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The Spectre of Crisis

The bankrupt policy of developing capitalist path in India has come home to roost. The spectre of crisis is haunting not only the economy of the country but also the body polity and the people are face to face with bitter fruits of World Bank/I.M.F. loans.

The crisis was so manifest that the President in his Republic Day address this year mentioned some of the failures and said;

"The fruits of development are beyond the reach of a large number. Unemployment and under-employment continue to dog us. The increase in per capita incomes or per capita availability of many essential articles are far short of the goals we had set for ourselves".

He further said "Unless we take immediate action to arrest disregard of moral values in public life, peoples' faith in our political system will be undermined".

But the Government tried to paint a rosy picture through the Presidential Address before the budget Session. The Economic Survey for 1981-82 released by the Govt. also tried to show that the earlier constraints in infrastructure has been removed and the economy is advancing. It was claimed that industrial production was

likely to show a rise of 8 per cent in 1981-82, compared to a rise of 4% in 1980-81 and a decline of 1.4 per cent in 1979-80. Similarly it was claimed that the growth in real GNP was likely to be 4.5 per cent higher in 1981-82, thus exceeding the growth target of 5.2 per cent per annum fixed by the Sixth Five Year Plan.

Fallacious Claim

The base year 1979-80, had been exceptionally a poor one when agricultural production had declined by 15.5 per cent, industrial production by 1.4 per cent and real GNP by 4.8 per cent. Hence it is fallacious to gloat over the state of economy especially because signs of deceleration is already discernible. For example, the growth of industrial production in April-Nov'81 had shown a rise of 9.8 per cent over the same period in 1980, but for the entire 1981-82, the growth rate is estimated at only 8%. The big question is whether this growth rate could be sustained. Many contradictions in the Economic Survey itself raise this doubt and hold out little hope. The Govt. has only confirmed this doubt by declaring this year as "A year of Productivity".

Workers produce and die

It must be taken into account that the Economic

Survey which only concerns itself with developments during the year under review, glosses over vital aspects of economy like internal market, distribution of national wealth, employment generation, changes in living standards etc. E. Balanandan M.P., Secretary CITU participating in the debate on Presidential address pointed out that the Govt's own statistics point out that the real wages of Central Government employees have been eroded by 7 to 46 per cent between 1971 and 1981. During the same period the real wages of factory workers and agricultural workers have come down by 10 per cent and 40 per cent respectively whereas the total assets of the 20 topmost monopoly houses which stood at Rs. 3071.98 crores in 1972 have jumped to Rs 6615.69 crores in 1979. By increased production, he pointed out, the workers suffered loss in their real wage while the monopoly houses increased their assets and profits. He said that workers produce and die, while owners take away the fruits of their labour and enjoy.

Unemployment

The figure of job seekers in the live register of Employment Exchanges has already crossed the 17 million mark. Taking the rural unemployed

in account, the total figure is estimated over 50 million by the end of 1981. The Survey does not hold out any hope for them, on the otherhand the drive for computerisation in Reserve Bank and the railways is on.

Industrial Sickness

On the other hand the Survey points out to the alarming situation in respect of industrial sickness. Compared to 345 large sick units in June 1980, there were 389 such units in June '81. The number of sick units in medium scale increased from 20326 to 22325 in the same period. The figure of sick small scale units has jumped to 23255 by the end of December 1981. It is admitted in the Survey that in 52 per cent of large industrial units, the sickness has resulted from internal causes like management deficiencies, diversion of funds, lack of clear Marketing strategy and infighting among different interests etc. It is also admitted that market recession, shortages of power, coal and inadequate availability of transportation facilities has also contributed to the industrial sickness. It is also admitted that only 2 Units were taken over in 1981 as against 4 in the previous year and no unit has been nationalised during 1981-82. There is a relentless drive to reduce man-power by increasing work load and reducing wages of labour to make the sick units viable. No one knows how many thousands of workmen are involved in this.

Rampant inflation

It has been claimed that the rate of inflation has been brought down from 23.3% in January'80 to 15.9% in January 1981 and 4.9% in January'82.

