



THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

RED SALUTE TO MAY DAY

On May Day Centenary CITU General Council's Stirring Call

● Carry Forward the Revolutionary Traditions of May Day

With a stirring call to observe the May Day Centenary, the CITU adopted the following resolution in its General Council meeting held at Calcutta from March 31-April 2, 1986:

THE General Council meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31-April 2, 1986 calls upon all State Committees and affiliated unions to observe the Centenary of the May Day this year in a befitting manner. The meeting expresses satisfaction that West Bengal and several other State Committees have already chalked out elaborate plans to observe the centenary. As decided by the Secretariat, a minimum seven days programme should be taken during the last week of April, 1986, culminating on the May Day.

The meeting endorses the joint communique of CITU and the AITUC issued on February 15, 1986 to hold joint celebration of the centenary throughout the country, and as also appealed by the World Federation of Trade Unions, the meeting calls upon the State Committees and the affiliated unions to observe the day unitedly with other trade unions also on the basis of the revolutionary traditions of the May Day.

The day must project the tasks of the working class to fight the new economic policy of the Government, in defence of employment, livelihood, democratic rights and national independence. It must pledge to fight against the divisive forces for

● Uphold the Banner of Proletarian Internationalism, Struggle against War and for Peace

national integrity.

The meeting calls upon the State Committees and the affiliated unions to mark one day during the celebration against unemployment and demand right to work to be incorporated in the Constitution and for unemployment benefit.

This day of international solidarity of the working class must recall the great advance the international working class movement has made during the last hundred years with one third of the world going socialist, the old colonial system smashed and the enslaved countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America emerging as free countries.

It must uphold the banner of proletarian internationalism and call upon the working class to project itself as the biggest anti-war force, expose and denounce the war designs of the US imperialists and their NATO allies and launch relentless struggle to safeguard the socialist camp, for peace, to save the world from a nuclear holocaust.

The celebrations must convey the appeal of the AUCCTU and extend unqualified support to the new proposals made by Com. M. S. Gorbachov to eliminate the nuclear and chemical weapons by 2000 AD and enter the third millennium without any weapons of mass annihilations. The celebrations of the May Day Centenary must be directed towards this end.

WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!

Presidential Address

B.T. Ranadive

Comrades,

At the outset on behalf of all of you I wish to pay homage to the memory of Olof Palme, Prime Minister of Sweden who fell a victim to the assassin's bullets. In his death the world has lost a valiant fighter in the cause of peace, a fighter who made significant contribution to the struggle against war and preservation of peace.

On behalf of all of you I offer my greetings to Nelson Mandela, the courageous fighter against apartheid, fighter for the freedom of the African people. His incarceration in the prison for two decades has not daunted his spirit and from the jail itself he has become a source of inspiration to hundreds of thousands fighting against the racist fascist regime of Botha. His voice has broken through the jail walls and prison bars and rings continuously with the challenge to his oppressors who are now openly and clandestinely supported by the imperialist powers. None is so shameful and outrageous in its support as Reagan's US Government which all of us must denounce with anger and indignation. I also wish to convey our greetings to the courageous wife of Nelson Mandela who carries forward the task of fighting those who enchain her people.

Left-Front Governments — Advanced Outpost of Democracy

Before I turn to other subject let me on your behalf congratulate the Left Front government of West Bengal headed by our Vice President Com. Jyoti Basu on its successful defence of the democratic rights of the people of West Bengal and safeguarding their economic interests in the midst of a very perilous economic situation. For more than 8 years since the installation of the Left Front ministry democratic liberties have been completely protected in the State in contrast to what is taking place in Congress (I) ruled States where lathi charge, firing on striking workers and harijan killings go on uninterrupted. Besides, all Cong (I) ruled States are affected by the virus of communalism and the attack of divisive forces, with the administration standing paralysed before them. But in the left front ruled state of West Bengal the divisive forces are checked by growing unity of the people, and the policies of the left front government protect this unity and strengthen national unity. The two left front ministries of West Bengal and Tripura stand as advanced outposts of democracy protecting the unity of the people, the unity of the country and the vital interests of the workers, peasants, the adivasis, and harijans — all down trodden sections,

throwing their weight against the vested interests, using the administration as an instrument of popular will. In these two states the Governments stand committed to protect the rights of Muslim minority and fight communalism coming from the majority or minority community. The working class and its organisations highly appreciate this policy and lend their full support to the ministries against which the Central Government and Cong (I) ruling party continue to conspire with a view to destabilising them.

Comrades on behalf of all of you I greet our valiant working class of West Bengal, our strongest base. I greet the jute workers who recently waged a successful struggle for their demands and whose union, the Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union is the biggest union affiliated to the CITU. The working class of Bengal has successfully waged many heroic battles in recent months, organised protest actions and has been able to defend its interests in the most adverse circumstances. In all its activities it is helped by the Left Front Government which ensures complete freedom for its movement.

The working class of Bengal led the great protest against the price hike imposed by the Central Government. Its strike of 11th February became a signal for the rest of the country to take up the fight against price rise.

Hail The Peace Proposal

An outstanding event of recent months in the international world is the successfully concluded 27th Congress of the Communist Party of Soviet Union. In the midst of a capitalist world badly affected by unemployment and unable to reap the fruits of industrial technical revolution for the benefit of society, the CPSU Congress announced the complete superiority of the socialist system which is now embarking upon a new plan of accelerated economic development to raise the living standard of the people to still a higher level. This was being accomplished when huge resources had to be diverted for the purpose of defence because of the war situation created by US imperialism and its allies. The Congress expressed firm confidence in achieving its economic goals and at the same time strengthening the defensive capacity of the Soviet Union. Firmly adhering to the laws of development of socialist society the Congress mapped out further successes for its planning and took steps to bring the relations of production in conformity with the huge development of productive forces

achieved under the rapid growth of industrial and technical revolution. It meant heightening the efficiency of centralised guidance of the economy, strengthening the role of the centre, in implementing the main goals of the party's economic strategy and in determining the rate and proportions of national economic growth, and its balanced development. At the same time it meant the practice of interfering by the centre in the daily activities of the lower economic links must be overcome.

Uphold Revolutionary Traditions of May Day

Comrades, the May Day centenary will be observed within a few weeks all over the world. This great day of international solidarity must be observed fittingly by all our trade unions, all our state committees honouring the memories of those who fell victims to the Chicago massacre, those who were sent to the gallows by an enraged capitalist class because they dared to demand 8 hour day and called for a curb on the unbridled exploitation of the working class. The day must recall the great advances the international working class movement has made during the last hundred years with one third of the world going socialist with the old colonial system smashed and the enslaved countries of Asia and Africa emerging as free countries, free from foreign domination.

