

C E N T R E O F I N D I A N T R A D E U N I O N S

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3 r d June 1970.

Press Statement:

CITU SUPPORTS DURGAPUR STEEL WORKERS' STRIKE

Com.B.T.Ranadive, President, Centre of Indian Trade Unions, has issued the following statement to the Press in support of proposed strike of Durgapur Steel workers on June 12, 1970.

The administration of Durgapur Steel Plant has resorted to several measures of vindictiveness towards workers after the fall of the U.F.Government. Three leading workers of Hindustan Steel 'Employees' Union, Durgapur, have been dismissed arbitrarily while more than 10 workers have been suspended on arbitrary grounds. Annual increments of several workers have been unjustly stopped resulting in serious discontent among the mass of workers.

The West Bengal administration under the President's rule is resorting to intimidating measures to frighten the workers. One battalion of State Armed Police has been installed inside the plant itself while the CRP is given free hand to over-run entire township of Durgapur. The C.R.P. was brought inside the office building on March 25 when workers peacefully demonstrated against the victimisation of trade union functionaries. The authorities are further conspiring to impose on the workers the Central Industrial Security Force with its wide powers for arbitrary arrests.

The CITU strongly condemns these iron hand methods and demands immediate withdrawal of all vindictive measures taken by the authorities against the workers. It further demands withdrawal of the C.R.P. and State Armed police and restoration of all T.U. and democratic rights enjoyed by the workers during U.F. regime.

The CITU congratulates the Durgapur Steel workers for their courageous decision to down their tools on June 12 to register their protest against the suppression of trade union & democratic rights. It calls upon the working class of Bengal to rally behind the HSL workers so that the machinations of the Durgapur management and the Congress Government are given a good rebuff in time.

MIC PANDIT
Secretary.

For favour of publication:

To

The Editor,

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