As far as the millions upon millions of common men are concerned, they find everything dearer. The Consumer Price Index number of industrial workers (base 1960-100) which stood at 371 in January'80 rose upto 411 in January'81 and to 460 points in December'80 showing a rise of 12.5% in 1979-80, 9.4% in 1980-81 and 9.5% upto Dec'81. The Survey tries to explain away this contradiction by the argument that different weightages are given for two sets of indices and admit that prices of cereals, edible oils, fruits and vegetables, milk and milk products, eggs, fish and meat have been continuing to rise. The common men who are forced to spend 80% of their income on food, therefore, find their lives unbearable. Just before the budget session the Govt authorised a 10% increase in dalda which would again cause rise in prices.

Further imposts on people

In such a situation the Govt. have inflicted a further burden of Rs. 1300 crores, in a manner which Sunil Moitra M.P., Joint General Secretary, All India Insurance Employees Union has characterised as a 'Budget by instalments.' In the last session of Parliament, the Railway Minister had imposed a burden of Rs. 400 crores (Rs. 80 crores for 1981-82 and Rs. 320 crores for 1982-83) as increase in railway freight and fares. Now the present Railway Minister has proposed a further hike of Rs. 267 crores. Just before the budget, C.M. Stephen raised the telephone, telegram and other charges by Rs. 100 crores and during this budget another dose of taxation to the extent of Rs. 622 crores has been imposed.

Subsidies reduced-prices increased

The budget provides subsidy on the same level as last year i. e., Rs. 700 crores which means a reduction in real terms. The subsidy on fertilisers has been reduced from Rs. 679 crores last year to Rs. 386 crores this year which in real terms is much less. The price of Urea was raised from Rs. 2000 to Rs. 2350 per tonne. There is a proposal of 100% increase in excise duty on cement and dual price system has been introduced. It is reported in the press that a decision has already been taken to increase the prices of Coal, electricity charges etc. which is going to be imposed just after the budget session and it has not been denied.

Propitiatory Measures

All these are nothing but propitiatory measures to satisfy the World Bank and IMF who have not only imposed humiliating conditions for the loans negotiated by Govt. of India, but also have sent their Watchdogs to ensure their compliance. In January an IMF team led by Tin Thun and in February, Clausen the World Bank Chief visited our country. Despite all protestations by the Govt. the bud gets bear a definite imprint of the World Bank IMF loan conditions and the people are facing its bitter fruits.

Measures for Wage-freeze

Another measure adopted by the Govt. is a step towards wage-freeze. Principles of deferred payment and impounding of accrued gains of the Central Govt. Employees have already been announced. In the Steel Industry wage-rise is being sought to be linked with pro-

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Countrywide Movement Of Coal Workers' Planned

The meeting of the All-India Coal Workers' Federation held in MLA Hostel, Nagpur on March 2 & 3 decided to plan a countrywide broad-based movement in collieries to press the coal managements in Public Sector and TISCO to arrive at a new wage agreement. The present agreement expires on December, 31. The Federation decided to prepare a new Charter of Demands of all the coal workers in the country and planned to organise pitwise meetings to discuss the demands of the workers and plan movements for implementation of the clauses of the last agreement.

The meeting was presided over by M.K. Pandhe, President of the Federation and was attended by representatives from Raniganj, Asansol, Ranchi Jharia, Dhanbad, Korba, Birsampur, Chirimiri, Singareni, Wardha Valley, Nagpur Coalfields as well as office employees in Calcutta, CMPDI etc.

The meeting expressed concern at the withdrawal of the representatives by the INTUC from the joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry (JBCCI) which has resulted in suspension of the activities of bipartite forum in the industry even though the management has failed to fully implement the previous agreement. This step of the INTUC has only helped the coal management to go ahead with their unilateral decisions on the problems of the six lakh coal workers. The meeting decided to appeal to the INTUC leadership to withdraw their suicidal decision and join the bipartite forum so that the outstanding issues of the coal workers are settled without any further delay.

The meeting congratulated the coal workers for the countrywide strike on January 19 despite INTUC opposition and condemned the vindictive attitude of the Central Coalfields Ltd. and the CMPDIL for threatening the workers to deduct 8 days wages for participating in the strike. The meeting demanded withdrawal of these measures and called upon the coal workers to raise their voice of protest against these vindictive measures.