On this day our unions must remember the revolutionary traditions of May Day following which one third of the world marched to socialism and neglect of which kept the workers of advanced countries enchained to capitalist slavery.

Revolutionary content of May Day consists of raising such partial demands on the Day as have (1) revolutionary consequences; (2) expressing firm determination to end the capitalist system, establish working class power and socialism; (3) defence of proletarian internationalism and international unity of the working class. Confining May Day activities only to raising some partial demands and neglecting the other two aspects takes away the revolutionary content of this historic day. The working class on this day cannot neglect the immediate political task facing it, if it wants to achieve socialism. It also cannot forget its international duty and foil all efforts of the capitalist class to split it.

On all occasions the danger to international unity arises from the wars organised by ruling capitalist classes. It has been the tradition of May Day to oppose all such wars and proclaim the unity of the international movement in the battle to end the world capitalist system.

International Solidarity Against War

Today protection of international solidarity and unity of the working class, has assumed supreme importance. The international situation is marked by US imperialist drive for nuclear war against

the socialist Soviet Union. The war that is being planned is the war of imperialism against socialism, against the working class conquests and achievements over the last hundred years. It is also a war for re-establishing the global domination of US imperialism over the newly liberated countries. The ideological and the military strength of the Socialist camp stands as a deterrent to the imperialist plans of domination and therefore US imperialism is attempting to secure military superiority over the Soviet Union to launch a war against it. The Star War Project of Reagan is part of the offensive preparations.

In contrast to these war plans of the USA, the Soviet Union and Comrade Gorbachov have made several proposals to stop the progress towards war and gradually eliminate all nuclear weapons. But the US imperialists refuse to respond.

In these circumstances international unity of the working class demands constant opposition to war and full support to Gorbachov's proposals for peace. On May Day it must be our endeavour to carry the message of peace to the workers and expose US plans for war. The defence of the socialist camp against imperialist war plans constitutes the essence of internationalism.

Respond to AUCCTU Appeal

Comrades the situation is serious as can be seen from the appeal of the AUCCTU to the working people and the trade unions of the world. The appeal which was sent to our organisation also calls for support to the proposals made by Comrade M.S. Gorbachov for advancing a programme of complete and world wide elimination of nuclear arms before the year 2000. It says "on behalf of one hundred & thirty seven (137) million Soviet trade union members the AUCCTU appeals to the working people of all countries to all trade union organisations to give their all round support to the Soviet Union's large scale programme for the complete elimination of nuclear arms."

It says "It is only through concerted efforts that the edifice of lasting peace can be erected. Further development depends to a considerable extent on how much united the battle front will be in fighting against the danger of war. Extensive opportunities for working people to take joint action in defence of peace are offered by the campaign "Trade Unions and Working People for Peace and Jobs" launched at the initiative of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

The appeal further adds "we are sure that the trade unions must put aside all differences and reject all that divides them when it comes to the struggle for safeguarding peace, against the threat of a new war. In this we must be united just in matters relating to common vital interests of those whom the trade unions are called upon to protect. The Soviet trade unions adhere exactly to these view points.

"Any delay is intolerable. In order to enter the third millennium without the weapons of mass annihilation it is necessary to act today. May 1986 designated by the UNO as an international year of peace must become a turning point in resolving the most pressing issue of our times—that of preventing a nuclear holocaust."

Comrades, we all must fully respond to this appeal for international unity from the people and the working class which only four decades back sacrificed 20 million lives to save humanity from fascist domination. The appeal should spur us to overcome our weaknesses in regard to the peace movement and urge us forward to move the working class and the people against the danger of nuclear war created by the US imperialism and for maintenance of peace.

Welcome Initiative

Comrades the initiative recently taken by the INTUC leadership to call a meeting of several trade union centres to develop common understanding on the question of war, fight against divisive forces and express protest against apartheid constitute a sign of growing awareness of wider and vital problems facing the working class and the trade union movement. It is a welcome step and every effort should be made to create common consciousness and a sense of urgency among the workers regarding these problems.

It is very satisfactory that all the unions attending the meeting called by the INTUC have agreed on a common draft on the key questions mentioned above. This should lead to joint appeal and campaigning on the vital question of world peace and enable us to make joint efforts to rouse the entire working class to discharge its international responsibility.

Denounce Divisive Forces

Comrades, you all are aware that there is a rapid deterioration in the political situation with divisive forces on the offensive, the Cong (I) Government a helpless spectator unable to combat them and often compromising with them and the mass of people unable to intervene and stop the rot. The deterioration of the situation in Punjab is marked by a growing offensive of the secessionist elements, Akali leadership's fear of confrontation and their surrender before these forces and the complete inability of the Cong (I) party which still wields considerable influence on the people of Punjab to intervene on behalf of national unity. In Assam the new ministry pursues separatist and secessionist aims and its followers run a campaign of intimidation and murder of opponents. The ministry is also preparing for steps which may lead to expulsion of thousands of Indian citizens from Assam dubbing them as foreign nationals. The Cong(I) Government at the Centre and in the States compromises with these elements and in its own

selfish interests take steps which help and encourage the communal and divisive forces. The unlocking of the Ram Janma Bhoomi temple in the midst of the present critical situation can be described only as an act of unmitigated provocation to the Muslim masses which is now being fully utilised by fanatical communal leaders. Simultaneously the Cong(I) government to protect its muslim electoral base compromises with the worst section of Muslim communalists, on the question of the right of Muslim divorcee woman to secure maintenance from her husband. The legislative measure which it has placed before the Parliament is a shameful and treacherous piece surrendering the rights of Muslim women to the jackals of obscurantism. No previous Central Govt. had degraded itself so much and prostrated itself in such a manner before religious bigotry and orthodoxy as the Rajiv Government. The explanation offered by the Prime Minister in justification of the measures is on par with that offered by many Shankaracharyas in defence of untouchability.

As a result the divisive forces are on the attack everywhere and the unity of the toiling people and the working class is being directly affected. The trade union movement and the working class must take a common stand to combat these anti national forces and defeat the game of the imperialists who are supporting them from behind. It is the immediate duty of the National Campaign Committee, all Central Trade Unions and all Industrial Federations to enter the battle to defeat the forces of communalism and casteism and assert the class unity for the working class and protect the unity of the country.

As I have already mentioned, the initiative taken by the INTUC should help the trade union movement to unite for this offensive.

Fight Against all Pervading Corruption

The crisis is affecting all aspects of our national life and in state after state, in city after city, law and administration is crumbling down and is openly used in the defence of vested interest. The stench of corruption pervades the entire social life. From Chief Minister of states to ordinary police officers and jail officials are caught in this web of corruption. In Delhi notorious convicts flushed with money are able to run the jail administration, and escape with the direct help of jail officials. Is it any wonder that in this atmosphere bribery and corruption, foreign espionage should thrive in the country and its tentacles spread far and wide. The recent exposure of CIA net work in Delhi must be taken seriously by all patriotic people. It also shows the danger created by the present administration to the security of our country.

