

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

24th December, 1970

ON INDIAN AIRLINES PILOTS STRIKE

Com. B. T. Ranadive, President, CITU has issued the following statement to the press :

"The CITU strongly condemns the adamant attitude of the Indian Airlines management which is wholly responsible for the present situation leading to stoppage of all major flights for several days.

The I A management has been consistantly giving threats to the pilots even during negotiations and refused to withdraw victimisation measures. It has now come forward with a new threat of treating the absence of pilots as "a break in service" and given ultimatum of 36 hours to resume duties without arriving at a settlement with Indian Commercial Pilots Association.

The readiness shown by the Government to refer the dispute regarding AVRO aircraft to a Committee has clearly shown that some reconsideration on the question is necessary. Yet the Government is coming forward with punitive measures with a view to cow down the pilots.

The CITU congratulates the Pilots and other I A employees for their firm unity and solidarity shown in the struggle despite repeated threats, attempts to disrupt the movement and the use of IAF personnel.

The CITU further demands immediate withdrawal of all vindictive measures and immediate settlement of all outstanding issues by direct negotiations with the Indian Commercial Pilots Association."

To the News Editor

Calcutta, for favour of publication.

Secretary