By a resolution the meeting condemned the heavy dose of taxation and additional levies on postal and telegraph charges sought to be imposed by the recent budget of the

Central Government and the increase in railway fare and freight charges. It called upon the coal workers to resist these measures.

By another resolution the meeting condemned the Government notification declaring 16 industries as Essential Services under the National Security Act and demanded withdrawal of the notification.

The meeting reviewed the activities of the Coal Unions in different centres and decided to take steps to streamline the organisation of the Federation and to bring out a Bulletin to popularise the struggles of the coal miners all over the country.

Enhancement of Stipend of Apprentices

By a notification no : DGET-13/2/80 AP (G. S. R. 24 E) published in Gazette of India Extraordinary on January 25, the minimum rates of stipend of Apprentices under Apprentice Act 1961 have been revised as follows :-

Apprentices (Item 2) are much less, even lesser than the revised rates which were proposed by the Govt. initially. (See news working Class December 1980 P. 14).

The revised rates come into effect from January, 25, 1982.

1. Trade Apprentices

During 1st year of Training	—	Rs. 230/- p. m.
During 2nd year of Training	—	Rs. 260/- p. m.
During 3rd year of Training	—	Rs. 300/- p. m.
During 4th year of Training	—	Rs. 350/- p. m.

2. Graduate or Technician Apprentices

i) Engineering Graduates (For Post institutional training)	—	Rs. 450/- p. m.
ii) Sandwich Course students (From Degree Institutions)	—	Rs. 320/- p. m.
iii) Diploma Holders (For post institutional training)	—	Rs. 320/- p. m.
iv) Sandwich Course Students (From Diploma Institutions)	—	Rs. 250/- p. m.

The revised rates for Trade Apprentices item 1 are in accordance with the unanimous recommendation of the Central Apprenticeship Council, those for the Graduate or Technician

Nrisingha Chakrabarty, Secretary CITU and Member, Central Apprenticeship Council, in a letter dated February 12, drew the attention of the

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Demonstration Before British High Commission

FURTHER to the protest telegrams sent by AILRSA, the locomen and other railway employees expressed their solidarity with the struggle of the British Locomotive Engineers and Firemen by staging a demonstration before the British High Commission in Delhi on March 5. The 12 men Panel which met at Dhanbad on February 20 decided to organise this solidarity action.

It was stated in the memorandum handed over to the British High Commissioner that "we protest against the arbitrary refusal of the British Railways Board to implement the agreement on pay revision which was unconditional and not related to the other agreement. Such action cuts at the root of the process of collective bargaining. We also protest against your Govt's support to the British Railway Board in this case and demand that early steps be taken to ensure implementation of the agreement."

S.K. Dhar, Secretary General-AILRSA in a communication dated February 23 to Ray Buckton, General Secretary, ASLE & F, London explained the situation obtaining in India and "Being sufferers ourselves, our heart is with you in your struggle." He wanted further information on the outcome of the struggle, so that locomen could consider other measures of solidarity.

As the British Locomen's struggle was settled the proposed demonstration at Calcutta on March 8 became a victory celebration.

AIRF Working Committee Meets

The Working Committee of AIRF, which met at New Delhi on February 26-27, is learnt to have accepted the proposal of deferred payment of arrears of D.A. and impounding of C.C.A. and HRA by a majority decision with three members recording their opposition to the same.

12 Men Panel's bid for unity

The 12 men Panel of Category-wise Associations met at Dhanbad on February 20. After reviewing the weaknesses which prevented the railwaymen from joining the historic strike action on January 19 it decided to make all efforts to consolidate the unity of railwaymen and directed the constituent units to submit their concrete proposals within three months.

The Panel further decided to observe "Anti-Repression and Anti-Victimisation Week" from 8th April to 14th April 1982 (with divisional demonstration on the concluding day). Before this a joint tour programme in the remaining 4 Zones is to be organised.

A resolution condemning the proposed impounding of arrears of D. A- and the accrued CCA/HRA arising out of merger of DA at 320 Points of C.P.I. was taken calling upon all concerned to voice their protest.

Conference Of AIREC

The annual meeting of All India Railway Employees Confederation was held at Dhanbad on February 21-22 with more than 800 delegates participating. Despite the repres-

sive policies of the Govt., the meeting was successful due to active participation of delegates from all constituents. C. M. Singh was elected President and N. S. Bhangoo was re-elected as the General Secretary of the Confederation. B. T. Ranadive President CITU sent a message of greetings. The open session was addressed by S. K. Dhar, Secretary General, AILRSA amongst others.

