, Hindi and Urdu urging upon the working class not to surrender before threats and attacks, but to defend their rights and unions and for this purpose build up united struggle at plant level, factory level and industry level and to unite with students, youths, women, kisans and one section of democratic people.

CITU, West Bengal Committee is determined to preserve this unity and to further develop and extend it.

NEW SITUATION AND OUR TAXK :

The working class of West Bengal are confronted with a new situation. The working class and the people of West Bengal are going through a new experience. The problems are neumerous and for the present the State Committee is incapable of giving required help and assistance to the struggling workers and their unions. Our functioning suffering from certain inherent defects stand out prominently in the face of this crying situation.

Hundreds of unions have been evicted from their offices. The unions leaders are unable to report to duties and are out of earning. Regular contact with the workers is impossible. How to feed to workers and their families, the workers who are out of earning is a most staggering problem.

It is equally a problem for the unions to find suitable place for office functioning. Where the unions offices will function, who will draft letters, how to meet the expenses for court cases and financial burden due to constant police harassment - arrest, moving bail petition and court cases.

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The most important thing - how to meet and contact with the workers and how to continue union and how to continue union functioning.

Even for big unions, which are more resourceful, it is difficult to carry on their functions. And for small unions, it is impossible to survive without direct assistance.

In a grave situation like this we seek guidance from CITU Working Committee.

In the Working Committee Meeting of West Bengal State Committee held on 9th April, 1972, the situation was reviewed and the following decisions were taken unanimously :

- 1) THE WORKERS AND UNIONS SHOULD NOT SURRENDER BEFORE THREATS AND ATTACKS.
- 2) CONSISTANT EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO BUILD UP BROAD BASED UNITED STRUGGLE AT PLANT LEVEL, FACTORY LEVEL AND INDUSTRY LEVEL ALONG WITH UTUC, UTUC (LENIN SARANI) AND TUCC.
- 3) PROLONGED AGITATION SHOULD BE ORGANISED ON ISSUES LIKE UNEMPLOYMENT, PRICE RISE AND TAXATION, ON REOPENING OF CLOSED FACTORIES AND FOR WAGE RISE.

We are already in the process of implementing these decisions.

While we seek guidance from CITU Working Committee, we request the members present to consider in what way it will be possible for other state Committee to render solidarity help to assist our struggle in West Bengal.

We also request the Working Committee to consider as to whether it will be possible to organise any solidarity action on all-India basis.

WEST BENGAL COMMITTEE
CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

249, Bepin Behari Ganguly Street,
Calcutta-12.

18th March, 1972

JOINT STATEMENT issued by Shri Md. Ismail, M.P., President and Shri Monoranjan Roy, M.P., General Secretary, Centre of Indian Trade Unions, West Bengal Committee.

The Congress(R) in partnership with the Right Communists and the AITUC leadership are parading their fraudulent electoral victory with the help of the Press.

They make it appear as if the working class and the people of West Bengal have given them the electoral mandate rejecting the Candidates of the Left Front in West Bengal.

A more fraudulent claim cannot be made. The reality is that afraid of a massive verdict against the Congress - the Party of Capitalists and Landlords, the Ruling Party resorted to wholesale falsification of the election results as will be clear from the following.

It is armed gangsters who entered the Polling Booths, took the ballot papers enblock, stamp them and put them into the ballot boxes while genuine voters were not allowed to enter into the Booths and driven away at the point of guns. In many Booths where voters had already entered into the Booths, ballot papers were forcibly taken away from their hands. It is significant to note that Congress(R) could not even trust their own voters and employed the gunners to grab votes. The Army was mere spectator.

It is a high level conspiracy and all sorts of nefarious methods were adopted to rig the election.

At least one minute is necessary to cast a vote. Under the new system introduced during this election it requires more time. But in Baranagore Constituency, from where Comrade Jyoti Basu fought the election, in more than 100 Booths out of 135 Booths, voting was completed by 11.30 a.m. and the hourly rate of voting was 200 to 300. So is the case in Beliaghata North, Beliaghata South, Maniktolla, Cossipore, Dum Dum, Tollygunge, Belgachia, Panihati, Titagarh, Memari, Barbani, Kalna, Burdwan, Nabadwip, Nadanghat and in series of other Constituencies.

In Khardah, the Ballot Boxes were filled with ballot papers on 10th March night whereas the election was held on 11th March, 1972.

Police and CRP directly helped the armed Gangster of Cong.(R) and openly participated in this conspiracy.

During the counting the same pattern followed. Gangsters moved in batches with open arms in presence of Police, defaced and mutilated the genuine ballot papers of Left Parties.

The Election Agents and Counting Agents were beaten and forced to sign blank papers at the point of guns. In hundreds of Booths Polling Agents were refused entry even under police escort.

Series of representation given to the Election Commissioner, Government of India and Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal, before the election, during duration of the election and after election proved useless.

The President of India was fully apprised of the situation by sending innumerable Telegrams, but failed to evoke justice.

The conspirators lost all balance in manipulating votes. In a number of Booths, number of ballot papers found in ballot boxes is more than the number of voters appearing in the Electoral List. Ballot paper of one Constituency was found in the box of another constituency.

During counting, defeated Congress(R) candidates were declared as Winner. All protests in this regard were ignored and written protest was not accepted.

Hundreds of houses of workers have been burnt and destroyed in various places in presence of Police and CRP.

Immediately following the election the armed gangsters of Congress(R) have started one after another attacks on the workers of the political parties of Left Front. During last six days 20,000 families have been uprooted by Congress(R) gangsters in Baranagore, Tollygunge, Beliaghata North, Haltu, Beliaghata South, Khardah, Panihati, Dum Dum, Jadavpore and various other places.

About 25,000 young boys have become worst than evacuees, constantly haunted by the armed gangsters of Congress(R).

Police and Administration refuse to hear even any complaint. Full scale offensive has started to physically eliminate the Left Political Forces.

Organised Unions and Union Offices of CITU are being forcibly occupied. Police, Administration and Congress(R) gangsters are proceeding in a planned way to destroy all organised Trade Unions.

In various localities people are forced to pay money under the threat of torture and murder.

The working class and people of West Bengal are confronted with the Facist offensive which must be met unitedly by the entire working class of India. The rigging of election, the terror preceding it and following it are all unmistakeably sign of it.

The leading Newspapers of Calcutta are giving direct encouragement to Police, Administration and Congress(R) gangsters and are completely indifferent to the suffering of the people.

We appeal to the Indian Working Class and all Trade Union Organisations in India and Abroad to raise their voice of protest against the barbaric repression and extend their solidarity help to the working class and the people of West Bengal.

We also appeal to the people of all the States in India to stand in support of the people of West Bengal and to defend Democracy in their common interest.

The Ruling Party will resort to Facist method to remain in power at all costs. This mence must be nipped in the bud.

ELECTION RESULT OF WEST BENGAL - WORKING CLASS CONSTITUENCIES
(*Indicates winning candidates)

	1967		1969		1971		1972	
Kalachini (10)	Ind.	2354	RSP	9671	*Cong. (R)	10681	RSP	11353
	Ind. =	10749	*Cong.	17148	FB	2239	*Cong.	15227
	*Cong. Ind.	14025	INDF	322	RSP	8743	Ind.	3203
Alipurduar (11)	Ind.	1874	*RSP	24784	*Cong (R)	20455	RSP	20928
	*Ind. Cong.	26186	Cong.	22883	B.C.	805	*Cong.	27386
	Cong.	20931	Proutist	663	RSP	10990	Ind.	935
Dhupguri (14)	*SSP	17437	*SSP	18686	*Cong (R)	11471	S.P.	13810
	Cong.	11893	Cong.	17292	SSP	11279	*Cong.	22670
	Ind.	2938	INDF	1690	PM	7054	Ind.	2326
	Ind.	2454	Ind.	349	Ind.	5321	Ind.	695
	Ind.	1526			Cong (0)	885		
Nagrakata (15)	Ind.	780			B.C.	1400		
					RSP	665		
	CPM	10920	CPM	12439	*CPM	22811	CPM	14463
	*Cong. Ind.	16002	*Cong.	15001	Cong (R)	9542	*CPI	21429
		6199	PSP	1990	PSP	4962	Ind.	1600
Mainaguri (16)			INDF	250	Ind.	1525		
					Cong (0)	616		
	PSP	12507	PSP	12173	*Ind.	12781	Ind.	6862
	Cong.	12059	*Cong.	16816	Ind.	6075	*Cong.	19716
	*Ind. JS	14098	BC	7294	CPM	3851	RSP	8318
Ind.	508	Ind.	506	RSP	5161			
	121	INDF	290	CPI	2328			
Mal (17)					BC	3356		
	CPI	10600	*Cong.	22706	*Cong (R)	13383	*Cong.	25939
	*Cong. PSP	22095	CPI	12105	CPM	9640	CPM	16030
	7965	PSP	4330	CPI	9009			
				RSP	3068			
				RSP	3349			
				Ind.	4687			

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	1967	1969	1971	1972
Darjeeling (21)	*Ind. 14281 Cong. 9085 Ind. 4621	*G.L. Cong. 115698	*G.L. Cong (R) 14998 Cong (R) 9133 CPM 8042	*G.L. LF (Supported) 14933 Cong. 7331
Kalimpong (20)	*Cong. 15023 JS 1174 CPI 1470 Ind. 11985	*G.L. Cong. 15418 JS 11120 Ind. 803 628	*Ind. 10810 G.L. 7388 Cong (R) 4841 CPM 4718 Ind. 620	*Cong. 10190 G.L. 8806 Ind. 4782 CPM 3325
Jore Banglow (22)	Cong. 10501 *Ind. 12428 CPM 6001	*G.L. Cong. 15693 11085	*CPM Cong (R) 12858 G.L. 6341 Cong (O) 12572 1562	CPM 11031 Cong. 11517 *G.L. 12063 Ind. 740
Farakka (46)	*Ind. 18812 Cong. 7194 Ind. 2875 Ind. 2703	PML *BC Cong. 12272 12951 7283 6926	*CPM ML Cong (R) 16662 15849 7002 1071	*CPM Cong. 20787 M.L. 19112 7234
Chackdah (76)	Cong. 12874 Ind. 14888 *Ind. 20761 Ind. 779	Cong. *BC RCP I (Tagore) 15236 29738 7013	*CPM BC Ind. 29301 16561 5348 4479 1876	CPM *Cong. 24576 33144
Jadavpore (101)	*CPM Cong. 33698 PSP 28820 1195	*CPM Cong. Proutist 43793 24003 1434	*CPM CPI RSP Cong (O) 38114 19170 4793 3639	*CPM Cong. 40939 Ind. 31297 692 Ind. 563
Behala (East) (102)	*CPM Cong. 20757 CPI 15716 8614	*CPM Cong. JS 29600 16349 1063	*CPM Cong (R) Cong (O) 21817 18049 1790	CPM *Cong. 18733 28939
Behala (West) (103)	*CPM Cong. 35634 28075	*CPM Cong. PML 38223 22170 5150	*CPM CPI Cong (O) 30053 25394 3517	CPM *CPI 30024 31939
Garden Reach (104)	*Cong. Ind. 18443 Ind. 13154 Ind. 6124 Ind. 9150	*CPI Cong. PML Ind. D-L 29871 9203 2377 9954	*Cong (R) CPM CPI Ind. 15582 15493 12646 9010	*CPM Cong. Ind. 25625 24245 945

	1967	1969	1971	1972
Maheshwala (105)	*CPM Cong. CPI 30805 21227 5591	*CPM PML Cong. 28367 13542 18214	*CPM Cong (R) ML 24112 22785 7006	*Cong. CPM 33412 25581
Budge Budge (106)	*CPM Cong. FB Ind. 31024 20609 3942 2156	*CPM Cong. 37137 23643	*CPM CPI IND. BC 32399 15602 2645 1487	CPI *CPM 21783 34873
Bijpore (118)	*CPM Cong. CPI 17662 16348 8468	*CPM Cong. 27956 26120	CPM *Cong (R) 28571 29821	*Cong. CPM 40017 25336
Naihati (119)	*Cong. CPM CPI 26619 22515 7443	*CPM Cong. 37891 29073	*CPM Ind. SSP Cong (0) 37153 26093 858 2542	CPM *Cong. Ind. 33466 37511 401
Bhatpara (120)	*Cong. CPM CPI Ind. 32027 28251 1286 1358	*CPM Cong. Lok Dal 33554 31318 1447	*Cong (R) CPM FB Cong (0) 40173 37603 1704 1053	JS *Cong. CPM 440 49187 35680
Noapara (121)	CPM *Cong. 21219 21248	*CPM Cong. JS Proutist 32718 25375 990 381	*CPM Cong (R) FB Cong (0) 36567 17371 13493 1013	JS CPM Ind. *Cong. 300 22599 480 48112
Titagarh (122)	*Cong. CPM CPI JS 17435 16690 11702 1486	*CPM Cong. INDF 30723 22700 215	*CPM Cong (R) Cong (0) 33119 27770 956	*Cong. CPM 50656 23158
Khardah (123)	*CPM Cong. CPI 18507 16907 16780	*CPM Cong. INDF 35325 25718 552	*CPM CPI Cong (0) 35440 31364 1168	*CPI CPM 62460 21813
Panihati (124)	*CPM CPI Cong. PSP 34671 10919 23851 2739	*CPM Cong. INDF 53346 22029 1148	*CPM CPI Cong (0) 58545 24279 4923	CPM *Cong. Ind. 27540 74765 477

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	1967	1969	1971	1972
Kamarhati (125)	*CPM Cong. Ind. 30095 21559 5528	*CPM Cong. INDF 43111 22607 557	*CPM CPI Cong (0) 47359 18272 4280	CPM *Cong. Ind. 22524 28690 601
Baramagore (126)	*CPM Cong. Ind. 31354 27895 472	*CPM Cong. Ind. 45261 27669 317	*CPM BC 43340 32287	*CPI CPM 69145 30258
Dum Dum (127)	*CPM Cong. Ind. 37066 30682 1358	*CPM Cong 45159 30867		CPM *Cong. Ind. 15023 91428 216
Cossipoew (128)	*Cong. CPM 18003 15239 FB 7279 Ind. 6729 JS 2571	*CPM Cong. Ind. 25304 25109 402	*Cong (R) CPM 26000 15855 Cong (0) 505 JS 1162	CPM *Cong. 15075 38290
Kabittirtha (135)	*Gong. FB 23229 CPM 17746 Ind. 8306 1017	*FB Cong. Republican 31819 21029 1086	*Cong (R) FB 19372 CPM 12955 Cong (0) 12036 737	FB *Cong. Ind. 27685 28565 344 157
Tollygunge (139)	Cong. *CPM 23599 JS 28581 1298	*CPM Cong. Ind. 36202 20319 157	*CPM CPI 32788 BC 18728 4013	*Cong. CPM 49096 28372
Beliaghata South (142)	*Cong. CPM 23273 18212	Cong (R) *CPM 19999 JS 21511 INDF 599 Lok Dal 130 205	*Cong. CPM 16990 CPI 15301 2300	*Cong. CPM 37222 10968
Beliaghata North (147)	*CPM FB 21387 Cong. 11346 17435	*CPM Cong. Ind. 31294 15579 467	*CPM FB 23318 20345	CPM Cong. 10968 53875
Maniktajla (148)	*CPI Cong. 30380 23476	*CPI Cong. Ind. 34841 21646 773	*CPM Cong (R) 16773 CPI 15682 Cong (0) 9214 691	CPM *CPI Cong (0) 21622 43238 948 501

	1967	1969	1971	1972
Belgatchia (150)	*CPM Cong. IND 27646 25489 990	*CPM Cong. 34500 21479	*CPM Cong. (R) 25012 22235	*Cong (R) CPM 36734 24660
Balla (151)	CPM *Cong. IND. IND. IND. 23469 25632 7649 1815	*CPM Cong. Prout 33912 28633 836	*CPM Cong Cong (R) Cong (O) BC 24233 19060 2711 784	CPM *Cong (R) 22522 28857
Howrah North (152)	*Cong. IND. IND. IND. IND. 27896 20651 3574 1128	*Cong. CPM 26262 26023	*Cong (R) CPM FB 23350 18774 856	CPM *Cong (R) 18479 26753
Howrah Central (153)	*Cong. IND. JS FB 19770 15663 9464 3323	*RCPI Cong. 28522 19419	*RCPI Cong (O) BC 12616 10407 5964	*Cong (R) RCPI Cong (O) 25326 15870 817
Howrah South (154)	CPM *Cong. CPI IND 18432 29106 5470 784	*CPM Cong. Prout 30307 23270 383	*Cong (R) CPM CPI Cong (O) 18919 16618 5626 1412	CPM Cong (O) Cong (R) 20655 979 28651
Shibpo re (155)	CPM *Cong FB 14446 19617 18312	*FB Cong. 39810 19601	*CPM FB Cong Cong (R) Cong (O) 17240 13491 9704 3052	FB *Cong (R) Cong (O) 24941 31109 808
Sankrall (159)	CPM *Go ng. CPI 16198 25019 8110	*CPM Cong. Prout 30997 18933 897	*CPM Cong CPI Cong (O) 25386 13527 6570 3083	Cong (R) *CPM 23585 26712
Uttampara (169)	*CPM Cong. CPI JS 24618 20105 6066 1067	Cong. JS *CPM 19974 987 33070	*CPM CPI Cong (O) 29473 17022 6048	CPI *CPM 27045 27053

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	1968	1969	1971	1972
Serampore (170)	IND. *Cong. CPI 1243 33203 25234	*CPI Cong. IND. 32590 26224 1767	*Cong CPM CPI Cong (R) 26344 21467 8983 1312	CPM *Cong Cong (R) (0) 22984 37152 1146
Champdani (171)	CPI *Cong. CPM IND. 8701 181517 15368 849	Cong. *CPM 22252 31599	*CPM CPI Cong Cong (R) (0) 23210 10244 12916 2093	*CPI Cong CPM JS (0) 26026 973 23599 253
Kara gpo re (211)	*CPI Cong. CPM 20118 18186 2749	*Cong. CPI 23230 18475	*Cong CPI CPM Cong (R) (0) 24869 9557 5885 570	*Cong CPM (R) (R) (R) 26732 7093
Hirapore (244)	CPM *Cong. CPI 14614 15336 6972	*CPM Cong. 25356 18516	*CPM CPI Cong Cong (R) (0) 18603 11143 9945 1144	*Cong SP CPM (R) (R) (R) 19068 2081 18068
Kulti (245)	*Cong. SSP IND 12327 11480 11290	Cong. *SSP IND 12445 20770 958	*Cong CPM BC SSP (R) (R) (R) 12828 10509 4272 3678	CPM *Cong SP (R) (R) (R) 8541 16687 2832
Barabani (246)	*Cong. CPM CPI 17080 13541 4065	*CPM Cong. 22546 14268	*CPM Cong CPI Cong (R) (R) (R) 20211 13877 5608	SP *Cong CPM (R) (R) (R) 867 29214 11150
Asansole (247)	*Cong. CPM CPI IND 17065 12871 3463 3722	*CPM Cong. JS 24638 18100 1378	*CPM CPI Cong Cong (0) (0) (0) 19063 18305 5263	*CPI CPM JS SP (0) (0) (0) 24021 15940 488 471
Ranigung (248)	*CPM Cong. JS 17013 16030 2293	*CPM Cong. JS 23547 18083 1728	*CPM Cong CPI Cong (R) (R) (R) 32061 7753 6773	Cong Cong *CPM (0) (R) (R) 498 13598 21840

	1967	1969	1971	1972
Jamuria (249)	Cong. *SSP IND. 10306 12861 714	*Cong SSP IND. 13773 12880 499	*CPM Cong (R) SSP 45398 10458 1262	*CBMg (R) CPM 14508 10391
Ukhra (250)	CPM *Cong. IND. 13955 16247 4422	*CPM Cong. 18144 15849	*CPM Cong (O) CPI 40999 36223 6212	*Cong (R) CPM 21329 13490
Durgapore (251)	*CPM Cong. CPI 28752 27043 2219	*CPM Cong. 40268 37803	*CPM Cong (R) CPI 17356 9160 7036	*Cong (R) CPM 21274 18840 1103
Faridpore (252)	Cong. *IND. IND 15034 15865 1168	RCPI (Tagore) *BC Cong. 19767 17911	*CPM Cong (R) CPI Cong (O) IND. 1378 5504 5504	*Cong (R) IND Cong. 321

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ATTACK ON JAY ENGINEERING WORKERS, CALCUTTA

The attack launched by Congress(R) gangsters and rowdies with the help of police and CRP against the workers of Jay Engineering Works Ltd. (Tollyganj and Basdroni Workshops, Calcutta) and their families since July 1971 has been greatly intensified after the rigged election in West Bengal.

The motive behind the intensified attack is to capture CITU affiliated 5287 strong Jay Engineering Workers Union and to bring by force its members within the fold of the union formed by Congress(R).

Jay Engineering Workers' Union was registered in 1942 and during the last thirty years it has successfully guided the movement of the workers for higher wage and better living condition. The rate of performance and the quality of output of Jay Engineering Workers either in the Fan Factory or in the Sewing Machine Unit is one of the highest in India and in Management's own admission, it can be compared favourably with most highly industrialised countries of the West despite much inferior wage and poor living condition of Jay Workers. The company with Issued Capital of Rs.2.47 crores has garnered a total net profit of Rs.2.82 crores between 1958-59 to 1969-70. Even in 1970-71 dividend was paid to the shareholders at the rate of 10 percent.

In this background the attacks of Congress(R) gangsters on the workers of Jay Engineering is purported to subvert the CITU affiliated union which represent 94% of the workers and to disrupt and crush the trade union struggle of the workers for living wage and better living condition.

Till the rigged election was held in West Bengal on 11th March, 1972, about 150 workers of Jay Engineering were attacked and assaulted by Congress(R) rowdies along with police and CRP. Three workers of Jay Engineering were murdered and killed. 57 persons were murdered in the locality around the factories. The Office of Jay Engineering Workers Union was attacked a number of times. The General Secretary of the Union Sri Haridas Malakar was kidnapped by the Congress(R) gangsters on 25.1.1972 and taken to the Golf Club ground for murdering him. When 2000 workers rushed to the spot, the gangsters hurriedly left. Sri Haridas Malakar was found unconscious with bleeding wounds and his life was saved. All these incidents were brought to the notice of the Government from Prime Minister to the Officer-in-Charge of Jadavpur Police Station and innumerable complaints were lodged formally but with no result. On the day of election when hundreds of Jay Engineering workers and their family-members along with other voters were going to cast their vote in Tollyganj Constituency, armed gangsters of Congress(R) stood in the way and prevented them from voting as in many other constituencies.

After the election, from 12th March 1972, the armed gangsters of Congress(R) are moving more daringly with pistols, bombs, pipeguns and rifles. They threaten to murder the office-bearers and executive committee members of Jay Engineering Workers Union. They do not allow to open the union offices at 392 Prince Anwar Shah Road, Calcutta-45 and at Roynagar Basdroni and to function from there. The gangsters are permanently deployed at the gate of the factory.

The important union functionaries and office-bearers are forcibly prevented from reporting to their jobs in the factories. They are - Pelab Mukherjee, Sushil Roy, Robin Chowdhury, Rakhil Chowdhury, Ramen Bhattacharjee, Ramen Sarkar, Bimal Nag, Badal Biswas, Pranab Sarkar, Paramesh Sen, Nirmal Roy, Santosh Paul, Ranjit Roy - Chowdhury, Parimal Lahiri and many others. As a result they are out of earning.

The following workers and office-bearers/committee members of Jay Engineering Workers Union have been evicted from their houses under threats of murder :-

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <u>President:</u>
Bimal Chatterjee | <u>Executive Committee Member</u>
22. Biswanath Mukherjee |
| 2. <u>Working President:</u>
Ramayan Panday | 23. Sunil Dey |
| <u>Vice-Presidents</u> | 24. Badal Chatterjee |
| 3. Ramen Sen Gupta | <u>Leading Workers:</u> |
| 4. Ranajit Bose | 25. Anil Gupta |
| <u>General Secretary</u> | 26. Jadav Gupta |
| 5. Haridas Malakar | 27. Paramananda Bhattacharjee |
| <u>Organising Secretary</u> | 28. M. Hossain |
| 6. Bireswar Chatterjee | 29. Lalji Giri |
| Asst. Secretary & Jt.
Secretary of the Works
Committee. | 30. Pranab Sircar |
| 7. Pelab Mukherjee | 31. Samir Gangulee |
| <u>Asstt. Secretary</u> | 32. Santosh Paul |
| 8. Rathin Paul | 33. Sunil Roy |
| 9. Badal Mukherjee | 34. Samir Sircar |
| 10. Panchanan Dutta | 35. Badal Biswas |
| <u>Treasurer</u> | 36. Biren Mazumdar |
| 11. Nirmal Roy | 37. Manoj Roy |
| <u>Executive Committee Member</u> | 38. Rakhal Chowdhury |
| 12. Bimal Nag | 39. Dayal Singha Roy |
| 13. Amar Nag | 40. Ramen Sircar |
| 14. C.L. Sharma | 41. Subimal Sircar |
| 15. Susil Roy | 42. Bhaskar Dey |
| 16. Prafulla Das | 43. Saradindu Sircar |
| 17. Parimal Lahiri | 44. Rajen Ghose |
| 18. Ranajit Roy Chowdhury | 45. Rakhal Chakraborty |
| 19. Ramen Das Gupta | 46. Dilip Dey |
| 20. Bimal Bose / Office Secy. | 47. Haralal Dey |
| 21. Kartick Mondal | 48. Janardan Bhowmic
and 100 others. |

The houses of four Jay Engineering Workers at Kachari Bagan Colony near Natunhat under Sonarpur Police Station were dismantled and destroyed by the Congress(R) rowdies. Houses of 7 Union leaders were looted.

On 22nd March, Bimal Nag was attacked by the Congress(R) rowdies. A diary was lodged with Tollyganj Police Station. On 29th March the house of Bimal Chatterjee, President of Jay Engineering Workers Union was attacked by 100 rowdies with bombs, pistols and rifles. The old mother, wife and sister-in-law of Bimal Chatterjee were filthily abused. The rowdies attempted to kill the nephew of Bimal Chatterjee but was saved at the intervention of neighbours.

On 31st March at about 5-30 P.M. Paramananda Bhattacharjee, Samir Ganguly and Sekhar Ganguly were attacked by the Congress(R) rowdies while returning home from the factory. The rowdies broke one of the legs of Paramananda and roasted the face of Shekhar Neogy with a burning cigarette. The incident took place near Jadavpur Police Station - about 50 yards from it. The General Secretary of Jay Engineering Workers Union informed Jadavpur Police Station about the incident over phone. Even after the phone call, the rowdies continued to beat and torture them for about an hour.

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On 2nd April Prafulla Das was severely beaten by the rowdies. He was threatened of dire consequence including murder if he did not leave Jay Engineering Workers Union and join the union formed recently by Congress(R). This was duly intimated to police authorities. From that day Prafulla Das is unable to stay in his house.

The gangsters with pistols in their hands tell the workers that those do not join their union and pledge their obedience to Congress(R), they would neither be allowed to live in their houses, nor to do their jobs in Jay Engineering Works. The workers are terrorised and subdued with arms. The local police is at the beck and call of the gangsters.

The Management of Jay Engineering Works Ltd. are giving encouragement to Congress(R) gangsters to crush the organised union of the workers. They are conspiring to retrench the workers who are prevented from reporting to duties. It is learnt that the Management is contemplating to employ the gangsters to terrorise the workers inside the factories and to dislodge their unity by all sorts of nefarious means. If the Management succeed in its evil motive, wages and earning of the workers will be reduced and the workload will increase.

ATTACK ON CALCUTTA STATE TRANSPORT EMPLOYEES

Congress(R) rowdies have been carrying on series of attacks against the employees of Calcutta State Transport Corporation(C.S.T.C) the members of Calcutta State Transport Employees' Union. The attacks, started before the election, have been greatly intensified after the election.

35 employees have been assaulted, one employee was murdered and 183 employees were forcibly prevented from reporting to their duties in Depots, Workshops and Offices by the Congress(R) rowdies. The members of Calcutta State Transport Employees' Union (affiliated to C.I.T.U.) are being forced to join the Union recently formed by Congress(R) under threats of assaults and murder. The members of C.I.T.U. Union are told by the rowdies that they would not be allowed to work in C.S.T.C. if they do not join the Union of Congress(R). In the Depots, Workshops and Offices, the employees are forced to sign letters purported to be voluntary resignations from C.I.T.U. Union.

Congress(R) rowdies are moving inside the Depots and Workshops of C.S.T.C. openly displaying fire arms in their hands to terrorise the employees.

This planned attack on the employees of an important Public Utility Service like C.S.T.C. in a city like Calcutta not only threatens their basic democratic right to form Associations and Unions and to function them with freedom. It has also affected smooth functioning of C.S.T.C. which carry about 1.4 million passengers everyday in its bus fleet.

Calcutta State Transport Employees' Union and C.S.T.C. employees have althrough faught against enhancement of Bus fare and demanded improvement in transport service with increase in the number of plyable bus on roads. This was done in the interest of the passengers and citizens of Calcutta, the Management of C.S.T.C. accepted the demand and the General Manager of C.S.T.C. in his letter No.2768-DOP dated 25th August, 1970, to Calcutta State Transport Employees' Union confirmed that :-

"The planned programme of acquisition of new buses and renovation of old buses has already been discussed with the representatives of the Employees' Union. Briefly, the programme is of purchase of 70 new single deckers and 130 new double deckers and renovation of 60 idle double deckers and 90 idle single deckers with imported spares. The entire programme is expected to be executed within two years. Yearwise break-up is as follows :-

- (4) On 18th March, 1972, the rowdies threatened to murder Sri Samir Chatterjee, Secretary of the Unit Committee of Central Workshop.
- (5) On 21st March, 1972, Sri Chittaranjan Ghosh, an employee of Belghoria Central Workshop was assaulted by the rowdies inside the workshop while on duty.
- (6) On 24th March, 1972, the rowdies attacked the employees inside Belghoria Depot. The rowdies assaulted Sri Brojen Das and Sri Uma Chakraborty and insulted the women workers. The rowdies came with pistols in their hands.
- (7) On 27th March, 1972, the rowdies threatened Sri Nirmal Dasgupta, Sri Sunil Roy and Sri Nitai Chanda of Howrah Depot - all important office bearers of C.S.T. Employees' Union.
- (8) On 29th March, 1972, the rowdies forcibly prevented 30 employees from reporting to their duties in Taratalla Depot. Sri Shyama Sarkar and Sri Sudarsan Dey, Depot Committee Member and Joint Secretary of the Union were severely assaulted.
- (9) On 30th March, 1972, Police and Congress rowdies jointly attacked the employees inside Taratalla Depot and arrested two employees who were severely tortured in police lock-up on 31st March again 2 employees were arrested.
- (10) On 31st March, 1972, Police and Congress (R) rowdies jointly attacked the employees of Belghoria Depot and arrested Sri Ajit Boral, a mechanic.
- (11) On 1st April, 1972, Sri Jitesh Das, Sri Bhupnarayan Dubey and 60 other employees of Paikpara Depot were prevented from reporting to their duties. The employees immediately gave a deputation to General Manager and a representation was also given by the Union. But no action was taken by C.S.T.C. authorities to allow the employees entry to their workplace.
- (12) On 4th April, 1972, the rowdies attacked the employees of C.S.T.C. Head Office at 45, Ganesh Chandra Avenue, dragged out Sri Manick Das from Cash Department and assaulted him. The rowdies forced out seven employees from the office. They also burnt the office of Calcutta State Transport Employees' Union - in C.S.T.C. building (in the space allotted by C.S.T.C.). All these attacks were carried out during office hours when the General Manager and Chairman of C.S.T.C. were present in the office.
- (13) From 5th April, 10 employees of Lake Depot are prevented from reporting to their duties.
- (14) On 6th April Congress (R) rowdies kidnapped Sri Santosh Dey from the gate of Paikpara Depot and took him away in a taxi. The matter was immediately reported to C.S.T.C. authorities and the Deputy Commissioner of Police North Division, and the taxi number was also given. This was brought to the notice of the Chief Minister of West Bengal also. Uptil now, the whereabouts of Sri Dey is not known. It is apprehended that Sri Santosh Dey was murdered.

MANY MORE SUCH INSTANCES may be quoted. Most of the employees who are prevented from reporting to their duties, are also evicted from their house. They are out of earning and separated from their families.

These planned attacks are perpetrated at a time when the long standing demands of C.S.T.C. employees for (a) Wage rise, (b) D.A. (c) Permanency of workmen and (d) Medical Benefit. During United Front Government the Home (Transport) Minister issued order in 1970 to declare all employees permanent who have completed 3 years service.

But this order has still not been given effect to. All the 12,500 employees of C.S.T.C. with service upto 24 years service are still treated as temporary staff.

Congress(R) rowdies are forcibly collecting money from employees and anybody refusing to oblige them are assaulted and threatened with murder.

ATTACK ON DURGAPUR INDUSTRIAL BELT

61 active workers and union leaders of various unions in Durgapur Industrial Belt were arrested under Misa and PVA Acts before election. About 12 workers were murdered. Hundreds of arrest warrants were issued against the important functionaries of the unions. In August, 1970 25,000 Police, CRP and Border Security Force were deployed to crush 11 days strike struggle of 60,000 workers of Durgapur. Since this movements and upto the election about 2200 Police cases were instituted against the workers of Durgapur.