This situation itself is the result of the process of the undermining of our economy that has been going on for the last few years.

People's Answer To Price Rise

Comrades, you all know that the Rajiv Government announced last year its New Economic policy which now reveals itself as continuous depredations on the incomes and living standards of the people and growing attacks on their jobs in the name of modernisation of economy. The last budget saw the first phase of this policy. It gave concessions amounting more than 1000 crores of rupees to the private capitalists and businessmen while just before the budget it levied new burdens of more than 1000 crores of rupees on the common people.

This year again a new burden of not less than thousand crores of rupees was imposed through the hike in administered prices of vital commodities and necessities of life. There have been widespread protests and bandhs against this fleecing of the people. The battle must be carried on and the CITU unions must continue to mobilise people's protest against the new imposts. The widespread bandh in many states show that the people are ready to move into action if a call comes from several organisations.

The New Policy however goes much beyond giving concession to big capital and addition of burden on the common man.

It is a retreat from the earlier position which considered the public sector as important and accepted the need of control over private sector. The national planning inspite of its defects and class bias was intended to serve the need of protecting Indian economy against subjugation to foreign capital and western interests.

The postulates of the new policy are removal of controls, freedom for the private sector, denigration and growing disbandment of the public sector, denigration of national planning, and opening the Indian market to the multinationals. In short the entire country is being exposed to the uncontrolled exploitation of the private sector and foreign multinationals with government control day by day removed.

Danger from Multi-Nationals

The free entry of multinationals into the Indian market will not only mean unbridled exploitation of the workers and the people but it will lead to the danger of undermining our economic independence. The multinationals are not satisfied with capturing economic market but conspire to bring down governments and establish their economic and political domination over countries. The restriction that hitherto operated against the entry of multinationals are being removed and the people of our country are being exposed to great political danger.

Stop Denigration of Public Sector

Large sections of workers and many trade unions

have acted in the past as if the way the public sector functioned or what the government did with it was no concern of theirs. But this was a wrong attitude of the working class of a newly liberated country. The public sector in India cannot be compared with the public sector of Britain. For instance, their both the public and private sector are instruments of imperialism and function under state monopoly capitalism.

But in newly liberated countries a well managed public sector based on strategic industry is an instrument of defending the economy against imperialist depredations and dependence on imperialism. It does serve the interests of indigenous capitalism. But it obstructs the penetration of imperialism into the economy. This is why in India when the public sector started its activities in strategic industries it was largely supported by the advanced trade union movement and all progressive forces. In spite of a great deal of mismanagement the public sector contributed to defending the independence of our economy to a great extent. It has been so because in a large number of cases it was directly helped by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. In fact, we would not have been able to build our strategic industries if help from socialist countries were not available.

This aspect of the public sector has not been properly put before the workers by the trade unions. Today it is all the more necessary to do so because under the pressure of the imperialists, the World Bank and the IMF the official policy is denigrating the public sector and giving more encouragement to the private sector. But the matter does not end here. The denigration of the public sector is further intended to invite the foreign multinational companies to help India in her technological advance.

Comrades, the New Policy of Rajiv Gandhi not only contains proposals for the denigration of the public sector. It may also end in placing the public sector undertakings under the technological and managerial control of foreign companies. In fact it seems a process of penetration into the public sector by foreign multinationals is already starting if we are to believe reports appearing in the press. The penetration is taking place in the name of technological agreements with non-residential Indian capital which is often a sign board for foreign multinationals.

Comrades, the officers of the public sector undertakings recently entered a strong protest against the way they were treated by the authorities. They observed an all India protest day on the 13th March voicing following demands: 1. Uniform dearness allowance neutralisation, 2. Amendment of Payment of Bonus Act for abolishing bonus eligibility ceiling limit 3. Implementation of International Labour Organisation Compendium on good practices for professional workers specifically in relation to right to form association and collective bargaining and role in decision making. 4. Pension

scheme for public sector employees in addition to present retirement benefits. 5. Definition of legal status of officers in public sector. 6. White paper on government policies relating to public sector particularly with reference to (1) capacity utilisation of existing investment in technology manufacturing facilities and man power, (2) import liberalisation and (3) participative management.

The CITU supports these demands some of which are not only in the interest of the officers but in the interest of the country as a whole.

Machination of the Multinationals

Guided by the spirit of patriotism the Officer Association exposes the claims of the Government to justify its present policies of denigration of the public sector. They say, "yet another attack on the public sector is that it is not competitive and an exposure to international competition would streamline such enterprises. This policy is merely an attempt to hide the vital truth that several multinationals in the capital goods industry are badly hit by recession and would resort to anything to get the Indian market." They further say, "Is it not amazing that when the Indian shipyards are starved with orders, the government of India under the SAFAUN scheme provides subsidies for the Indian merchant navy to import ships? Similarly, while no country allows the import of electrical equipment if they indigenously manufacture electrical power equipment, the world imports are allowed while BHEL starves. The Chairman of BHEL is reported in the press as having stated, "No country kills its own indigenous industry. We are concerned that if orders went outside, BHEL's capacity utilisation would be reduced. We will fight for the orders".

"It must be clearly understood that there are no short cuts in technological development. Technology imports in a close market are in essence an alternative route for penetration into the market that too on a preferential basis. Indian scientists and technologists are quite capable of meeting a substantial requirement of industrial technology. What is lacking is the political will to ensure self reliance. We the representatives of the public sector officers warn the public that the present policies of down grading the public sector and of liberalising import both of equipment and technology will prove disastrous in the long run."

Our apprehensions about the New Economic Policy are now fully supported by the officer's association. They also realise that under the guise of opening the public sector to competition, penetration of multinationals is bound to take place endangering the interests and economic independence of the nation.

Introduce Democratic Management

Under these conditions it is absolutely essential that the public sector is opened to democratic

management by the full participation on equal terms of workers, officers, and the management. Instead of opening the public sector to foreign competition it should be opened to democratic and participative management to increase its efficiency to serve the interest of the country.

Workers' Participation on Equal Status

Comrades, the CITU is repeatedly demanding workers' participation in management on the basis of full equality and on the basis of representation through a secret ballot of the entire workers of the factory or concern. Both elements, equal status and representation on the basis of ballot, are necessary if the entire mass of workers are to be involved in running the concerns and inspired to make its effective contribution to efficiency to serve the interest of the country. But the government refuses to accept either of these conditions and proposes a farcical form of workers' participation. It does not guarantee or accept status of equality for the workers. It refuses to accept that workers' representatives should be chosen by secret ballot. It does not propose to go beyond the vote of trade union membership and that too based on check off system. This necessarily leaves out of account a major section of the workers who are thus deprived of all interest in promoting the efficiency of production.