Victimisation under 14(ii) Set aside

The Kerala High Court in a judgement delivered on 1st February 1982 in O.P.N. No. 4781 of 1981 has set aside the removal order served on K. S. Subramanian, Driver B, Southern Railway for his participation in the struggle of Jan-Feb, 1981 and issued a writ of mandamus to the railway authorities to take back the petitioner to service with back wages and give him a posting in accordance with the status that he enjoyed at the time of removal. The petitioner has also been awarded with a cost of Rs. 500/-

Supreme Court grants interim relief

By an order dated March 3, the Supreme Court in CMP No. 5687/82 in T.P(Civil) No. 210/81 had ordered "interim relief to the effect that the Railway Administration shall continue to pay the last salary drawn by the respondents till the disposal of the petition and it has no relevance to their provident fund account. It is open to the Railway Authorities to take work or not to take work from the respondents. If

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CITU Denounces Increase In Railway Fare & Freight

B.T. Ranadive, President and P. Ramamurti M.P. General Secretary, Centre of Indian Trade Unions have issued the following statement on Feb 24.

The CITU strongly denounces the further increase in railway freight and fare announced by the Railway Minister in Parliament on February 23. With the additional increase to the extent of Rs. 261.45 crores, the Railway Ministry has imposed a total freight and fare increase of Rs. 1142 crores within a period of just two years. In the process all concessions on items of daily necessities which had been traditional social burdens for Indian Railways have been withdrawn and the lives of the common man will be more miserable. This would also create an inflationary trend in prices of all commodities and lower down the consumption level of the people. This has been done under the pressure of World Bank and International Monetary Fund, who have been pressing the Govt. of India to adopt these policies for a long time.

The Gross Traffic receipts as proportion to the capital at charge which was 81.8 per cent in 1950-51 had remained almost constant for two decades and slightly dipped to 29.32 per cent in 1973-74. Since then it went on increasing to 43.04 per cent in 1980-81. With the increases proposed in 1981-82 and 82-83, the proportion is likely to have crossed 50% mark or an increase of over 60% within less than a decade. This is the result of the capitalist path pursued by the Govt and dependence on the imperialist powers for development.

According to Press Reports, Shri Gujaral, the Superannuated Chairman of Railway Board, given extension under the pressure of World Bank, has hinted further rise in the monthly season ticket rates which would cover all wage earners, students, vendors and all those who reside in suburban areas heaping more miseries on them.

The budget speech of the Railway Minister also indicates computerisation in monitoring railway freight traffic which would not only squeeze the employment potential in the

country still further but also create havoc for the educated unemployed. It also means further intensification of labour and more victimisation of railway workers.

The CITU demands that the Govt. should give up this policy of fleecing the common man and withdraw the proposed hike in railway freight and fares. The CITU appeals to all Central Trade Unions and democratic mass organisations to come together and raise their powerful voice to force the Govt to change its anti people and anti-labour policies.

Sucessful Strike By Quarry Workers

Fifteen thousand quarry workers of Pakur in Bihar went on an indefinite strike from January 14 at the call of Santhal Parganas Mines and Quarries Workers' Union (CITU) and forced the management to commit to settle their six point demands which include minimum wage and bonus. The workers joined duties on February 5 after the S. D. O. of Pakur gave a written assurance of his intervention for an amicable settlement. A long drawn struggle was waged by the workers on their demands. At the instance of the Union Labour Ministry the management made some settlements with the INTUC union. Against this the workers intensified their struggle and staged dharnas, demonstrations and went on one day's strike action. A section of the management agreed to make settlements with the CITU union, which was again frustrated by the district authorities at the instance of the Union Labour Ministry, compelling the

workers to go in for indefinite strike. A large police force and C. R. P. aided by the INTUC hoodlums attacked and beat up the workers including Abdul Hakim, the President and Krishnanand Mondal, the General Secretary of the Union. Several arrests were made. Warrants of arrest were issued against the President and General Secretary also, who had to go underground. Section 144 was promulgated even in far-fetched villages. The authorities tried to break the strike even by fomenting communal feelings. But the undaunted workers carried forward the struggle unitedly and ultimately forced the management and the S. D. O. to submit written commitments.