Immediately following the election in 1972 two workers Sri Sujit Debsarman of Sagarbhanga Colony and Ajit Das of D.P.L. Colony were murdered and five workers were stabbed in Durgapur.

The union office of A.V.B. Employees' Union at AVB Colony and Sagarbhanga Colony were forcibly occupied. The union office of Hindusthan Steel Employees' Union was looted.

The union leaders of Durgapur Project Employees' Union and Durgapur Chemical Employees' Union are forcibly prevented from opening the union office and to function from there.

The workers were victims of a series of attacks in the post election period. Some of the incidents are listed below :

DURGAPUR STEEL PLANT:

1. On 15th March Congress rowdies - Jahar Saha and Banu Bose used most abusive language to humiliate the family members of Shri Phani Bhattacharjee and Shri Anil Ghosh. When Sri Bhattacharjee and Shri Ghosh strongly protested against the behaviour of the rowdies, the rowdies threatened them with revolvers.
2. On 16th March, 1972 about 25 Congress rowdies attacked the house of Shri Dipak Mullick at 14/3, Einestine Avenue in presense of police. The family members of Sri Dipak Mullick were insulted and humiliated by the rowdies.
3. On 16th March Congress(R) rowdies attacked the house of Shri Subodh Biswas at 5/8, Marconi Avenue and threatened to murder the inmates. Even the children of the house were beaten.
4. On the same day i.e. 16th March, the rowdies also attacked the house of Sri Hiralal Chanda at 10/46 Einestine Avenue. Police put off the street lights of Einestine Avenue when the rowdies carried on the attack.
5. On 16th March Congress rowdies - Jahor Saha and two others - threatened with murder Sri Tarapada Acharjee of 20/3, Bidyapati Road and Sri Sukumar Malakar of 20/12, Bidyapati Road. The rowdies asked Sri Badal Sharma to vacate his house at 9/13 Bidyapati Road and threatened of dire consequences if he did not obey them.
6. On 16th March when the houses of the workers of Newton Avenue and Einestine Avenue were attacked the rowdies assaulted Sri Gauri Sankar Mazumder, D.D. Chatterjee and Lakshman Banik.

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7. On 29th March Congress rowdies attacked the house of Sri Amar Ganguly of 6th Street of Ranaprotap Road. The rowdies also attacked the house of Sri P.Roy, Vice President of Hindustan Steel Employees' Union at 11th Street of Ranaprotap Road. The house of Shri Ajit Chatterjee and Shri Soumen Chakrabarty were attacked by the rowdies on the same day.
8. The house of Sri Madhab Roy at 21/9, Ashoke Avenue was looted by the rowdies and younger brother of Sri Roy was severely beaten.
9. Dilip Dey of 22/2, Ashoke Avenue was so severely beaten that he had to be hospitalised.
10. The house of Shri Satyabrata Sanyal at 21/2 Ashoke Avenue was attacked and the belongings were damaged.
11. Congress rowdies dragged out Shri Debabrata Ghosh from his quarter at 22/4 Ashoke Avenue and severely assaulted him. Shri Ghosh had to be hospitalised.
12. On 18th April, 1972 Shri Dilip Mukherjee, a worker of the Co-operative Society was beaten by the rowdies in Mahiskapur Road of Steel Township.
13. Shri Madhav Ojha an employee of Slag Bank and Shri Rebati Das of Foundry Department were severely beaten by the rowdies of 2nd April, 1972.
14. On 8th April Congress rowdies attacked the house of workers in Einestine Avenue and demolished one school of small children. The attack was led by Shri Hiren Sengupta.
15. On 9th April Congress rowdies attacked the workers of Edison Road with bombs and firearms and assaulted Shri Manash Mukherjee, Rathin Majumdar, Milan Bhattacharjee, A.K.Panda, H.L.Dey and others in presence of police. Police, however, arrested eleven workers who were attacked by the rowdies.
16. On 9th April Congress rowdies attacked the office of CITU affiliated Hindustan Steel Employees' Union at 20/7 Edison Road and looted the typewriter and destroyed all union records.
17. The rowdies also assaulted Shri Anil Ghosh, M.N.Bose, Phani Bhattacharjee and N.C.Paul of Bidyapati Road. The rowdies handed over Shri Phani Bhattacharjee to police after severely assaulting him.
18. The Service of Sri Dayamay Ruidas, employee of Durgapur Steel Plant and activist of the H.S.E.Union was terminated without assigning any reason.

ALLOY STEEL PLANT:

1. On 12th April Shri N.K.Chatterjee was attacked by Congress rowdies while he was going to factory duty. Sri Chatterjee was stabbed.
2. On 18th March Congress rowdies kidnapped Shri Nabin Chatterjee and assaulted him. Shri Joydev Das was also assaulted on the same day.

A.V.B. FACTORY:

1. On 13th March Congress rowdies attacked the quarters of Shri Biswanath Chowdhury and Shri T.N.Gupta, General Secretary and Asstt. Secretary of A.V.B. Employees' Union.
2. On 14th March 30 leading workers of the union were evicted from their quarters and forced to leave the township at the point of guns.

3. On 15th March Congress rowdies attacked the house of Sri C.P. Sinha. Sri Sinha was not at his quarter at that time. The rowdies assaulted the younger brother of Sri Sinha. Sri Sinha's brother had a small shop in Swapna Market which was looted by the rowdies.
4. On 16th March Congress rowdies asked the employees of Co-operative Society to tender resignation from their job and to leave the township.
5. On 23rd March Congress rowdies forcibly occupied the office of A. V. B. Employees' Union in presence of police.
6. On 25th March night Congress rowdies attacked the bouse of Shri Bibhu Chakrabarty. Shri Bibhu Chakrabarty was not at home at that time. The rowdies asked his father to vacate the house. Next morning the rowdies came with firearms and forcibly dragged out Shri Chakrabarty's old father and took possession of the house.
7. On 31st March Congress rowdies dragged out Shri Kalicharan Maity from his house and severely assaulted him.
8. On 1st April Congress rowdies looted the quarters of Shri B. K. Mukherjee and Shri S.K. Mukherjee - quarters No. / RR-278 and RR-272.
9. On 8th April Congress rowdies assaulted Shri Niranjana Karar.
10. The workers are forced by Congress rowdies to join the union of Congress(R). When the workers come to punch their cards inside the factory to record their attendance, the rowdies force them to sign the membership form of Congress(R) Union. The workers are not allowed to punch their cards as long as they do not sign the membership form. Shri Atin Mukherjee, Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police, specially posted in A.V.B. Township threaten to arrest the workers and evict them from their quarters if they do not join the union of Congress(R).
11. Congress rowdies and Shri Atin Mukherjee, the police officer do not allow the workers even to purchase their daily necessities from the market, who refuse to join the union of Congress(R). When the wives of those workers go for marketing, the rowdies and Shri Atin Mukherjee insult and humiliate them and prevent them from going to market.
12. Shri B.K. Ghosh, the Industrial Relation Officer of ACC-Vickers-Babcock Ltd., Durgapur is the main conspirator and the Congress rowdies and police are acting under his instruction to wreck CITU affiliated A.V.B. Employees' Union.

DURGAPUR CHEMICAL :

1. On 19th March Congress rowdies attacked Shri Mahadev Bairagi with iron rods and seriously injured him. Shri Bairagi is still in hospital.
2. The leading workers of CITU affiliated Durgapur Chemical Employees' Union Shri Asoke Bose, Manoj Bag, Dipak Dey, Sukumar Bardhan, Debidas Roy, Balaram Paul were attacked by Congress rowdies and severely beaten.
3. The following office-bearers and Leading workers of C I T U Union are forcibly prevented by Congress rowdies from reporting to their duties in the factory:

Shri P. K. Roy, Asstt. Secretary
" R. C. Datta, Asstt. Secretary

Shri Susanta Bose, Executive Member
" Swapan Mukherjee, Executive Member
" Panchanan Banerjee, Executive Member
" Shamal Chatterjee
" Sowmen Dutta

4. Most of the office-bearers and Executive Committee members have been evicted from their quarters and forced to leave the township under threats of murder.
5. The workers are forced to join the union of Congress(R). Those who refuse are assaulted. A number of letters were written to Factory Management but upto now no action has been taken to ensure safety and security of the workers.

MINING & ALLIED MACHINERY CORPORATION :

1. On 12th March Congress rowdies attacked Shri Arjun Dhar, Achut Chakrabarty and Ratan Ghatak - the active workers of CITU affiliated Heavy Engineering Employees' Union.
2. On 16th March Congress rowdies came in a Ambassador Car (WGJ 3517) searched for Shri Dilip Nandy in the Township (Viswakarma Nagar) and threatened to murder him when they (rowdies) get him.
3. Shri Jaladhar Manna, Executive Committee Member of HEE Union was arrested by police on 7th February, 1972 in a false case. His bail was granted by the Court. On 16th March when Union leaders went to release him from prison Shri Manna was detained without trial under MISA.
4. On 16th March Shri Rakhal Bhattacharjee, General Secretary of H.E.E. Union was detained without trial under MISA.
5. Shri Haradhan Das was attacked by Congress rowdies and stabbed on 30th March. Shri Asoke Banerjee and Shri Dipak Aich were the leaders of the gang which attacked Sri Das.
6. Shri Dilip Roy Chowdhury and Shri Amal Basu, active workers of H.E.E. Union were evicted from their quarters in Sagarbanga Colony by Congress rowdies with threats of murder.
7. In violation of the practice to recruit new hands through Employment Exchange, Congress rowdies are given direct employment to terrorise the workers inside the factory.

SANKEY WHEEL (Guest Keen Williams) :

1. Shri Jogesh Das, Haripada Chakrabarty and Bimal Banerjee were assaulted by Congress rowdies before the factory gate.
2. Known anti-social elements - Jagannath Dutta, Sarat Talapatra and Sukumar Chowdhury are giving threatening to murder the active workers.
3. Shri Harilal Ghosh is prevented from reporting to his duties by Congress rowdies.

DURGAPUR STATE TRANSPORT SERVICE :

1. Congress rowdies attacked the office of D.S.T.S. Employees' Union and burnt all union records.
2. The following workers are prevented from reporting to their duties :

Sri Mihir Sen
" Mihir Rudra
" Ajit Biswas

Sri Prabir Chakraborty
" Santosh Layak
" Kartik Purakayat
" Kasi Chakraborty
" D. P. Bose
" V. K. Rajan
" Swapan Banerjee
" Jyan Das
" Shanti Mazumdar

3. Sri Swapan Banerjee was severely assaulted and forced to resign from CITU affiliated D.S.T.S. Employees' Union. Sri G. Das was also severely assaulted and told by Congress rowdies not to attend his duties.
4. Sri Kartick Chandra Purakayat was attacked by Congress rowdies on 21.3.72, 31.3.72 and 7.4.72 and Sri Prabir Chakraborty was attacked on 7.4.72. Both of them were severely beaten. Sri Purakait and Sri Chakraborty in written representation informed all these incidents to the Chief Executive Officer, Durgapur State Transport Board and demanded measure for their safety and security. But no action has so far been taken. The rowdies assemble everyday at the gate of the Depot and prevent the workers from coming to their duties.

DURGAPUR NOTIFIED AREA AUTHORITY :

Sri Ashoke Mozumdar, Office Assistant and Joint Secretary of D.N.A.A. Employees' Union is forcibly prevented by Congress rowdies from joining his duty. Other workers and employees of D.N.A.A. are regularly threatened that they would not be allowed to stay in Durgapur if they do not join the Union of Congress(R).

DURGAPUR PROJECT LIMITED :

1. On 14th March, 1972 Sarbasri Taraprasad Ghose of Electrical Division, Sital Chatterjee of the Office of Deputy Chief Engineer and Karuna Pal, Driver of Water Works were severely assaulted and taken to Hospital.
2. On 15th March, 1972 Sarbasri Rabin Sen, Chargeman of the Tar & By-Products Plant, Vice-President of the D.P.L. Employees' Union, N.G. Sen - Coke-Oven Operator, Gr.-I and Sudhir Chakraborty, Hospital (Ambulance) Driver were severely assaulted and taken to hospital.
3. On 21st March, 1972 Sarbasri Satyan Senyal, Gr-I Operator of Tar & By-Products Plant and Sihangshu Chowdhury of Tar & By-Products, Gr-I Operator were physically assaulted and were removed to hospital.
4. On 22nd March, 1972 Sarbasri Satya Bose, Power Plant (Mech.) Setai Saha, Fitter, Central Workshop, Subhash Sarkar, Foreman, Coal Washer were assaulted and taken to hospital.
5. On 25th March, 1972 Sri Sisir Kundu, Tech. Gr.III of Mech./Division was assaulted severely, when he was coming from his duty. He was beaten by broken bottle in his head and chin.
6. On 12th April, 1972 Sri Nikhil Chatterjee of Tr. Section was stabbed by Congress rowdies while he was going to the Factory to report to duty in "C" Shift.
7. The following Union leaders and active workers of C I T U Union were evicted from Coke-Oven Township (Durgapur Project)

and forcibly prevented from reporting to their duties :

- I) Sukhen Sarker, Vice-President.
- II) Asit Mitra, Secretary.
- III) Joy Narayan Chakraborty, Secretary.
- IV) Priya Lal Das, Assistant Secretary.
- V) Utpal Roy Burman, Sr. Boy, Canteen.
- VI) Mrinal Sarker, -Do-
- VII) Bishu Mazumdar, Driver.
- VIII) Jatin Chakraborty, Clerk.
- IX) Pabitra Pal, Vice-President.
- X) Arabinda Sarker, Clerk.
- XI) Ranjit Dhar, Clerk.
- XII) Tamal Das Gupta, Operator.
- XIII) Tarun Bose, Assistant Secretary.
- XIV) Biplab Bose -Do-
- XV) Kalyan Biswas, Committee Member.

8. WORKERS EVICTED FROM THEIR QUARTERS AND FORCED TO LEAVE DURGAPUR :

Dilip Chatterjee	Dy.Chief Engineer's Office.
Uday Hazra	Town Administration Office.
Bishtu Mozumdar	Ey. Chief Office.
Santosh Chakraborty	Hospital.
Utpal Banerjee	Canteen.
Sukdev Mukherjee	Canteen.
Benoy Neogi	Central Workshop Office.
Nanda Dulal Mukherjee	-Do-
Paritosh Datta	Coal Washery.
Manik Ghosh	Coal Washery.
Sisir Kundu	Mech./Divn.
Mridul Das Gupta	Central Testing Cell.
Bhagilal Balmiki	Town Sweeper.
Manna Balmiki	-Do-
Tapan Sarker	Traffic.
Satya Mukherjee	Traffic.
Shamal Ghosh	Power Plant, Mech.
Arun Bha	-Do-
Pradyat Chatterjee	Coke-Oven.
Dwipen Munshi	Coke-Oven.
A. Chatterjee	Gas Plant.
Sukumar Kaibiatya	Security.
Fatik Banerjee	Security.
Kalyan Biswas	Power Plant.
Mukul Mukherjee	Traffic.
Paritosh Datta	Coal Washery(Operation).

9. Gangsters and rowdies of Congress(R) are forcibly entering into the quarters of the active members and supporters of the Durgapur Project Employees' Union and threatening to murder them if they do not resign from their jobs and vacate their quarters. The representatives of the Union met Sri Zaenul Abedin, Minister-in-charge of State Undertakings, Government of West Bengal on 7th April, 1972 and requested him to take measure for safety and security of the workers and to ensure that the workers could report to their duties with full security. The Minister categorically said that no such assurance would be given by the Government and the workers should themselves find their own security which indirectly meant that the workers and Union leaders should join the Union of Congress(R) as otherwise no safety or security could be guaranteed.

CONTRACTORS LABOUR OF DURGAPUR
STEEL PROJECT :

About 120 workers of C I T U affiliated Union have been retrenched and in their place congress rowdies have been given employment.

The Office of CITU affiliated United Contractors Workers' Union at Benachitty was twice attacked by Congress rowdies.

S H O P E M P L O Y E E S :

Congress rowdies are forcing the shop owners to terminate the services of workers who are members of CITU affiliated union. 8 leading union workers have already been dismissed to provide employment to Congress rowdies.

ATTACK ON TRADE UNIONS IN BARRACKPORE
INDUSTRIAL BELT (DISTRICT 24PARGANAS)

This is most important industrial belt in West Bengal. About 15 important Jute Mills, Paper Mill (Titagarh Paper Mill), big engineering factories like Texmaco, a number of Cotton Textile Mills and Chemical factories, Ordnance factories and hundreds of small industrial units are situated in this industrial belt. Total number of workers and employees who live in this area will be about 3,00,000, the number of Jute workers alone will be about 1,00,000. CITU unions are most organised in this area representing about 60% workers and employees. Important assembly constituencies from where the candidates of the Left Front parties are traditionally elected are in this belt - like Dum Dum, Panihati, Noapara, Baranagore, Khardah, Titagarh, Kamarhati etc.

A few months before 1973 election, Trade Union functioning in the entire Barrackpore industrial belt was brought to standstill by mass terror and armed attacks. Areas like Dum Dum, Titagarh, Panihati, Khardah, Baranagore and Kamarhati were most severely affected. In Khardah except in Indian Oxygen, in all other industrial undertakings trade union functioning was forcibly stopped. In Dum Dum armed gangs of Congress(R) were posted in picket duty at the gate of most of the factories. The candidates of CPI(M) in Khardah and Panihati were forcibly evicted and their houses were looted and burnt. A few days before the election, all election workers from Dum Dum were routed and 7 workers were murdered. Election campaign was almost impossible in the entire Barrackpore industrial belt.

After 1972 election, the entire industrial belt of Barrackpur in practically under the occupation of armed gangsters of Cong.(R).

Details of the attacks on trade unions are given below :-

1. DUM DUM AREA:

(a) Union Offices looted and burnt -

Patipukur	-	5 unions
Dum Dum	-	24 unions (including the office of Jessop Mazdoor union)

Membership of these unions - 15000

(b) T.U. leaders obstructed from attending duties - 150
(c) T.U. leaders and workers involved in false cases/arrested after election - 100

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- (d) Open Trade Union functioning in any form totally stopped in the entire area.
- (e) In 16 factories - like Gramophone Co., Jessop outside goondas are forcing the workers at the point of revolver to join INTUC union.
- (f) Workers forcibly evicted from their houses - about 500.

2. NOAPARA AREA:

Bengal Enamel Factory -

(i)	Total Workers	-	1600
(ii)	Membership of CITU Union		1425
(iii)	Workers forcibly prevented from reporting to duties		100
(iv)	Workers assaulted		27 *
(v)	Workers dismissed		33

(*This includes 13 Executive Committee Member of CITU affiliated Union).

- (vi) CITU Unions own building and Office forcibly occupied by Congress(R) gangsters.

Shree Annapurna Cotton Mill(Shyamnagar)

(i)	Total Workers	-	2200
(ii)	Membership of CITU Union (1971)		2110
(iii)	Workers forcibly prevented from reporting to duties		100
(iv)	Dismissed		45 *
(v)	Workers assaulted		35
(vi)	CITU Unions own building and office forcibly occupied by Congress(R) gangsters.		

(*This includes 38 Executive Committee Members of CITU Union)

Gourishankar Jute Mill

(i)	Total Workers	-	2000
(ii)	Membership of CITU affiliated Bengal Chatkal Majdoor Union	-	700
(iii)	Workers forcibly prevented from reporting to duties	-	10
(iv)	Dismissed	-	4
(v)	Office of CITU Union occupied		

Dunbar Cotton Mill

(i)	Total Workers	-	4500
(ii)	Membership of CITU Union	-	3222
(iii)	Workers prevented from reporting to duties (Executive Committee Member & Treasurer)	-	2
(iv)	Dismissed	-	2
(v)	Office of CITU Union occupied.		

3. BARANAGAR AREA:

Offices of 22 unions affiliated to CITU ransacked, looted and forcibly occupied. Two local offices of Democratic Youth Federation looted, burnt and occupied. 2 local Clubs also burnt.

Bengal Immunity - Union office burnt along with union library containing a few thousands books. 40 workers including President, Secretary and Asst. Secretary of CITU union prevented from reporting to duties.

Carter Pooler - 9 workers including Working President and Treasurer of CITU affiliated union evicted at the point of revolver. All papers of union office destroyed.

Leading workers and union office bearers forcibly prevented from reporting to duties :-

<u>Name of Company</u>	<u>No. of Workers</u>
P.C.Chanda	15
Diamond Products	6
A.T.Koomar	5
Sreegopal Chemicals	2
J.K.Dey	Secretary of the Union
Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union (Alambazar Jute Mill Branch)	20
Baranagore Municipal Employees	20
Bharat Press	2
AESBY Industries	8
Thirani & Shiva Glass	14
RIC(Bonhoggly)	36

Two Co-operative shops, one ration shop, one Primary & Junior High School forcibly closed.

Workers and families victed from their houses - about 5000

4. PANIHATI AREA:

Workers forced to join INTUC unions leaving CITU unions in the following factories/units -

Orient Electric & Engineering
Sirkar Dairy
Johnstone Pump
Bangodoy Cotton Mills
Hindusthan Wires
Panihati Municipality Labour Welfare Union.

The office of Bengal Chemical Sramik Karmachari Union(Panihati) was attacked with bombs and destroyed.

The office of Johnstone Pump Workers Union forcibly occupied.

The workers/union leaders are forcibly prevented from reporting to their duties :-

<u>Name of the Company</u>	<u>No. of workers</u>
Bengal Chemical	8
Sarkar Dairy	2
Basanti Cotton Mills	6
Bengal Waterproof	2
Oriental Electric	1
Hindusthan Wires	6
Oriental Metal	5
Murarka Paints	2
Sulekha Works	6
Texraco(Boiler Section)	7
Panihati Municipality	5
K.P.K.Consumers Co-operative	1

All the union offices are either forcibly occupied or prevented from functioning.

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5. KHARDAH/TITAGARH AREA:

In 22 factories in the area, 50 leading workers and leaders of CITU unions are forcibly prevented from reporting to their duties.

Union Offices destroyed and occupied:

Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Unions	- Khardah Branch
-do-	Titagarh Branch
-do-	Empire Mill Branch
Bengal Kaghazkal Mazdoor Union	
Indexco	
India Pin	

Workers forced to join INTUC Unions in the following factories leaving their own CITU Unions -

Indian Oxygen
 India Pin
 Bharati Chemicals
 Calcutta Steel
 Calcutta Silk
 Modern India Construction

6. DAKHINDARI AREA

Union offices forcibly occupied :-

Bird & Co. Employees Union
 Hindusthan Sheet & Metal Employees Union
 Eastern Paper Mills Ltd. Workers Union
 Dum Dum Weaving Factory Workers Union

Workers forcibly prevented from reporting to duties:

<u>Name of the Company.</u>	<u>No. of Workers</u>
Lansdowne Jute Mill	3
Bird & Co.(Process Engineering Divn)	23
Sadhana Ausadhalaya Factory	7
Eastern Paper Mill	18
Hindusthan Sheet & Metal	5
Balhori Sardar (Cotton Weaving Fy.)	9
Manufacturing Paper Products	4

IN WORKS-COMMITTEE ELECTION in Empire Jute Mill, representatives of Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union were forced at the point of Pistols to withdraw their nominations while 4 representatives were forcibly prevented from filing their nomination papers.

In Empire Jute Mill three leading workers - Farazan Ali, Fatik and Sunil and in Kinnison Jute Mill - three leading workers Tapas, Vishun and Md. Rasul are forcibly prevented from reporting to duties.

ATTACKS ON THE WORKERS IN OTHER AREAS
OF 24 PARGANAS DISTRICT:

Sonarpur Area - Just on the eve of election Nirmal Chatterjee, a leader of CITU Union was murdered and on the same day his wife was raped. After election, it has become impossible to function in any form 19 unions in the area. Leaders, workers of the unions have been forcibly evicted from their houses. About 50 workers are threatened with murder if they report to their duties. As a result they are unable to report to their duties.

Ena.

Mahestolla Area:

Unions offices occupied/prevented from functioning:

- E.C.E. Mazdoor Union
- S.F.Products Factory Workers Union
- Andaman Timber Workers Union
- Indian Chain Workers Union
- Spring Sales Workers Union
- R.Sen Group of Industries Workers Union

Workers prevented from reporting to duties -

Bata Shoe Factory	-	110
Other factories	-	70

Workers evicted from their houses - 200

Detained under MISA/PVA Act - 12

Budge Budge Area:

Leading Union Workers dismissed :

<u>Name of the Company</u>	<u>No. of workers.</u>
Bata Jute Mfg. Co.Ltd.	7
Staple Fibre Factory(Birla)	5
Detained under MISA	1

KALYANI INDUSTRIAL AREA:

Union offices occupied/prevented from functioning :

- Kalyani Spinning Mills Employees Union
- Ruttanji & Co. (Kalyani Brewari) Workers Union
- K.R.Steeel Employees Union
- Andrew Yule & Co. Workers Union
- Sen Pandit & Ancillary Units Workers Union
- Cassel Industries(Kalyani) Workers Union
- Kalyani Hand Made Paper Mill Workers Union

Leading workers and Union leaders prevented from reporting to duties

<u>Name of Company</u>	<u>No.</u>
Kalyani Spinning Mills	95
Ruttanji & Co.	3
Andrew Yule & Co.	4
Sen Pandit Ancillary Units	22

Workers evicted from their houses:

Sen Pandit Ancillary Units	18
Kalyani Spinning Mills	60

Union Office looted :

Kalyani Spinning Mills Employees Union on 19.3.1972.

ATTACKS ON THE WORKERS IN CALCUTTA(CITY)
INDUSTRIAL AREA:

Dabur Mazdoor Union - On 30th March 1972 Congress(B) rowdies attacked the union office at Gorla and forcibly took away all union records and destroyed all furniture. The attack place in presense of police. At the instigation of rowdies police arrested Sri Prem Chand Rai, Sri Dipankar Chakraborty, Sri Nageswar Jha and Sri Jaggy Ahir - all Executive Committee members of the union. The Management of Dabur (a Pharmaceutical Company) dismissed Sri Om Bahadur and Sri Biraj Banerjee.

The Management is threatening the workers that if they do not join the union of Congress(R) now being formed, they would be dismissed. The rowdies are threatening the non-Bengali workers that they would not be allowed to work or to stay in Calcutta if they do not listen to them(rowdies). In Ganguly Bagan Area where the workers live, Congress(R) rowdies come there four times everyday with pipe guns, rifles and bombs and thereafter the workers with murder. This is continued everyday. The rowdies are also threatening the workers inside factories.

Dwarka Industrial Development Mazdoor Union:

After the election, Congress(R) rowdies under the leadership of Ratan Ghosh, a notable anti-social element of Beliaghata are forcing the workers inside the factory to sign membership form of Congress(R) Union. They are threatening to murder Sri Gopal Chowdhury, Joint Secretary of the Union. They are also asking the workers to hand over the union funds to them. The rowdies sit in the Chamber of the Director when they come to factory.

Karu Sree Sramik Union: on 15th March at about 9-30 a.m. Cong(R) rowdies attacked the workers while on duty in the factory at 38/1 Panditiya Road, Calcutta-29 and asked the workers to join the union of Congress(R). They come with revolvers and daggers. They assaulted Sri Haripada Mazumdar, President of the Union and asked him to handover union funds to them. Since that day Sri Haripada Mazumdar and a few other leading workers are unable to report to their duties.

Indian Oil Workers Union:

The members of CITU Union are forced to join AITUC union. Recently Congress(R) has formed a union. The Treasurer of CITU Union Sri Saroj Bhattacharjee was assaulted by the hoodlums of AITUC Union on 31.3.72 in the Branch Office at 1, Shakespeare Sarani, Calcutta-16 during office hours.

Saxby & Farmer Mazdoor Union:

(Saxby & Farmer is a Govt. of West Bengal undertaking)

In November 1971 Congress(R) formed a new union in Saxby & Farmer but did not get any response from the workers. After the election, Congress(R) rowdies attacked and assaulted Joint Secretary and 10 leading workers of CITU Union in full knowledge of the Company's Personnel Officer. On 20th March 1972, notable anti-social Ratan Ghosh asked the leaders of CITU union to handover to him the union funds and threatened to murder them if his order was not obeyed. On 5th April one leading worker was assaulted. The rowdies of Congress(R) are entering into the factory with fire arms in presence of Managerial staff. About 32 leading workers and leaders of CITU unions are thus prevented from reporting to their duties.

Bengal Chemical, Manicktolla, Calcutta.

On 15th March 1972 Congress(R) rowdies came inside the factory and asked the Management to dismiss the leaders of CITU Union. The Management openly encouraged the rowdies and asked Sri Bibhuti Mazumdar and Sri Subhas Bose of CITU union to tender resignation. They refused and from the next day they were suspended on false charges and prevented them from coming to factory. In the absense of the union leaders, Congress(R) rowdies are threatening the workers that if they do not join the union of Congress(R), their fate would be the same as their union leaders.

IN SOUTH BELIAGHATA AREA the Congress(R) rowdies established their own rule even before the election occupying the union offices of the following factories -

Bengal Pottery
Sura Jute Mill
Canton Carpentry
National Rubber Mfg. Ltd.
Haryana Rubber Works
Metal Reforms (MRC)
Ganesh Commercial
Central Rubber Works

After the election the rowdies have intensified their terrorism, always moving with arms and union functioning in any form is completely suspended.

IN BELIAGHATA NORTH, leading workers of union North Jute Mill and Hindusthan Small Tools are prevented from reporting to their duties. About 200 workers and employees have been forcibly evicted from their houses.

In Tollygunge Jadavpur Area, Calcutta, functioning of the following unions was forcibly stopped by Congress(R) rowdies before the election :

Tollyganj Rickshaw Workers Union
Chaliha Rolling Mill Workers Union
Dassani Engineering Workers Union
Standard Laboratories Workers Union
Paints & Laquers Workers Union
Gopal Hosiery Workers Union
Goria Rickshaw Workers Union
Cine Technician Workers Union

After the election, Congress(R) rowdies have intensified the terror and about 150 workers and employees have been forced to leave the area to avoid being murdered.

The Ex-Mayor of Calcutta Sri Prasanta Sur was evicted from his house.

On 17th March the Congress(R) rowdies attacked the workers of Sulekha Works inside the factory and occupied the office of CITU Union and the Co-operative Stores of the Workers.

On 28th March 1972, Congress(R) rowdies forced Sri Ranjit Kar Headmaster of Bapujinagar School to tender resignation from his post.

IN KOLAY BISCUIT COMPANY, CALCUTTA

13 leading workers of CITU Union were physically prevented from reporting to their duties. The Management dismissed these workmen on the plea of their unauthorised absence.

In INDO-JAPANESE INDUSTRIES LTD., CALCUTTA, the Management declared closure with effect from 30th July, 1971. Indo Japanese Industries Ltd. Employees Union, affiliated to CITU was the only union in this industrial undertaking, duly recognised by the Management. Series of meetings were held before the Government's Conciliation Officer and certain terms were agreed upon on reopening of the factory. But, after the election, a fictitious agreement was signed by the Company with some individual men before the Deputy Labour Commissioner, Government of West Bengal completely by-passing the union. Following this agreement when the factory reopened, 43 leading workers including all committee members and office bearers of CITU affiliated union were not allowed to resume their duties. When the workers protested, the Management said that the agreement that they have signed provided a clause empowering them to keep the said 43 workmen out of employment. This agreement is legally invalid. But a responsible

Government officer of the rank of Deputy Labour Commissioner took initiative to impose such an agreement on the workmen.

In Durgapur Chemicals Ltd. daily wage of contractors labour was Rs. 4/-. After the election it was reduced to Rs. 3'50 per day. When the workers protested against this wage cut, congress(R) rowdies threatened that no protest would be tolerated. This is an undertaking of Government of West Bengal.

ATTACK ON WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD EMPLOYEES :

On 10th April 1972 at the office of the Divisional Engineer, 24-Parganas North Division at Barrackpore, at about 10-30 a.m. a gang of miscreants trespassed into the office, took possession of the Attendance Registers and searched for five employees who are members of our Union. They demanded of the Divisional Engineer to hand over the said five employees to them and in his (Divisional Engineer's) presence demanded of them (the employees and members of our Union) papers relating to the accounts of our Union and also the fund. Finally the rowdies said that the five employees should stop coming to their duties with effect from next Monday, the 17th April, 1972. If their instruction was above is not complied with, the rowdies threatened that they (the employees) would have to face serious consequences, including physical assault and murder. All these took place in presence of the Divisional Engineer who is at the helm of affairs of the local administration; he behaved in a manner as if he was totally helpless. Ten SEB workmen have been detained without trial since last six months. Another 42 workmen have been put under suspension.

ATTACK ON THE WORKERS OF ASANSOL INDUSTRIAL BELT.

Chittaranjan Locomotive Works :
(Government of India Undertaking)

Before 1972 election, 32 leading workers and union office-bearers of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works Labour Union were suspended and 8 workers were detained without trial under MISA and PVA Act. About 300 leading workers were implicated in false cases and continuously harassed.

After the election seven office bearers were transferred to far away places like Madras despite the fact that Union office-bearers are protected staff. Suspension, detention without trial, harassment and now transfer of union office bearers - these are the method adopted by Government of India to subvert the organised union and to suppress the workers.