One can easily understand the opposition of the Government to the demand for secret ballot. But it appears very strange that some trade union organisations also should side with the government on this issue and decline to support the demand for ballot under this or that specious excuse. It shows utter lack of confidence in the mass of workers and resistance to draw the entire mass of workers into the task of running the concern.

Growing Industrial Sickness

Comrades, notwithstanding the official claims of higher rate of industrial production the number of sick concerns continues to increase. Now more than 500 big industrial units and more than 90 thousand small units are sick. This has imposed untold sufferings on the lakhs of working class families with no sign of relief in the near future.

On the other hand there are indications that conditions are going to be more difficult and more concerns will go sick or be closed as a result of the import liberalisation policy of the government. Many industries are threatened with closure with the liberal import of materials, components and other products. Only certain big industries and monopolists are taking advantage of the situation and their employment capacity is much less because of the import of sophisticated machinery and computers.

Monopolists Thrive

The beneficiaries of the new policy can be clearly identified from a review of Indian economy made

by Shri R.P. Goenka, President-elect of the FICCI appearing in the Economic Times dated March 22. According to Mr. Goenka, "Industry has responded well to the new opportunities...By the end of December 1985 about 1196 registrations had taken place in the 25 broad industry groups delicensed, totalling approximately Rs. 4000 crores...Seventeen MRTTP and 27 non MRTTP companies have availed of the broad basing facilities. MRTTP companies in industries exempted from section 21 and 22 of the MRTTP Act also invested more specially in electronic etc., total investment being of the order of Rs. 2889 crores."

Such is the situation facing us and our trade union movement is called upon to resist the effect of the new policy. This calls for greater unity and greater concerted action and not weary calls for symbolic protest or anaemic dharnas.

While Workers are Ruined

The textile and jute workers continue to face a difficult situation. More textile mills are being closed. Recently the NTC ordered four more mills to be closed throwing thousands of workers out of job. We must therefore urgently pursue our demands for the nationalisation of jute and textile industries and create sanction for it. The trade union movement is fully prepared to meet its responsibility in any nationalised concern and discuss all problems including the problem of more efficient production and modernisation of industry in the interest of nation the people and the working class.

Growing Unemployment

Comrades, there is nothing more heart rending, nothing which makes us more indignant than the mounting increase in both urban and rural unemployment. The figure of registered unemployed has now reached 3 crores and this does not reflect the real number, as a large section does not bother to get registered. No one really knows the number of rural unemployed. The figure may vary between four and five crores and even more.

Year by year young men and women full of vigour, youthfull hope and a robust outlook on life enter the labour market from schools, colleges, peasants and working class families only to meet with denial of opportunities to contribute to social wealth. Unable to earn a living they undergo the humiliation of living at the expenses of relatives and others or from a chance job which may come in their way. Crores of India's young citizens see no prospect before them except this degraded existence. Forty years of Congress rule is resulting in the social killing of a whole generation.

The trade union movement of our country, the CITU and its unions must be severely indicted for neglecting this young section of the working class and confining itself to defending the emolument of

those on permanent jobs. In this way the trade union movement becomes a partner of the capitalist class to make the younger generation the scape goat of the crisis of the capitalist path.

Fight for Right to Work

It seems hardly any State Committee can boast of any significant steps to mobilise the unemployed to call their conference and agitate for immediate relief. Barring citing figures of increasing unemployment, the trade union movement has done very little. Hunger marches, raising the direct demands for immediate relief under the guidance of organised trade union movement will rouse this vital section of the working class to fight for its right and strengthen the unity of the class.

The West Bengal Government has provided unemployment relief to the unemployed but the Cong(I) government has done nothing in this direction. Some of them or at least some Cong(I) leaders try to solve the problem by inciting one section of workers against another on the slogan of jobs for the sons of the soil.

In the May Day centenary celebration a special day should be assigned for raising the demands of the unemployed and calling for right to work to be embodied in the Constitution as a fundamental right. The workers must be told that the right work is not just a dream but is concretely embodied in the Constitutions of all Socialist countries. To secure it, political power must be in the hands of working class and the people.

The General Council should direct the State Committees to take effective steps to organise the unemployed, call their conferences, ventilate their grievances and rally the organised workers in defence of their demands.

The organised movement must rouse the entire working class against the steps and plans of the government which are leading to further unemployment. Apart from the computerisation drive the public sector authorities, the Central Government and a number of State Governments have stopped further recruitment and refused to fill vacancies that arise due to natural wastage. Tens of thousands of posts remain vacant. Besides both in public sector and government departments authorities are imposing compulsory or the so called voluntary retirement on a number of employees and workers. In the banks also the same procedure is being adopted. There are open proposals for axeing nearly 20 thousand workers of the Food Corporation of India. And according to press reports the Coal authorities have considered that nearly one lakh workers are surplus in the coal industry.

Give up Feudal Outlook Towards Working Women

In this retrenchment offensive the women employees and women workers are the first victims

and they have to bear the brunt of the offensive. Very few trade unions attach importance to defending the jobs of women workers. The neglect of working women by the trade unions constitutes an intractable disease which will have to be dealt with by uprooting the cause, namely the survival of feudal outlook towards women.

These plans of the Government and the authorities must be fought continuously and a demand must be made to fill in the vacancies created during the last so many years. The CITU unions should lend their full support to the employees' unions and champion their cause. Simultaneously similar plans which are hatched in the private sector have to be fought. A large number of private concerns are replacing permanent labour by casual or contract labour to escape payment of dearness allowance and contribution to ESI and the provident funds. These malpractices must be fought vigorously and unitedly.

Fight Against Arbitrary Powers

Comrades we all must congratulate the State Government employees and their federation on their magnificent strike to protest against sections 310 and 311 (a) (b) of the Constitution. More than 4 million employees participated in this gigantic protest showing extraordinary unity. They had to launch this protest because the two sections, as now interpreted by the Supreme Court, leave arbitrary powers of dismissal in the hands of Government. And the authorities have already taken advantage of this to dismiss a number of locomen who had gone on strike in 1981 to secure implementation of earlier agreement to reduce hours of work.

Organise the Unorganised Workers

Comrades, it is a matter of some satisfaction that at least some of our State Committees like Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and Delhi have made efforts to reach the workers of unorganised sector. Several of these committees have held conventions on the question of revision of minimum wages and other demands of unorganised workers. In Karnataka 30 thousands were arrested when government offices were picketed in August 1985 and there was a strike embracing over 5 lakhs of workers.