In a joint statement, Chandi Prasad, General Secretary, Bihar State Committee of CITU and Abdul Hakim, President of the Union congratulated the workers for their valiant struggle and called upon the S. D. O. and the management to fulfil their written assurances forthwith.

CITU'S COMPLAINT TO I. L. O. ON ASSAM JUTE MILLS

CITU lodged another complaint to I.L.O. against violation of Freedom of Association and Right to Collective Bargaining by the management of Assam Co-operative Jute Mills Ltd., Silghat. The only organisation of the workers, viz. Assam Co-operative Jute Mills Workers' Union was previously affiliated to INTUC and recognised by the management. But the pro-management activities of leadership isolated them from the workers and in their Annual General Body Meeting in 1978 the union disaffiliated itself from the INTUC and got affiliated to CITU by an overwhelming majority.

The collusion of the management with INTUC came to surface when it derecognised the union, foisted a parallel union with the break-away group and promptly gave recognition to the latter.

Open repression was let loose on the workers and leaders of the majority CITU Union. The office-bearers and Executive Committee members were victimised. The union raised Industrial Dispute. During the pendency of the dispute the management continued dismissal of workmen in violation of Section 33 of the I.D. Act. The management went to the extent of even cutting off the electric supply to the Union office.

When all these measures failed to dissociate the workers from the CITU Union, the management deployed the INTUC hoodlums to terrorise the workers. The anti-socials attacked a workers' meeting with lethal weapons and

injured several. Ultimately, the union office was broken through and forcibly occupied by the gangsters. Even after repeated complaints neither the police nor the Government took any steps to restore the union premises to the rightful owners, i.e. the Assam Co-operative Jute Mill Workers Union nor did they take any action against the hooligans. A number of the leadership and activists of the union were unable to attend office due to the gangsters, abetted by the management, which promptly dismissed them or shown them as having left services.

CITU has drawn the notice of the ILO to these facts where the workers have been denied their rights to choose the Central Union they desire and urged upon it to send a team to India to investigate into the nature and extent of infringement of trade union rights here.

Kamal Sarkar Attends AUCCTU Congress

At the invitation of All Union Central Council of Trade Unions, USSR, CITU nominated Kamal Sarkar, Secretary to attend the 17th Congress of Soviet Trade Unions to be held at Moscow on March 17-20, as a fraternal delegate. He left New Delhi March 13.

This is the first time that the CITU was invited to attend the Congress by AUCCTU, though earlier invitations were extended for attending May-day Celebrations. A two member good will delegation from CITU had visited Moscow in 1981 at their invitation. This shows growing bonds of friendship between C.I.T.U. and A.U.C.C.T.U.

Barbarous Lathi Charge On Kanpur Biscuit Factory Workers

AT the connivance of the owner of Annapurna Biscuits Co., Kanpur, the police made a barbarous lathi charge on the workers at the gate of the factory on March 3.

When repeated representations to the management and the State Labour Department proved vain to settle their demands, the workers led by Kanpur Biscuit Karmachari Union (CITU) arranged a procession from the factory gate to the Dy. Labour Commissioner's Office. When the workers were assembling at the gate after their duties suddenly a posse of police force arrived and started random lathi-charging at the workers, injuring about thirty of them. The Assistant Secretary, Rameshwar Prasad Mishra and the CITU leader Rajendra Singh along with others were arrested. Thereafter, the management started further repression on the workers. They dismissed several workers and carrying on the work with outside persons with the help of the police. The undaunted workers however, are carrying forward the grim struggle.

MAY 1982 ISSUE A SPECIAL NUMBER

May 1982 issue will come out as a special number, with valuable write-ups and informations. It would be priced at Re. One per copy though yearly subscribers would not have to pay anything extra. Orders for extra copies with advance may be sent to our office at 6, Talkatora Road latest by 15th April '82.

Sail Management's Production Policies Criticised

In a joint meeting of SAIL on Production held in New Delhi on March 5 the Chairman of SAIL gave a complacent picture of the situation on the production front. He did not explain why the country is still spending huge amount of foreign exchange on imports of steel when the optimum utilisation in the country's installed capacity could not be achieved. The targets fixed for the year 1981-82 could not be fulfilled. He complained about the inadequate supply of power and coal as important cause for non-fulfilment of these targets.