ATTACK ON SEN-RALEIGH WORKERS:

Sen-Raleigh Cycle Factory at Asansol was under closure since 29th March 1971. Sen-Raleigh Employees Union, affiliated to CITU representing 3371 workers out of 3500, was the only union in this factory, duly recognised by the Management. A few days before the closure AITUC formed a union here and after the closure was declared, Cong(R) registered a new union.

When the workers were continuing their struggle on demand for re-opening of the factory, both AITU and Congress(R) jointly tried to disrupt this movement.

On 21st February, 1972 a rmed gangs of Congress(R) attacked the union offices of Sen-Raleigh Employees Union (SREU) at Nadiha, Kannyapur, Asansol. Immediately after this attack, police came and arrested 35 workers and wives of two workers. Mrs. Juthika Ray,

Teacher was also arrested. The union office was placed under police guard. Subsequently the rowdies of Congress(R) occupied the office of SREU situated in the own building of the union. The rowdies removed the name-plate of SREU and hanged the name-plate of the Union of Congress(R). About 800 workers - members of SREU and their families were evicted from Sen-Raleigh township.

The factory was reopened on 31st March 1972 following a tripartite agreement. Reopening ceremony was performed by Chief Minister of West Bengal. But the union office of SREU was not vacated. When the agreement was signed on 27.3.1972, the Labour Minister of West Bengal promised that the union office would be vacated and handed over to SREU. But, the union office is still in occupation of Congress rowdies.

The rowdies are using the office of SREU as a torture chamber. 46 workers were severely beaten.

In the first phase of resumption of work after reopening of the factory, 1500 workers were asked to report to their duties. But 80 leading workers of SREU, out of 1500 were physically prevented by the rowdies from entering into factory. 67 workers and their families are still not allowed to live in their quarters.

ATTACK ON COLLIERY WORKERS:

On 12th March 1972, the Central Office of the Colliery Mazdoor Sabha of India (CITU) situated at Sishubagan, Raniganj, was attacked by 30/35 Yuba Congress and Chatra Parishad's men and some anti-social elements at 11 a.m.

On 13th March, '72, the Union's Red Flag was burnt at Victory Colliery by the men of Youth Congress.

On 17th March, '72 and 19th March, '72, twice the Dacoities have been committed at East Jambad Colliery's workers quarters and canteen. The dacoites told that they would stop committing dacoities provided that workers disaffiliated from Colliery Mazdoor Sabha of India (Lal Jhanda).

On 25th March, '72, Jamuria Police raided the quarters of Ramadhar Singh Jogrupan, Sripat Rajbhar and Saharat and assaulted eight sleeping Muslim workers for nothing with butts of gun at Toposi Colliery.

On 26th March, '72, some Congress Youths of Toposi and Jotejanki, along with some other Yuba Congress elements of Raniganj and Ukhra along with two known antisocial elements namely Mongla Singh and Manager Singh suddenly entered into the pay counter in the morning and started throwing bombs towards the workers' quarters. This continued for half an hour. Out of panic, the workers had to stop taking payments and left the quarters. When the stocks of bombs etc. were finished then only they left.

On 26th March, '72, some Yuba Congress elements of Chakdola village did the same thing in Krishnanagar Colliery.

On 30th March, '72, Jamuna Singh, and Trijogi Narain Sukla etc. of Congress (R) along with two car loads of armed personnels entered into the Nageswar Satgram Colliery workers quarters and threatened the workers that if the workers did not disaffiliates themselves from the Colliery Mazdoor Sabha of India by next Saturday, they would be shot down and assaulted by the gangsters maintained by Trijogi Narain Sukla.

Almost dailies, members of Youth Congress (R), of Bahula village along with one Panchanan Dutta have been threatening our trade union workers namely Baldeb Choudhury, Bondhu Gope, Tarapada, Soraj and others with these works that if they did not join Congress (R) union, they would be either put behind the bar or they would be assaulted.

Recently Shri Dhanik Thakur, President of the J.K.Nagar Colliery branch of CMS along with other Trade Union leader of J.K.Nager Factory were arrested on false complaints. In order to create panic amongst the other workers, they were assaulted in presence of hundred of workers. Dhanik Thakur drew an amount of Rs.900/- from Co-operative. The Police took away the amount.

None of the colliery owners (210 mines) paying variable D.A. or wages and other facilities as per CoalWage Board to their workmen. 30 thousand workmen were retrenched from the collieries within last one year. No new recruitment was made since last one year. Now M/s. Equitable Coal Co.Ltd. and other big and small collieries are not even paying earned wages to the workmen regularly.

ATTACK ON THE WORKERS IN HOOGLY DISTRICT :

In Kesoram Rayon Factory 4 workers are detained under MISA and 20 workers are under arrest on various false charges. After the election, Sri Ajit Bhowmick, Joint Secretary of C.I.T.U. affiliated Union, was kidnapped and seriously assaulted.

In Tribeni Tissue Factory, the office of C.I.T.U. affiliated Union was forcibly occupied by the Congress rowdies. The General Secretary of the Union was assaulted and members of the C.I.T.U. Union were forced to sign membership form of the Union of Congress (R).

The rowdies of Congress (R) attacked the workers of Hind Motor Works, Uttarpara on 15.3.1972 in presence of Dr.Gopal Das Nag, now Labour Minister of West Bengal, Biman Nandi, Subhas Chandra Deb, Sritosh Badya and Sunil Chowdhury - leading workers of Hindusthan Motor Workers (C.I.T.U.). On 18.3.1972, the rowdies attacked the Union office of Hindusthan Motor Workers Union, destroyed the telephone and Union records.

ATTACK ON TEACHERS :

School Teachers in different districts are being prevented from joining their duties at schools under threat and intimidation of being killed. From hundred of teachers resignation letters have been collected under duress. A list of some such schools and teachers is submitted herewith.

TEACHERS AND NON-TEACHING STAFF OF THE FOLLOWING SCHOOLS ARE AFFECTED :

Name of the District	Name of the School	No.of affected Teachers & Non-teaching staff
1	2	3
<u>Calcutta :</u>	Tollygunge Asokenagar Vidyapith	2
	Beliaghata Deshabandhu H.S. School (Boys)	5
	Beliaghata Deshabandhu H.S. School (Girls)	1
	Bani Vidyamandir	5
	Deshabandhu Bidyapith	2
	Beliaghata Santi Sangha Vidya-	3

(1)	(2)	(3)		
Calcutta :	Narikeldanga Jr.High School	1		
	Narikeldanga High School (Boys)	5		
	-do- (Girls)	1		
	Azadgarh Balika Vidyalaya	1		
	Gandhi Colony H.S.School (Girls)	2	-1 forcibly resigned.	
	Gandhi Colony H.S.School (Boys)	1		
	Bapujinagar H.S.School	1	Forcibly resigned.	
	Silpakala Vidyamandir	2		
	Sahid Smriti Vidyalaya	6	-4 forcibly resigned.	
	Bejoygarh Vidyapith	1		
	Kendra Mahendra Vidyalaya	2		
	Paikpara Raja Manindra School	2		
	Maharaja Cossimbazar Poly.Instn.	1		
	Naktala High School	4		
	Sammilita Udbashtu Balak Vidyalaya	3	-1 forcibly resigned.	
	Ultadanga United H.S.School	1		
	<u>24-Parganas :</u>	Uttar Dum Dum Alipur Jr.High School	2	
		Bandipur Ideal Academy	1	
		Kalayannagar Vidyapith	1	
		Pansila Desha bandhu Vidyapith	2	
Tirtha Bharati Sikshayatan		2		
Uttar Rabindranagar Vivekananda Jr.High School		3		
Sibtala Jr.High School		1		
Rajpur Vidyanidhi H.S.School		1		
Harinavi V.D.V.M.School		3		
Dakshin Habra High School		2		
Habra Bani Niketan		2		
Uttar Dum Dum Navajiban Vidyamandir		1		
Shyamaprasadnagar High School		1		
Kanchrapara High School		5		
Halisahar High School		7	-Forcibly resigned	
Kanchrapara Indian Girls' School		4		
Kancharapara Poly.Girls School		12		
Kanchrapara Harnett H.S.School		4		
Shyamanagar Kanticharan H.S. School		2		
Gurdah Rishi Aurobinda High School		4		
Sodepur High School		3		
Panihati Taraknath High School		2		
Karmadaksha Chandrachur H.S. School		3		
Khardah Sibnath High School		2		
Kalyannagar Co-op.Colony H.S. School		3		
Deshbandhunagar Boys High School		2		
Ghola Jr.High School		2		
Birati High School		3		
Bisharapara High School		1		
Dum Dum K.K.Hindi High School		2		
Chittaranjan Colony Hindu Vidyapith		5	-Forcibly resigned.	
Habra Suri High School		1		
Kamalapur Kamala Vidyapith		1		

<u>(1)</u>	<u>(2)</u>	<u>(3)</u>
24-Parganas (Contd.)	Sinthe R.B.T. High School	1
	Madhyamgram Boys' High School	2
	Nimta High School	2
	Ramnagar High School	4
	Kanchrapara R.P.High School	12
<u>Hooghly</u> :	Balagarh High School	1
	Bhonpur Jajneswar High School	1
	Teghara Jr.High School	1
<u>Howrah</u> :	Durgapur Pallimangal Vidyamandir	3
	Bamangachi Sri Aurobinda Jr. High School	5
	Bhatora Union High School	2 - Forcibly resigned.
	Baneswarpur High School	5
<u>Nadia</u> :	Pritinagar Bhudeb Smriti Vidyapith	2
<u>Burdwan</u> :	Memari Girls' High School	3 - Forcibly resigned
	Kanchannagar N.A.High School	2
	Kurmun High School	5
	Jahannagar Kumarananda High School	4
	Bagnapara High School	1
	Biruha S.C.Vidyalaya	1
	Kalna Ambika M.M.High School	1
	Jaykrishnapur Jr.High School	1
	Begampur Union Instn.	1
	Ban Nabagram High School	1
	Bhita M.P.Instn.	1
	Shyamsundar Ramlal Academy	1
	Kishorekona N.A.High School	1
	Hatgobindapur High School	1
	Sadda High School	1
	Banpass Sikshayatan	1
	Barsul C.D.C.High School	1
	Paharhati G.M.High School	1
<u>Cooch Behar</u> :	Rambhola High School	5
<u>W.Dinajpur</u> :	Kaliyaganj Parbati Sundari High School	1

A N D

Many other Schools.

*-**-**-* ***-**-*

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Enclosure No. 4

SEN RALEIGH EMPLOYEES' UNION

Regd. No. 2799

CAMP : 87, Apcar Garden,
ASANSOL, Burdwan.

21st March, 1972.

The Secretary,
Labour Department,
Government of West Bengal,
Writers' Buildings,
Calcutta-1.

Re : RE-OPENING OF SEN-RALEIGH, ASANSOL.

Dear Sir,

We refer to the letter No. 814/Cord/LC, dated 20th March, 1972, wherein we have been advised to attend a tripartite meeting in the Chamber of Labour Minister on 22nd March, 1972, at 3 p.m. on re-opening Sen-Raleigh factory at Asansol.

In the meeting held before the Labour Commissioner on 20th March 1972, we reiterated our views on the proposed draft of the Company in the following terms :

1. We would not accept any proposal for retrenchment or reduction of staff in any form.
2. We do not accept the proposal of the Company for increasing the work-load.
3. Fixation of norms regarding production should be decided on the basis of full agreement between the workmen and the management.
4. Compensation for the closure period should be paid to the workmen at the rate of Rs. 100/- (Rupees one hundred) ad-hoc plus full salary/wage (i.e. basic wage and D.A.) from November, 1971. The factory was to re-open in November, 1971 and as it has been intentionally delayed by the Management, the workers must not be made to suffer and the demand has been framed accordingly.
5. The normal earnings of the workmen should not be reduced in any form or in any manner.

In this connection we are confronted with the following deliberately created by Police, local Administration and INTUC elements :

- (a) Executive Committee Members and Office-bearers of our Union have been detained on various fabricated charges and as we are unable to discuss at Executive Committee level on the issues confronting the workmen.
- (b) The members and workers of our union have been forcibly driven out from their houses in Sen-Raleigh Housing Project and the union leaders are forcibly restrained from contacting the member workmen. A terror has been created in the township and normal peaceful life has become impossible.
- (c) The Union office of Sen-Raleigh Employees' Union at Kanyapur and its own building has been forcibly occupied by I.N.T.U.C. men, the name plate of our Union has been removed and in its place the name INTUC Union has been written and none of our Union members and union officials are either allowed to enter into or to use the Union Office. It is pertinent to mention here that the land and Union building was purchased and constructed with the funds of Sen-Raleigh Employees' Union and the said Sen-Raleigh Employees' Union is the owner of this property. The position is such that all our documents, Union letter-heads are in the union office which we are unable to use.

In the circumstances it is not clear to us as to whether our Union would be allowed to consult the member-workmen the terms of settlement and our Union would be allowed to function. You will appreciate, if we are not allowed to meet the workers, on what basis we would sign the settlement.

This being the position, we feel, it is necessary that the Government should prevail upon the Company to make it possible to arrive at an acceptable settlement and to take measure so that :

- (i) We are allowed to meet our member-workmen and the workmen are allowed freedom to live in the township and all arrested workers are released.
- (ii) Our Union Office is vacated immediately by the INTUC men and we are allowed to use our office.

We have strong apprehension that following the agreement when the factory re-opens, our member-workers will not be allowed to either live in the township and resume their duties in the factory. We want to know Government policy in this regard and want a firm assurance that these difficulties confronting the workers would be removed and police and local administration would be stopped from harassing the workers.

We would request you to place this letter before the Labour Minister.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/- Sunil Basu Roy
(SUNIL BASU ROY)
General Secretary.

March 22, 1972.

ORDY.

TELEGRAM

- 1) PRIME MINISTER
NEW DELHI
- 2) VV GIRI
PRESIDENT
NEW DELHI
- 3) RK KHADILKAR
LABOUR MINISTER
NEW DELHI
- 4) REPRESENTATIVE IN INDIA INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION
NEW DELHI
- 5) AK GOPALAN
4 ASOKE ROAD
NEW DELHI

CONGRESS (R) ROWDIES HAVE FORCIBLY OCCUPIED UNION OFFICE UNIONS OWN BUILDING OF SEN-RALEIGH EMPLOYEES UNION AT KANYAPUR, SENRALEIGH HOUSING PROJECT, ASANSOL (.) POLICE AND LOCAL ADMINISTRATION ARE BEHIND THIS CONSPIRACY (.) EIGHT HUNDRED WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES FORCED TO LEAVE THEIR HOUSES IN THE TOWNSHIP (.) 5000 MEN RENDERED HOMELESS (.) WORKERS THREATENED OF MURDER BY CONGRESS (R) ROWDIES (.) POLICE TERROR CONTINUES (.) NORMAL LIFE IMPOSSIBLE (.) ATTACKS INTENSIFIED AFTER ELECTION (.) THIS SITUATION CREATED WHEN SEN-

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RALEIGH WORKERS FIGHTING LAST ONE YEAR AGAINST CLOSURE OF FACTORY (.) APPREHEND IF FACTORY REOPENS FOLLOWING PRESENT NEGOTIATION OUR UNION MEMBERS WILL BE FORCIBLY RESTRAINED FROM REPORTING TO DUTIES (.) ALL OFFICE BEARERS COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE UNION ARRESTED (.) TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES COMPLETELY CURTAILED (.) URGE IMMEDIATE ACTION ONE TO STOP TERROR AND ATTACK ON WORKERS TWO MEASURE TO REHABILITATE WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES THIRD TO VACATE UNION OFFICE AND ALLOW SEN-RALEIGH EMPLOYEES UNION TO USE IT FOURTH ENSURE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF WORKMEN (.) COPY ENDORSED TO PRESIDENT INDIA AND ILO REPRESENTATIVE IN INDIA.

SECRETARY CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS
WEST BENGAL COMMITTEE

SEN-RALEIGH EMPLOYEES' UNION
(Regd. No. 2799)
Nadiha, Kanyapur, Asansol.

Camp : 87, Apcar Garden,
Asansol.

27th March, 1972.

The Labour Minister,
Government of West Bengal,
Writers' Buildings,
Calcutta.

Re-opening of Sen-Raleigh Factory
at Asansol.

Sir,

We have submitted to you a copy of our letter dated 22nd March, 1972 addressed to the Secretary, Labour Department and informed you that :

1. Our Union Office i.e. the office of Sen-Raleigh Employees' Union and its own building at Kanyapur, Sen-Raleigh Township, Asansol has been forcibly occupied by INTUC men and we are neither allowed to use the office nor we are allowed to go there.
2. About 800 workers and members of our union and their family members have been forcibly evicted from Sen-Raleigh Housing Project and we have grave apprehension that our workers will be prevented from reporting to duties if the factory re-opens following the present negotiations. The workers are being threatened with murder if they try to enter into the township.

In the circumstances, we seek your direct intervention so that :

- (a) Our Union Office and Union building is vacated by INTUC men and we are allowed to use the office.
- (b) The workers evicted from Sen-Raleigh Housing Project are allowed to live in their quarters.
- (c) No worker is prevented from reporting to duties when the factory re-opens.
- (d) Attacks, assaults, threats and intimidation is stopped and our member-workmen are allowed to live in peace.

You assured us on 22nd March, 1972 that you would talk to the INTUC men in this regard. We hope, you have already talked to them. We urge upon you to take immediate measure to safety and security of the workers and restore normal trade union functioning in Sen-Raleigh

factory at Asansol.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/- Sunil Basu Roy
(Sunil Basu Roy)
General Secretary.

SEN-RALEIGH EMPLOYEES' UNION
Affiliated to C.I.T.U.
Redg. No. 2799

Camp : 87, Apcar Garden, - Asansol
Phone ASL - 3223.

April 19, 1972.

The Labour Minister,
Government of West Bengal,
Writers' Buildings,
Calcutta-1.

Sir,

Further to our letters dated 21.3.72 and 27.3.72 on Sen-Raleigh situation we wish to draw your attention to the present state of affairs there which has worsened since re-opening of the factory. In this connection, we wish to draw your attention the following letters :

- i) S.R.E.U/72/1 dt. 15.4.72
- ii) S.R.E.U/72/1 dt. 12.4.72 (addressed to the Labour Secretary)
- iii) S.R.E.U/72/1 dt. 6.4.72
- iv) A telegram sent to the Labour Secretary on 3.4.72.
- v) S.R.E.U/72/1 dt. 2/3.4.72 (Sent to the Labour Secretary)

Wherein, developments since re-opening of the factory have been stated in details for necessary action.

But, nothing has been done as yet to improve the situation. The following facts highlight the present situation, namely :

1) The office of Sen-Raleigh Employees' Union at Nadiha, Kanyapur, Asansol is housed in its own building constructed on land purchased by the Union. It is, since 16th March, 1972 under illegal and forced possession of the Ruling Congressmen. In spite of your assurance that the said office would be vacated by the Ruling Congressmen and Sen-Raleigh Employees' Union would not be hindered from functioning from its own office. Your assurance have been flouted by the Ruling Congressmen. Since re-opening of the factory, the Ruling Congressmen, who are armed, are using the said office building as a torture chamber to beat the workers and extract letters ect. in favour of I.N.T.U.C. A sort of 'Closed-shop' system is being introduced under cover of a reign of terror to impose the I.N.T.U.C. Union on the workers.

2) During these days since re-opening of the factory, numerous workers have been beaten, tortured, humiliated by the Ruling Congressmen at the point of fire-arms and other weapons. Some were dragged out from the duty bus and beaten in the Union building, some on the street, and many were beaten in their own quarters. Information about these incidents have been sent to the local authority, the management and the government. The situation has so worsened that even the factory is not safe for the workers. The management, it appears, have "surrendered" their right to these men who are armed and often found to be non-employees. On 17.4.72 Ranjit Poddar, Narendra Dutta and one other worker were subjected to the said experience.

3) Most of the workers and their families who left the Housing Project area on 21.2.72 and thereafter could not as yet return due to the said reasons.

4) By now it has become common knowledge that some 100 to 200, workmen belonging to Sen-Raleigh Employees' Union including office bearers, Executive Committee members would not be allowed to join their duties. That it is fact is confirmed in a newsitem that appeared in the Business Standard Section of Hindusthan Standard dated 18.4.72. It cannot happen unless both the management and the Ruling Congress are in collusion in the matter.

This contravenes the tripartite agreement dated 27.3.72.

5) The above circumstances prove it beyond doubt that the right and freedom to form a Trade Union, to be a member of a Trade Union of One's own choice, to carry on Trade Union activities without any restraint, obstruction whatsoever are being totally denied to the workers in general, and to this union in particular.

As a result, this union finds it impossible to participate in the matter of implementation of the Tripartite Agreement dated 27.3.72.

6) The Tripartite Agreement is being violated by the management in the matter of operating plea which should have been on the pre-closure pattern. The Government, a party to this Agreement stands committed to ensuring its implementation. But, it has, so far, failed.

We, therefore, demand :

1) Restore peace, normalcy, law and order in the Kanyapur undertaking of M/s. Sen-Raleigh Limited, its adjoining Housing Project and the villages.

2) Guarantee, safety and security for all.

3) Ensure immediate return of its office building and premises to Sen-Raleigh Employees' Union situated at Nadiha, Kanyapur, Asansol.

4) Restore Trade Union Rights and guarantee full freedom for its exercise.

5) Stop gangsterism, armed or not.

6) Arrest culprits.

7) And, thus, ensure proper implementation of the Tripartite Agreement dated 27.3.72.

Sen-Raleigh Employees' Union is trying its level best to properly implement the Tripartite Agreement dated 27.3.72 but the said circumstances are preventing it from doing so. Success of these disruptive and splitting forces would endanger the Tripartite Agreement dated 27.3.72.

Please take immediate steps.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/- Sunil Basu Roy
(Secretary)

c.c. The Labour Secretary,
Govt. of W. Bengal, Writers' Buildings, Calcutta-1.
c.c. The Joint Labour Commissioner, Govt. of W. Bengal,
New Secretariat Building (11th Floor)
1, Kiron Sankar Roy Road, Calcutta-1.

- c.c. The General Secretary, West Bengal Committee, C.I.T.U.,
249, Bipin Behari Ganguli Street, Calcutta-12.
- c.c. The General Secretary, Federation of Metal & Engineering
Workers' Unions, 249, B. B. Ganguly Street, Calcutta-12.
- c.c. Mr. Abhijit Sen,
Mg. Director,
1, Middleton Street (Jeevan Deep) Cal-16.
- c.c. The Convenor, Sen-Raleigh Group T.U. Co-ordination Committee,
Calcutta.

- For information and necessary
action please.

Sd/- Sunil Basu Roy,
Secretary.

Joint Statement issued by Sri Kamal Sarkar,
Secretary, CITU, West Bengal Committee,
Sri Matish Roy, Secretary, UTUC, West Bengal
Committee, Sri Fatick Ghosh, Secretary, UTUC
(Lenin Sarani), West Bengal Committee and
Sri Prasanta Das Gupta, Secretary, Trade
Union Co-ordination Centre.

"Congress (R) gangsters have forcibly occupied the office and own building of Sen-Raleigh Employees' Union (C I T U) at Kanyapur, Asansol. It is most surprising that even after the present Chief Minister and Labour Minister of West Bengal visited Sen-Raleigh Factory at Kanyapur, the gangsters are in occupation of the Union Office and own building of CITU affiliated Sen-Raleigh Employees' Union. About 300 activists of SREU have been forcibly prevented from either to stay in Sen-Raleigh Township or to report to their job in the factory.

Dr. Gopal Das Nag the Labour Minister assured the representatives of Sen-Raleigh Employees' Union on 27th March, 1972 that the office and building of the Union would be vacated and normal Trade Union functioning would be guaranteed.

Sri Sidhartha Shankar Roy, the Chief Minister was also informed in this regard on 31st March, 1972 when he visited Sen-Raleigh Factory. But uptill now the Union Office and Building of S.R.E.U. has not been vacated and the Union activities have not been allowed to resume duties.

We strongly condemn this gangsterism encouraged by the Government and demand that -

- (a) the Union office and building of S.R.E.U. be immediately vacated by Congress (R) gangsters,
- (b) all workers be allowed to resume their duties and to stay in Sen-Raleigh Township, and
- (c) normal trade union functioning be guaranteed.

We also demand that immediate measure should be taken to vacate all other Union offices forcibly occupied by Congress (R) gangsters and to guarantee normal Trade Union functioning with full freedom."

Dated : 13th April, 1972.

The News Editor,

_____ for favour of publication/circulation.

Sri Md. Ismail, M.P. President &
Sri Monoranjan Roy, M.P., General Secretary of C.I.T.U.
West Bengal Committee.

Sri Jatin Chakravarty, President, and
Sri Nikhil Das, General Secretary, U.T.U.C.,
West Bengal Committee.

Sri Subodh Banerjee, President, and
Sri Fatik Ghosh, General Secretary, U.T.U.C. (Lenin Sarani),
West Bengal Committee.

Sri Prasanta Das Gupta, General Secretary, and
Dr. Kanai Bhattacharya, President of Trade Unions Co-ordination Centre.

Dated, Calcutta, The 8th April, 1972.

We are seriously concerned about the large scale offensive started by Congress (R) gangsters immediately following the rigged Election, against Trade Unions and democratic organisations in West Bengal, with direct help of Police, CRP and Administration. In parading their fraudulent electoral victory, Congress (R) gangsters have resorted to most severe armed action to crush all political, trade union, student and mass organisations opposed to Congress (R). While this attack is a continuation of the semi-Fascist terror created in West Bengal before the election, we note with concern that C.P.I. leadership, who were in partnership with Congress (R) in the election, are conniving at the gangsters and directly extending support to all these criminal attacks against democratic rights of the people.

About 30 workers and supporters of Left Political Parties have been killed after the election. About 20,000 workers of the Left Front Parties and their families have been forcibly evicted from various areas.

Congress (R) gangsters are forcibly occupying Union offices and capturing Unions of CITU, TUCC, UTUC and UTUC (Lenin Sarani). The Union Office of Jessop Mazdoor Union, the Union Office and Union building of CITU affiliated Sen-Raleigh Employees' Union at ASANSOL and the Zonal Office of UTUC at Paikpara, a number of Union Offices of TUCC at Barasat, among others are still occupied by Congress (R) rowdies. A number of Union Offices have been burnt and looted. In about 300 offices, factories, coal mines and tea-gardens trade union functioning has been stopped by the armed gangs. The workers are forced to join the Unions of Ruling Congress in Baranagar, Dum-Dum, Beliaghata, Belghoria, Tollyganj, Noapara, Titagarh, Asansol, Durgapur, Raniganj and other places and those who refuse are assaulted and prevented from joining their duties. Even workers are attacked inside the factories. Hundreds of Union organisers and activists are forcibly stopped from reporting to their work in Jessop factory, Jay Engineering Works, Sen-Raleigh, Hindusthan Development, Calcutta State Transport, Hindusthan Iron & Steel Co., Sudsons and tens of other factories and offices. As a result they are out of earning.

The workers who are unable to report to their duties are retrenched on the plea of unauthorised absence.

The rowdies are being given employment to terrorise the workers inside factories and to disrupt the organised Unions. The rowdies are extracting money from the workers/employees by force.

The employers, taking full advantage of the situation, are using the rowdies to terminate the services of key organisers of established Unions and to deprive the workmen of their rights and entitlements.

To suppress the protest of the workers, the leading Trade Union Cadres and leaders have been detained without trial and also arrested after implicating them in false cases. Even Trade Union leaders are not allowed to contact or address the workers.

The State Administration, specially Labour Department, is acting as an adjunct of Congress (R) and ignores the established practice and law in boosting up the Unions of the Ruling Party.

When the people refuses to bear the burden of economic crisis the Capitalists are trying to transfer, Congress (R) has organised this gangsterism to crush militant Trade Unions in order to provide full freedom to the Employers to take away the established rights, increase workload, reduce wage and to extract more profit. It is in this background the fundamental right to form and function Associations and Unions is under attack. If this trend is not effectively fought out, it will not be confined to West Bengal alone.

The policy set in motion in West Bengal to crush political parties and suppress all political views opposed to Congress (R) is a Fascist tendency and portends far reaching consequence endangering the very existence of democracy in India. If this tendency of the Ruling Party is not stopped by the united struggle of the working class and the people, it will roll on gathering strength finally engulfing the whole of India.

WE DEMAND :

1. Trade Union rights should be restored, freedom to form Associations and Unions should be guaranteed.
2. Attacks on Trade Unions and workers/employees should be stopped and all workers/employees should be given protection to report to their duties and to work in peace.
3. Effective measures should be taken to curb the gangsters and rowdies of Congress (R) and Trade Union offices occupied by them should be immediately vacated.
4. Forcible collection from workers/employees in any form should be stopped and complete freedom of Trade Union functioning should be restored.
5. The method adopted to capture the Unions with the help of gangsters and also to force the workers/employees to join the Unions organised by the Ruling Party should be stopped.
6. All workers/employees arrested should be immediately released and all warrants issued and police cases instituted against workers/employees should be withdrawn.
7. All attempts to reduce wages and earnings of the workers/employees, or to increase work-load and reduce complement should be stopped.
8. The Labour Department should cease to function as an adjunct of Congress (R) in boosting up their unions to the detriment of Left Trade Unions and the interest of the workmen.

We call upon the working class and all sections of democratic people and all Trade Unions and democratic organisations in West Bengal irrespective of their political views, to unitedly resist this offensive of the Ruling Party on the Trade Unions and democratic rights of the people and to resolutely fight for the freedom to work for associations and unions of ones own choice.

We also appeal to the working class and democratic people in other States and to the Central Trade Union organisations in India to realise the gravity of the situation and to stand in support of the people of West Bengal to defend democracy and the right to form Unions and Associations.

PRESS HANDOUT

CALCUTTA APRIL 20, 1972.

PRESS CONFERENCE jointly addressed by Sri Monoranjan Roy, M.P., General Secretary, C.I.T.U., West Bengal Committee, Sri Jatin Chakraborty, President, U.T.U.C., W.B. Committee, Sri Fatik Ghosh, General Secretary, U.T.U.C. (Lenin Sarani), West Bengal Committee, and Sri Arabinda Ghosal of Trade Union Co-Ordination Centre.

The Ruling Congress, after the Election held on 11th March, 1972, has launched a full-scale offensive to crush militant Trade Unions in West Bengal and to forcibly impose upon the workers and employees the Unions of Congress (R). Gangsterism has been introduced in full scale to subvert trade unions and suppress trade union movement. The basic democratic right to form "Unions and Associations" and to function them with freedom is under attack. The working class was never confronted with such attacks in any State in India after Independence.

30 people were murdered after the Election. About 20,000 people are in prison and arrest warrants are pending against over one lakh workers and leaders of democratic movement.

The Ruling Congress has adopted Fascist method which portends far reaching consequence endangering the very existence of democracy in India. If this tendency of the Ruling Party is not stopped by the united struggle of the working class and democratic people, it will not be confined to West Bengal only.

The gangsters and local rowdies of Congress (R), with direct help from police, C.R.P. and Administration are openly attacking the workers with bombs, pistols and other fire-arms and capturing the Unions. The method adopted is as follows :

- (1) Forcibly occupying Union Offices of C.I.T.U., U.T.U.C., U.T.U.C. (Lenin Sarani) and T.U.C.C. Specific cases :- Jessop Mazdoor Union, Dum Dum, Sen-Raleigh Employees Union, Asansol, A.V.B. Employees Union, Durgapur, Regional Offices of U.T.U.C. at Paikpara and Kumargram, Office of T.U.C.C. at Barasat, the Office of U.T.U.C. (Lenin Sarani) at Budge-Budge, and many more such instances may be quoted.
- (2) Union Offices Looted and Records destroyed : Specific Cases : Hindusthan Steel Employees Union, Durgapur, Jessop Mazdoor Union, Dum-Dum, Calcutta State Transport Employees Union and many others.
- (3) Forcibly preventing functioning of Union Offices : About 300 Unions are affected in entire Barrackpore Industrial Belt, Sonarpur, Jadavpur, Tollygunge, Beliaghata (North & South), Maniktolla, Cossipore, Belgachia, Durgapur, Raniganj, Burdwan, Shaktigarh, Asansol, Nagrakata, (in Jalpaiguri Dist.) etc.
- (4) Forcing the workers to join Unions of Congress (R). Those who refuse to join the Unions of Congress (R) are assaulted and prevented from reporting to duties. The workers are forced to sign Bond purported to be tendering voluntary resignation from their own Unions and joining the Unions of Congress (R).
- (5) Forcibly collecting money from the workers. Those who refuse to pay money to the rowdies are assaulted and threatened with murder. In many places like Durgapur, workers are asked to pay money for their "ATMA SUDHI" (Self-Purification) for remaining so long members of the Unions other than that of Congress (R).
- (6) Workers and their families are forcibly evicted from their houses, their houses are looted and burnt.
- (7) The Leaders and Organisers of Unions of C.I.T.U., U.T.U.C., U.T.U.C. (Lenin Sarani) and T.U.C.C. are evicted from their houses, forcibly prevented from reporting to duties and to meet the workers.

Even workers are attacked inside the Factories. The rowdies are being given employment by the Management to terrorise the workers inside the factories and to disrupt the Unions. The workers who are unable to report to their duties due to threats and intimidation, are retrenched on the plea of unauthorised absence. The employers are taking full advantage of the situation to deprive the workmen of their rights and entitlements.

In various factories wage of workers has been reduced and service benefits have been curtailed.