The unorganised sector forms a very important militant and most exploited section of the working class and our movement cannot be said to be completely representative movement unless it embraces and inspires this vast section.

Collapse of Labour Legislations

Comrades, we all realise that there is a virtual collapse of all labour legislations including the safety legislations deliberately organised by the authorities to attack and withdraw statutory concessions and rights. The courts also had several

time observed that legislation itself was farcical and its violation could be virtually done with impunity by the employing class. Now recently the crooked ways of the government were exposed by Bajju Ban Riyan, CPI (M) MP in connection with an amendment to the Contract Labour Bill.

What is the purpose of this new amendment? Previously it was provided that the government of the state where the Central unit is functioning shall be the appropriate government for intervening and settling any dispute between the contract labour and the contractor. But now the power is being vested in the Central Government. Why? Com. Bajju Ban Riyan answers why: "Sir over the last one or two years labour dispute developed in certain Central units located in West Bengal like the Burnpur Steel Project, the Durgapur Steel and Fertilizer Corporations, the Metro Railways, etc, where contract labour was working. In these cases the Labour Commissioner of the State Government of West Bengal intervened and resolved these disputes to the satisfaction of the workers. The State Government arranged for the regularisation of the workers and saw to it that their outstanding dues are also paid."

This was of course not to the liking of the Central Govt. They and the Cong(I) State Governments were accustomed to use the police against the contract labourers and suppress their struggle. Bajju Ban Riyan gives instances: "About two years back the contract labour working under the Assam Oil Division agitated for the payment of their dues. They were mercilessly beaten up by the CISF and driven away without paying them their dues." Similar fate overtook the contract workers at the Panipat Fertilizer Project.

This is the secret of the new amendment. The Central Government wants to deal with contract workers directly to beat them up into submission. This is how labour legislation is being improved under the Cong (I) rule.

Undaunted Facing Repression

Comrades, the working class continues to fight its battle in the most adverse circumstances facing it. Every year more than a million workers risk their jobs, their livelihood, their wages, when they take up the fight against the employers' offensive. Since 1982 between January and November, 82 million working days were lost in disputes involving 1.4 million workers. In 1983 the corresponding figures were 40 million days lost involving 1.23 million workers. In 1984 between January and August 45 million man days were lost involving 1.76 million workers. In 1985 during the same period 17 million man days were lost and 2.06 million workers were involved.

In these strikes the workers had not only to undergo privations and sufferings but face police repression and goonda attacks. The workers in

Himachal Pradesh, in Haryana, had to face the most illegal action of the police including kidnapping with the connivance of the police with the hired goondas of the management. But our young units are carrying on the struggle courageously and bravely and consolidating the strength of the CITU. We must all appreciate the courage and devotion of our CITU units in Punjab which have to uphold the working class flag in the midst of a campaign of murder and terror, greet our comrades in Assam who had to face a similar situation and our comrades in Tamilnadu who were conducting the struggle of the working class in the midst of rise of chauvinistic sentiments and feelings.

It is only the working class which with all its faults continues to defend its interest and fights the employers and the government. It is our duty to harness the spirit of resistance for vigorous defence of the interests of the workers.

Fight for the Cause of Peasantry, Agricultural Labour

It is our responsibility to link this resistance with the demands of the peasantry which still continues to be neglected, with the demands of agricultural workers and above all to link it with the demands of democratic struggle against authoritarianism. It is through our intervention that the scattered struggle will create a consciousness which can unitedly fight harijan baiting on the one hand and attacks on Muslim minority on the other. Only a strong working class movement continuously increasing its consciousness and spreading its influence over the rural areas will check the atrocities on harijans and inspire religious minorities to stand united with the working class.

Increase Independent Activities

Taking this responsibility into consideration it has to be admitted that our intervention has not been effective. It has not been effective even in the economic struggle considering the large number of strikes that go untouched or unled by the CITU. It is necessary to overcome this lacuna and be with the workers whenever they are in action. This means the independent activities of the CITU must increase ten times and they must reach the spontaneous struggles breaking out in several places.

Without such increase in independent activities the required trade union unity to meet the economic offensive cannot be built. The habit of waiting on others before moving further in the name of trade union unity is a pernicious habit which leads to slowing the pace of trade union unity. The CITU unions and leaders must realise that the building and strengthening of trade union unity depend on their activities and incessant effort.

Use Strength of United Movement

Comrades, while we certainly appreciate the unity built around the National Campaign Committee it

is necessary to remark that the momentum it earlier gave to united mass action is losing its force. In the midst of a grave economic situation if united activity is unable to go beyond symbolic protest there is something radically wrong with our ways of functioning and it must be located. Trade Union unity cannot be reduced to some kind of routine affair with no increase in the weight of mass action, on the quality of mass protest.

In reality the power of united trade union movement if it is effectively used, is a mighty power which was seen in the anti-price hike bandhs organised in a large number of states. The participation of working class was most enthusiastic in many states and set the pace for mass response. I congratulate our working class and our CITU unions on the massive expression of protest against the price rise.

There is no doubt that inspite of our weaknesses the net of trade union unity is widening and larger and larger section of working class is responding to its call. The participation of INTUC union in West Bengal and Kerala in joint calls on some important issues constitute an important advance for our struggle for unity. On your behalf I have already appreciated the initiative shown by the INTUC on the question of united stand of all trade unions and in defence of peace.

Fight for World Peace

Let me therefore conclude my speech on the question of world peace vital to the world working class movement and to the people of the world. The working class of our country must realise that the non-alignment policy pursued by the Government is an important factor in strengthening the world balance in favour of peace and facilitate our task to fight against the war mongering plans of US imperialism. Karl Marx had said that the maturity of a working class is seen from the interest it takes in the foreign policy of its government. It cannot be said that our movement has taken much interest in influencing, shaping and strengthening the policy of non-alignment which helps us to fight the imperialist war mongers. Today immense pressures are being exercised to change this policy taking advantage of the serious economic situation in which the Government of India find itself. To exercise vigilance and defeat all attempts to change the foreign policy in the reactionary direction is an integral part of our task to fight war, to protect peace and protect the gains of hundred years of world working class movement.

Let our General Council in this May Day centenary year assure the working class of Soviet Union and other countries that our organisation and our working class will do everything to frustrate imperialist plans of war against the peoples of the world to protect peace and gains of socialism. Let me once again assure the AUCCTU that its appeal will be warmly responded to by our CITU unions and by the workers of India.