He announced in the meeting the fixation of production targets for the year 1982 at 8.26 million tons of ingot steel, 6.49 million tons of saleable steel and 1.53 million tons of pig iron and sought co-operation of the workers to fulfil the targets.

The representatives of the workers criticised the manner in which the management had fixed the targets without consulting the workers' representatives when the joint forum was already in existence. In Durgapur Steel Plant the targets were arbitrarily fixed high knowing that the installed capacity was calculated wrongly in the past.

The members also criticised the non-circulation of agenda papers in time with the result that they could not come with full preparation for considering the issues before the meeting.

When the power crisis affected the industry seriously the output of SAIL captive power plants was much below the 1980-81 performance. The members pointed out that this should go up in the interest of more steel output. They also wanted to know what steps

were taken by the Government to ensure improved quality of coking coal supply to the steel plants. High rate of refractory consumption in the steel industry in comparison with the normal standard also came for criticism from the members.

The industrial relations policy of the SAIL management was severely criticised by the workers' representatives. The guidelines issued by the BPE to the management that wage rise could be granted only if the productive increase is ensured was objected to by all the members. These guidelines hit at the very spirit of the bipartite wage negotiations and all trade unions refused to accept them as guidelines for wage negotiations.

The workers' representatives pointed out that since signing of the last agreement the real wages of the steel workers went down by 10 per cent at the unskilled category and 22 per cent at the highest paid category of the workers.

A member from IISCO pointed out that despite lifting of embargo on recruitment by IISCO there has been shortage of manning. However the management has been paying excessive amount on overtime instead of increasing the number of workers. Instead of departmentalising all the contract workers the management is giving new contracts to contractors though the jobs are of permanent perennial nature.

The callousness of the management towards occupation diseases and health of the workers was also discussed at length. A member from Bhilai showed a piece of coal taken out from the body of the workers

from coke oven department who was operated recently. Members wanted that the management should take urgent steps to study the working environment in the steel industry and take suitable steps to improve it.

The falling standards of the supply of materials in the canteens was criticised by several members. The situation became so serious that the workers were boycotting the Canteen Committee elections and they were raising the demand that the canteen should be run departmentally.

The Chairman in his reply agreed to look into the problems raised by the workers' representatives.

The CITU was represented in the meeting by M.K. Pandhe, A. Dhaksi, Ajit Mukherjee and D. Bhattacharya.

Delaying Tactics of HSCL Management

The management of HSCL has been adopting delaying tactics to negotiate on the COD of workers. In the last bipartite forum on 17 and 18 November 1981 it agreed to give an interim relief of Rs. 50 per worker and promised to start negotiations at an early date. But without negotiations the DA was frozen arbitrarily making a mockery of the payment of relief. A meeting convened on 19 March was postponed to 22 March and again was postponed to 7 and 8 April. Condemning the policy of the management, CITU has called upon all trade unions to jointly launch a movement to press negotiations the Charter of Demands.

Spate of Victimisations After January 19 : Workers' Resistance

As reported earlier, large scale Victimisations and repressive measures were resorted to by the Government and the managements after the all-India Strike of January 19. Emboldened by the successful strike, the united might of the workers forced the employers in various places to withdraw the penal measures. The all-India protest actions against victimisations on February 23 further symbolised the urge of the workers to unitedly resist the repressive measures.

Haryana

The worst offensive as reported earlier, was from Haryana, where all the eighteen hundred workers of Hansi Co-operative Spinning Mills and Haryana concast were illegally dismissed by the order of the Chief Minister himself and the mills were closed. Even mikes were not allowed to be used by the workers in public meetings. The local S.D.M. himself rushed to the local tent house to stop supplying Shamianas and Durries for the meetings. But despite such naked attack on the right of expression, the mounting struggles of the workers forced the managements of the public sector undertakings to open the mills and take back the workers, who have resumed duties on March 4. Sushil Bhattacharya M.P. raised the issue in Lok Sabha on February 25 and P. Ramamurti M.P. represented the matter to Union Labour Minister on March 3.