The rowdies are told by the employers that if they could prevent the workers from reporting to their duties, they, the rowdies, would be given employment in place of the workers. Communal tension is deliberately created to incite one section of workers against the other and to disrupt the unity of the working class.

Police and Administration instead of taking action against the gangsters and rowdies, are arresting the innocent workers who are attacked by the rowdies. The Labour Department is acting as an adjunct of the Congress (R) and ignoring the accepted rules and procedures are boosting up the Unions of Congress (R).

When people are struggling against most acute unemployment, high prices and the burden of taxation, the Ruling Congress has intensified the attack to dislodge the movement of the people and to provide full freedom to the capitalists to reduce wage, increase workload and to extract more profit in order to transfer the burden of the economic crisis entirely on the people.

We strongly denounce the Ruling Congress for the situation created in West Bengal and demand that :

- 1) Trade Union rights should be restored, freedom to form Associations and Unions should be guaranteed.
- 2) Attacks on Trade Unions and workers/employees should be stopped and all workers/employees should be given protection to report to their duties and to work in peace.
- 3) Effective measures should be taken to curb the gangsters and rowdies of Congress (R) and Trade Union Offices occupied by them should be immediately vacated.
- 4) Forcible collection from workers/employees in any form should be stopped and complete freedom of Trade Union functioning should be restored.
- 5) The method adopted to capture the Unions with the help of gangsters and also to force the workers/employees to join the Unions organised by the Ruling Party should be stopped.
- 6) All workers/employees arrested should be immediately released and all warrants issued and police cases instituted against workers/employees should be withdrawn.
- 7) All attempts to reduce wages and earnings of the workers/employees, or to increase work-load and reduce complement should be stopped.
- 8) The Labour Department should cease to function as an adjunct of Congress (R) in boosting up their Unions to the detriment of Left Trade Unions and the interest of the workmen.

We call upon the working class and the people of West Bengal to defend their rights and Trade Unions at all costs and to resolutely pursue their struggle on the demands for :

- (a) Either job or unemployment benefit for unemployed persons,
- (b) Reduction of price and tax burden,
- (c) Wage-rise commensurate with rise in prices.

We appeal to all Trade Unions and democratic organisations in West Bengal, irrespective of their political views, to unitedly resist the offensive of the Ruling Party on the Trade Unions and democratic rights of the people and to resolutely fight for the freedom to work for Associations and Unions of ones own choice and for realisation of the burning economic demands of the people.

We also appeal to the working class and the democratic people in other States and to the Central Trade Union Organisations in India to realise the gravity of the situation and to stand in support of the people of West Bengal to defend DEMOCRACY and the right to form Unions and Associations.

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Enclosure No.5

JOINT APPEAL BY C I T U West Bengal Committee,
UTUC West Bengal Committee, UTUC (Len Sarani),
West Bengal Committee and Trade Union Co-ordination
Centre :

April 20, 1972.

To:

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.....
.....

Dear Comrades,

M A Y D A Y R A L L Y - 1972.

We are going to observe May Day this year by holding a Joint Rally on 1st May at the Shaheed Minar Maidan, Calcutta at 4 p.m. and invite you and the members of your Organisation and constituent Units to join it en-masse to make it a success.

May Day this year is going to be observed in a situation of unprecedented terror when on the one hand the economic existence of the common people is completely shattered due to acute un-employment, abnormal rise in prices and high taxation and on the other hand the ruling party has launched a full scale offensive after the election to suppress trade union and democratic rights of the people.

While the situation demands all embracing unity of the working class and the democratic people to defend the basic trade Union and democratic rights, we appeal to you to join our May Day Rally as a step to united struggle in the coming Days.

Yours fraternally

Monoranjan Roy
(Monoranjan Roy)
CITU West Bengal
Committee.
Fatich Ghosh
(FATICK GHOSH)
UTUC (Lenin Sarani)
West Bengal Committee

Jatin Chakraborty
(Jatin Chakraborty)
UTUC West Bengal
Committee.
Arabinda Ghosal
(ARABINDA GHOSAL)
T.U.C.C.

Working Committee Meeting
New Delhi, 24 - 26th April, 1972.

Explanatory Note to the Statement of
Accounts for the year 1971.

1. In the Income and Expenditure account the Miscellaneous expenses are as Rs.5,125.91. The amount includes the following expenditure:-

Rs.1594.00 - Expenses in connection with the meeting of the General Council held at Coimbatore on 11 - 14 June, 1971.

Rs. 250.00 - Contribution paid to the Convenors Group constituted by Delhi Convention held in 18 - 19 May, 1971.

Rs. 298.00 - Expenses during Office-bearers meeting and Press Conferences.

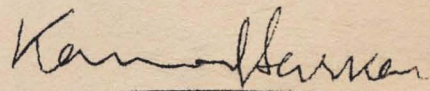
Rs. 845.00 - Expenses on account of travelling and conveyance.

Rs.2138.91 - Other Sundry Expenses.

Rs.5125.91
=====

2. In the Balance Sheet fixed asset of Rs.525.00 is shown on account of a transistor radio. The radio has since been given as donation to the West Bengal State Committee of CITU as per suggestion of the President and General Secretary of the CITU, so this transistor belongs to the West Bengal Committee of the CITU.

3. The accounts of The Working Class are included here since in the early stage no separate account for the journal could be maintained. Separate account books have been kept from January 1972.



(Kamal Sarkar)
Treasurer.

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

D. P. SEN & CO.
Chartered Accountants.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1971.

<u>EXPENDITURE:</u>	Rs.	P.
To Bank Charges	34.52	
" Salaries and allowances	10,463.00	74,427.10
" Printing and Stationery	7,000.44	2,171.29
" Printing of "Working Class"	3,154.25	5,320.39
" Postage and Telegram	1,889.51	58.12
" Miscellaneous Expenses	5,125.91	125.00
" Electric Charges	472.12	2,416.70
" Repairs	292.00	
" Rent	2,115.00	
" Telephone Charges	1,326.71	7.71
" Affiliation Fees to State Committees	50,948.30	
" Books and Periodicals	800.05	
" Audit Fee	250.00	
" Depreciation	654.50	
	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>	
	84,526.31	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>
	=====	=====
		84,526.31
		=====

<u>INCOME:</u>	Rs.	P.
By Affiliation Fees		
" Sale of Publication		
" Sale of "Working Class"		
" Miscellaneous Receipts		
" Pakistan Flood Relief		
" Interest from Bank		
" Balance being excess of expenditure over income for the year transferred to General Fund		
		7.71

Sd/- D.P.Sen & Co. Chartered Accountants:	Sd/- Kamal Sarkar Treasurer:	Sd/- P. Rahamurti General Secretary:
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Centre of Indian Trade Unions.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1971.

FUNDS AND LIABILITIES:

PROPERTY AND ASSETS:

FUND S:

General Fund:

As per last account	101,412.11	
Less: Excess of Expenditure over income for the year	7.21	101,404.40

Durgapur Fund:

As per last account	5,214.36	
Add: Collected during the year	8,711.21	
	<u>13,925.57</u>	

Less: Paid during the year	<u>13,005.80</u>	919.77
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LIABILITIES:

For Audit Fees		<u>250.00</u>
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102,574.17
=====

AUDITORS' REPORT

Examined the above with the Books, Records and Vouchers produced to us and found it in accordance therewith.

Sd/- D.P.Sen & Co.
Chartered Accountants.

7, Hastings Street,
Calcutta.
The 12th April, 1972

FIXED ASSETS:

Furniture and Fittings: At Cost	2,597.01	
Add: Additions during the year	<u>184.50</u>	2781.51
Less: Depreciation:		
Upto last account	257.01	
For the year	<u>252.50</u>	509.51
		2272.00

Typewriter: At Cost	2,155.45	
Add: Additions during the year	<u>350.00</u>	2505.45
Less: Depreciation:		
Upto last account	215.45	
For the year	<u>229.00</u>	444.45
		2061.00

Electric Installation: At Cost		820.00
Less: Depreciation:		
Upto last account	82.00	
For the year	<u>73.00</u>	155.00
		665.00

Transister: At Cost		525.00
Less: Depreciation for the year		<u>79.00</u>
		446.00

Books: At Cost		258.70
Depreciation:		
Upto last account	50.70	
For the year	<u>21.00</u>	71.70
		187.00

SECURITY DEPOSIT FOR TELEPHONE: As per last account
5631.00
360.00

CASH AND BANK BALANCES:

In Hand		1251.75
With Union Bank of India:		
On Savings Account	93,279.33	
" "	<u>972.90</u>	94252.23
On Current Account (Working Class)		<u>1079.19</u>
		96,583.17

102,574.17
=====

Sd/- Kamal Sarkar Sd/- P. Ramamurti
Treasurer: General Secretary:

New Delhi, April 24 - 26, 1972

Resolution

ON MARTYRS

The Working Committee of the CITU pays its homage to the valiant fighters of the working class and the toiling people of India who laid down their lives braving police bullets and attacks of gangsters and hirelings of the employers, the Congress(R) and other reactionary forces in the country.

In West Bengal hundreds of leaders and cadres of the CITU and other democratic organisations were brutally murdered during the last two years. Com. Sunil Sen, Member of the General Council of the CITU and prominent trade union leader of Dum Dum was among those who fell a victim to the assassin's dagger.

The Working Committee of the CITU strongly condemns these murderous attacks and calls upon the Indian working class to raise their powerful voice against these gruesome murders. The CITU takes a solemn pledge to carry forward the struggle with more vigour till the tasks left unfinished by these martyrs are accomplished.

ON CONDOLENCE

The Working Committee of the CITU deeply mourns the untimely death of Com. Rajen Sinha, Member of the General Council of the CITU and popular leader of the tea-garden workers of North Bengal. It conveys its grief to the bereaved members of his family.

The Working Committee expresses its deep sorrow at the sad demise of several activists of trade union and democratic movements during the last 10 months and pays homage to their memory.

WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING

New Delhi, April 24-26, '72.

Resolution :

ON VIETNAM

The Working Committee of the CITU strongly condemns the U.S. imperialism for the renewed aggression on North Vietnam with massive air and naval bombings in a desperate attempt to save itself and its puppet regime in South Vietnam from complete debacle at the mighty blows of the heroic people of Vietnam. The bombings of such a vast magnitude with near nuclear weapons which surpass all previous records unless checked immediately underlines a serious danger of escalation of the war and a great threat to the lives and liberties of the peoples of the world particularly of South East Asia. The Nixon administrations' sudden stoppage of Paris talks and further strengthening of the Seventh Fleet reveal its real criminal purpose.

The action of U.S. imperialism once again exposed itself as the greatest enemy of the peoples of the world. The people of India have got recent experience about U.S. imperialism in relation to Bangla Desh freedom struggle.

The Working Committee greets the heroic people of Vietnam as well as Cambodia and Laos, for their valiant resistance against this barbarous aggression and simultaneously delivering shattering blows to the enemy bringing nearer the complete liberation of South Vietnam and Indo-China. The Working Class and the people of India draw tremendous inspiration from these epic struggles of the people of Vietnam and express their full confidence in the victory of their struggle.

The Working Committee congratulated the people of United States and other countries for their world wide protest against U.S. imperialism and support for the struggle of the Vietnamese people national unification. This struggle has immensely helped the liberation of the Vietnam from the yoke of U.S. imperialism.

The CITU welcomes the stand taken by the Government of India for expressing its disapproval of the action of U.S. imperialism and calling for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Vietnam. But the situation demands more effective intervention on behalf of the Government of India and the Indian people to stop this mass massacres of human lives and wanton destructions of properties. The Government of India should take positive steps to help the freedom fighters of Vietnam in all possible manner and forthright give recognition to the Provisional Revolutionary Government and sever all relations with the puppet Government.

The CITU calls upon the people of India and specially the working class to raise their voice of protest and to mobilise unitedly throughout the Country to denounce U.S. imperialism and demand the immediate stoppage of bombings over North Vietnam, withdrawal of all its forces from the soil of Vietnam and to express full solidarity with the glorious heroic people of Vietnam.

The Working Committee appeals to all the Central Trade Unions of India to observe unitedly throughout the country a Day for joint protest against American aggression and for solidarity with the people of Vietnam.

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Working Committee Meeting,
New Delhi, April 24-26, 1972.

RESOLUTION ON L.I.C. EMPLOYEES STRUGGLE

The Working Committee of CITU sends its warm fraternal greetings to 45,000 LIC employees for unitedly observing one day strike and boycott on 25th April 1972 throughout India to press their longstanding demands like recognition, bonus, amenities, uniform holidays to building staff, reduction of interest on house-building loans etc. and expresses firm solidarity with them in their struggle.

The LIC employees who led a heroic fight against automation, are again on the path of struggle and the Working Committee of CITU is confident that they would demonstrate same zeal and unity in successfully concluding the present phase of struggle.

The Working Committee of CITU calls upon the working class of India to extend full support to the LIC employees in their struggle and demands of the Government of India and L.I.C. authorities to settle their demands immediately.

Working Committee Meeting
New Delhi, 24-26 April 1972

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RESOLUTION ON "DELAY IN PUBLICATION
OF THIRD PAY COMMISSION
REPORT"

The Working Committee of CITU notes with grave concern the delay in publication of the report of the Third Pay Commission, which neither the Commission nor the Government has been able to justify. The Central Government employees had, from the very beginning, were apprehensive of such delays and demanded that the benefit of the recommendations, should be given from 1st February 1969 from which date such rise has become due in terms of earlier decisions. Their fears have come true. Both the Commission and the Government have refused to give retrospective effect to the interim relief. On one hand the Commission termed the relief as "interim" on the other it refused to let the old principle of granting increase in D.A. in terms of the existing order operate; thus the Commission is virtually acting as a Dearness Allowance Commission and not as the Pay Commission, which the Central Government Employees would demand it to be.

The policy of indirect taxation and deficit financing pursued the Government of India, has already effected an unprecedented rise in prices i.e. 14 points in one year. The meagre increase in money value granted through two instalments of interim relief has not been able to fully neutralise the erosion in real wage of the workers (except only for those at the bottom) which has taken place since 2nd Pay Commission. The reliefs have thus in reality effected a pay out on the Central Government Employees. Therefore the delay, in publication of the Third Pay Commission report will only make the condition of the employees more unbearable. It is now increasingly becoming clear that the Commission is acting as a tool in the hands of the Government to keep down the wages of the Government employees, while the wage structure in both the private and public

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Sector has undergone a change since the days of the Second Pay Commission.

The Working Committee noted with dismay the failure of the recognised unions to launch an effective protest against this policy of the Government. Some organisations have observed some "Protest Days" in this regard and let the matter rest. The CITU is of the opinion that it is high time, that all the organisations of the Central Government employees should unite and rise to a man to demand immediate publication of the Commission's report. This meeting of the Working Committee calls upon the Central Government employees to strive for unity in the ranks and launch a forceful campaign in order to wrench their due benefits from the unwilling hands of the Government.

New Delhi, 24-26 April, 1972
Working Committee Meeting

ON RECOGNITION OF TRADE UNIONS

This meeting of the Working Committee of CITU views with grave concern the agreement reached between the INTUC, AITUC and HMS on the issue of recognition of unions. These three Central Trade Unions which have been holding meeting under the auspices of the Government of India for sometime past have evolved a formula for recognition of unions. This formula in effect has given up the principle of recognition through secret ballot.

Recognition through secret ballot has long been a demand of the militant trade union movement. The Government of India has been consistently refusing to adopt this principle. The AITUC and HMS who had earlier laid stress on this principle for over 20 years and who had pledged to fight for this principle in the joint declaration of May, 1971 have now shamelessly abandoned this principle and, in collusion with INTUC, have provided a handle to the Government of India for not implementing it.

These three organisations have accepted the method of verification instead of ballot as the principle basis of recognition. The decision of a judge appointed for this purpose will be final and this simply means that it is a judge not the workers who will decide the fate of the workers. The agreement has stipulated that a poll will be taken in cases where the difference in verified membership is marginal. This in effect would mean that in most of the cases, recognition will not be decided by ballot. Experience has shown that verification always favours the proemployer unions. It has been the experience of trade unions that whenever the management arrives at an agreement with a union which is not truly representative of the workers, it cannot be implemented. It is only a union which

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is elected by secret ballot that can implement decisions.
effectively.

This meeting is, therefore, of the opinion that this understanding between the three Central Trade Unions not only hits at the root of trade union democracy but also is against the interests of the workers and thus pave the way for class collaboration.

This meeting therefore, strongly condemns this understanding and reiterates its demand that the secret ballot must be taken as the only criterion for union recognition. This meeting pledges to continue its fight to force the adoption of this principle by the Government.

This meeting appeals to the AITUC and HMS to realise their mistake and to come forward to fight unitedly for the principle of recognition through secret ballot a principle for which they had also stood so long.

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Working Committee Meeting
New Delhi, April 24-26, 1972

RESOLUTION ON JUTE WORKERS STRIKE

The Working Committee of CITU sends it warm greetings to 2 lakh 50 thousand Jute workers of West Bengal and another 30 thousand Jute workers of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh for their resolve to commence an industry-wide continuous strike with effect from 8th May 1972 on ten point demands including the demand for a minimum wage of RS.300/-, and assures them full support in their struggle.

The Working Committee of CITU notes that inspite of the consistent efforts of CITU affiliated Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union and united effort of the unions of CITU, UTUC, UTUC(Lenin Sarani) and Trade Union Co-ordination Centre (Forward Bloc) in jute industry in West Bengal, INTUC, AITUC and HMS unions have not only refused to announce the strike decision unitedly but in their separate strike notice have also revised and reduced the demands of jute workers jointly finalised and agreed upon earlier by the unions of all the Central Trade Unions.

While the jute employers are now making a yearly profit of Rs.6000/- per worker, and the foreign exchange earning from jute products has increased from Rs.189 crores in 1969-70 to Rs.239.50 crores in 1970-71 and in 1971-72 it is expected to far exceed Rs.300 crores and the employers with Government backing have deliberately delayed settlement of the long standing demands of the workers, the unions of CITU, UTUC, UTUC(Lenin Sarani) and TUCC in jute industry have again appealed jointly to the unions of INTUC, AITUC and HMS to form a Joint Strike Committee to unitedly guide jute workers strike and not to deflect from the stand on jute workers demands unitedly taken earlier. The jute workers of West Bengal have learnt well the lessons of years of struggles that unity is the only guarantee of successful fight against

exploitation and advancement of their cause. They have built up strong unity at the base which had its reflection in forging unity at top in 1969 and 1970 strike struggles. Now when it is necessary to strengthen this unity all the more, INTUC, AITUC and HMS by serving separate strike notice is corroding the vitals of the unity at the base and creating confusion immobilising a section of jute workers on the eve of the impending strike struggle.

The Working Committee of CITU extends full support to the joint stand of the unions of CITU, UTUC, UTUC (Lenin Sareni) and TUCG in West Bengal and appeals to INTUC, AITUC and HMS to maintain the unity of jute workers which has developed through struggles and taken concrete shape during the historic strike struggles of August 1969 and December 1970.

The Government pursues a policy of utter servility to the interests of the jute barons as a result the jute barons are refusing to settle the just demands of the workers. In spite of the fact that fortunes of ten millions of people are linked with the jute industry, that jute products earn a third of the entire foreign exchange and more than 70 crores of revenue, the Government has refused to nationalise the jute industry owned by ten big monopoly houses, who earn more than 160 crores of profits annually not counting the vast black money, in rupee and in foreign exchange. Recently the Government has turned a blind eye to the huge smuggling of raw jute at very low prices which has helped the jute barons to make enormous black money.

The Working Committee of CITU strongly condemns the Government of India for its policy regarding jute industry and its workers, and demands immediate settlement of jute workers demands and nationalisation of jute industry. It also demands that Government of West Bengal immediately nationalise the industry irrespective of the attitude of Government of India.

The Working Committee of CITU calls upon the jute workers of West Bengal and other States to continue preparation for the coming strike with all seriousness and to maintain their unity at the base at all cost for the sake of an effective struggle.

The jute workers of West Bengal represented by the unions of CITU, UTUC, UTUC (Lenin Sarani) and TUCG have already demanded that whatever settlement is finally arrived at in West Bengal, should be uniformly extended to the jute workers of Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, U.P., M.P. and other States. The Working Committee of CITU congratulates the jute workers of West Bengal for their initiative to build up industry-wide united struggle on all-India basis and calls upon the jute workers of other States to use the opportunity to organise an all-India united struggle of jute workers.

The Working Committee of CITU also calls upon the workers and employees of all industries to support the just demands of the jute workers and extend all fraternal help and co-operation to jute workers in their struggle.

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CENTURE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Working Committee Meeting,
New Delhi, 24 - 26 April, 1972.

Resolution on VIET NAM

The Working Committee of the CITU strongly condemns the U.S. imperialism for the renewed aggression on North Vietnam with massive aerial bombings and naval blockade in a desperate attempt to save itself and its puppet regime in South Vietnam from complete debacle at the mighty blows of the heroic people of Vietnam. The bombings of such a vast magnitude with near nuclear weapons which surpass all previous records unless checked immediately underlines a serious danger of escalation of the war and a great threat to the lives and liberties of the peoples of the whole world particularly of South East Asia. The Nixon Administrations' sudden stoppage of Paris talks and further strengthening of the Seventh Fleet reveal its real criminal purpose.

The action of U.S. imperialism once again exposed itself as the greatest enemy of the peoples of the world. The people of India here have got recent experience about U.S. imperialism in relation to Bangladesh freedom struggle.

The Working Committee greets the heroic people of Vietnam as well as Cambodia and Laos, for their valiant resistance against this barbarous aggression and simultaneously delivering shattering blows to the enemy bringing nearer the complete liberation of South Vietnam and Indo-China nearer. The working class and the people of India draw tremendous inspiration from these epic struggles of the people of Vietnam and express their full confidence in the victory of their struggles.

The Working Committee congratulates the people of United States and other countries for their world wide protest against U.S. imperialism and support for the struggle of the Vietnamese people for national liberation and unification. This struggle has immensely helped the liberation of the Vietnam from the yoke of U.S. imperialism.

The CITU welcomes the stand taken by the Government of India for expressing its disapproval of the action of U.S. imperialism and calling for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Vietnam. But the situation demands more effective intervention on behalf of the Government of India and the Indian people to stop this mass massacres of human lives and wanton destructions of properties. The Working Committee urges the Government of India to take positive steps to help the freedom fighters of Vietnam and to sever all relations with the puppet Government and immediately grant recognition to the Provisional Revolutionary Government.

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The CITU calls upon the people of India and specially the working class to raise their voice to denounce U.S. imperialism and demand the immediate stoppage of bombings over North Vietnam, withdrawal of all its forces from the soil of Vietnam and to express full solidarity with the glorious heroic people of Vietnam.

The Working Committee appeals to all the Central Trade Unions of India to observe unitedly throughout the country a Day for joint protest against American aggression and for solidarity with the people of Vietnam.

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CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Working Committee Meeting,
New Delhi, April 24 - 26, 1972

RESOLUTION ON BUILDING WORKERS STRIKE IN DELHI

This meeting of the Working Committee of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions greets the building workers of Delhi who have been on strike since April 21 demanding the payment of Rs.4.50 as daily wages as per the notification issued by the Delhi Administration a year ago.

Expressing its full support to the striking workers, this meeting condemns the pro-contractor and anti-labour attitude of both the Union Government and the Delhi Administration. This meeting also condemns the deployment of police at building sites by the Government to browbeat the workers and to help the big contractors.

This meeting is surprised at the deliberate interpretation of the notification by the Delhi's Labour Department which maintains that only such of those employees as are employed by the Local Authority are entitled to Rs.4.50 and not other workers even if they happen to perform the same work. It is against this wrong interpretation that the building workers are fighting and are demanding the payment of Rs.4.50 wage rate. This meeting demand that the Union Government and the Delhi Administration should immediately concede the demands of the workers.

Working Committee Meeting
New Delhi, 24-26 April, 1972

RESOLUTION ON UNITY AND UNITED
ACTIONS

The Working Committee of the CITU, notes with satisfaction that since the last meeting of the General Council of the CITU held in Coimbatore, united actions of the working class on an extensive scale have taken place in various parts of the country, overcoming innumerable manoeuvres of disruptive forces and elements and braving severest ever of repressions.

Facing semi-fascist attacks, murders and arson, the heroic working class of West Bengal organised a successful and total General Strike and Bundh on 27-8-1971, defying the opposition of the leaderships of HMS and INTUC, demanding an end to terror, holding of elections and for re-opening of closed mills. 13th October 1971 saw another united Bundh demanding re-instatement of the dismissed State Government employees. 3½ lakh engineering workers led by the CITU, AITUC, INTUC, HMS, 2 UTUCs and TUCC went on a day's strike in August 1971 protesting against D.A. cut. In November 1971 all the Central Trade Unions jointly called a strike to win the demands of the Jute workers. West Bengal unitedly observed a General Strike and Hartal on the demand of recognition of the Provisional Government of Bangladesh.

In Kerala, 5 lakh Coir workers, united under the joint leadership of CITU, AITUC and INTUC went into action for a day on 13.3.72, demanding payment of minimum wages as per Act. This was followed by district wise united indefinite strikes by the Coir workers. 3 lakh plantation workers, united under the joint leadership of CITU, AITUC and INTUC, have already held a successful one day token strike and are preparing for an indefinite general strike for the demands of wage revision.

In Tamilnadu, 14000 Simpson Group workers, supported jointly by CITU, Madras-Chinglepet Co-ordination Council, INTUC, AITUC

and HMS, unitedly and successfully fought a bitter battle against the attempt of the DMK Government to foist its own nominee on the workers' union and against a sell out of the workers' interests. The entire lakh and fifty thousand textile workers of Tamilnadu united for the first time and went on a successful State-wide general strike unitedly sponsored by the CITU, INTUC, HMS and AITUC and all other independent unions, demanding wage revision, higher bonus and against effects of rationalisation. The country saw the spectacle of the CITU, INTUC, HMS, AITUC and all other unions in Tamilnadu, uniting from top to bottom, and giving a call for State-wide total bundh on 11.1.72 in solidarity with the Simpson workers' strike and actually organised a total one day bundh throughout Coimbatore District.

In Rajasthan the transport workers' strike in February 1972 was led unitedly.

In Kanpur after many years, the textile workers have united and gone on strike under the joint leadership of CITU, AITUC and INTUC. On bonus issue there was united action in Kanpur. Besides these, innumerable joint actions cutting across affiliations have taken place throughout the length and breadth of the country for higher bonus and outside the framework of the anti-working class Bonus Act. These united actions have resulted in substantial gains for the workers in many cases.

The Working Committee wishes to draw the attention of the working class that the Big Business and their Governments both at the Centre and various States, enmeshed in an economic crisis of their own making created views these growing united actions as a menace to their line of pushing the burdens of the crisis into the shoulders of the working class and as such are bent upon disrupting this growing class unity and united action.

The employers and the Governments, having recognised the leading and active role of the CITU in forging such class unity and actions, have decided on isolating the CITU and other fighting organisations, as well as uncoupling the HMS, AITUC and INTUC from the growing common front, as the modus operandi to achieve their end. The Working Committee notes that the Congress Government of late have dished out many patronages in various forms to the HMS, AITUC and INTUC leaderships, with a view to lure them into breaking away from the growing class united front of action that is being forged by the working class, and to forge in its place a front amongst themselves, to play the employers and Governments' game of disruption and deivision.

The Working Committee considers that, the need for carrying forward the unity, organising a sustained campaign around the platform of the 8 point programme adopted at the May Conference, and development of a broad-based front of all militant organisations for action, has become still more urgent and imperative to successfully meet this new challenge of the employers and their Governments.

But the Working Committee notes with regret that the hopes roused among millions of workers in the country soon after the evolution of a common platform at the May 71 Conference was belied by the negative attitude of the AITUC and HMS leaders obstructing follow-up actions on the Conference decisions. The leaders of the HMS and AITUC who participated in the unity Conference last May, unitedly attacked the Governments labour policy and who along with the CITU formed a Convenors' Committee to carry forward that unity, have now suddenly joined hands with the INTUC and that all the three have fallen victims to the pressures and manouvres of the employers and governments.

The Committee regrets to note that the HMS and AITUC leaders who were party to the unanimous decision of the May Conference for recognition of Trade Unions by secret ballot, have backed out of this pledge to the working class and joined the INTUC in

advocating the anti-democratic principle of recognition by verification of membership. The Committee also learns that the leaders of the HMS, AITUC and INTUC, are evolving a scheme of industrial relations in which the workers' right to strike will be given up in some form.

The Committee wishes to point out to these leaders that the line they are adopting now, far from responding to the need of the hour in favour of the working class, would only help the employers and governments to carry forward their manoeuvres of disruption and division in the new situation, and appeals to them to return to the May Conference decisions in the interests of the working class.

The Working Committee while greeting the millions of workers who participated in the recent united action cutting across affiliations, wishes to warn them that with the prospects of economic crisis accentuating further, they are to face more severe and extensive attacks on their living standards and democratic liberties in the coming months.

The Working Committee appeals to all sections of workers who are fighting their battle unitedly, to see through the new disruptive manoeuvres of the employers and the Government, realise the danger posed to their united actions by the latest moves of the HMS, INTUC and AITUC leaders, and carry forward the banner of unity and united action along the path of further consolidation and advance.

The Working Committee calls upon all ~~its~~ affiliated unions of the CITU to redouble their efforts to unite the working class through united actions, particularly in view of the deepening crisis and the disruptive plans of the employers and their governments.

Working Committee Meeting
New Delhi, 24-26 April, 1972

RESOLUTION OF INTRODUCTION OF
AUTOMATION AND ELECTRONIC
COMPUTER

The Working Committee of CITU notes with serious concern the continued threat to existing employment and employment potential due to automation and use of Electronic Computer on an extensive scale. Government of India is deliberately pressing its policy on automation ignoring nationwide protest and most devastating effect of these sophisticated mammoth job saving devices leading to retrenchment and shrinkage in employment potential. In Foreign Oil Companies hundreds of employees have already been retrenched due to Electronic Computer and no arrangement was made for their rehabilitation despite assurance of the Government that retrenchment due to automation will not be allowed. A number of firms like I.B.B., I.C.T. etc. have already been given licenses for manufacturing high powerese Computers in India and this policy is being pursued at a time when unemployment has become most acute, registered unemployed alone being more than 4 million.

The Government itself being the champion of automation introducing computer in its departments, is giving a free hand to both foreign and Indian companies to extensively use automatic electronic devices and Computers to reduce the number of working hands and to garner more profit.

Recently the Government has installed a computer in the office of Accountant General at Madras. The employees of Madras are continuing agitation in protest against instalation of computer and have intensified the activities of Anti-Automation Committee.

The Working Committee of CITU sends its warm greetings to the employees of Accountant General's Office, Madras for effectively carrying on their struggle against automation and assures them all support and co-operation.

The Working Committee of CITU calls upon the workers and employees in all industries, commercial houses and Government departments to redouble their efforts to continue the agitation against automation & computerisation on a national level and demand of the Government of India to change its present policy and ban use of automation and computers.

Working Committee Meeting
New Delhi, April 24-26, 1972

RESOLUTION ON RAILWAYS

The Working Committee of the CITU greets the railwaymen for their patriotic endeavours during the Indo-pak war on the Bangladesh issue. Several railway workers laid down their lives during the struggle and the Working Committee pays its homage to these martyrs.

The Working Committee, however, takes note of the fact that the Government has not withdrawn the victimisation measures taken during the 1960 and 1968 strikes. Breaks in service and other penal measures imposed during and after the struggles of Dhanbad, Barauni-Garhara, Tatanagar, Khargpur, Allahabad, Kanpur, Tundla, Alipur Duar Jn., Lumding, Sealdah and other places have not been withdrawn so far. Transfer of leading trade union workers on a wide scale is being resorted to at different places, especially where the railwaymen have waged struggles for economic and democratic demands. Retrenchment of casual labour continues unabated.

The Working Committee further notes that the Government have started mounting fresh attacks on the living conditions of railwaymen and the fringe benefits enjoyed by them so long. Publication of the Third Pay Commission Report is being delayed on various pretexts and the paltry interim relief granted so far falls far short of wiping out the erosion in real wages of railwaymen. The age-old system of school privilege-passes have been withdrawn. The policy of pick and choose in the matter of promotion is being resorted to in order to weaken the unity of railwaymen.

The Working Committee also notes that in the past two decades the Government have made heavy inroads into the real wages of railwaymen by imposing additional work-load on workers and by reducing number of workers. A recent study of the Railway Ministry shows that whereas the traffic units moved per employee on the open line increased from 122,000 units in 1950-51 to 186,000 units in 1970-71,

the number of staff per million Train km. decreased from 3,144 in 1950-51 to 2,833 in 1970-71. The rise in productivity and consequently of work-load of workshop employees is even more glaring. The productivity increased by 53% and 60.7% in 1965-66 and 1970-71 over that of 1957-58. This, along with the introduction of mechanisation and automation in the railways, has brought down the employment potential of the railways. As against the rise in productivity and work-load of railwaymen, their real wages have declined in the same period.

The Working Committee notes with regret that the recognised Federations have done nothing to ameliorate the genuine grievances of railwaymen. On the other hand faction squabbles have started both in the AIRF and NFIR to the detriment of united struggles of railwaymen. The intense rivalry and attempts to elbow out one group of Eastern Railwaymen's Congress through semi-fascist methods at Dhanbad have shown the lowest depth to which these leaders can stoop to in order to retain the loaves and fishes of office.