23.3.86

Stirring Call to Strengthen Organisation

● **Uphold the Banner of Proletarian Internationalism, Struggle Against War and For Peace.**

● **Fight Against Divisive Forces, Against the Retrograde Economic Policy, Against Closures, Lockouts, Against Authoritarianism, for Democracy.**

THE General Council meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31 to April 2 gave a stirring call to step up the independent activities of the organisation while going all out for united actions to meet the challenges, both national and international. The Presidential address, followed by the General Secretary's report laid the task to the CITU State Committees and the unions so that they could mobilise broadest sections of the working people to project themselves as the biggest force of peace against the imperialist war mongers, as well as against the internal divisive forces backed by the imperialist agencies and maintain the unity and integrity of the country. They must at the same time wage a determined fight against the new economic policy of the government which apart from laying bare the vices of the capitalist path of development one after another by way of ever increasing prices, closures, lockouts and industrial sickness and growing unemployment, had yielded to the pressure of the world Bank and the IMF, denigrated the public sector and had thrown the working class exposed to the full blast of exploitation by the multinationals and the collaborating Indian monopolists. The Presidential address, the General Secretary's report, as well as the resolution on the economic policy drew the pointed attention of the members to the retrograde shift in the economic policy which posed a danger to non-aligned foreign policy of the government and to the independence and freedom of the country and so deserved to be fought with the full strength of the united trade union movement for its reversal. Alongwith all these, the CITU unions were to intensify the efforts for united trade union actions against the growing authoritarianism on the part of the government and safeguard the democratic rights of the people. The situation demanded the activities of the CITU unions to be spread out to meet these multifarious challenges. The meeting also called upon the State Committees and the CITU unions to conduct the May Day Centenary celebration based on the revolutionary traditions of the May Day, focus all these class demands so as to raise the revolutionary consciousness of the workers and to extend them to fulfil the international task of the CITU unions to denounce the war designs of the US imperialists and their NATO allies and defend the Soviet Union, the socialist system and peace under the banner of proletarian internationalism.

The meeting started with the Presidential speech by Com. BTR. Com. Samar Mukherjee then moved the resolutions on Martyrs, on Olof Palme, the assassinated Swedese Prime Minister, on Com. Ramdass and on Condolences.

The meeting then elected the Resolution Subcommittee and the Credential Sub-Committee as follows:

Resolution Sub-Committee: P.K. Ganguly (Convenor), P. Sanzgiri, Sunil Basu Roy, Biren Roy and N. Padmalochanan.

Credential Sub-Committee: P. Satyanarayana (Convenor), A.K. Padmanabhan, Kali Ghosh and Ranjit Basu.

Com.M.K. Pandhe then placed a report on the meeting of the Coordination Committee of Public Sector Unions held at Durgapur on March 28 and 29, which decided to observe May 21 as the Save Public Sector Day.

Com. Samar Mukherjee then placed the General Secretary's report. The report elaborately dealt with the problems as stated above and also reviewed the activities of the CITU for the period between May, 1985 and March, 1986. It also pointed out that many struggles were launched during the period by such organisations which were not affiliated to any central trade unions. He called upon the State Committees and the unions to constantly review their activities, overcome the weaknesses and strengthen the organisation so as to intervene in and lead the struggles. Com. Samar Mukherjee also reported about his visit to Bangladesh to attend the Conference of Jatio Shramik Jote.

27 members representing all states took part in the discussion. While relating their experience about the united struggles which had taken place, they pointed out that there was a strong tendency of some of the constituents of the NCC at the state level to avoid coming together to implement the NCC programmes on one plea or another. It was decided that while persuading them to join common action, CITU's independent activities must continue and reports be sent to the Centre.

Among those who participated in the discussion

were R. Umanath, N. Padmalochalan, C. Nanjundappa, P. Sanzgiri, N. Prasad Rao, Daulat Ram, Chandi Prasad, Mangat Ram, Amal Ghosh Dastidar, S. Kumar, Shivaji Patnaik, Krishna Kant, Mohanlal, Subodh Mehta, S.N. Solanki, Sitaram Manzhrekar, K.N. Ravindranath, Manoranjan Roy, Chitta Brata Majumdar, Dilip Majumdar and V. Cherian.

Com. Samar Mukherjee then replied to the debate giving a ringing call for strengthening the CITU so that it could redeem its responsibility of leading the struggles of various sections of people. The report then was adopted unanimously with the stipulation that such of the suggestions which were found acceptable should be included.

Resolutions were moved on various subjects. Com. Jyoti Basu moved the resolution on "Appeal of AUCCTU" and called upon the members to take the question of peace to broad masses so that the movement against nuclear war could be strengthened further. Com. E. Balanandan, Treasurer, CITU supported the resolution which was adopted unanimously. A resolution on US missiles in Angola and Afghanistan was moved from the chair. Another resolution supporting the strike of news paper employees were moved by the chair and was passed unanimously. Com. M.K. Pandhe moved the resolution on the Retrograde Economic Policy. Com. P.K. Ganguly seconded the resolution. Com. Nrisingha Chakraborty moved the resolution on Srilanka Ethnic Tamils which was seconded by Com. R. Umanath. Com. P.P. Sanzgiri moved the resolution on Divisive Forces which was seconded by Com. Ravi Sinha and Com. Mohd Amin. Com. Vimala Ranadive moved the resolution on Muslim Women's (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Bill which was seconded by Com. D. Janaki Raman. The resolution on Punjab was moved by Com. Mangat Ram Pasla and was seconded by Com. S.N. Solanki. Com. Amal Ghosh Dastidar moved the resolution on Assam which was seconded by Com. Mohd. Amin. A resolution extending full support of CITU to the proposed Coal Workers' strike on 9th April was proposed by Com. S.K. Bakshi and was seconded by Com. Bamapada Mukherjee. Com. Hari Sadhan Mitra moved the resolution on Closures, Lockouts and Industrial Sickness and Com. P.R. Krishnan seconded the same. Com. Mohd. Amin moved the resolution on Nationalisation of Jute, Textile and Sugar Industries which was seconded by Com. Harsahay Singh. Resolution on Unemployment was moved by Com. K.N. Ravindranath which was seconded by Com. Chandi Prasad.

The meeting also discussed the question of holding of 6th Conference of CITU. It was decided to request Kerala State Committee of CITU to hold the Conference during the end of the year. It was decided that the Secretariat would take a final decision after hearing from them.

Com. P. Satyanarayan, Convener, Credential Sub-Committee reported that 114 new unions with a membership of 34,738 had applied for affiliation of which 81 unions having a membership of 27,166 were found alright and were granted affiliation straight away. 33 unions having a membership of 7,572 members whose application were found wanting in some respects were granted affiliation subject to their compliance with the constitutional obligations. The meeting discussed the question of issuing of a Joint Manifesto of May Day with AITUC and authorised the Secretariat to proceed further on the same. If possible other trade unions also may be organised on a common appeal.