The Working Committee, however, notes with satisfaction that the railwaymen have increasingly taken the path of united struggles to resist the attack by the Government and for winning their just demands. The heroic struggle of the workers of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works against the vindictive transfer orders issued on all the office-bearers of the Labour Union, Struggle of Eastern Railwaymen through Ranaghat Convention of September last, mighty protest actions by thousands of workers of Eastern, South Eastern and North Eastern Railways and also those of at other centres, show the growing determination and increasing urge for unity among railwaymen.

Alarmed at the growing militancy of railwaymen, the Railway administration have embarked upon new methods of repression like searching of railway colonies, arrests of labour leaders on false charges, detaining leading railway workers under MISA, etc. in an attempt to terrorise the workers. In West Bengal, Wagon-breakers and anti-socials organised under the banner of Youth Congress, Chhatra Parishad and INTUC, backed by the Police and local administration, are being

let loose on railway workers and union activists. They are regularly attacking railwaymen at Howrah, Burdwan, Andal, Sitarampur, Chittaranjan, Naihati and many other centres with a view to obstructing the normal functioning of the Joint Councils of Action and other militant organisations which are leading the struggles. It is a welcome feature that railwaymen in these areas are unitedly resisting the semi-fascist attacks on their trade union movement.

The Working Committee calls upon the militant railwaymen to be vigilant and remain prepared to resist the attacks on their living conditions and Trade Union rights through united action. Their fight for democratic functioning and healthy growth of trade unions should be carried forward with determination. The CITU pledges its whole-hearted support to the just struggles of railwaymen to win their demands.

New Delhi, April 24 - 26, 1972.

ON MORATORIUM ON STRIKES

The CITU notes with deep concern the statements made by President Sri Giri, the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi and the Union Labour Minister, Sri Khadilkar on the proposed moratorium on strikes. The reason they hold are that Indian economy should be put on a footing of self-reliance and that self-reliance would be difficult to achieve if production is interrupted by strikes and lockouts.

This talk of moratorium on strikes in the name of patriotism and national interests is nothing but a deceptive attempt on the part of the ruling classes to deny the working class the fundamental right to strike in defence of their interests. Indian economic growth is threatened, not by the working class but by the capitalists, Indian and foreign, whose sole driving force is the greed for maximum profits. Production is jeopardised by these interests, and it is their policies that force the workers to resort to direct action. To blame the working class for the strikes is to shield the attacks of the employers on the living and working conditions of the workers.

With the capitalists ruling the roost and attacks on the Working Class mounting, proposal of moratorium on strikes is nothing but asking the workers and employees to disarm and surrender to the employers meekly. Prices are shooting up, real wages are being eroded, neutralisation of increase in cost of living is being denied, work-load is constantly being increased, more and more workers are being thrown out of employment and services conditions are being made increasingly miserable. Draconic laws are being put on statutes books in order to put shackles on the movement of the working class. The Government machinery, including the Labour Department, is acting merely as the hand-maid of the employers, rather than being of any help to the workers. Under such circumstances, strike is the last resort of the workers to defend their interests and win their

demands.

Recent history shows that the working class is not prepared to take this attack lying down; big and prolonged struggles have been waged in all States and workers and employees of public and private undertakings, Government and private enterprises have participated in these struggles; neither victimisation by the employers nor repression by the Government could deter them from fighting for their demands. The Central Industrial Security Force Act, the Essential Services Maintenance Act., Industrial (Maintenance and Development) Act and the like, which severely restrict and curtail trade union rights could not check the rising tide of workers' struggles. It is in this context that the idea of a moratorium on strikes is being mooted, reaching the same goal of halting the working class movements.

The Government is giving all-out assistance to the monopolists and employers and innumerable concessions have been given to Big Business in regard to licenses, imports, foreign exchange, credit and expansion schemes. These sections are now demanding more concessions and incentives to expand to the hitherto backward areas, and the Government is sympathetic to these projects. Japanese and other foreign big business are being wooed to enter India in a big way and are being offered attractive concessions. Under such conditions, talk of a moratorium on strikes means sacrificing the interests of the working class to Indian and foreign big business.

It may be recalled that while the INTUC is always opposed to strikes, the AITUC and HMS have accepted moratorium on strikes during times of emergency even in the absence of any restraints on the employers. Now as a result of the growing resistance of the workers to the very idea of moratorium on strikes and of the growing unity of the working class through united actions and struggles, the Government, the AITUC and the HMS say that they are not in favour of any legislative measures to ban strikes, yet they say that a way should be found to see that production is not hampered by strikes and lockouts.

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The CITU appeals to the working class to realise the nature of this new offensive that is aimed at their basic rights, and to repudiate all moves to impose a moratorium on strikes on one pretext or another. It appeals to all units and members of all T. U. s to whichever national centre they are affiliated , to be aware of this danger and raise their powerful voice against it and defeat all attempts to deny the worker' and employees' right to strikes.

C I T U, WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING,

New Delhi, April 26 - 26, 1972.

RESOLUTION ON RELEASE AND REPATRIATION OF
POLITICAL PRISONERS OF WEST BENGAL

The Working Committee of the CITU strongly condemns the most revengeful and inhuman treatment meted out to a large section of political prisoners of West Bengal who have been transferred to the Cuddalore Jail in Tamilnadu where they are being made to live in sub-human conditions. All these prisoners detained without trial under the PVA Act and MISA, are being denied the status of political prisoners and now, after transfer to Cuddalore Jail are completely isolated without any contact with their relatives and legal aids. The Congress Government at the Centre and in West Bengal following the Colonial British traditions have taken this vindictive policy of transferring political prisoners to other States in order to shatter their morale in remote isolation. It is significant to note that the DMK Government of Tamilnadu has joined the conspiracy to suppress the democratic movement of West Bengal.

The Working Committee of the CITU demands immediate repatriation of the political prisoners to West Bengal, their immediate release and, pending release, the status of political prisoner for all detenus with arrangement for proper food and medical treatment.

The Working Committee of the CITU notes with appreciation that the Tamilnadu State Committee of CITU has already taken a programme for agitation in support of the demand for repatriation and release of West Bengal political prisoners and calls upon them to intensify it.

The Working Committee of the CITU calls upon the working class and trade unions in all the states to organise an effective agitation on the demand for repatriation and release of political prisoners of West Bengal and to send protest letters, protest resolutions, telegrams to the Central, the West Bengal and the Tamilnadu Governments.

New Delhi, April 24 - 26, 1972.

GREETING TO TAMILNADU WORKERS

The Working Committee of the CITU greets the heroic workers of Tamilnadu, who participated in the recent glorious struggles that took place in Tamilnadu.

Braving the strong arm methods of the DMK Goondas and the police the 14000 Simpson Group workers fought heroically for 4 long months and compelled the planted DMK nominee on their union to resign, defended their right to elect a leadership of their own choice, and rendered the treacherous agreement infructuous. A lakh and a half textile workers unitedly observed a successful general strike and compelled the DMK Government and the Central Government to start re-opening closed mills, compelled the State Government to pay, as relief, Rs.5 lakhs to the 7000 workers of the closed mills, secured interim relief and forced the employers to negotiate the demands for revision of wages in the entire industry even while the wage agreement was in force, and compelled the employers to fill up permanent vacancies and pay occupational wages to casuals and wrested a host of other concessions. 45,000 textile workers working in 53 mills in the Coimbatore district went on a general strike for 16 days demanding higher Bonus based on a minimum of 8½%. Large sections of workers in many industries could secure bonus outside the purview of the Bonus Act and the balance sheets.

For the first time in the history of Trade Union movement in Tamilnadu the entire working class of Tamilnadu closed their ranks and declared a state-wide bundh in support of Simpson workers on 11.1.72, which was followed by a total bundh at Coimbatore district on 1.3.72 and a number of other regional solidarity actions.

A large number of workers in the unorganised industries like Beedi, Handloom, Cigar etc. also succeeded in securing wage increase.

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These heroic actions of the Tamilnadu workers constituted a severe blow to the policy of the DMK Government to force industrial peace through repression. The number of mandays lost in 1971 was 22 lakhs days against 10 lakhs in 1970.

The lessons of these successful struggles for the working class are that the industrywise, State-wide unity and united actions supported by State-wide or district-wide joint solidarity actions of the entire working class, was the source of their successes after long years of employers' and Government's oppression. The Working Committee appeals to the workers of Tamil Nadu to consolidate this class unity in order to be able to face successfully future attacks and ensure further advance.

New Delhi, 24 - 26, 1972

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RESOLUTION ON NEWSPRINT POLICY

The newsprint policy recently announced by the Government of India, restricting the number of pages of newspapers to 10, has been strongly criticised by a section of the newspaper proprietors, especially the spokesman of the monopoly press. They have once again raised the cry of danger to the freedom of the press, strangulation of the newspaper industry. They have at the same time, held out a threat of retrenchment and freezing of emoluments of newspaper employees.

On behalf of the Government, the recent austerity measure has been explained as being only provisional, and necessitated by the stoppage of newsprint imports from USA following the India-Pak conflict on the issue of Bangladesh. Some of the Government spokesmen have also defended the page restriction as a measure directed against the press and intended to help the small and medium newspapers.

The Working Committee of the CITU is firmly of the opinion that the cry of danger to the freedom of press and strangulation of newspaper industry raised by the press barons is totally false and motivated. Their protests cover their desire to retain the immense profits they are earning by securing the advertisements from most of the foreign and Indian monopolists and to maintain their strangle-hold over the newspaper industry. These handful of press barons have in the past exerted pressure over the press to suppress and distort all news of the democratic movements, especially the news of the toilers' movements. As seen recently in West Bengal, they have totally blacked out all news of the semi-fascist terror let loose by the ruling Congress Government on the fighting working class of West Bengal and other democratic forces. They have also been absolutely silent about the rigging of elections by the ruling Congress Party and have indulged in shameless slander of the Left and democratic forces.

The ruling Congress party despite its tall talks about the freedom of the press and fight against the monopoly press has so far completely disregarded the warning given by the Press Commission 15 years back about the growing danger of monopoly in the Newspaper Industry. It has, on the other hand, actually helped the big industrial houses in various ways to establish complete sway over the press in the country. It is again the Congress Government which has, in collusion with the press-barons, suppressed the real freedom of press by muzzling all news of democratic movements and by distorting and slandering political views and news of the democratic forces.

Moreover, it should also be noted that the ruling Congress Party which today glibly talks about self-reliance after the stoppage of U.S. Aid and import of U.S. newsprint, has itself been responsible for keeping the country still dependent on foreign imports in respect of 75% of its requirements of newsprint. Both the ruling Congress Party as well as the press-tycoons have been equally guilty in keeping the country dependent on foreign imports in respect of such an essential commodity as newsprint even after 25 years of independence.

In view of this, the Working Committee of the CITU is unable to take the anti-monopoly press declarations of the Congress Government spokesman at their face value and hence is of the opinion that the recent 10-page restriction effected by the Government on the big newspapers is likely to be used by the Ruling Congress Party as a weapon with which to make the press-barons and their papers completely subservient to the one-party rule of the Congress.

Secondly, the Working Committee notes with concerns that while implementing its recent newsprint policy, the Central Government has taken no steps to prevent the press-tycoons from using this policy to interfere with the jobs and emoluments of the newspaper employees. Similarly it must be noted that during the last two years when the number of pages of big newspapers have been increased by 25 to 33 percent, the wages of the workers and employees have remained stationery in spite of an enormous increase in

workload. Hence the argument that newspapers would be overstaffed once the cut is effected does not hold water; it is only intended to cover the press-barons' desire to grab immense profits. The Working Committee strongly feels that the Government cannot be allowed to implement its newsprint restriction policy at the expense of jobs, wages and other service conditions of the employees of bigger newspapers and therefore demands that the Government must take effective steps for the protection of the workers' jobs and service conditions.

The Working Committee calls upon all sections of newspaper employees including working journalists and news service employees to build a broad-based unity to resist any attack by this press-barons on their jobs and wages.

The Working Committee also demands that the Central Government should enact effective legislation for diverting the ownership of the press from the hands of the big-business monopolists and transfer the same to Co-operative trusts of working journalists and newspaper employees. All talk of breaking the stranglehold of the monopolists over the press will only be a smokescreen without this measure. The Working Committee further demands introduction of price page schedule to prevent unfair competition between the big and small newspapers.

The Working Committee further demands that the Government must take early measures to end the dependence of the country on imports and to make the country self-sufficient in respect of such an essential commodity as newsprint and paper. Pending this, the Working Committee strongly urges upon the Government to import newsprint from Bangladesh on a barter basis as was recently done in respect of imports from Chile and also import newsprint from rupee-payment areas and Socialist countries to meet one current shortage.

C I T U, Working Committee Meeting,
New Delhi, April 24-26, 1972.

ON KERALA LEGISLATION BANNING STRIKES

The Working Committee of the CITU strongly condemns the ban imposed on the right to strike of Kerala Electricity workers and the workers of the Edikky Project area.

Since the Kerala Electricity workers began making demands for their salary revision etc. the Achutha Menon Ministry thought it expedient to impose a ban on their right to strike by using the Essential Services Maintenance Act. Similarly when the workers of Edikky Project put forth certain demands to the Contractors, the State Government requested the Government of India to impose a ban on all strikes in this Project area using the Defence of India Rules, which was immediately done.

It is a matter of shame that, while CPI says that it is opposed to a ban on strikes, the Chief Minister of Kerala, Sri Achutha Menon vehemently defended in the Assembly the ban on strikes in all essential services. While the State Unit of AITUC adopted a resolution opposing the ban on strikes, their members in the Legislature voted for banning strikes in the electrical services and Edikky Project area, and voted down a proposal to delete the clauses banning strikes.

The CITU draws the attention of the working class to the duplicities of these organisations and the anti-working class policies adopted by the Achutha Menon Government and appeals to them to unite to fight against and defeat this attack on their fundamental rights.

RESOLUTION ON BANGLADESH

The Working Committee of the CITU sends its warm fraternal greetings to the people and working class of Bangladesh for their victory in the struggle for national freedom wrested bravely from the military regime of Pakistan.

The Working Committee notes that the working class of Bangladesh has played a heroic part in the national struggle ever since the days of the language struggle in the fifties, and for this reason has been the special target of attack by the Pakistani rulers when the military crack down started in March 1971.

The CITU from the very beginning recognised the struggles of the Bangladesh people as a national struggle of a people suffering under a military dictatorship and denied all democratic rights. It had demanded from the Government of India all material and moral help to the freedom fighters, including supply of arms and recognition to the Provisional Government of Bangladesh.

When after a considerable hesitation and vacillation the Government of India adopted this very course, the CITU enthusiastically welcomed it.

The emergence of a free Sovereign Bangladesh is a serious setback in this sub-continent for the machinations of U.S. Imperialism which has been arming the military Junta of Pakistan to the teeth. However, only one phase of the struggle is over. The agencies of U.S. Imperialists are again busy rallying the reactionary elements in Bangladesh with financial blandishments in order to retard progressive developments.

In these conditions, the conspiracies of the American Imperialists and the Agents of the military junta can be defeated only on the basis of a democratic, secular and anti-imperialist programme - defending the interests of the peasants, workers and other toilers, eliminating U.S. imperialist influence and extending democracy to all sections of the people. Such a programme can only be implemented by rousing the vigilance of the masses and ensuring

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their active participation in coordinating the newly-won freedom.

The Working Committee is confident that the working class of Bangladesh, which played a glorious role in the freedom struggle will rally the people for such a programme and help consolidate the freedom and pave the way for further progress.

The Working Committee calls for close fraternal relations between the working class of India, Bangladesh and Pakistan so that they can march forward together in the common struggle against forces of reaction, exploitation and imperialism.

Working Committee Meeting,
New Delhi, 24-26 April, 1972.

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RAPE OF DEMOCRACY IN WEST BENGAL

This meeting of the Working Committee of the CITU views grave apprehension the virtual reign of naked terror that is prevailing in West Bengal even after the rigged victory of the Congress Party in the elections. The gravity of the situation lies not merely in the fact that armed activists and hooligans organised by the Congress Party are running amuck, committing murder, rape, arson, looting on a mass scale with complete immunity in order to suppress Left and democratic movements and make the people of West Bengal obey the dictates of the ruling classes and the Congress Party, but more particularly in the fact, that the entire State apparatus in West Bengal is a party to these activities of the ruling Congress.

The Working Committee of the CITU is convinced that without the active connivance of the Congress run Central Government this situation could not be created. The Working Committee condemns the Congress Party and the Central Government for this subversion of all democratic norms, for total rigging of the elections and for imposing a reign of terror in the sordid interest of foisting the reactionary and despotic rule of the Congress Party in West Bengal. The main reason behind this is that in deeply crisis ridden West Bengal, the Congress Party representing the ruling classes of India has been faced with a serious challenge to its class rule from the democratic forces. In three successive elections, in 1967, in 1969, and in 1971 the Congress Party was defeated in West Bengal; and every time the Central Government dissolved the legislature sooner or later and imposed presidents Rule on West Bengal, virtually handing over the people to mass terror conducted by the various wings of State and Central Police and the armed hooligans of the Congress Party. The terror was mainly concentrated in areas where Left and democratic movement was strong. By the time of elections nearly a thousand Left cadres and leaders were murdered; several thousands were imprisoned without even a show of

trial; and nearly one lac warrants of arrest were issued; thousands were compelled to flee their hearth and home even forgoing their occupations and jobs. Even women were not spared their honour.

Even after all these, the Congress Party was doubtful of obtaining a majority in the elections and the Union Government was most reluctant to allow the elections to be held in West Bengal. However after the surrender of the Pakisthani Army in Bangladesh the Union Government readily declared W.Bengal elections in the fond hope of cashing in on the victory in Bangladesh and securing an electoral victory. But soon, to its mortification, the Congress party and the Central Government discovered that despite the affinities of the West Bengal people with those of Bangladesh, the use of the Bangla Desh issue in the elections will not yield the expected dividends, and the Congress Party will be judged by its reactionary basic policies and their effect on the lives of the people. Even the intelligence reports of the Government forecast certain defeat of the Congress Party in elections.

In this situation the Congress Party and the Union Government entered into a diabolical conspiracy to do away with all pretence of maintaining norms of free and fair elections and went all out to rig the entire elections involving the subversion of the very basis of the Constitution, the right of the people to vote freely and elect a government of their choice. For the purpose, the Congress Party and the Government mobilized all the punitive forces at their disposal, the police, the CRP, the BSF etc. the Army and the Home Guards, the subservient bureaucracy and also the entire under-world, equipped with modern arms by the Government and the Congress Party, and created an unprecedented reign of terror in vast areas where democratic and Left forces were strongly entrenched. The Left parties, who were by now united, appealed to Election Commissioner and even to the Prime Minister to stop this massive terror and create conditions of free and fair elections in these areas, but to no avail, and the terrorisation continued unabated. Even at that stage, with the prospect of free and fair elections in nearly 50 constituencies seriously jeopardized the Left parties felt confident of winning a majority. They did not apprehend that the ruling class, threatened with fourth

successive defeat would not stop with disturbing free elections in only 50 constituencies but would go all out to rig the entire elections, which is what actually happened in West Bengal.

In spite of all precautions taken by the Government and the Congress Party numerous evidences of swindling came to light subsequently. In fact in their desperation the Congressites overreached themselves to such incredible extent that the absurdity of the results exposed their own tricks.

In their discomfiture the Congress Party is now trying to explain away their "incredible success" by arguing about a "sudden and secret" upsurge of popular feeling in favour of Smt. Gandhi. But such arguments cannot be sustained by any analysis of the polling figures, even if all evidences of blatant rigging are ignored. Rather the sudden anger of the defrauded and terrorised people and the total absence of any popular enthusiasm and jubilation at the "victory" of the Congress Party give a direct lie to the "mass upsurge" theory.

Since the elections the Congress Party and the Government have murdered more than 30 people, driven out about twenty thousand from their homes. Thousands of Left cadres and trade unionists have ~~given~~ been given notice that unless they join the Congress or their organisation and hand over union funds and offices, both their lives and jobs will be taken away. Already numerous Left Party offices and 300 trade union offices have been forcibly occupied by the Congress Party hooligans. Nearly a thousand workers and employees cannot join their factories and offices because of threats to their lives. Thousands including trade union workers and leaders are in detention without trial. In rural areas peasants are being evicted and workers of the Kisan movement are being hunted. While this terror stalks vast urban and rural areas of West Bengal, a total black-out of news of these terrible happenings has been imposed by the newspapers, and the newspapers carry cynical appeals of the Congress leaders for co-operation from Left parties and assurances of peace and security. The heinous role of the CPI(Right) as an accomplice of the ruling Congress in are these reactionary

measures emboldened the enemies of the people. And now a section of the AITUC even is facing the brunt of terror.

The issue is no longer of victory or defeat in elections, rigged or otherwise but of fascist terror, of suppression of all democratic rights, of eclipse of freedom of speech, of freedom of assembly, of freedom of organisations, of right to conduct struggles of the people. The issue is whether even Parliamentary democracy will survive or not.

Not content with ridding the legislature of all Left parties, the Congress Party is bent on stamping out all opposition views and destroying all radical mass organisation. Since democracy no longer serves the interests of the ruling classes and the Congress Party, democracy must be done away with. Such is their course. They are heading towards one party dictatorship.

In this critical hour the Working Committee of the CITU notes with admiration and pride that the workers, peasants, employees and other democratic people have not submitted to this terror. In spite of the installation of a Congress Party Government they have not been able to win over the people of West Bengal.

It is in this situation that the Left and democratic parties of West Bengal have boycotted the rigged legislature to register their protest against this rape of democracy and to draw the attention of the Working People of India to this grave threat to the democratic rights won by the people at the cost of immense sacrifices.

This meeting of the Working Committee of the CITU fully support the boycott of the rigged legislature and urges upon the working class in particular to realise that ruling classes have begun to shed their democratic "prejudices" and are more and more prone to take the fascist path, with the mounting of the economic and political crises, not only in West Bengal but also in whole of India. This is a direct threat on all trade union

activities and trade union organisations. It is now for the entire working class of India, the consistent champion of democracy along with all other democratic forces to take up the challenge and pit their united strength against this fascist onslaught in West Bengal conducted by the Government of India.

The CITU appeals to all other Central Trade Union Organisations to realise the grave danger to democracy and unite for mass action for restoration of democracy in West Bengal and for the defeat of reaction.

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MINUTES OF WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING
Held in New Delhi on April 24-26, 1972.

A meeting of the Working Committee was held at the Constitution Club (Vithal Bhai Patel House), Rafi Marg, New Delhi from 24th to 26th April, 1972.

The meeting started at 10 A.M. on 24th April, 1972.

The following members were present:

Com. B.T. Ranadive, Com. P. Ramamurti, Com. Kamal Sarkar, Com. Monoranjan Roy, Com. Biren Roy, Com. Samar Mukherjee, Com. Bimal Chatterjee, Com. Robin Chatterjee, Com. Benoy Chowdhury, Com. Ajit Mukherjee, Com. Robin Mukherjee, Com. Harisadhan Mitra, Com. N. Prasada Rao, Com. K. Ramani, Com. A. Balasubramaniam, Com. R. Hmanath, Com. A. Nallasivan, Com. M.K. Pandhe, Com. S.Y. Kolhatkar, Com. Sudhin Kumar, Com. Suhrid Mullick Chowdhury, Com. Md. Ismail, Com. T. Ayappan, Com. C. Kannan, Com. S. Suryanarayan Rao, Com. B.K. Khopkar, Com. Chandi Prasad, Com. Gerald Pereira, Com. E. Balanandan, Com. C. A. Peter, Com. K. N. Rabindranath, Com. O. Bharathan, Com. Ravi Sinha, Com. Mohan Punamia, Com. Ram Asrey, Com. Niren Ghosh.

The following comrades also attended by invitation:

Lakshmi Sen, Biren Dutta, Gopal Basu, P.K. Kurane, Hari Singh Kang, Nrisingha Chakravarty, Robin Sen, Amal Ghosh Dastidar, Hari Krishna Shah, Sailen Chatterjee, Shanti Bose.

Com. B. T. Ranadive Presided over the meeting.

1. Com. B.T. Ranadive moved the Condolence Resolution mourning the untimely death of Com. Rajen Sinha, member of the General Council of the CITU and a popular leader of the tea garden workers of North Bengal. The resolution was adopted by the meeting.
2. Com. B. T. Ranadive then moved the Resolution on Martyrs, the valiant fighters of the working class, who laid down their lives before police bullets and gangster attacks of the hirelings of employers and Congress(R).

The resolution was adopted by the meeting.

3. Com. Samar Mukherjee(West Bengal) suggested that the Foundation Day of the CITU should be included in the Agenda. The suggestion was accepted by the meeting.

4. Com. P. Ramamurti read out the names of the following members who were to constitute the Resolutions Committee:

Com. Sudhin Krmar(Convenor), Com. S.Y. Kolhatkar, Com. Samar Mukherjee, Com. N. Prasada Rao, Com. Biren Roy, Com. R. Umanath, Com. Manoranjan Roy, Com. Shanti Bose, Com. M. K. Pandhe and Com. E. Balanandan.

The proposal was accepted by the meeting.

5. Com. M. K. Pandhe then proposed the following names to form the Credentials Committee:-

Com. Bimal Chatterjee(Convenor), Com. A. Nallasivan, Com. Suhrid Mullick Chowdhury and Com. Mohan Punamia.

The proposal was accepted.

6. The Minutes of the last Working Committee Meeting held at Coimbatore on 10th June, 1971 was then read out and adopted by the meeting.

Com. B. T. Ranadive suggested that in future the minutes of the Working Committee meetings should be typed and circulated amongst members and treated as read.

7. Com. B. T. Ranadive then read out his prepared speech.

(See Annexure for the Speech)

8. Com. Samar Mukherjee then proposed that 30th May should be observed as the Foundation Day of the CITU.

The proposal was accepted. It was also decided that a call should be given to all the CITU Units to observe the Day.

9. On behalf of the Kerala State Committee of the CITU, Com. E. Balanandan proposed that the Second CITU Session should be held in Kerala in December, 1972.

The meeting decided to accept the invitation of the Kerala State Committee.

The meeting then adjourned till 4 P.M. the same day.

After the recess, the meeting again started at 4 P.M. on that day.

10. Com. Samar Mukherjee (West Bengal) then moved the Resolution on Vietnam (See annexure). Com. Balasubramaniam (Tamilnadu) supported the resolution.

Speaking on the resolution, Com. Niren Ghosh suggested that the words 'savage war' and 'electronic war' should be added in the resolution.

Com. B. T. Ranadive suggested that 'Near nuclear War' can be mentioned in the resolution.

After discussions, the resolution was adopted.

11. Com. P. Ramamurti, General Secretary, then read out his prepared report.

(For Com. Ramamurti's Report see Annexure)

12. Com. Monoranjan Roy (West Bengal)

While reporting on the Post-Election situation in West Bengal, Com. Manoranjan Roy informed the members that a detailed report will be submitted in writing later on. (For written report later circulated amongst Working Committee members, see Annexure)

Com. Monoranjan Roy then reported that in Kamarhati Constituency, 16000 ballot papers were stamped twice. The Election there was conducted at the point of guns and revolvers. In Dum Dum Constituency the margin of votes was 76,000, and the Congress candidate polled 91000. Even the Congress people were not allowed to vote. Most of the former Naxalities are now in jail or killed, but the rest are now openly moving about in CRP vans. He said that the goonda gangs were organised by the Congress after the 1971 elections.

He then pointed out that West Bengal had to purchase cotton at Rs.100 more per bale. Steel prices are subsidised, but not cotton. He reported that strikers are now being attacked by goondas. Com. Haridas Malakar of Jaya Engg. Workers' Union was almost about to be killed by the goondas. The entire Administration and the State Power are behind these goondas. This was an organised effort for the past two years, because they found that this was one union which they could not break. The Superintendent of Police and other officers of the Administration indicated that though they knew what was happening they could not do anything to stop these goonda attacks as these elements had the backing of Smt. Indira Gandhi. Such attacks were also taking place at Hind Motors,

day in and day out. An attempt was made there to force the workers to sign a pledge for leaving the CITU Union and joining the INTUC. When the workers refused, goondas armed with revolvers, guns and bombs raided the factory and the workers, though unarmed, stopped work and beat back the goondas. In fine, it must be noted that, being unable to mislead the workers the Congress has started to terrorise the workers to cow them down, but the working class in West Bengal refused to be cowed down. Except in some places, where the terror is unbearable and some workers have resigned, in general the working class is baldly resisting the attacks. For example, the workers of Jessops or Durgapur have so far resisted it. Recently the situation in Durgapur has become serious as ~~not~~ none of the front-ranking leaders are able to go either to their place of work or to their residential quarters. One thing, however, is to be noted. These goondas who are capturing the unions are only interested in money and not in trade unionism. In Bengal Chemical, where the Union has a Bank balance of Rs.5000/-, the office-bearers were asked to hand over the money to the goondas. On their refusal to do so, 16 leading workers were prevented from joining their duties. The police officials and the management, to whom complaints were lodged, advised the workers to pay the money to the goondas and save their lives and further troubles. The problem of submitting annual returns of those unions, which have thus been captured, has become a cause of worry. For example, the Union office of Sen-Raleigh has been taken over by the gangsters and they refused to give back possession of the Union office, despite advise given by Congress Ministers. The Ministry has now submitted to the wishes of these goondas. In the State Transport, many workers are unable to join their duties for the past two months. In one case, a worker was not allowed to join his duties even though he was on medical leave for 2½ months under doctor's certificate. It is obvious that such workers are sure to lose their jobs. In collieries, the workers' quarters are being occupied by the goondas, the original workers are being driven out and new men are being established not only in those quarters but also in service with willing co-operation from the management. The Government does not move to help the workers. The membership of the unions have gone down considerably. The Colliery Mazdoor Sabha has

been able to recruit 9000 members even under this terror regime. In the tea garden areas, there are no such goonda attacks. At Nagrakata we have a good base and it has become the eye-sore of the Congress. Hence, even from the days preceding the elections, CRP started beating and terrorising the workers and one of our leaders and member of the General Council, Com. Punai Oraon (who was also a candidate in the last General Election) was arrested. After the elections, the CRP mounted further offensive. The Union office was ransacked and it has become impossible to conduct legitimate trade union work. The workers have, however, refused to enrol themselves with the INTUC.

Post-election offensive was also let loose against unions led by Forward Block and both the UTUCs. Hence an United Committee against the semi-fascist terror has been built up through a Trade Union Convention, which has decided to launch a united movement. This year May Day is being observed unitedly by this Committee. But the problem of the workers who are not allowed to join duties, particularly of giving assistance to them, is a serious one. Kerala comrades have already helped and have promised more help. But the problem is so serious that a directive from the Working Committee will be needed in this respect.

He further pointed out that the AITUC was ~~organising~~ originally jubilant at these murderous attacks against us. But now that they are also not being spared, questions are being raised by their cadres. Even inside the INTUC, in-fighting has started. At Kriahnanagar, two factions of the INTUC fought each other with sten-guns. At Dhanbad goondas were sent from West Bengal to instal Priya Ranjan Das Munshi as President of the Eastern Railwaymen's Congress in place of A.P.Sharma. By enlisting the help of the Police, Sharma beat back the offensive. The goondas were beaten up and 84 persons were arrested, of whom $\frac{1}{2}$ have not yet been released. In protest, a strike was forcibly imposed in the Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway by the Chhatra Parishad. Hence the possibility of united struggle of the working class in West Bengal is bright. Maitreyee Bose has offered to discuss the question of 8.33% bonus.

Finally, Com. Roy appealed to Tamilnadu comrades to help the prisoners lodged in Cuddalore jail.

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Com. Niren Ghosh (West Bengal):

He supplemented the report given by Com. Monoranjan Roy. He said that, for some time past the police and the goondas are launching combined attacks. They come in Police vans to selected areas and launch attacks in waves, some times even five times a day. Thus they, beginning with small areas initially, have now been able to sieze very wide areas, like Barrackpore belt, which was one of the strongest working class bases but where normal T.U. work of the CITU had to be stopped due to these attacks. About 40,000 cadres had to evacuate the area. Efforts to regroup our cadres and revive work has started. But something should be done to organise resistance from factory to factory basis. But the main question in West Bengal is that the elementary right to vote, to form a Govt. of their own choice, freedom of association, right to live, etc. have been taken away. What should the working class do to sustain itself and go ahead ?

Com. S. S. Bose (West Bengal)

He also supplemented the report. He said that there are thousands of instances which he did not want to quote. But some new features have come up. To-day, the right to form unions, or participate in election to local bodies or even students' unions etc. have been taken away. The brutality with which murders are being committed are beyond description. Citing the case of Com. Atul Das he said the whole thing is reminiscent of Hitlerite Germany. A set of fanatic unscrupulous rowdies are being recruited, who have no conscience, under the slogan of 'One Nation, One Party, One Leader'. They pose a serious problem before all democratic movements, even women's movements. Maintaining workers, who have been forced out of the factories and localities, is another problem. Some big unions can tackle the problem temporarily. But without being able to run normal activities, they cannot render such help for long. But for small unions, it is totally impossible. The West Bengal State Committee's resources are not enough to render unlimited help. To-day unlimited quantities of small weapons have been made available to the Congress goondas, who attack the workers with these in the presence of the Police. What can the workers do to resist the same. Apart from this, the Police

and the Administration are helping them to break up the militant unions. CLW Labour Union is an example, 32 workers were arrested and suspended. Four leaders are detained under the MISA and the remaining leaders have been transferred - one to Madras, the other to Bombay, and so on. As a whole, this is a completely new situation, to tackle which some new approach and new type of organisation is required.