Then Com. BTR summed up the discussions. He thanked the West Bengal Committee and the volunteers who made the meeting successful. Referring to the discussion he said that Comrades have now started analysing and presenting the picture of industrial relations in their states. He stated that the Central Office would help the State Committee in this respect but they in the main would have to present proper report and share their experience with others so that all India outlook grows. He also said that the discussion was fruitful. But even then the CITU's leading cadres were not reacting sharply to matters of foreign policy or of national interest like the question of unemployment divisive forces, etc. He also pointed out that the trade unions failed to see the strong point of the non-aligned foreign policy, which was essentially anti-imperialist and urged for full support to it. Similarly they also did not deal with the subject of unemployment properly. There is already a charge against the trade unions that they were only moving for the organised sector and paying no attention to unorganised sector, unemployed and the working women. He called upon the General Council to devote one day out of the week long May Day Centenary celebrations exclusively on the question of unemployment and a big movement on "Right to Work" should be built up. Like 8 hours day, the Right to Work is also a basic right.

He then analysed the experience of united front functioning and said that some felt that such united front was merely tactics. The CITU has been following this as a basic strategy to win over the working class from the reformist line to the revolutionary trade union line. Citing the experience of more than a decade and half, he said that a stage has now been reached when CITU can no longer be ignored by others. The CITU must use this position to mobilise the workers to attack the Govt. policies. He stated that denigration of Public Sector had already evoked protest from all sections who wanted democracy and self-reliance. The situation today was such that increased influence of the multinationals had posed a very serious danger when the divisive forces backed by the imperialists were already active in a very big way. The CITU must prepare itself for leading this struggle.

General Council Meeting

Calcutta, March 31—April 2, 1986

Resolutions

On Martyrs

THIS General Council meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31—April 2, 1986 dips its red banner in the memory of those comrades who in the course of their struggle for the emancipation of the working class and the people attained martyrdom, having died at the hands of the goonda hirelings of the managements and by police firing. The meeting pledges to carry forward their task.

On Olof Palme

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31-April 2, 1986 expresses deep sorrow at the passing away of Olof Palme, the Prime Minister of Sweden, who was dastardly assassinated on March 1. Olof Palme was in the forefront in the struggle for peace and opposed the US imperialist's war designs. He was the initiator and a signatory to the six nation's appeal for nuclear disarmament. In his death the world has lost a valiant fighter for the cause of peace. The meeting pays homage to the memory of Olof Palme.

Com. Ramdass

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31-April 2, 1986 expresses profound sorrow at the premature death of Com. Ramdass on November 8, 1985 at Delhi at the age of only 60. Com. Ramdass was the Central Committee member of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the working editor of the People's Democracy. Com. Ramdass enrolled himself as a member of the Communist Party of India in 1942 at an early age of 17. In the height of the freedom struggle, when the ruling classes made the Communist Party of India the target of their attack, Com. Ramdass, even at that age, while lending full contribution to the struggle for independence, fought unremittingly for the cause of proletarian internationalism, popularising the political ideology of the Communist Party that the path of Indian freedom lay in its active participation in the anti-fascist struggle headed by the Soviet Union. He joined the Central Party press in 1947 and became one of the active functionaries in the Cross Road Weekly. Being a devotee and an ardent follower of Marxism-Leninism, Com. Ramdass fought uncompromisingly against both the left and right deviations. Working as a staff of the New Age he consistently fought the growing trend of revisionism in the party. His ideological and organisational work immensely helped in the ultimate formation of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) in 1964.

Almost immediately after the formation of the

CPI (M) countrywide arrests followed and almost the entire leadership of the party were thrown behind the bars. Remaining undeterred in this perilous situation, Com. Ramdass continued his devoted work for the newly born party and started the People's Democracy almost singly handedly. He was elected to the Central Committee in 1968. Shouldering many more responsibilities Com. Ramdass carried forward the revolutionary task of focusing the principles of Marxism-Leninism in the concrete national and international conditions through the People's Democracy. The meeting pays homage to the memory of Com. Ramdass and conveys its heartfelt condolences to Com. Kitty and other members of his family.

On Condolences

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31-April 2, 1986 pays homage to the memory of Com. P. Laxmidas, the General Council Member of CITU, and others who died during the period in the course of their revolutionary struggle for ushering in socialism. The meeting conveys its heartfelt condolences to the members of their bereaved families.

On the Appeal of AUCCTU

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31 to April 2, 1986 warmly welcomes the appeal of the All Union Central Council of Trade Unions, Soviet Union on the statement given by Com. M.S. Gorbachov, the General Secretary of CPSU on January 15, 1986 in which the Soviet Union put forward the proposal for complete elimination of nuclear and chemical weapons and any other threat of annihilation facing mankind, in three stages before the year 2000 AD.

The international situation today is marked by the US imperialist's drive for nuclear war against the Soviet Union and the socialist camp. It is a war to reestablish the global domination of imperialism headed by the USA. The ideological and the military strength of the socialist camp stand as a deterrent to the imperialist's plans of domination. The U.S. imperialist is therefore trying to secure military superiority over the Soviet Union to launch a war against it. While the Soviet Union has made a number of peace proposals, announced unilateral moratorium in nuclear tests and declared that it will not be the first to strike nuclear weapons, the USA has blatantly rejected all the proposals. In fact, its so-called Strategic Defence Initiative, i.e., the star war project is meant precisely for the nuclear first strike.

Under such perilous situation, when the UNO has also declared 1986 as the year of peace, as referred to by AUCCTU, this meeting applauds the proposal of Com. M.S. Gorbachov to enter the third millennium without any weapons of mass annihilation as an outstanding contribution to world peace and lends full support to it.

This meeting assures the AUCCTU and through them, the heroic people of Soviet Union, that the CITU and the Indian working class would do every thing in their power to ensure that our sisters and brethren do not have to relive the horrendous days of the 2nd World War unleashed by the fascists in which 50 million people including 20 millions from the Soviet Union lost their lives. This is our pledge in redeeming our international responsibility, to ensure that the fruits of the hundred years of struggle of the proletariat are not snatched away by the imperialists.

The meeting calls upon all State Committees and the affiliated unions to go all out to campaign and popularise the proposals among all sections of workers, trade unions, other mass organisations and the democratic and peace loving forces as a part of the May Day Centenary programmes, and carry forward the unremitting struggle for peace and frustrate the imperialist war designs. The meeting further appeals to all other trade unions to join the mass struggle for peace to save the human-kind from a nuclear holocaust.