He then appealed to the President to give sufficient time to this aspect and guide the comrades of West Bengal State Committee. He also appealed to the members from other States to give as much democratic and solidarity support as they could muster - both monetarily and through movements and campaign.

Com. Kamal Sarkar(West Bengal)

He said that these reports may create an impression amongst the members from other States as if there is no bright point in the situation at all. He described the Convention held recently, where it was decided by 1400 delegates to observe May Day unitedly and also to observe 11th May, 1972 as 'Anti-Repression Day'. Also a march to the Writers Buildings in the middle of May, 1972 is being planned. It is hoped that the situation in West Bengal would improve by the end of May 1972.

13. Com. S.Y. Kolhatkar(Maharashtra) then moved the resolution on Bangladesh. The resolution was supported by Com. Prasada Rao(Andhra).

Com. Shanti Bose(West Bengal)

He explained the resolution. He said that the prices in Bangladesh are sky high. Strikes are also taking place. Even armed conflicts are taking place. Conflicts between Mujibur Rahman and some of his partymen have also started.

Com. M. K. Pandhe:

He said that the Resolutions Committee decided to include one paragraph on the basis of Com. B.T. Ranadive's article on the subject.

Com. B. T. Ranadive:

He said that as Com. Niren Ghosh expressed his desire to speak on the resolution he was holding the resolution for the time being. He said that although Com. Shanti Bose has given some information

the situation in Bangladesh is a difficult one. During the Bangladesh struggle an affinity grew up between the peoples of Bangladesh and India. Now, as profiteering is being organised by some Indian merchants, the situation has become very delicate. The affinity is wearing out. The Americans want to use this to snap the ties between the democratic movements of both these countries. We should, therefore, be cautious about our approach to the whole problem.

Com. Biren Roy (West Bengal) intervened to explain how the Resolutions Committee debated the resolution.

Com. B. T. Ranadive said that an effort will be made to put the points in an acceptable manner.

14. Com. Kamal Sarkar (Treasurer) then placed the Accounts.

He said that a sum of Rs.50,000 has been transferred to Fixed Deposit Account. He hoped that the accounts will be passed. He also pointed out that the resources of the West Bengal State Committee was poor.

Com. Shanti Bose (West Bengal) raised the question of Working Class Accounts and also asked why Electric Wiring charges have to be shown as asset.

Com. B. T. Ranadive said that he is holding the Accounts for consideration the next day and expressed his desire that every member should go through the Accounts in detail.

The meeting was then adjourned till 9 A.M. on 25th April 1972.

The meeting again started at 9 A.M. on 25th April 1972.

15. Com. Biren Roy (West Bengal):

Speaking on the General Secretary's Report he said that the striking power of the working class has not developed all over India. Only a focus of power has grown in West Bengal and Kerala, where the ruling class has resorted to fascistic methods to destroy the same. It is a debatable point whether such thing can continue in only a part of the country or whether it would engulf the country as a whole or it would also start in other States where such focus of power develops. It is also a debatable point whether it is a temporary phase or it has come to stay. Only a superior power of mobilisation of the working class, not only by the CITU alone but unitedly with

other Central organisations, which can defeat this game. This is a very new phase which many comrades are unable to appreciate fully. It is therefore necessary that we must re-orientate our activities in many areas. We must give a serious thought to this as the slogan of resistance is not practicable, though the workers are still loyal to us. The first need is of mounting a tearing campaign on this as many outside West Bengal (or even in some parts of West Bengal) as well) do not know or believe what is happening in industrial bases. We must also create a psychosis amongst journalists by giving repeated statements and revealing the facts. Since all Trade Unions are being attacked, or are likely to be attacked, the pressure from below would force these organisations to agree to united movement.

Citing an instance he said, even as rabid anti-CPM element like Kalyan Roy was forced to unite in a movement. In the struggle of Jute workers they have been forced to give a strike call. So the possibility of developing united movement against such attacks can also be utilised. Hence we must give serious thought to this problem. He also referred to the continuance of the old AITUC practice among us though we have broken away from them. Except Com. Pandhe, no one was available for Central work and developing weak areas. We must take a bold decision to free some comrades from day to day work and utilise their services for developing weaker areas. This is particularly needed in view of the fact that West Bengal, which accounted for about 50% of the CITU membership, has since been affected. Whatever remains free in West Bengal may not remain so.

Com. Balanandan(Kerala):-

He said that the State Convention was held on 8th and 9th April, 1972 where it was decided to observe a "Week on West Bengal" in Kerala. Some comrades from West Bengal would be needed to explain to the masses about this attacks in West Bengal. He also requested that day to day developments should be made available to Kerala State Committee so that immediate publicity is given to them. If these are published in a booklet form, it may not go to all the workers as the buyers would be less in number. But if it comes out in daily papers, it would go to larger section of the people and hence some method should be adopted to inform us. He also suggested that apart from conducting working class struggles

in West Bengal, repeated deputations should be brought to Delhi so that the matter attracts public eye.

As far as the activities of the Kerala State Committee are concerned, he said that, at the initiative of the CITU there was a big struggle of the Coir workers jointly with other Central TU organisations and they won some concessions. As far as plantation workers are concerned, a demand for minimum wage of Rs.5 per day and D.A. has been mooted and a strike is on the agenda, though it cannot be said for certain that all would join the strike or the strike would take place at all. But one thing is clear that, the activities of the CITU has raised hope amongst the workers and has created a confidence in their minds that this organisation is defending the interest of the workers. We have taken three points for our campaign, viz. West Bengal, Minimum wage and unemployment, there being 15 lakh unemployed in Kerala.

Com. Suryanarayana Rao (Karnataka):

He said, we were inspired to organise ourselves and resist the attack of the employers at the instance of West Bengal. To-day the attack on West Bengal must be taken up by all of us. The decision of the Kerala comrades is a good one. The CITU should observe an All-India Day and organise meetings and demonstrations throughout the country. He narrated that incidents like that in West Bengal are being repeated in Mysore as well, because the employers know that the tactics followed in West Bengal have paid dividends. Hence the problem of right to form association and conduct normal T.U. activities is becoming important in all the States by and by. The main sections of workers in Mysore work in Bidi industry, 75% of whom suffer from various diseases due to the unhealthy condition. There are about 15 lakh bidi workers throughout the country and a powerful country-wide movement could be developed. In Mysore, it was decided to observe a day and organise demonstrations in which 20,000 workers were expected to participate. He urged that the office-bearers of the CITU should be free to function centrally.

He further said, after the General Council meeting we organi-

sed a 'Bundh' against taxation in South Kanara where there was united action and lakhs participated. But united action throughout the State is almost ruled out because we have less force (except in South Karnataka) and the INTUC and AITUC refuse to join united movements with us. In Bangalore, the revisionists have command over workers. With help from the CITU Centre, we will be able to overcome our deficiencies.

Com. B.T. Ranadive asked Com. Suryanarayana to explain the incident in which, although Com. A. K. Gopalan was the Chief Guest in the meeting, our comrades walked out leaving him stranded.

Com. Suryanarayana said in reply, that some speakers vilified our activities and hence our workers walked out in protest. As soon as that speaker concluded his speech, our comrades came back. A G.B. has since been held and it was explained to them that they should not have walked out.

16. Com. B. T. Ranadive then took up the Resolution on Bangladesh and explained the amendments which had been incorporated in the resolution.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

17. Com. Gerald Pereira (Goa) then spoke on the report of the General Secretary.

He said, the picture is clear before us. It was our duty to go into solidarity action when the Centre of T.U. activity, i.e. West Bengal, was being attacked. We have done something, but not enough. The suggestion of Com. Balanandan for West Bengal comrades' visit to Kerala is good. Not Kerala alone, but every important centre of the country should be included in such a programme. At regular interval of one or two days, a bulletin giving developments in West Bengal should be circulated throughout the country to enable every State Committee of CITU to make efforts for propagating the same. He urged that the task for West Bengal should be taken very seriously. He suggested that every State unit should make collections for West Bengal and thus take the issue to the workers. He narrated the experience the Goa State Committee had

while organising collections for Durgapur. In Goa mining industry we had our Union with 2000 members. The only other Union in the industry was of INTUC which has become a paper-union now. The INTUC is strong among seamen, whereas we are strong in the Dock side. We utilised our strength in the Docks and supported seamen's movements. In the post-election period in Marmagoa, certain developments have taken place which helped our comrades to understand the situation in West Bengal. The Congress(R) is not very strong in Goa. But with mixed voters, the Congress thought it could win the Marmagoa seat (28000) which is the biggest Constituency. Seven-eight Malayalis were arrested for bogus voting. During the elections, riots took place in Goa in the evening in some constituencies. The U.P. workers are doing shovelling and other unskilled jobs, but they were affected by the Indira wage. We intervened and explained the class position to the workers and the tension between Goan and North Indian workers was explained to them. Till the afternoon the North Indians were attacking the Goans but later on the Goans started beating from 8 P.M. till midnight. Congress was identified with U.P. workers. The persons assaulting the Goans were shop-keepers, clerks etc. On the whole the working class was not affected. We launched an explanatory campaign. For one week the U.P. workers remained in their localities. During this week propaganda was made and their fear was gone. We could focus attention to the rigging of elections in West Bengal. For 3 days, the harbour of Goa was paralysed.

He said, in the matter of Industrial Co-ordination port and dock is neglected. Tamilnadu comrades have not taken this industry seriously. Whatever small unions we have got, we should co-ordinate their activities. State Committees should pay some attention to this industry. I am prepared to accept the responsibility of carrying out the work of the Co-ordinating Committee.

After a brief adjournment, the meeting again started.

Com. R. Umanath(Tamilnadu):

He said that the phenomenon witnessed in West Bengal was being repeated in Tamilnadu, though it had not reached the stage of pipe-guns or sten-guns. But the Police torture in lock-ups, capturing of unions

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offices, goonda attacks on T.U. workers were all happening in Tamilnadu. Hence the direction is towards the same methods as in West Bengal, though here the T.U. movement is not so strong. It is therefore not merely for West Bengal, but also for the working class of the entire country, this taking away of the basic rights has become a major problem. Certain basic questions about how to re-orientate and carry on our work has been raised in this situation. The steps taken by West Bengal comrades is heartening no doubt. But it is also true that the CITU in every State has not realised the desperate situation the West Bengal comrades are facing and has not moved their whole strength in support of the West Bengal comrades. He referred to certain slogans evolved by Com. Monoranjan Roy, which appear to make out a case that West Bengal is neglected. This may help bring out some popular support. But it would have some adverse effect elsewhere. We may raise the slogan of political discrimination. But to make a rallying slogan of "Neglected State" would not be correct. The slogan for working class should be "Political Discrimination". For example the question of freight pool for Cement and Steel cannot be compared with Cotton. So also the development of Rajasthan or Madhya Pradesh.

Com. Monoranjan Roy rose to explain that he never uttered the word "Neglected State". He meant only political discrimination.

Continuing his speech Com. Umanath said, if the slogan is not correctly worked out the working class unity in the country may be disrupted and the bourgeoisie may utilise the situation for narrow ends. What we should actually do is to rouse the anger of the working class against snatching away of their basic rights. Here the relative strength of the State Committees are in question. In Tamilnadu we observed a fortnight in which 300 or 400 meetings were conducted. Our experience is that, when we describe the atrocities the anger of the people is roused. Hence a flow of details of such atrocities is required. We are starting collections from 1st May and expect to complete the same by 15th May. If we get facts, we would see that the atrocities get publicity in friendly papers. We have also decided to bring out a pamphlet on West Bengal very shortly. We have done very little, but it is having effect and Indira Gandhi

is forced to come out with denials every other day. To-days papers show that she question and threatening us. This is a clear admission of the telling effect of our propaganda. Hence if we seriously take up the issue, we can definitely put the ruling Congress in difficulty whatever small strength we may have.

United action on demands is going on in Tamilnadu. One feature after the Coimbatore General Council meeting is that whereas united actions previously were exceptions, now almost every action is an united one. Isolated actions are now exceptions. Hence the rank and file workers are not realising the necessity of united actions and as such forcing their leadership to unite in united struggles. The second feature is that industry-wide struggles in a State is developing. Thirdly, solidarity actions are also on the increase. On 11.1.72 there was a general strike in support of Simpson workers. 55,000 plantation workers struck work in solidarity with the workers. He cited many instances of such solidarity actions. He said that even peasants came out in support of strikers at Tirur.

The other feature of these struggles is that in the past we were able to get some concessions here and there. But in the present struggles we have been able to inflict severe blows to the anti-labour policy of the Govt. He cited many gains. One of them is that the DMK Govt. has been forced to change its policy in regard to Bonus or linking production with revision of wages, filling up vacancies, decasualisation, relief to the workers of closed mills, etc. The main achievement of Tamilnadu struggle was that the policy of suppression of the movement through Police repression and enforcing industrial peace thereby, has been inflicted a serious blow. The mandays lost in 1971 was 22 lakhs, whereas in 1970 it was only 10 lakhs. Another feature is that the class collaborationist policy and treacherous agreements have been broken in many places and the working class have been able to secure improvements. In Cement and Textile such has happened and the Govt. is now forced to ask for short-term agreements only. In the past such fights against treacherous agreements were launched in some units only. Now industry-wide actions are taking place and agreements are being broken up. Hitherto only modifications of these agreements were being attempted. But now the agreements are

being upset and revised. The revisionist tactics was to join united movement and desert it in the middle. But when we took to united strike Committees at the bottom, the rank and file workers forced the revisionist leaders to remain with the struggle till all the demands are achieved. Hence the revisionists have adopted the tactics of either leaving us out of united Committees or forming separate committees of AITUC, HMS and INTUC and giving call for struggle on similar slogans, thus keeping them free to withdraw from the struggle. These united actions in major industries has helped the workers of small industries to unite and secure gains even without a general strike as in Bidi. In Pondicherry, united actions has taken place. This united action of the working class has forced the political parties of divergent views to come out in support and get together on the same platform. We have, therefore, taken a lesson that a determined and united action of the working class could force the political parties also to join ultimately. It is also seen that when it is apparent that the gains of the struggle go to the CITU, all others have a tendency to unite against us and betray the struggle in the middle. If we go on preserving unity at the bottom and exposing these betrayals, we would surely gain. This has been our experience in Simpson struggle. It is also our experience that when the DMK Police was torturing the working class, Congress(R) cadres were advocating for CISF. This was having effect amongst the workers. We took steps to expose the role of CISF in West Bengal and thus were able to counteract such propoganda. The latest tactics of the DMK Govt. is to bring out the question of recognition to divide workers and disrupt their unity.

Finally he said, that in the past our attention was drawn to the fact that the benefits of united action did not reflect in the membership of CITU. We kept this in our view and the membership in Electricity rose from 7,000 to 13,000, in Engineering industry from 3500 to 6500 and in Textiles we have plans for increasing 3000 more members. As far as democratic functioning of unions is concerned, there has not been any change. It is decided to make a campaign throughout May and collect Rs.8000 before 15th May. In the campaign, three issues viz. West Bengal, Vietnam and Black Bill will be highlighted and

the meeting was held and another meeting will be held after this

independent mobilisation will be made on behalf of CITU.

Com. B. T. Ranadive asked him to explain what was done by CITU on Bangla Desh issue. Com. Umanath stated that for two weeks there were meetings in all industrial centres and two demonstrations were held in Madras City.

On an enquiry from Com. Sudhin Kumar, Com. Umanath said that 4 comrades were detained. They had to be released as we could build up a powerful campaign and also Com. P. Ramamurti appeared in High Court and the comrades were released within 38 days.

On an enquiry from Com. Monoranjan Roy, Com. Umanath and Com. Ramamurti informed the house that the DMK made forced collections for the National Defence Fund. We campaigned against it.

Com. Chandi Prasad(Bihar)

There had been no big T.U. movement in Bihar to report about. On the question of West Bengal, we have issued some leaflets at Jamshedpur and Ranchi and held meetings in September-October, 1971. After the elections we have started holding further meetings. We have also taken up the question of Vietnam. There has been some struggle in Heavy Engineering at Ranchi by a section of workers. Others are coming in support. The Govt., however, is resorting to serious repression even on these small struggles. The functioning of the State CITU has become weak and hence there is no detailed information. Some Beedi workers have started movement and secured gains. But in three big centres of Beedi workers, there has been no struggle against big owners in Beedi industry.

On an enquiry from Com. B. T. Ranadive, Com. Chandi Prasad informed the house that there has not been any meeting of the State Committee since September 1971 last.

(Com. M. K. Pandhe translated the speech of Com. Chandi Prasad into English)

Com. Hari Singh Kang(Punjab & Himachal Pradesh)

The State Conference was held in October 1971. A Working Committee meeting, scheduled for December, had to be given up due to the Ind-Pak War. Another abortive attempt was made. Then after the elections, one meeting was held and another meeting will be held after this

meeting. We do not have a separate office for CITU. We did not have funds and hence quotas were given which most of the unions did not pay. We have not been able to do much about West Bengal too, except some meetings here and there. There is only an encouraging report from Pathankot. An attempt was made for united action by inviting a joint meeting. No representative other than our own attended the meeting. In another case, when the owners were fighting for reducing the price of staple yarn, an appeal was made to us to join the same. We refused to join unless some demands of the workers were also included. As a result the attempt of the owners was frustrated.

Although we have about 8000 members, all of these are small unions. Unless we have a central office to co-ordinate the work of different centres matters will not improve. Similarly, comrades are functioning on old pattern which must be changed to register an improvement.

Com. Rabin Mukherjee (West Bengal):

There is a formulation in Com. B. T. Ranadive's report that parliamentary democracy is being subverted and trend towards one-party rule is being promoted. This formulation, without a report from all other States, would not be a correct one. The case in West Bengal is understood. But is there any indication whether such is the case with other States or at least there are symptoms about the same. A word of explanation is necessary. From speeches of certain comrades it appears that the situation in West Bengal is not understood by several comrades. We have not been able to unite the entire working class in West Bengal, as the workers are divided on political belief. Hence we have decided to struggle ahead for unity. Some guidance from the leaders will be necessary as to how to build up unity from below. The third point to which he referred was that industry-wise Committees, though set up in General Council meetings, have not functioned. He wanted to know what steps the Centre had taken to activate these Committees or for check up. Similarly, it is a matter for regret that our unions having 32,000 membership were not affiliated to CITU.

Com. P. Ramamurti said that as regards helping the weaker States, the Centre had tried to help at least one Centre. He referred to U.P. where there was a large section of workers. There was no co-ordination

between different comrades working in U.P. In 1968 I had been to U.P. for the State Conference. It was broken into two.

The meeting then ajourned till 4 P.M.

The meeting again started at 4 P.M. on 25.4.72.

Com. Robin Chatterjee (West Bengal):

T.N. Sukla, a stooge of the employers, resorted to gangsterism in Raniganj area. He has practically purchased the Police Station. 3000 workers were either arrested or involved in cases. During the U.F. Ministry we could push forward in many collieries. Afterwards CRP was posted. Though the Court has given awards in some cases in favour of the workers, these are not being implemented by the managements. PF dues of workers are not being paid. When the employers try to close down the collieries there is no question of strike. We only demonstrate before the RLC's office. Truck-loads of persons are brought along with Police to evict our people. 37 women have been raped. Property worth 3 lakhs of rupees has been misappropriated. In one colliery, 150 workers are not being allowed to go back to work. Workers are also being forced to sign bonds that they would not participate in the CITU union. During the last one week, workers' houses were attacked 7-8 times. Despite this terror, workers are not going outside the colliery. Non-Biharis are not allowed to work. Even U.P. men are not allowed to stay on. It has now been decided to have a different type of organisation. We are trying to have committees in the collieries whose members are not known to the public, where open activity is not possible. Though we are trying our best to work openly, there are many areas where even the HMS or INTUC organisations have been disrupted. We have, therefore, approached the HMS and INTUC for united struggle, particularly on the question of D.A. which has come to Rs.213/- but which has not been paid except in the J.K. Collieries where we have our organisation. But this united action is not possible unless unity is developed from below. Here lies the snag. In some areas, workers have been scared and hence no movement could take place. On the question of solidarity action certain difficulties have arisen. To-day we are unable to mobilise factory workers in support of colliery workers. The Congress(R) has been able to organise a lot of unemployed youth by giving assurance of jobs after election and they are being

In regard to our work I have to point out that after Coimbatore, utilised to terrorise the workers. Secondly we have also not been able to raise a movement for release of political prisoners. This failure is responsible for deterioration of our organisation. The CITU office does not take prompt action on the representations. M.P.s do not take interest in taking up the issues with the Labour Minister or others.

Com. Ravi Sinha(U.P)

At the time of Coimbatore General Council meeting a movement was on at J.K. Rayon against victimisation and increased workload. This was settled on 11.7.71. We tried to mobilise workers in support of the strikers. But the AITUC and HMS backed out and we also could not mobilise our full force in support of the struggle. Immediately afterwards struggle on bonus issue started. There was strike in two Textile Mills from the end of June which continued for 15 days. In July-August there was movement in the Indian Explosives and Fertilizer and workers faced severe repression but our determination helped us to win good concessions. After Coimbatore, we had a meeting of Kanpur comrades and explained to them the decisions of the General Council. A Charter of Demands was drawn up and the same was the basis of united action between AITUC, HMS and ourselves. The modus operandi of the Government during this period was that they were referring all issues to Tribunal immediately and thereby trying to thwart the movements. In cases, where demands were also settled, the Government referred the demands to a Tribunal and declared the strike illegal. Thus the working class was attacked. In J.K. Jute Mills we had a protracted strike which lasted for 64 days in January 1971. On the basis of this strength, the workers have been able to get $6\frac{1}{2}\%$ bonus for that year and arrear 2% for the previous year. In another case, we could win 4% bonus.

Com. Kamal Sarkar saw the mobilisation of Jute workers who were inspired by the movement of jute workers in West Bengal. Due to our agitation the Wage Committee, which was not functioning, had decided to accept the recommendation of the West Bengal Wage Committee. If there is a strike now our jute workers would also move. In fact, the Union in J.K. Jute has already served a notice for strike.

In regard to our work I have to point out that after Coimbatore, we consulted the comrades and decided to have the Working Committee Meeting of the State on 1st and 2nd August, 1972. This was done as we thought that we could go ahead on our own. Hence, when the letter from CITU Centre was received, it was not possible to defer the dates as this was postponed earlier once. In the August meeting we decided to propagate the decisions of May. Joint declaration and meetings were held at Meerut, Kanpur and Varanasi. The meeting scheduled at Bareilly would not be held. Regional Conference was also held at Kanpur and the struggle on bonus was developed. On 15th October, 1971, there was an impressive demonstration. In the beginning the HMP and INTUC joined us, but when we took a decision for one-day token strike, these leaders backed out. But as they did not oppose, there was a good General Strike on 16th October, 1971. About 40 to 45 thousand participated. The State Government took an attitude on minimum bonus of 5% and referred the rest for adjudication. We, along with AITUC and HMS, decided to have a general strike in Textile industry on bonus issue along with other demands. A date was fixed on 14th December which had to be put off due to Indo-Pak war. By the 15th February 1972 agitation started once again. The State Labour Minister issued a statement that in 5 mills $8\frac{1}{3}\%$ bonus could be given, but in the rest 5 mills only 5% bonus should be given. Anyhow, in March, the CITU along with AITUC and HMS started a strike from 25th March in which 13000 workers participated. The strike continued upto 20th April when it was settled. A Mazdoor Mukti Bahini has been organised by the Government which wants to dispense with unions, organisation, leadership and all. We have been able to fight out this Bahini. In Modinagar, though our membership is less, we have good influence and we tried to organise the workers.

As far as the charge regarding our functioning is concerned, we accept the charge brought against us.

I was in a position to attend the Conference. Our Union office was in a sorrier state. We could not report to the CITU Centre. The State CITU is not functioning because there is none available for Central work, the leaders function as leaders of local unions. There is no personal difference as stated in the report. Before Saharanpur Conference, affiliation fee was collected from 4 unions and this sum

other sections of workers we have been able to make some headway. together with fee from another union was sent to CITU Office through money order. A good number of comrades intervened to ask questions about why letters could not be replied and so on.

After a short tea-break, the meeting continued.

Com. Ram Asrey (U.P)

Com. Ravi Sinha has reported in detail as to what the CITU unions have been doing for the past one and a half year. The revisionists, HMS, etc united to oppose us and create an impression amongst the people that the CITU is not prepared for adjudication, etc and want to only promote struggles. Differences have arisen amongst us about where to continue struggle and where to agree to adjudication. There is no state committee and there is no co-ordination between the CITU Unions. In August 1971, we decided to start co-ordination. But even this could not be implemented, We are finding difficulty in promoting united struggle because of extreme opposition from revisionists.

Differences are there amongst us about the tactics to be adopted with the revisionists. There are however, things which cannot be defended at all. It was decided to invite the Working Committee meeting at Kanpur. It is not known why Com Ravi did not convey this to the centre. As Com. B. T. Ranadive is going to Kanpur on 28th and 29th April 1972, we would have a detailed discussion on the subject and ~~try~~ try to solve them at our level.

Com. N. Prasada Rao (Andhra)

After adding some struggles in the work report, he said, in collieries our comrades who were working in AITUC union have formed an Action Committee and started independent functioning. As far as Industrial Relations Bill is concerned, the AITUC, INTUC AND HMS wanted some improvement, but we opposed the whole bill and built up agitation, against this. As the ~~campaign~~ campaign developed, the AITUC was forced to revise its position and call for a convention from which the AITUC HMS, HMP and CITU BROUGHT OUT AN united appeal for opposing the bill.

We had not been able to do much in regard to west Bengal. But in

other sections of workers we have been able to make some headway. We have started a monthly journal 'Karmika Lokam' from October with circulation of 1800 which has remained stagnant. We are taking steps to increase its circulation. Municipal workers have been organised and a united organisation has come to function. The union in Road Transport the AITUC union, is losing its hold and a Mazdoor Union has grown up in which our comrades who were expelled from AITUC union are in leading position. Hence a question has cropped up as to whether to extend the Mazdoor Union all over the State, We are tackling the problem. He suggested that Com. B.T. Ranadive's speech and Com. P. Ramamurti's Report should be brought in booklet form. As far as West Bengal is concerned, report from Com. Shanti is a depressing one. We must take both the pictures, dark and bright, to the workers so that they do not get demoralised.

18. Com. M. K. Pandhe then moved a resolution on struggle of Delhi Building workers, which was supported by Com. Md. Ismail and passed unanimously.

19. Com. S. Y. Kolhatkar (Maharashtra): After the Coimbatore General Council meeting, several struggles were conducted. The textile workers went on one day's strike on 1st September against closure of mills and bonus. In 1970 there was strike in 22 textile mills led by Committees elected by workers. In 1971, we organised one Union and started a campaign against closure of mills (Jupiter - 4000 workers). As soon as we started campaign, the Girini Kamgar Union also started campaign. As a result the Kamgar Union called a meeting in absence of Dange and decided to conduct joint campaign. But Dange intervened and our efforts for joint campaign was not successful. In our campaign, 150 meetings were held in a month. This created an atmosphere of strike and the AITUC and even the INTUC were forced to join. The INTUC called for strike on 31st August instead of 1st September, and later on withdrew the call. This betrayal infuriated the workers and on 1st September 45 mills struck work. There was no joint campaign at the State level. But in some mills workers following the AITUC worked jointly with us, though in some mills could not be achieved. But as we created a platform of struggle and conducted independent

campaign, the strike took place. On the day of the strike, we gave a call for some demands including Bonus. This caught the interest of the workers and within two or three days the Kamgar Union gave a call for indefinite strike from 11th October, 1971. We immediately hailed this and made efforts for united campaign and joint strike committee. Local leaders wanted to join but Dange prevented them and actually came down to Bombay to lead the campaign. We had campaigned on our independent strength. In this background, Khadilkar's formulae came up and INTUC campaigned that according to this formulae 40 mills were likely to get 8 $\frac{1}{3}$ % bonus. This propaganda generated a feeling amongst the workers that they are likely get their demands fulfilled. The strike on 11th October, therefore, became successful. During the strike period, INTUC and AITUC were having separate meetings. By 15th October, INTUC came to an agreement and the workers started trekking back to work. Hence the strike had to be withdrawn. INTUC collected 1 lakh rupees before the strike. Girni Kamgar Union collected 15 to 20 thousand rupees and we about 6 thousand rupees after the strike. Our membership is 3400 spread over in 12 mills. In Nagpur and Sholapur as well, the textile workers moved during the textile workers' struggle in Bombay. In Engineering Industry, there were struggles and at one time 38 strikes were going on of which 24 were led by the CITU - some on the question of Bonus and others against refreshment. We are trying to organise power loom workers on the question of minimum wage. Some of the struggles in the Engineering industry were long-drawn, even up to 83 days. Most of the strikes were successful. Transport workers went on strike for a day. The NGO's also started a big agitation and preparations for one day's strike is going on. During this period we organised some Central demonstrations. On 9th August in support of peasants struggling in Worli,; on 25th September we organised a demonstration on bonus. The Girni Kamgar Union started a separate demonstration. They rallied only about 600 workers, whereas we were able to organise 6000 workers. Demonstrations have been held on Bangla Desh, on Vietnam and against Imperialism. We brought

out pamphlets on various issues and we are bringing out a CITU journal from 1st May, 1972. Amongst the working class, Congress(R) has big influence, Shiva Sena comes next.

Com. B. T. Ranadive then said that certain points should be clinched, for which at least two hours would be needed. Hence, the speeches should be as brief as possible.

Com. Rabindran(Kerala): Hence the resolution should be amended

After the General Council, there had been umpteen struggles in Kerala. There was State-wide strike in Cashew, Coir, Plantation, PWD, etc. (On enquiry from Com. P. Ramamurti, he explained that the plantation workers struck work for a day and secured wage-rise over INTUC agreement.). There have been solidarity actions at Calicut, etc. In Mavoor Rayon (2500 workers) there was a strike for 65 days in which all the unions joined and a Calicut Bundh was organised. The workers got 40% Bonus on wages plus D.A. In Kuttanad area, peasant struggle was suppressed and 4 comrades were given death penalty. Kottayam Bundh was organised in protest against this. In Cannanore a Bundh was organised in protest against murder of our comrade by Jan Sangh, and 15000 workers participated. During the past two years the CITU has gained so much prestige that workers in independent unions now elect our leaders as office-bearers, though they are not prepared to affiliate with the CITU. We are utilising this position to ~~xxxx~~ have unions affiliated to the CITU. In other unions we have consolidated our position. In Trivandrum district we had no unions in the past. After Coimbatore meeting, we have been able to organise some unions. In Quilon district we have become a major force among the Cashew workers. Among handloom workers, we are now the major force. Amongst plantation workers, though a major force, we are unable to reflect our strength in the membership due to organisational defect. In textiles we are lagging behind.

20. Com. R. Umanath then moved a resolution on 'Unity and United Action of the Working Class'. Com. Balanandan supported it.

Com. Kamal Sarkar pointed out that there are some deficiencies in the resolution. The struggle of Jute workers has not been mentioned. In U.P., M.P. and Andhra Pradesh jute workers are unitedly supporting the struggle. The AITUC, INTUC and HMS supported the strike but have refused to join Strike Committee, which should be mentioned.

Com.....stated that in the strike of 27.8.71 there were 16 demands. Hence the resolution should be amended suitably.

Com. Ram Asrey pointed out that Kanpur strike of 1971 should be included. Secondly, he suggested that political alliance between AITUC, INTUC and HMS should be exposed.

Com. Mohan Punamia suggested that State-wide strike of transport workers in Rajasthan in February-March, 1972 should be mentioned.

Com. Biren Roy suggested a call by CITU for promoting united action in different circumstances with greater zeal and patience.

Com. B.T. Ranadive suggested that the failure of AITUC, INTUC and HMS to protest against semi-fascist attacks should be mentioned.

The resolution, with these amendments, was passed unanimously.

21. Com. Biren Roy moved the resolution on 'Recognition of Trade Unions'. Com. S. Mullick Chowdhury supported the resolution.

Com. B.T. Ranadive suggested that a portion be deleted. The amended resolution was passed unanimously.

22. Discussion on Accounts was then resumed. Com. Suryanarayana raised some enquiries. Mysore, Goa and Tamilnadu State Committees complained that they have not received their shares of affiliation fees. There were some points for clarification as well.

Com. Kamal Sarkar and Com. M.K. Pandhe explained the position. The Accounts were then passed unanimously.

Com. Monoranjan Roy wanted that the shares of State Committees should be paid monthwise, which was accepted.

23. Com. Biren Dutta (Tripura):

Since Coimbatore, Tripura was invaded by refugees and as such almost all other activities were stopped. The State Committee of

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the CITU is not functioning well. A united Committee called "6 February Committee" has been formed through which we are functioning as we have decisive influence there. But our link with CITU Centre is weak. We would revive this and improve our functioning. We would hold our conference shortly after this working committee meeting.

Com. Mohan Punamiya (Rajasthan)

The textile workers have conducted united struggle and won 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ % or more bonus, except in two factories where we agreed for less due to difficult circumstances. Preparations for another strike is going on. A co-ordination Committee of all unions and associations has been formed in Rajasthan and inspite of vacillations and opposition from AITUC, INTUC and HMS, we have been able to carry forward our line. The CITU gave full-fledged support to the NGO's struggle. In the Transport industry, the Unions were dissolved and a Joint Council of Action was formed which conducted the struggles and wrested gains. Now this leadership has decided to set up a CITU Union. We have not yet taken a decision in this respect.

The INTUC in Rajasthan is facing a split. A group of workers of Udaipur is taking a militant stand and is gravitating towards us. We have launched a campaign against Police repression. In short, the appeal for united action of working class is having its effect on the workers. In Rajasthan we have our ~~id~~ difficulties in functioning the State CITU. We have already taken steps to organise ourselves

Com. Amal Ghosh Dastidar (Assam)

The First Conference was held in June, 1971. But immediately attacks have developed and thousands of workers were thrown out. This had a demoralising effect on the workers. The INTUC has major influence in the State. AITUC or HMS have nothing. Our strength is only nominal. We have made new contacts and expect improvements. The West Bengal situation dominates our activities. During the past struggles our workers got enthused. But after the attacks developed, it demoralised the workers. As such it is

necessary that a wide campaign be made in support of West Bengal workers through leaflets, etc.

The Meeting then adjourned till 9 a.m. on 26-4-72.

24. The meeting again resumed at 9 a.m. on 26-4-72

Com. Hari Krishna Saha (Gujarat)

There are 700 members among Corporation workers and 400 or 500 members in Engineering industry. Mass signature from 4000 workers were collected for implementation of minimum wages. Efforts have been made to start joint actions, but other parties are refusing to attend meeting though they verbally agree to joint action. In Ahmedabad a situation has arisen where workers have come out of INTUC's Mazdur Mahajan and formed separate Unions. Membership of our Unions has decreased from 490 to 300. This has happened because recognition is not given to individual unions. Once this provision is made, our influence amongst textile workers would enable us to go ahead. But the difficulty is regarding T.U. cadres. I am the only one who is looking after T.U. Hence, educating cadres is very necessary. An Ad-hoc committee is to be formed so that there may be efforts for the formation of a regular State Committee. This step is necessary because new industries like Fertilisers are coming up. As there is no State Committee of CITU, all campaigns are led by the Party. Total membership is 2,000. Pamphlet on Family Pension in Gujarat was published and 1,000 copies were sold. (The speech of Com. Saha was translated into English by Com. M.K. Pandhe.)

25. Com. Sudhin Kumar (West Bengal) stated that the Resolutions Committee was given the task of finalising about 30 resolutions. Hence, it is difficult. We could finalise only some of them. Hence a guidance is necessary as to how the Resolution Committee should function, as the present system creates difficulty in preparing the resolutions.

He, therefore, suggested that all those which have been finalised should be passed. But the rest may be left to the office-bearers.

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to be finalised.

Com. B.T. Ranadive agreed to the suggestions and proposed that the important resolutions which were ready should be taken up for discussion and the rest may be referred to the office-bearers for finalisations. It was accepted by the meeting.

26. Com. Sudhin Kumar (West Bengal) moved the resolution on West Bengal. He said that the resolution was self-explanatory. Although the question has received attention in States outside West Bengal, but it appears that a full realisation of the situation is not there even amongst the T.U. activities or left forces. It is difficult too, as we ourselves were not aware of the rigging to such an extent, This shows the fears of the ruling class. Similarly, the terror is also unheard of an unprecedented in our country. It could be compared with Germany. Hence it is necessary to conduct a propoganda to convince the left-minded people throughout the country.

The people of West Bengal still prefer a Left Government and this has been amply demonstrated through meetings held after elections. The demand for primary control on the States' resources was neither parochial nor communal. Left movement has never tolerated such things. Though the situation has become difficult in many parts of West Bengal, the working class there is fighting and enough solidarity support from other States will be necessary. The press has suppressed all news of terror and rigging. But now in West Bengal the people have come to understand the situation. Let this information be carried to the people of rest of India. He urged all to take up this task very seriously.

Com. K. Ramani (Tamil Nadu) supported the resolution. He said that it was difficult to understand fully as to what is happening in West Bengal. He urged all delegates to to lose no time but to take up the campaign. Tamilnadu has taken a programme for one month. Such programmes should be taken everywhere with the aim of developing united struggle everywhere against the terror regime.

Com. Niren Ghosh stated that the word "fascistic terror" should be replaced by word like "semi-fascist" or "Fascist like" terror. Secondly, the question of re-election in West Bengal has not been brought out sharply in this resolution. He stated that economically and politically West Bengal is a colony of the Centre, but he did not like to pursue this subject.

Com. Umanath stated that the demand for re-election should be listed amongst the demands in this resolution.

Com. B.T. Ranadive explained that the position that West Bengal is a colony of the Centre has never been accepted by the CITU or by the party to which it belongs. Hence this question should not be brought here. He suggested that a para should be devoted to welcoming left unity in West Bengal.

Com. Sudhin Kumar further proposed that the fact that 67 prisoners have been killed by warders inside prison should be included.

The resolution, this amended, was passed unanimously.

27. Com. N. Prasada Rao (Andhra) moved the resolution on "MORATORIUM ON STRIKES". Com. P.K. Kurane (Maharashtra) supported the resolution.

Com. Sudhin Kumar stated that the word 'avoiding' should be changed.

Com. B.T. Ranadive explained that the resolution should have some change. The present phrase and patriotic appeal for moratorium on strike should be exposed.

The ~~xxxxxx~~ resolution, thus amended, was passed unanimously.

28. Com. Kamal Sarkar (West Bengal), while moving the resolution on "Jute Workers' Strike", explained that notice for the strike was given in a situation surcharged with. He also said that it may be that the major demands may be conceded even before the strike. There has ^{also} been some changes in the INTUC where pro-Indira elements have been brought to the forefront. He narrated

how the INTUC, AITUC and HMS have separately formed a co-ordination Committee and tried to steal a march over us by fixing the date of the strike while scaling down vital demands. We decided to stick to all demands as well as to include a demand that a settlement on the issues should be implemented in the whole of the country. The strike notices have been served jointly in most of the mills in form of mass deputation and even in areas where terror rules, efforts are being made to follow this programme. The two strike notices are being compared by our ~~agitators~~ agitators and pressure from below is being built upon the INTUC, AITUC etc. The labour Minister has come out with the proposal of a minimum wage of Rs. 235/-. The AITUC is proposing a minimum wage of Rs. 265/-. But a settlement at Rs. 235/- or 240/- is expected. It may be taken to the Central Government for breaking the resistance of IJMA. Raigarh has served notice. Andhra Pradesh is also on the way. The U.P. Mills are serving notice. An All India Federation of Jute Workers may be formed now because the Government is trying to have some modern mills in M.P. etc. He then read out the resolution.

Com. Ram Asrey (U.P.) supported the resolution and informed the meeting that ~~the~~ in the two Jute Mills at Kanpur, preparations are going on for strike from 11-5-72.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

29. Com. S.Y. Kolhatkar moved a resolution on the Government's Newspaper Newsprint Policy.

He said, the reason for this restriction, is because of stoppage of import of Newsprint from America and this affects only a few newspapers like the Hindu, The Statesman, etc. which are owned by Press barons and which accounts for 73% of the circulation. These owners have also resorted to black-marketing besides increasing their advertisement which sometimes account for 70% of the paper. The small Newspapers do not get any advertisement. In the recent past, the quota of Newsprint for both the big and small newspapers were increased. ~~But~~ By this

seeming attack on monopoly press, the Government is trying to bring the entire press under their thumb, while the employers are using this opportunity to attack the workers and working journalists. The CITU should take advantage of this situation and organise the working journalists so that the present black-out of the Press could be ended.

Com. S. Suryanarayan Rao (Karnataka) wanted some clarifications.

Com. Md. Ismail supported the resolution.

Com. B. T. Ranadive explained that there are two points viz. Press barons and the Government. The formulation in the resolution should not be such as if the CITU is opposed to restriction on monopoly press. While stating the intention of the Government we must come out against the monopoly press very clearly. Hence the wording of the resolution should be modified and we should make out the case of the employees clearly and expose theclaim of the Press Barons of the necessity for retrenchment.

With these modifications, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

30. Com. P. Ramamurti moved the resolution on the ban on strikes in Electricity Project area in Kerala.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

31. Com. P. Ramamurti then moved the resolution on greetings to the workers of Tamilnadu. He also moved the resolution on transfer of West Bengal prisoners from Tamilnadu to West Bengal and their release.

Com. Samar Mukherjee wanted the word 'daily' to be deleted.

Com. Kamal Sarkar suggested that the Tamilnadu Committee should fix up one day to lead a demonstration in Madras and also another date for demonstration before the jail gate.

Com. Monoranjan Roy suggested that some M.P.s should visit Cuddalore. He was informed that Com. Jyotirmoy Bose was going there.

Com. B. T. Ranadive accepted the suggestion of Com. Kamal Sarkar and outlined the task of Tamilnadu Committee.

The resolutions were passed unanimously.

32. Com. Bimal Chatterjee (W.Bengal) placed the Credential Committee Report.

The Credentials Committee recommended affiliation of those unions which have fulfilled all the requirements. For the rest, the Committee suggested that office-bearers authorised to grant affiliation on the unions fulfilling their obligations.

The Committee's suggestions were accepted. 33. The report on 'The Working Class' was then taken up for discussion.

Com. N. Prasada Rao complained that the parcel for Hyderabad was not received last month. Commenting on the 'Legal Notes' he suggested that these should not be merely exposures but also be pointers for the working class to enable them to take up the issues for agitation.

Com. Kamal Sarkar spoke about the necessity for a Hindi journal. He said that the present one published from Kanpur (Majdoor Rajniti) does not fulfil the need. Hence this point should be considered.

Com. M. K. Pandhe replied to the points raised. He also suggested that the State Committees should send regular reports to the Journal. He also pointed out that the State Committees should be serious about the circulation of the Journal and prevail upon each leading union to subscribe the Journal. Even in regard to articles, the State Committees should send materials. He informed the house that the decision to bring out The Working Class in Hindi could not be implemented due to non-availability of cadre. Once this problem is solved, the Hindi journal will be brought out. He also suggested that comrades should indicate the subject for 'Legal Notes'.

Com. Mohan Punamia suggested that each Union should compulsorily pay subscription for The Working Class along with their affiliation fees. Com. Harikrishna Saha (Gujarat) objected to this proposal.

Com. B.T. Ranadive stated that this would be a good suggestion when at least each State Committee brings out a local journal. At the present moment, there should be a decision to the effect that each State Committee do their best to push up sales.

The house approved this decision.

In regard to Hindi journal, Com. B. T. Ranadive stated that the Centre is thinking of publishing both Hindi and Urdu journals. As soon as required staff is available, these would be brought out.

He referred to the need for a CITU journal in Bengali and exhorted that it should be brought out immediately.

34. Com. M. K. Pandhe submitted a report on verification.

He said that it is expected that the CITU is likely to get 6 lakhs verified membership. It shows that we have not been able to prove our membership to the extent of 2 lakhs 75 thousand. This is unsatisfactory. It is also seen that 600 unions of CITU have not submitted their annual return though 100 of them have informed us that they have since submitted the same. Hence we could not prove membership of 250 unions for non-registration and 500 unions for non-submission of returns. The CITU should not carry such unions on its rolls. The State ~~Executive~~ Committees should take necessary steps. There are preliminary verifications only.

35. Com. B. T. Ranadive:

Re: U.P. Note - he said that the speeches made by comrades Ravi Sinha and Ram Asrey have not taken the note seriously. This explains absence of class consciousness, that all-India consciousness. They want us to believe that they have conducted some struggles here and there. What they failed to do was not mentioned by them. The Working Committee should go on record that their explanation was not satisfactory. He said that he would attend the State Committee meeting and report to the office-bearers.

Many problems and doubts have been raised. He said that he was not at all satisfied with the preparations for the meeting. They were sadly lacking. The Central Office was thoroughly under-manned. The West Bengal Report was also submitted late. Copies of resolutions were also not circulated. If we want to be a source of guidance, some comrades should be associated with the preparatory stage of the Working Committee meeting. A certain amount of inefficiency has developed. Some jobs go by default and comrades complain for these lapses. Pandhe is taking all the responsibility which is creating difficulties. A comrade who is supposed to do the work should come on the stage.

Re: The Working Class, he said that the major part of the editorial board is not functioning.

Referring to some of the problems posed he said that the meeting should primarily deal with the West Bengal situation. It is the biggest political challenge to the CITU. Our entire organisation in West Bengal has fought courageously, both individually and collectively. Something unprecedented has happened. One-tenth of the terror unleashed in West Bengal would have smashed the CITU in Kerala. They have not gone through this process. The enormity of what is happening may be understood from the fact that many had to risk their lives. In the colliery areas we had to face it long before Calcutta. Comrades should have expressed their sense of shame for not doing anything for West Bengal.

It is not true to say that reaction is spreading. Military attacks are being launched on the Working Class. Our trade unions in West Bengal have been systematically fighting this for months. Our fight must be put before the entire working class. This heroic fight is something to be inculcated. It must also be understood as to wherefrom the working class got this ~~own~~ ~~struggle~~ strength to resist. During the last two years the working class was politicalised. At every phase, the working class fought political battles. It is from this heightened political consciousness that the working class has got the inspiration to fight to fight against this repression. Had it been simply built up on economic battles, the resistance would have broken up. The correct class line followed in this politicalisation has enabled us to secure the loyalty of even the Jindi-speaking workers who were being utilised by the Congress in the past. Because of this, the fight against the Congress in West Bengal is being led by the left forces. It is because of this that we have been able to withstand all the terror that has been loose. In the past, our organisation collapsed in the face of much less terror. This lesson, not merely the terror stories, should be understood. ~~They~~ The years of political struggle in West Bengal has helped the working class to fight back the offensive with heightened political consciousness.

We have to take into consideration the change in the situation.

In 1967, the Congress party lost its monopoly power in the country. There were two United Front Governments in West Bengal. In 1972, the congress has again got back into power. It is the same position. Too much playing with Parliamentary democracy was dangerous for the ruling class. They tried to subvert Parliamentary democracy. In Kerala and West Bengal a viable Left Front existed which voted against the congress. In the States where reactionary Parties were there, the congress could easily survive the poll. Except Madras and Oriss, in all other States the Congress has got control over the Parliamentary machinery. During the Bangladesh war offensive against us was intensified. They want to see that all their economic policies are enforced. The authoritarian trend is only to save the ruling Party. Congress wanted to nib the West Bengal situation in the bud.

Barring India, in all other countries of the 3rd world Parliamentary democracy was being replaced by one-party dictatorship. Indira Gandhi enjoyed the support of the big bourgeois-landlord classes. So the trend towards one party dictatorship is a likely trend. The ruling party is cheating the people with slogans like Garibi Hatao, Socialism, etc. In West Bengal the party suppressed democracy, whereas in other States it is having mandate from the people. The terror in West Bengal was understood by our comrades in other other States, but they did not understand rigging up of the elections. If 50 per cent of the people realise what happened in West Bengal, then the ruling party's position will be difficult.

The working class of Bombay votes for Congress and Shiv Sena. In Nazi Germany what happened was more than what has happened in West Bengal. Attack on the Communists has not yet become a part and parcel of consciousness of the Congress ranks. The congress was trying to create an impression that the CPI(M) was attacking.

There is no jubilation in Congress camp in West Bengal. The situation is not so dark as is being made out by some. The enemy is not as strong as it is claimed. He has feet of clay. There is a bigger cleavage between a substantial part of the following of Congress and its leadership. In Durgapur, the INTUC cadre and

Chhatra Parishad are at loggerheads. In Germany, the Nazi party could ensure that the production also went up. But the industries in West Bengal find that production is not going up.

We rarely isolate the gangsters from the T.U. and democratic movements. We have to work out the phenomenon. A broad democratic appeal has to be made.

Now Jaiprakash Narain is going to West Bengal to study the rigging.

He then posed the question, "Should we join hands with Jan Sangh or Congress(0)?" He said that we have to isolate Indira Gandhi from ~~the~~ her following.

This is not ordinary repression. We can stop the emergence of one-party dictatorship by driving a wedge between the storm-troopers and the other elements. To-day honest Congress leaders like Maitreyi Bose and Kali Mukherjee are being thrown out. We have to take counter political tactics to fight out these attacks.

In our T.U. movement we have to analyse our experiences. Some progress in the movement has been registered, but there has been set backs as well. We have to formulate political slogans of the time. More stress should be given on Bonus struggle and Bangladesh.

The working class comes in the labour market with political ideas. Winning over of the working class politically requires something more than economic gains. In Bombay, right to strike was being sought to be given up. These are political issues on which the working class has to be activated.

Since Coimbatore, a number of slogans has been given before the working class, like Self-reliance, Bangladesh, etc. We have to be very careful while defending Bangladesh.

Some wrong slogans, like shifting of Head quarter of S.E. Rly to Orissa, are also being given. The DMK is giving the slogan of Autonomy.

Why are we being attacked in West Bengal? Because it is in the vanguard of the entire revolutionary movement. Efforts are being made by the bourgeoisie to divert the attention of the people. Because of the weakness of the T.U. movement, the discontent of the people is being diverted towards parochial channels. In Maharashtra

and West Bengal this programme is being followed. In Maharashtra reformism is succumbing to Shiv Sena. The best proletarian strata is behind Shiv Sena. Also the unemployed workers are being utilised by the Shiv Sena. In West Bengal, some workers of the Jog Union are joining Chhatra Parishad.

Our movement is a class movement. It should not be channelised towards chauvinistic directions.

The situation in West Bengal varies from area to area. How to organise the work in a factory? Part of our following was temporary, but the majority of the mass of workers should be approached.

Functioning of the West Bengal CITU should be improved radically. We have such devoted cadre and resource and such fine material. But the functioning is chaotic. The CITU Constitution has not been bought in Bengali. Even a Typewriter has not been purchased. The leaders are devoted but mere devotion does not serve the purpose. You have to give very strict attention to the method of functioning. The Kerala unit of CITU has only started functioning. A real Centre should be built in West Bengal.

In spite of all our shortcomings, because of our systematic work our movement is getting a centralised direction. We have been successful because of our line of unity and struggle. In major political issues we have drawn attention of the unions to these directions. But the campaign is not being carried out. Our movement should not be merely economic demands but also political demands.

The enemy is also talking about Socialism to cheat the people. Even in West Bengal they will resort to a lot of methods to cheat a section of the people, such as threat to use MISA against employers, schemes for solving unemployment, falling prices may affect the peasantry etc. The bourgeoisie must be exposed. The unemployment question has become extremely serious. At times the bourgeoisie uses the unemployed against us also.

36. E.S.I. Committee: The Committee should visit different States and prepare reports. The Working Committee expresses its regret for the non-functioning of the ESI Committee.

37. Rubber and Tyre: At the request of Com. Kolhatkar, the Working Committee decided that the Committee should be formed.

38. Coal Mines: The Centre cannot take any responsibility.

39. Road Transport: A resolution was adopted on the attack on State Transport Workers.

It was also decided that re: co-ordination of Transport workers Com. Prasada Rao can take the responsibility.

40. Com. Sunil Maitra and some other employees of the LIC have been attacked by Chhatra Parishad. A resolution should be passed on this subject.

attacks of gangsters and hirlings of the employers, the Congress(R) and other reactionary forces in the country.

In West Bengal hundreds of leaders and cadres of the CITU and other democratic organisations were brutally murdered during the last two years. Com. Sunil Sen, Member of the General Council of the CITU and prominent trade union leader of Dam Dam was among those who fell a victim to the assassin's dagger.

The Working Committee of the CITU strongly condemns these murderous attack and calls upon the Indian working class to raise their powerful voice against these gruesome murders. The CITU takes a solemn pledge to carry forward the struggle with more vigour till the tasks left unfinished by these martyrs are accomplished.

ON CONDOLENCE

The Working Committee of the CITU deeply mourns the untimely death of Com. Rajes Sinha, Member of the General Council of the CITU and popular leader of the tea-garden workers of North Bengal. It conveys its grief to the bereaved members of his family.

The Working Committee expresses its deep sorrow at the sad demise of several activists of trade union and democratic movements during the last 10 months and pays homage to their memory.

ON RECOGNITION OF TRADE UNIONS

This meeting of the Working Committee of CITU views with grave concern the agreement reached between the INTUC, AITUC and HMS on the issue of recognition of unions. These three

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RESOLUTIONS

Working Committee Meeting held in New Delhi on
April, 24-26, 1972

ON MARTYRS

The Working Committee of the CITU pays its homage to the valiant fighters of the working class and the toiling people of India who laid down their lives braving police bullets and attacks of gangsters and hirelings of the employers, the Congress(R) and other reactionary forces in the country.

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Central Trade Unions which have been holding meeting under the auspices of the Government of India for sometime past have evolved a formula for recognition of unions. This formula in effect has given up the principle of recognition through secret ballot.

Recognition through secret ballot has long been a demand of the militant trade union movement. The Government of India has been consistently refusing to adopt this principle. The AITUC and HMS who had earlier laid stress on this principle for over 20 years and who had pledged to fight for this principle in the joint declaration of May, 1971 have now shamelessly abandoned this principle and, in collusion with INTUC, have provided a handle to the Government of India for not implementing it.

These three organisations have accepted the method of verification instead of ballot as the principle basis of recognition. The decision of a judge appointed for this purpose will be final and this simply means that it is a judge not the workers who will decide the fate of the workers. The agreement has stipulated that a poll will be taken in cases where the difference in verified membership is marginal. This in effect would mean that in most of the cases, recognition will not be decided by ballot. Experience has shown that verification always favours the pro-employer unions. It has been the experience of trade unions that whenever the management arrives at an agreement with a union which is not truly representative of the workers, it cannot be implemented. It is only a union which is elected by secret ballot that can implement decisions effectively.

This meeting is, therefore, of the opinion that this understanding between the three Central Trade Unions not only hits at the root of trade union democracy but also is against the interests of the workers and thus pave the way for class collaboration.

This meeting therefore, strongly condemns this understanding and reiterates its demand that the secret ballot must be taken as the only criterion for union recognition. This meeting pledges to continue its fight to force the adoption of this principle by the

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Government.

This meeting appeals to the AITUC and HMS to realise their mistake and to come forward to fight unitedly for the principle of recognition through secret ballot a principle for which they had also stood so long.

ON JUTE WORKERS STRIKE

The Working Committee of CITU sends ~~it~~ its warm greetings to 2 lakh 50 thousand Jute workers of West Bengal and another 30 thousand Jute workers of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh for their resolve to commence an industry-wide continuous strike with effect from 8th May 1972 on ten point demands including the demand for a minimum wage of Rs. 300/-, and assures them full support in their struggle.

The Working Committee of CITU notes that inspite of the consistent efforts of CITU affiliated Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union and united effort of the unions of CITU, UTUC, UTUC (LENIN SARANI) and Trade Union Co-ordination Centre (Forward Block) in jute industry in West Bengal, INTUC, AITUC and HMS unions have not only refused to announce the strike decision unitedly but in their ~~own~~ separate strike notice have also revised and reduced the demands of jute workers jointly finalised and agreed upon earlier by the unions of all the Central Trade Unions.

While the jute employers are now making a yearly profit of Rs. 6000/- per workers, and the foreign exchange earning from jute products has increased from Rs. 189 crores in 1969-70 to Rs. 289.30 crores in 1970-71 and in 1971-72 it is expected to far exceed Rs. 300 crores and the employers with Government backing have deliberately delayed settlement of the long standing demands of the workers, the unions of CITU, UTUC, UTUC (Lenin Sarani) and TUCC in jute industry have again appealed jointly to the unions of INTUC, AITUC, and HMS to form a joint strike Committee to unitedly guide jute workers strike and not to deflect from the stand on jute workers demands unitedly taken earlier. The jute workers

of West Bengal have learnt well the lessons of years of struggles that unity is the only guarantee of successful fight against exploitation and advancement of their cause. They have built up strong unity at the base which had its reflection in forging unity at top in 1969 and 1970 strike struggles. Now when it is necessary to strengthen this unity all the more, INTUC, AITUC, and HMS by serving separate strike notice is corroding the vitals of the unity at the base and creating confusion immobilising a section of jute workers on the eve of the impending strike struggle.

The Working Committee of CITU extends full support to the joint stand of the unions of CITU, UTUC, UTUC (Lenin Sarani) and TUCC in West Bengal and appeals to INTUC, AITUC and HMS to maintain the unity of jute workers which has developed through struggles and taken concrete shape during the historic strike struggles of August 1969 and December 1970.

The Government pursues a policy of utter servility to the interests of the jute barons as a result the jute barons are refusing to settle the just demands of the workers. In spite of the fact that fortunes of ten millions of people are linked with the jute industry, that jute products earn a third of the entire foreign exchange and more than 70 crores of revenue, the Government has refused to nationalise the jute industry owned by ten big monopoly houses, who earn more than 160 crores of profits annually not counting the vast black money, in rupee and in foreign exchange. Recently the Government has turned a blind eye to the huge smuggling of raw jute at very low prices which has helped the jute barons to make enormous black money.

The Working Committee of CITU strongly condemns the Government of India for its policy regarding jute industry and its workers, and demands immediate settlement of jute workers demands and nationalisation of jute industry. It also demands that Government of West Bengal immediately nationalise the industry irrespective of the attitude of Government of India.

The Working Committee of CITU calls upon the jute workers of West Bengal and other States to continue preparation for the coming strike with all seriousness and to maintain their unity at the

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base at all cost for the sake of an effective struggle.

The jute workers of West Bengal represented the unions of CITU, UTUC, UTUC(Lenin Sarani) and TUCC have already demanded that whatever settlement is finally arrived at in West Bengal should be uniformly extended to the jute workers of Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, M.P. and another States. The Working Committee of CITU congratulates the jute workers of West Bengal for their initiative to build up industry-wide struggle on all-India basis and calls upon the jute workers of other States to use the opportunity to organise an all-India united struggles of jute workers.

The Working Committee of CITU also calls upon the workers and employees of all industries to support the just demands of the jute workers and extend all fraternal help and co-operation to jute workers in their struggle.

ON VIET NAM

The Working Committee of the CITU strongly condemns the U.S. Imperialism for the renewed aggression on North Vietnam with massive aerial bombings and naval blockade in a desperate attempt to save itself and its puppet regime in South Vietnam from complete debacle at the mighty blows of the heroic people of Vietnam. The bombings of such a vast magnitude with near nuclear weapons which surpass all previous records unless checked immediately underlines a serious danger of escalation of the war and a great threat to the lives and liberties of the peoples of the whole world particularly of South East Asia. The Nixon Administrations' sudden stoppage of Paris talks and further strengthening of the Seventh Fleet reveal its real criminal purpose.

The action of U.S. imperialism once again exposed itself as the greatest enemy of the peoples of the world. The people of India here have got recent experience about U.S. imperialism in relation to Bangladesh freedom struggle.

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The Working Committee greets the heroic people of Vietnam as well as Cambodia and Laos, for their valiant resistance against this barbarous aggression and simultaneously delivering shattering blows to the enemy bringing nearer the complete liberation of South Vietnam and Indo-China nearer. The working class and the people of India draw tremendous inspiration from these epic struggles of the people of Vietnam and express their full confidence in the victory of their struggles.

The Working Committee congratulates the people of United States and ~~the~~ other countries for their world wide protest against U.S. imperialism and support for the struggle of the Vietnamese people for national liberation and unification. This struggle has immensely helped the liberation of the Vietnam from the yoke of U.S. imperialism.

The CITU welcomes the stand taken by the Government of India for expressing its disapproval of the action of U.S. imperialism and calling for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Vietnam. But the situation demands more effective intervention on behalf of the Government of India and the Indian people to stop this mass massacres of human lives and wanton destructions of properties. The Working Committee urges the Government of India to take positive steps to help the freedom fighters of Vietnam and to sever all relations with the puppet Government and immediately grant recognition to the Provisional Revolutionary Government.

The CITU calls upon the people of India and specially the working class to raise their voice to denounce U.S. imperialism and demand the immediate stoppage of bombings over North Vietnam, withdrawal of all its forces from the soil of Vietnam and to express full solidarity with the glorious heroic people of Vietnam.

The Working Committee appeals to all the Central Trade Unions of India to observe unitedly throughout the country a Day for joint protest against American aggression and for solidarity with the people of Vietnam.

----- would demand it to be.

ON L.I.C. EMPLOYEES STRUGGLE

The Working Committee of CITU sends its warm fraternal greetings to 45,000 LIC employees for unitedly observing one day strike and boycott on 25th April 1972 throughout India to press their longstanding demands like recognition, bonus, amenities, uniform holidays to building staff, reduction of interest on house-building loans etc. and expresses firm solidarity with them in their struggle.

The LIC employees who led a heroic fight against automation, are again on the path of struggle and the Working Committee of CITU is confident that they would demonstrate same zeal and unity in successfully concluding the present phase of struggle.

The Working Committee of CITU calls upon the working class of India to extend full support to the LIC employees in their struggle and demands of the Government of India and L.I.C. authorities to settle their demands immediately.

ON DELAY IN PUBLICATION OF THIRD
PAY COMMISSION REPORT

The Working Committee of CITU notes with grave concern the delay in publication of the report of the Third Pay Commission, which neither the Commission nor the Government has been able to justify. The Central Government employees had, from the very beginning, were apprehensive of such delays and demanded that the benefit of the recommendations, should be given from 1st February 1969 from which date such rise has become due in terms of earlier decisions. Their fears have come true. Both the Commission and the Government have refused to give retrospective effect to the interim relief. On one hand the Commission termed the relief as "interim" on the other it refused to let the old principle of granting increase in D.A. in terms of the existing order operate; thus the Commission is virtually acting as a Dearness Allowance Commission and not as the Pay Commission, which the Central Government Employees would demand it to be.

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The policy of indirect taxation and deficit financing pursued the Government of India, has already effected an unprecedented rise in prices i.e. 14 points in one year. The meagre increase in money value granted through two instalments of interim relief has not been able to fully neutralise the erosion in real wage of the workers (except only for those at the bottom) which has taken place since 2nd Pay Commission. The reliefs have thus in reality effected a pay cut on the Central Government Employees. Therefore the delay, in publication of the Third Pay Commission report will only make the condition of the employees more unbearable. It is now increasingly becoming clear that the Commission is acting as a tool in the hands of the Government to keep down the wages of the Government employees, while the wage structure in both the Private and public sector has undergone a change since the days of the Second Pay Commission.

The Working Committee noted with dismay the failure of the recognised unions to launch an effective protest against this policy of the Government. Some organisations have observed some "Protest Days" in this regard and let the matter rest. The CITU is of the opinion that it is high time, that all the organisations of the Central Government employees should unite and rise to a man to demand immediate publication of the Commission's report. This meeting of the Working Committee calls upon the Central Government employees to strive for unity in the ranks and launch a forceful campaign in order to wrench their due benefits from the unwilling hands of the Government.

ON BUILDING WORKERS STRIKE IN DELHI

This meeting of the Working Committee of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions greets the building workers of Delhi who have been on strike since April 21 demanding the payment of Rs.4.50 as daily wages as per the notification issued by the Delhi Administration a year ago.

Expressing its full support to the striking workers, this meeting condemns the pro-contractor and anti-labour attitude of both the Union Government and the Delhi Administration. This meeting also condemns the deployment of police at building sites by the Government to browbeat the workers and to help the big contractors.

This meeting is surprised at the deliberate interpretation of the notification by the Delhi's Labour Department which maintains that only such of those employees as are employed by the Local Authority are entitled to Rs.4.50 and not other workers even if they happen to perform the same work. It is against this wrong interpretation that the building workers are fighting and are demanding the payment of Rs.4.50 wage rate. This meeting demand that the Union Government and the Delhi Administration should immediately concede the demands of the workers.

ON UNITY AND UNITED ACTIONS

The Working Committee of the CITU, notes with satisfaction that since the last meeting of the General Council of the CITU held in Coimbatore, united actions of the working class on an extensive scale have taken place in various parts of the country, overcoming innumerable manoeuvres of disruptive forces and elements and braving severest ever of repressions.

Facing semi-fascist attacks, murders and arson, the heroic working class of West Bengal organised a successful and total General Strike and Bundh on 27-8-1971, defying the opposition of the leaderships of HMS and INTUC, demanding an end to terror, holding of elections and for re-opening of closed mills. 13th October 1971 saw another united Bundh demanding re-instatement of the dismissed State Government employees. 3½ lakh engineering workers led by the CITU, AITUC, INTUC, HMS, 2 UTUCs and TUCC went on a day's strike in August 1971 protesting against D.A. cut. In November 1971 all the Central Trade Unions jointly called a strike to win the demands of the Jute workers. West Bengal unitedly observed a General Strike and Hartal on the demand of recognition of the Provisional Government of Bangladesh.

In Kerala, 5 lakh coir workers, united under the joint leadership of CITU, AITUC, and INTUC went into action for a day on 13.3.72, demanding payment of minimum wages as per Act. This was followed by district wise united indefinite strikes by the Coir workers. 3 lakh plantation workers, united under the joint leadership of CITU, AITUC and INTUC, have already held a successful one day token strike and are preparing for an indefinite general strike for the demands of wage revision.