On US Missiles in Afghanistan and Angola

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31-April 2, 1986 denounces the Reagan administration for deciding to send the sophisticated "Stringer" anti-aircraft missiles to help the counter-revolutionaries in Afghanistan and Angola and also against Nicaragua and Cambodia. This action of the USA comes in the wake of its military threat to Libya and sending war vessels to the Libyan coast. These belligerent actions of the Reagan administration amount to blatant moves to establish its stooge dictators' Governments everywhere in pursuit of its plan for world domination and escalate global tension, when the Soviet Union has given a new concrete proposal for world peace.

The meeting demands of the Reagan administration to forthwith withdraw its belligerent move and calls upon the affiliated unions and appeals to all other trade unions and peace loving forces to raise their voice of protest.

On Apartheid in South Africa

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31 — April 2, 1986 denounces the racist government of South Africa for pursuing the barbarous apartheid policy. This despicable policy of the minority white regime has been pronounced in a most savage form, unleashing ruthless repression on the struggling South African people.

Having thrown the indomitable freedom fighter Nelson Mandela behind the bars two decades back, the minority government committed the judicial murder of the young anti-apartheid poet, Benjamin Moloise and hundreds others. Murders, mass arrests and police raids and torture have become the order of the day. The meeting further denounces the US and British imperialists for shamelessly supporting the racist regime defying the world opinion and vetoing the UN resolutions asking for mandatory sanctions against South Africa. The dirty designs of the USA and Great Britain are in pursuance of their colonialist policy dictated by the transnationals to make super profits by plundering the wealth of South Africa. This is actually the policy enunciated in Reagan's so-called Constructive Engagement Pronouncement — a policy to keep over 22 million South Africans outcasts in their own country.

Demanding immediate and unconditional release of Nelson Mandela, the meeting hails the liberation struggle waged by the people of South Africa under the leadership of African National Congress. It calls upon the State Committees and the affiliated unions and appeals to all other trade unions to raise their voice against the apartheid regime and extend all possible help to the fighting people of South Africa.

On the Retrograde Economic Policy

This General Council Meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31 to April 2, 1986 congratulates the working class and the toiling people for the massive demonstration of unity in observing the successful Bharat Bandh on February 26 against the administered price hikes of several essential commodities. The meeting especially congratulates the Left Fronts of West Bengal and Tripura for organising the State Bundhs on February 11 and the opposition parties and trade unions of Delhi for organising the bundh on February 10, which gave the impetus for the Bharat Bandh.

The Bharat Bundh which was the culmination of series of protest actions was an expression of people's anger against the retrograde economic policy of the Govt. of India.

The Govt. has made a major shift in its new economic policy retreating from the earlier policy. The new policy denigrates the public sector, strengthens the private sector and has opened the doors to the multinationals to enter economic life of the country. It seeks to secure an accelerated development through modernisation and computerisation, relying on multinationals and Indian monopolists, allowing them various concessions. Gates have been opened wider to massive imports while exports are dwindling, leading to serious position of trade deficit. These are the very policies for which the World Bank and the IMF have been pressurising the Govt. of India for years.

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31-April 2, 1986 expresses serious concern over the accentuation of the attack on the opposition parties and trade unions in Assam. The CPI(M) and the CITU have been especially the target of such attacks.

The meeting notes that these attacks have come in the wake of the Assam accord which the CITU views as a piece of most undemocratic agreement arrived at by the Government of India submitting to demands of the secessionist agitators backed by imperialist agencies. The fake assurance given by the AGP Government has failed to restore peace and amity and instil confidence among the linguistic minorities and the ethnic groups in the state.

Scores of cases of terroristic attacks, gruesome murders, kidnapping, rape, arson and social boycott of the members and supporters of the opposition parties and trade unions are being reported.

The meeting also notes that the AGP Government has made the Assamese language compulsory in the Secondary Schools including those where tribal language was the medium of instruction since long. Alongwith this the anti-reservation moves have led to protests from the Scheduled Castes and Tribes and other backward communities in the state.

The meeting further notes with concern that the AGP Government is preparing a new Immigration Bill to throw out thousands of minorities from the state by dubbing them as foreign nationals.

All these developments are pointers to the increasingly sinister role played by the divisive forces. This portends a danger to not only the unity of the State, but also the unity and integrity of the country. The claim of the Prime Minister that the Assam accord has restored peace and amity in the state is totally belied by these facts. The meeting denounces these activities and demands of the Central Government and the AGP Government of Assam to take serious steps to stem the divisive and reactionary forces in the State. The meeting congratulates the Assam State Committee of CPI(M) and CITU for carrying forward determined struggle against these forces, which has led to positive results in the re-emergence of the unity of the opposition parties and the trade unions as was evidenced on the 26th February mass actions against the price hikes. The meeting calls upon all the State Committees and affiliated unions to carry forward their task of exposing the secessionists and consolidating the left and democratic and secular forces.

[The rest of the resolutions will be published in the next issue]

M.Ps' Memorandum to U.S. President

FIFTYSEVEN Members of Parliament belonging to the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha sent an appeal on March 6 to the United States Congress on the U.S. Administration's policy towards the Republic of Nicaragua. The memorandum addressed to both the Houses of the U.S. Congress appeals to them not to sanction the request of the Administration for 100 million dollars to aid the mercenary gangs operating from Honduras and Costa Rica who were attacking the peaceful civilian population of Nicaragua. The memorandum requested the U.S. Congress to see to it that the United States Govt. settle all outstanding problems by negotiations and not to countenance any move which would infringe upon the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Nicaragua.

Among the M.Ps who signed the memorandum were Dipen Ghosh and Basudeb Acharya (CPI-M), M.C. Bhandare and Anand Sharma (Cong-I), Indradeep Sinha and Narayan Choubey (CPI), P. Upendra and C. Lakshmanan (Telugu Desam), M.S. Gurupadaswamy and V.S. Krishna Iyer (Janata), Chitta Basu (Forward Block), Piyus Tirkey (RSP), Dinesh Goswami (A.G.P), Balwant Singh Ramoewalia (Akali Dal), Kishore Chandra S. Deo (Con-S), M. Mehfooz Ali Khan (Lok Dal) and Datta Samant (Independent). A delegation of M.Ps visited the U.S. Embassy and handed over a copy of the memorandum for the U.S. President, Mr. Reagan.

Convention Against Communalism

Venue: Mavalankar Hall, Rafi Marg, New Delhi.

Date & Time: May 11, 1986, 11.30 AM to 5.30 PM.

Quota of CITU Delegates: 100.

Delegate Fee: Rs. 5/- per delegate.

- * All States should send delegates as per quota given in Circular No. 26/86 of April 14.
- * All delegates should reach Delhi latest by May 10, morning.
- * All delegates requiring return reservations should remit the required amount and inform about staying arrangement if required.