In Tamilnadu, 14000 Simpson Group workers, supported jointly by CITU, Madras-Chinglepet Co-ordination Council, INTUC, AITUC and HMS, unitedly and successfully fought a bitter battle against the attempt of the DMK Government to foist its own nominee on the workers' union and against a sell out of the workers' interests. The entire lakh and fifty thousand textile workers of Tamilnadu united for the first time and went on a successful State-wide general strike unitedly sponsored by the CITU, INTUC, HMS and AITUC and all other independent unions, demanding wage revision, higher bonus and against effects of rationalisation. The country saw the spectacle of the CITU, INTUC, HMS, AITUC and all other unions in Tamilnadu, uniting from top to bottom, and giving a call for State-wide total bundh on 11.1.72 in solidarity with the Simpson workers' strike and actually organised a total one day bundh throughout Coimbatore District.

In Rajasthan the transport workers' strike in February 1972 was led unitedly.

In Kanpur after many years, the textile workers have united and gone on strike under the joint leadership of CITU, AITUC and INTUC. On bonus issue there was united actions in Kanpur. Besides these, innumerable joint actions cutting across affiliations have taken place throughout the length and breadth of the country for higher bonus and outside the framework of the anti-working class Bonus Act. These united actions have resulted in substantial gains for the workers in many cases.

The Working Committee wishes to draw the attention of the working class that the Bing Business and their Governments both at the Centre and various States, enmeshed in an economic crisis of their own created views these growing united actions as a menace to their line of pushing the burdens of the crisis into the shoulders of the working class and as such are bent upon disrupting this growing class unity and united action.

The employers and the Governments, having recognised the leading and active role of the CITU in forging such class unity and actions, have decided on isolating the CITU and other fighting organisations, as well as uncoupling the HMS, AITUC and INTUC from the growing common front, as the modus operandi to achieve their end. The Working Committee notes that the Congress Government of late have dished out many patronages in various forms to the HMS, AITUC and INTUC leaderships, with a view to lure them into breaking away from the growing class united front of action that is being forged by the working class, and to forge in its place a front amongst themselves, to play the employers and Governments' game of disruption and division.

The Working Committee considers that, the need for carrying forward the unity, organising a sustained campaign around the platform of the 8 point programme adopted at the May Conference, and development of a broad-based front of all militant organisations for action, has become still more urgent and imperative to successfully meet this new challenge of the employers and their Governments.

But the Working Committee notes with regret that the hopes roused among millions of workers in the country soon after the evolution of a common platform at the May 71 Conference was belied by the negative attitude of the AITUC and HMS leaders obstructing follow-up actions on the Conference decisions. The leaders of the HMS and AITUC who participated in the unity Conference last May, unitedly attacked the Governments labour policy and who along with the CITU formed a Convenors' Committee to carry forward that unity, have now suddenly joined hands with the INTUC and that all the three have fallen victims to the pressures and manouvres

of the employers and Governments.

The Committee regrets to note that the HMS and AITUC leaders who were party to the unanimous decision of the May Conference for recognition of Trade Unions by secret ballot, have backed out of this pledge to the working class and joined the INTUC in advocating the anti-democratic principle of recognition by verification of membership. The Committee also learns that the leaders of the HMS, AITUC and INTUC, are evolving a scheme of industrial relations in which the workers' right to strike will be given up in some form.

The Committee wishes to point out to these leaders that the line they are adopting now, far from responding to the need of the hour in favour of the working class, would only help the employers and Governments to carry forward their manouvres of disruption and division in the new situation, and appeals to them to return to the May Conference decisions in the interests of the working class.

The Working Committee while greeting the millions of workers who participated in the recent united action cutting across affiliations, wishes to warn them that with the prospect of economic crisis accentuating further, they are to face more severe and extensive attacks on their living standards and democratic liberties in the coming months.

The Working Committee appeals to all sections of workers who are fighting their battle unitedly, to see through the new disruptive manouvres of the employers and the Government, realise the danger posed to their united actions by the latest moves of the HMS, INTUC and AITUC leaders, and carry forward the banner of unity and united action along with the path of further consolidation and advance.

The Working Committee calls upon all affiliated unions of the CITU to redouble their efforts to unite the working class through united actions, particularly in view of the deepening crisis and the disruptive plans of the employers and their Governments.

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ON INTRODUCTION OF AUTOMATION AND ELECTRONIC
COMPUTER.

The Working Committee of CITU notes with serious concern the continued threat to existing employment and employment potential due to automation and use of Electronic Computer on an extensive scale. Government of India is deliberately pressing its policy on automation ignoring nationwide protest and most devastating effect of these sophisticated mammoth job saving devices leading to retrenchment and shrinkage in employment potential. In Foreign Oil Companies hundreds of employees have already been retrenched due to Electronic Computer and no arrangement was made for their rehabilitation despite assurance of the Government that retrenchment due to automation will not be allowed. A number of firms like I.B.B., ~~xx~~ I.C.T. etc. have already been given licenses for manufacturing high powerese Computoers in India and this policy is being pursued at a time when unemployment has become most acute, registered unemployed alone being more than 4 million.

The Government itself being the champion of automation introducing computer in its departments, is giving a free hand to both foreign and Indian companies to extensively use automatic electronic devices and Computers to reduce the number of working hands and to garner more profit.

Recently the Government has installed a computer in the office of Accountant General at Madras. The employees of Madras are continuing agitation in protest against instalation of computer and have intensified the activities of Anti-Automation Committee.

The Working Committee of CITU sends its warm greetings to the employees of Accountant General's Office, Madras for effectively carrhing on their struggle against automation and assures them all support and co-operation.

The Working Committee of CITU calls upon the workers and employees in all industies, commercial houses and Government departments to redouble their efforts to continue the agitation

number of workers. A recent study of the Railway Ministry shows that whereas the traffic units moved per employee on the open line increased from 122,000 units in 1950-51 to 186,000 units in 1970-71, the number of staff per million Train Km. decreased from 3,144 in 1950-51 to 2,833 in 1970-71. The rise in productivity and consequently of work-load of workshop employees is even more glaring. The productivity increased by 53% and 60% in 1965-66 and 1970-71 over that of 1957-58. This, along with the introduction of mechanisation and automation in the railways, has brought down the employment potential of the railways. As against the rise in productivity and work-load of railwaymen, their real wages have declined in the same period.

The Working Committee notes with regret that the recognised Federations have done nothing to ameliorate the genuine grievances of railwaymen. On the other hand faction squabbles have started both in the AIRF and NFIR to the detriment of united struggles of railwaymen. The intense rivalry and attempts to elbow out one group of Eastern Railwaymen's Congress through semi-fascist methods at Dhanbad have shown the lowest depth to which these leaders can stoop to in order to retain the loaves and fishes of office.

The Working Committee, however, notes with satisfaction that the railwaymen have increasingly taken the path of united struggles to resist the attacks by the Government and for winning their just demands. The heroic struggle of the workers of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works against the vindictive transfer orders issued on all the office-bearers of the Labour Union, struggle of Eastern Railwaymen through Ranaghat Convention of September last, mighty protest actions by thousands of workers of Eastern, South Eastern and North Eastern Railways and also those of at other centres, show the growing determination and increasing urge for unity among railwaymen.

Alarmed at the growing militancy of railwaymen, the Railway administration have embarked upon new methods of repression like searching of railway colonies, arrests of labour leaders on false charges, detaining railway workers under MISA, etc. in an attempt

to terrorise the workers. In West Bengal, wagon-breakers and anti-socials organised under the banner of Youth Congress, Chhatra Parishad and INTUC, backed by the police and local administration, are being let loose on railway workers and union activists. They are regularly attacking railwaymen at Howrah, Burdwan, Andal, Sitarampur, Chittaranjan, Naihati and many other centres with a view to obstructing the normal functioning of the Joint Councils of Action and other militant organisations which are leading the struggles. It is a welcome feature that railwaymen in these areas are unitedly resisting the semi-fascist attacks on their trade union movement.

The Working Committee calls upon the militant railwaymen to be vigilant and remain prepared to resist the attacks on their living conditions and Trade Union rights through united action. Their fight for democratic functioning and healthy growth of trade unions should be carried forward with determination. The CITU pledges its whole-hearted support to the just struggles of railwaymen to win their demands

ON MORATORIUM ON STRIKES

The CITU notes with deep concern the statements made by President Sri Giri, the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi and the Union Labour Minister, Sri Khadilkar on the proposed moratorium on strikes. The reason they hold are that Indian economy should be put on a footing of self-reliance and that self reliance would be difficult to achieve if production is interrupted by strikes and lockouts.

This talk of moratorium on strike in the name of patriotism and national interests is nothing but a deceptive attempt on the part of the ruling classes to deny the working class the fundamental right to strike in defence of their interests. Indian economic growth is threatened, not by the working class but by the capitalists, Indian and foreign, whose sole driving

force is the greed for maximum profits. Production is jeopardised by these interests, and it is their policies that force the workers to resort to direct action. To blame the working class for the strikes is to shield the attacks of the employers on the living and working conditions of the workers.

With the capitalists ruling the roost and attacks on the Working Class mounting, proposal of moratorium on strikes is nothing but asking the workers and employees to disarm and surrender to the employers meekly. Prices are shooting up, real wages are being eroded, neutralisation of increase in cost of living is being denied, work-load is constantly being increased, more and more workers are being thrown out of employment and services conditions are being made increasingly miserable. Draconic laws are being put on statutes books in order to put shackles on the movement of the working class. The Government machinery, including the Labour Department, is acting merely as the handmaid of the employers, rather than being of any help to the workers. Under such circumstances, strike is the last resort of the workers to defend their interests and win their demands.

Recent history shows that the working class is not prepared to take this attack lying down, big and prolonged struggles have been waged in all States and workers and employees of public and private undertakings, Government and private enterprises have participated in these struggles, neither victimisation by the employers nor repression by the Government could deter them from fighting for their demands. The Central Industrial Security Force Act, the Essential Services Maintenance Act., Industrial (Maintenance and Development) Act and the like, which severely restrict and curtail trade union rights could not check the rising tide of workers struggles. It is in this context that the idea of a moratorium on strikes is ~~being~~ being mooted, reaching the same goal of halting the working class movements.

The Government is giving all-out assistance to the monopolitists and employers and innumerable concessions have been given to Big

Business in regard to licenses, imports, foreign exchange, credit and expansion schemes. These sections are now demanding more concessions and incentives to expand to the hitherto backward areas, and the Government is sympathetic to these projects. Japanese and other foreign big business are being wooed to enter India in a big way and are being offered attractive concessions. Under such conditions, talk of a moratorium on strikes means sacrificing the interests of the working class to Indian and foreign big business

It may be recalled that while the INTUC is always opposed to strikes, the AITUC and HMS have accepted moratorium on strikes during times of emergency even in the absence of any restraints on the employers. Now as a result of the growing resistance of the workers to the very idea of moratorium on strikes and of the growing unity of the working class through united actions and struggles, the government, the AITUC and the HMS say that they are not in favour of any legislative measures to ban strikes, yet they say that a way should be found to see that production is not hampered by strikes and lockouts.

The CITU appeals to the working class to realise the nature of this new offensive that is aimed at their basic rights, and to repudiate all moves to impose a moratorium on strikes on one pretext or another. It appeals to all units and members of all T. Us. to whichever national centre they are affiliated, to be aware of this danger and raise their powerful voice against it and defeat all attempts to deny the workers' and employees' right to strikes.

~~UNRELEASED INFORMATION~~

ON RELEASE AND REPATRIATION OF
POLITICAL PRISONERS OF WEST BENGAL

The Working Committee of the CITU strongly condemns the most revengeful and inhuman treatment meted out to a large section of political prisoners of west Bengal who have been transferred to

the Cuddalore Jail in Tamilnadu where they are being made to live in sub-human conditions. All these prisoners detained without trial under the PVA Act and MISA, are being denied the statues of political prisoners and now, after transfer to Guddalore Jail are completely isolated without any contact with their relatives and legal aids. The Congress Government at the Centre and in West Bengal following the Colonial British traditions have taken this vindictive policy of transferring political prisoners to other States in order to shatter their morale of in remote isolation. It is significant to note that the DMK Government of Tamilnadu has joined the conspiracy to suppress the democratic movement of West Bengal.

The Working Committee of the CITU eemands immediate repatriation of the political prisoners to West Bengal, their immediate release and, pending release, the status of political prisoners for all detenus with arrangement for proper food and medical treatment.

The Working Committee of the CITU notes with appreciation that the Tamilnadu State Committee of CITU has already taken a programme for agitation in support of the demand for repatriation and release of West Bengal political prisoners and calls upon them to intensify it.

~~The Working Committee of the CITU demands immediate repatriation~~

The Working Committee of the CITU calls upon the Working class and trade unions in all the states to organise an effective agitation on the demand for repatriation and release of political prisoners of West Bengal and to send protest letters, protest resolutions, telegrammes to the Central, the West Bengal and the Tamilnadu Governments.

GREETINGS TO TAMILNADU WORKERS

The Working Committee of the CITU greets the heroic workers of Tamilnadu, who participated in the recent glorious struggles that took place in Tamilnadu.

Braving the strong arm methods of the DMK Goondas and the police the 14000 Simpson Group workers fought heroically for 4 long months and compelled the planted DMK nominee on their union to resign, defended their right to elect a leadership of their own choice, and rendered the treacherous agreement infructuous. A lakh and a half textile workers unitedly observed a successful general strike and compelled the DMK Government to start re-opening closed mills, compelled the State Government to pay, as relief, Rs. 5 lakhs to the 7000 workers of the closed mills, secured interim relief and forced the employers to negotiate the demands for revision of wages in the entire industry even while the wages agreement was in force, and compelled the employers to fill up permanent vacancies and pay occupational wages to casuals and rested a host of other concessions. 45,000 textile workers working in 53 mills in the Coimbatore district went on a general strike for 16 days demanding higher Bonus based on a minimum of $8\frac{1}{4}\%$. Large sections of workers in many industries could secure bonus outside the purview of the Bonus Act and the Ba balance Sheets.

For the first time in the history of Trade Union movement in Tamilnadu the entire working class of Tamilnadu closed their ranks and declared a state-wide bundh in support of Simpson workers on 11.1.72, which was followed by a total bundh at Coimbatore district on 1.3.72 and a number of other regional solidarity actions.

A large number of workers in the unorganise industries like Beedi, Handloom, Cigar etc. also succeeded in securing wage increase.

These heroric actions of the Tamilnadu workers constituted a severe blow to the policy of the DMK Government to force industrial peace through repression. The number of mandays lost in 1971 was 22 lakhs days against 10 lakhs in 1970.

The lessons of these successful struggles for the working Class are that the industrywide, State-wide unity and united actions supported by State-wide or district-wide joint solidarity actions of the entire working class, was the source of their success after long years of employers' and Government's oppression. The Working Committee appeals to the workers of Tamil Ndu to consolidate this class unity in order to be able to face successfully future attacks and ensure further advance.

ON NEWSPRINT POLICY

The newsprint policy recently announced by the Government of India, restricting the number of pages of newspapers to 10, has been strongly criticised by a section of the newspaper proprietors, especially the spokesman of the monopoly press. They have once again raised the cry of danger to the freedom of the press, strangulation of the newspaper industry. They have at the same time, held out a threat of retrenchment and freezing of emoluments of newspaper employees.

On behalf of the Government, the recent austerity measure has been explained as being only provincial, and necessitated by the stoppage of newsprint imports from USA following the Ind-Pak conflict on the issue of Bangladesh. Some of the Government spokesmen have also defended the page restriction as a measure directed against the press and intended to help the small and medium newspapers.

The Working Committee of the CITU is firmly of the opinion that the cry of danger to the freedom of press and strangulation of newspaper industry raised by the press barons is totally false

and motivated. Their protests cover their desire to retain the immense profits they are earning by securing the advertisements from most of the foreign and Indian monopolists and to maintain their strangel-hod over the newspaper industry. These handful of press barons havd in the past exerted pressure over the press to suppress and distort all news of the democratic movements, especially the news of the toilers' movements. As seen recently in West Bengal, they have totally blacked out all news of the semi-fascist terror let loose by the ruling Congress Government on the fighting working class of West Bengal and other democratic forces. They have also been absolutely silent about the rigging of elections by the ruling Congress Party and have indulged in shameless slander of the Left and democratic forces.

The ruling Congress party despite its tall talks about the freedom of the press and fight against the monopoly press has so far completely disregarded the warning given by the press Commission 15 years back about the growing danger of monopoly in the Newspaper Industry. It has, on the other hand, actually helped the big industrial housed in various ways to establish complete sway over the press in the country. It is again the Congress Government which has, in collusion with the press-barons, suppressed the real freedom of press by muzzling all news of democratic movements and by distorting and slandering political views and news of the democratic forces.

Moreover, it should also be noted that the ruling Congress party which today glibly talks about self-reliance after the ~~stoppage of U.S. Aid and import of U.S. newsprint, has itself been~~ stoppage of U.S. Aid and import of U.S. newsprint, has itself been responsible for keeping the country still dependent on foreign imports in respect of 75% of its requirements of newsprint. Both the ruling Congress party as well as the press-tycoons have been equally guilty in keeping the country dependent on foreign imports in respect of such an essential commodity as newsprint even after 25 years of independence.

In view of this, the Working Committee of the CITU is unable of take the anti-monopoly press declarations of the Congress Government spokesman at their face value and hence is of the opinion that the recent 10-page restriction effected by the Government on the big newspapers is likely to be used by the Ruling Congress Party as a weapon with which to make the press-barons and their papers completely subservient to the one-party rule of the Congress.

Secondly, the Working Committee notes with concern that while implementing its recent newsprint policy, the Central Government has taken no steps to prevent the press-tycoons from using this policy to interdere with the jobs and emoluments of the newspaper employees. Similarly it must be noted that during the last two years when the number of pages of big newspapers have been increased by 25 to 33 percent, the wages of the workers and employees have remained stationery in spite of an enormous increase in workload. Hence the argument that newspapers would be overstaffed once the cut is effected does not hold water, it is only intended to cover the press-barons' desire to grab immendse profits. The Working Committee strongly feels that the Government cannot be allowed to implement its newsprint restriction policy at the eepense of jobs, wages and other service conditions of the employees of bigger newspaper-s and therefore demands that the Government must take effective steps for the protection of the workers' x jobs and service conditions.

The Working Committee calls upon all sections of newspaper employees including working journalists and news service employees to build a broad-based unity to resist any attack by this press-barons on their jobs and wages.

The Working Committee also demands that the Central Government should enact effective legislation for diverting the ownership of the press from the hands of the big-business monopolists and transfer the same to co-operative trusts of working journalists and newspaper employees. All talk of breaking the stranglehold of the monopolists over the press will only be smokescreem without this measure. The Working Committee further inteoduction of

price page schedule to prevent unfair competition between the big and small newspapers.

The Working Committee further demands that the Government must take early measures to end the dependence of the country on imports and to make the country self-sufficient in respect of such and essential commodity as newsprint and paper. Pending this, the Working Committee strongly urges upon the Government to import newsprint from Bangladesh on a barter basis as was recently done in respect of imports from Chile and also import newsprint from rupee-payment areas and Socialist countries to meet one current shrotage.

the military regime of Pak -----

The Working Committee notes that the working class of Bangladesh has ON KERALA LEGISLATION BANNING STRIKE struggle

The working Committee of the CITU strongly condemns the ban imposed on the right to strike of Kerala Electricity Workers and the workers of the Edikky Project area.

Since the Kerala Electricity workers began making demands for their salary revision etc. the Achutha Menon Ministry thought it expedient to impose a ban on their right to strike by using the Essential Services Maintenance Act. Similarly when the workers of Edikky project put forth certain demands to the Contrators, the State Government requested the Government of India to impose a ban on all strikes in this project area using the Defence of India Rules, which was immediately done.

It is a matter of shame that, while CPI says that it is opposed to a ban on strikes, the Chief Minister of Kerala, Sri Achutaha Menon vehemently defended in the Assembly the ban on strikes in all essential services. While the State Unit of AITUC adopted a resolution opposing the ban on strikes, their members in the Legislature voted for banning strikes in the electrical services and Edikky project area, and voted down a proposal to delete the Clauses banning strikes.

The CITU draws the attention of the working class to the

duplicities of these organisations and the anti-working class policies adopted by the Achutha Menon Government and appeals to them to unite to fight against and defeat this attack on their fundamental rights.

ON BANGLADESH

The Working Committee of the CITU sends its warm fraternal greetings to the people and working class of Bangladesh for their victory in the struggle for national freedom wrested bravely from the military regime of Pakistan.

The Working Committee notes that the working class of Bangladesh has played a heroic part in the national struggle ever since the days of the language struggle in the fifties, and for this reason has been the special target of attack by the Pakistani rulers when the military crack down started in March 1971.

The CITU from the very beginning recognised the struggle of the Bangladesh people as a national struggle of a people suffering under a military dictatorship and denied all democratic rights. It had demanded from the Government of India all material and moral help to the freedom fighters, including supply of arms and recognition to the Provisional Government of Bangladesh.

When after a considerable hesitation and vacillation the Government of India adopted this very course, the CITU enthusiastically welcomed it.

The emergence of a free Sovereign Bangladesh is a serious setback in this sub-continent for the mechanisation of U.S. Imperialism which has been arming the military junta of Pakistan to the teeth. However, only one phase of the struggle is over. The agencies of U.S. Imperialists are again busy rallying the reactionary elements in Bangladesh with financial blandishments, in order to retard progressive developments.

In these conditions, the conspiracies of the American Imperialists and the Agents of the military junta can be defeated

only on the basis of a democratic, secular and anti-imperialist programme - defending the interests of the peasants, workers and other toilers, eliminating U.S. imperialist influence and extending democracy to all sections of the people. Such a programme can only be implemented by rousing the vigilance of the masses and ensuring their active participation in coordinating the newly-won freedom.

The Working Committee is confident that the working class of Bangladesh, which played a glorious role in the freedom struggle will rally the people for such a programme and help consolidate the freedom and pave the way for further progress.

The Working Committee calls for close fraternal relations between the working class of India, Bangladesh and Pakistan so that they can march forward together in the common struggle against forces of reactions, exploitation and imperialism.

ON RAPE OF DEMOCRACY IN WEST BENGAL

This meeting of the Working Committee of the CITU views grave apprehension the virtual reign of naked terror that is prevailing in West Bengal even after the rigged victory of the Congress Party in the elections. The gravity of the situation lies not merely in the fact that armed activists and hooligans organised by the Congress Party are running amuck, committing murder, rape, arson, looting on a mass scale with complete immunity in order to suppress Left and democratic movements and make the people of West Bengal obey the dictates of the ruling classes and the Congress Party, but more particularly in the fact, that the entire State apparatus in West Bengal is a party to these activities of the ruling Congress.

The Working Committee of the CITU is convinced that without the active connivance of the Congress run Central Government this situation could not be created. The Working Committee condemns the Congress Party and the Central Government for this subversion of all democratic norms, for total rigging of the elections and for imposing a reign of terror in the sordid interest of foisting the reactionary and despotic rule of the Congress Party in West Bengal. The main reason behind this is that in deeply crisis ridden West Bengal, the Congress Party representing the ruling classes of India has been

faced with a serious challenge to its class rule from the democratic forces. In three successive elections, in 1967, in 1969, and in 1971 the Congress Party was defeated in West Bengal; and every time the Central Government dissolved the legislature sooner or later and imposed Presidents Rule on West Bengal, virtually handing over the people to mass terror conducted by the various wings of State and Central Police and the armed hooligans of the Congress Party. The terror was mainly concentrated in areas where Left and democratic movement was strong. By the time of elections nearly a thousand Left cadres and leaders were murdered; several thousands were imprisoned without even a show of trial; and nearly one lac warrants of arrest were issued; thousands were compelled to flee their hearth and home even forgoing their occupations and jobs. Even women were not spared their honour.

Even after all these, the Congress Party was doubtful of obtaining a majority in the elections and the Union Government was most reluctant to allow the elections to be held in West Bengal. However, after the surrender of the Pakisthani Army in Bangladesh the Union Government readily declared W.Bengal elections in the fond hope of cashing in on the victory in Bangladesh and securing an electoral victory. But soon, to its mortification, the Congress Party and the Central Government ~~in~~ discovered that despite the affinities of the West Bengal people with those of Bangladesh, the use of the Bangla Desh issue in the elections will not yield the expected dividends, and the Congress Party will be judged by its reactionary basic policies and their effect on the lives of the people. Even the intelligence reports of the Government forecast certain defeat of the Congress Party in elections.

In this situation the Congress Party and the Union Government entered into a diabolical conspiracy to do away with all pretence of maintaining norms of free and fair elections and went all out to rig the entire elections involving the subversion of the very basis of the Constitution, the right of the people to vote freely and elect a Government of their choice. For the purpose, the Congress Party and the Government mobilized all the punitive forces at their disposal,

the police, the CRP, the BSF etc. the Army and the Home Guards, the subservient bureaucracy and also the entire under-world, equipped with modern arms by the Government and the Congress Party, and created an unprecedented reign of terror in vast areas where democratic and Left forces were strongly entrenched. The Left parties, who were by now united, appealed to Election Commissioner and even to the Prime Minister to stop this massive terror and create conditions of free and fair elections in these areas, but to no avail, and the terrorisation continued unabated. Even at that stage, with the prospect of free and fair elections in nearly 50 constituencies seriously jeopardized the Left parties felt confident of winning a majority. They did not apprehend that the ruling class, threatened with fourth successive defeat would not stop with disturbing free elections in only 4 50 constituencies but would go all out to rig the entire elections, which is what actually happened in West Bengal.

Inspite of all precautions taken by the Government and the Congress Party numerous evidences of swindling came to light subsequently. In fact in their desperation the Congressites over-reached themselves to such incredible extent that the absurdity of the results exposed their own tricks.

In their discomfiture the Congress Party is now trying to explain away their "incredible success" by arguing about a "sudden and secret" upsurge of popular feeling in favour of Smt. Gandhi. But such arguments cannot be sustained by any analysis of the polling figures, even if all evidences of blatant rigging are ignored. Rather the sudden anger of the defrauded and terrorised people and the total absence of any popular enthusiasm and jubilation at the "victory" of the Congress Party give a direct lie to the "mass upsurge" theory.

Since the elections the Congress Party and the Government have murdered more than 30 people, driven out about twenty thousand from their homes. Thousands of Left cadres and trade unionists have been given notice that unless they join the Congress or their organisation and hand over union funds and offices, both their lives and jobs will be taken away. Already numerous Left Party

offices and 300 trade union offices have been forcibly occupied by the Congress Party hooligans. Nearly a thousand workers and employees cannot join their factories and offices because of threats to their lives. Thousands including trade union workers and leaders are in detention without trial. In rural areas peasants are being evicted and workers of the Kisan movement are being hunted. While this terror stalks vast urban and rural areas of West Bengal, a total black-out of news of these terrible happenings has been imposed by the newspapers, and the newspapers carry cynical appeals of the Congress leaders for co-operation from Left parties and assurances of peace and security. The beinous role of the CPI(RIGHT) as an accomplice of the ruling Congress in are these reactionary measures emboldened the enemies of the people. And now a section of the AITUC even is facing the brunt of terror.

The issue is no longer of victory or defeat in elections, rigged or otherwise but of fascistic terror, or suppression of all democratic rights, of eclipse of freedom of speech, of freedom of assembly, of freedom of organisations, of right of conduct struggles of the people. The issue is whether even Parliamentary democracy will survive or not.

Not content with ridding the legislature of all Left parties the Congress Party is bent on stamping out all opposition views and destroying all radical mass organisation. Since democracy no longer serves the interests of the ruling classes and the Congress Party, democracy must done away with. Such is their course. They are heading towards one Party dictatorship.

In this critical hour the Working Committee of the CITU notes with admiration and pride that the workers, peasants, employees and other democratic people have not submitted to this terror. In spite of the installation of a Congress Party Government they have not been able to win over the people of West Bengal.

It is in this situation that the Left and democratic parties of West Bengal have boycotted the rigged legislature to register their protest against this rape of democracy and to draw the attention of the Working People of India to this grave threat to the democratic rights win by the people at the cost of immense sacrifices.

This meeting of the Working Committee of the CITU fully support the boycott of the rigged legislature and urges upon the working class in particular to realise that ruling classes have began to shed their democratic "prejudices" and are more and more prone to take the fascistic path, with the mounting of the economic and political crisis, not only in West Bengal but also in whole of India. This is a direct threat on all trade union activities and trade union organisations. It is now for the entire working class of India, the ~~the~~ consistent champion of democracy along with all other democratic forces to take up the challenge and pilt their united strength against this fascistic onslaught in West Bengal conducted by the Government of India.

The CITU appeals to all other Central Trade Union Organisations to realise the grave danger to democracy and unite for mass action for restoration of democracy in West Bengal and for the defeat of reaction.

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President: B.T.Ranadive

Gen.Secretary: P.Ramamurti

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27th April,
1972

PRESS RELEASE :

The Working Committee of the CITU met in New Delhi for three days from 24-26 April, 1972, under the Chairmanship of its President Com.B.T.Ranadive. The meeting considered important issues facing the working class in the light of the developments that had taken place in the country since the last meeting in Coimbatore ten months ago.

The most outstanding development has been the spread of semi-fascist terror in West Bengal. The meeting noted that particularly after the recent elections, Congress goonda gangs supported by the state administration, its police and the CRP have been systematically invading T.U. offices and occupying them. Over 300 Trade Union offices have so far been occupied. In many cases the records have been burnt. Working class localities have been attacked, particularly in the coal-belt, in the Barrackpore industrial belt, forcing over 20,000 people to evacuate their residences. Over 30 Trade Union leaders have been murdered. Workers are intimidated to give up their Trade Union and join the Congress Trade Union. Factory owners are told to dismiss CITU trade union officials and workers and give employment to those named by the Congress goondas. In some of the biggest factories it has become difficult for Trade Union activists to enter the factories and over a thousand are keeping away from their jobs.

The Working Committee noted that recently these attacks have also started against some of the unions of the AITUC also. This only shows that these Congress goonda gangs are not going to spare any one who does not toe their line.

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CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

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courageously resisting these attacks and refusing to submit to their threats.

The Working Committee underlined the danger of these developments for the entire T.U. and democratic movement in India and decided to conduct a campaign throughout India, mobilising the entire Working class and other democratic people to put an end to this semi-fascist terror and defeat it. The attacks are not fortuitous.

Last year the General Secretary, Com.P.Ramamurti had refuted the claim of the Finance Minister that the economy of the country is poised for a big advance. Mr.Chavan himself had to admit during his budget speech that his contention was wrong.

Despite all the tall talks of 'Garibi Hatao', advertisement of big harvest etc. the fact remains that the industries are stagnating and over 2000 factories remained closed.

The burdens of the crisis are sought to be transferred to the working class and toilers.

Before the resistance on a country wide scale breaks out to these attacks, the Government wants to totally suppress and eliminate, if possible, the most advanced detachment of the trade union movement in West Bengal.

The Working Committee noted that last year saw united strikes and struggles of workers throughout the country, notably in West Bengal, Tamilnadu, Kerala, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh in which unions belonging to CITU, AITUC, INTUC, UTUC etc. join hands.

This unity has naturally alarmed the employers and the Government, and they have started to counter-attack. The Government of India is seeking to wean away the INTUC, HMS and AITUC from this united struggle by blandishing patronages to them. The Working Committee noted with regret that the leaders of these organisation are succumbing to these manoeuvres.

In May last year the leaders of the AITUC and HMS joined hands with the CITU in a conference and put forward a 8 point charter, accepted secret ballot for recognition of trade unions and agreed to launch a joint campaign for the fulfilment of those demands. Unfortunately they have refused to launch the campaign despite repeated efforts made by the CITU and to-day

they are joining hands with the INTUC, given up the principle of secret ballot and cooking up some sort of agreement abjuring the right of strike at the behest of the Government.

At a time when united actions are far more necessary and urgent than before, this path of these leaders will only help the employers and weaken the working class and its power of resistance. The Working Committee hoped that these leaders would even now desist from this path. It decided to re-double its efforts to build unity and united struggles.

It was proud that the united struggle of last year were mainly due to the initiative and untiring efforts of the CITU unions. It was confident that the objective realities would help the CITU unions to defeat all efforts at sabotage and disruption of the unity and the unions of CITU will be able to forge greater unity in the future.

In this connection the General Secretary has addressed a letter to the Trade Union Centres to join together so that entire working class would be mobilised against American imperialism and in support of the struggle of the Vietnamese People.

The Working Committee was firmly of opinion that without declaration of moratorium on all foreign debts and particularly the debts to U.S.A. and without nationalising United States concerns all talk of self reliance is moon shine and will only lead to attacks on the working class and the common people.

The Working Committee condemned the attempt of the monopoly press barons to retrench and otherwise lower benefits of the workers and the employees on the ground of cut in newsprint quota. It was of the opinion that there was no justification for it, particularly in view of the fact that during last two years these big newspapers had increased by 25 to 33% the number of pages without any addition to the complement of employees and workers. Their cry is only an attempt to maintain their super-profits. The Working Committee condemned the Government for not taking effective steps to prevent the managements from resorting to such tricks while curtailing newsprint quota. It demanded that the Government even now should take such steps.

The Working Committee also demanded break up of the monopolists strangle hold over these newspaper by distributing their shares to the employees, journalists and workers and entrusting the management to their co-operatives.

The Working Committee condemned the attempt of the Chhatra Parishad goondas to forcibly enter the L.I.C. office in Calcutta on the 25th April, 1972 when the L.I.C. employees throughout country went on a day's strike. It condemned their physical attack on Com. Sunil Moitra Joint Secretary of the Association and others. This once again illustrate how the Chhatra Parishad goondas are being used as storm troopers to break-up working class strike.

(Sd/-) P.RAMAMURTI
General Secretary,
C.I.T.U.