Gupta Bakelite, Sonapat locked out the establishment. The management hoodlums attacked the workers and their families with lathi and daggers. But the workers fearlessly fought back and forced the management to lift the lock-out. Struggle still continues on the questioned of D.A.

Railways

The United Committee of Railwaymen (N.F.Rly) reported that four office bearers-Secretary of the Siliguri Branch of U.C.R., Zonal General Secretary of A.I. Shunting Cabin Staff Association, Jt. Secretary and Organising Secretary of U.C.R. have been dismissed. The struggle is on and the Calcutta High Court has granted injunction against the dismissals.

The President of Bhillai Marshalling Yard Branch and the Asst. Secretary of Tatanagar Branch 2 of S.E.Railwaymen's Union have been suspended for wearing black badges and participating in joint procession only. Besides, ten workers at Tatanagar are being prosecuted by the

Judicial Magistrate directing them to show cause why proceeding under ESMA will not be drawn against them.

Punjab

In P.R.T.C. when the arrested leaders of the union were not released on January 20, the workers continued the strike till they were released and taken back to duty.

BEL. Banglore

The President and the Organising Secretary of Bharat Electronics Workers' Union (CITU) have been chargesheeted and their two increments have been withheld. The same penal measures were taken against them during the August 17 protests against ESMO also. But despite all threatening strictures ninety percent of the workers participated in the strike and continuing militant struggles against the penal measures.

Coal

A cut in eight days wage and other penal measures were imposed by Coal India. The workers fought back and a strike notice given by the National Coal Organisation (Govt. of India) Employees' Association (CITU) compelled the management to withdraw the measures.

Defence

The management issued orders of break in service and other punishments to the workers of Ichapur Ordnance Factory, West Bengal.

Pondicherry and Tamilnadu

As per reports ten office bearers of the State Government Employees' Association have been suspended.

In Tamilnadu Co-operative Sector and other places workers are on struggle against the eight days' wage cut.

BALCO, Korba

In Bharat Aluminium, Korba (M.P.) the management secured court orders to declare the strike illegal and utilised the services of the Central Industrial Security Force to prevent even postering and wall writing. Workers were forcefully and illegally detained overnight on 18th inside the factory. The leaders were arrested in the early hours of 19th and detained upto 25th. Under such circumstances, Union Minister, N.D. Tiwari went to BALCO to open its third phase on 24th. Massive demonstrations and hunger

strike were launched by the workers. Ultimately, the leaders were released on 25th. The management issued notice to deduct eight days' wages for participation in the strike.

Pharmaceuticals

The Federation of Medical Representatives Associations of India reported show cause notices being served to their members and other penal measures being taken for participation in the strike.

U.P

Hindalco Workers' Union (CITU) from Mirzapur has reported that the management of Hindustan Aluminium Corpn. has suspended the Secretary, Vice-President and Asst. Secretary of the union and chargesheeted several workers for joining the strike.

In BHEL at Hardwar six workers are still under suspension.

Post and Telegraphs

The PMG issued orders for one day cut in wages and break in services of six thousand P & T workers in W. Bengal for joining the bundh on January 19. Grim struggle has been waged by the workers against this penal action.

Unlawful Confinement

Repressive measures and unlawful confinements have been reported from bank and various other organisations. In Siwan (Bihar), S.N. Chatterjee, the leader of the bank employees was picked up by the police at dead of night while he was sleeping and detained for two days. The employees continued the strike on 20th also and launched massive demonstrations along with other organisations before the District Magistrate. Chatterjee was ultimately released on bail on 22nd. A false case under Section 151 has been made against him. The struggle is still on for withdrawal of the case.

At Vidisha, Indore, when various employees of banks, LIC, etc. after striking work on 19th, were proceeding to the market, a police officer arrived and arrested the leader, C.Y. Mule, Secretary of the District Committee of CPI(M) and an eminent advocate of the place. He was caught hold by the collar and dragged inside the police station and beaten up by lathis. Workers fought back in protest. Lawyers boycotted the courts till 21st at Indore, Gwalior, Bhopal, etc. Mule was ultimately released unconditionally on

21st. X'Ray report revealed fracture of his ribs due to lathi blows.

Protest Day

Reports from states confirm massive protest demonstrations, rallies, dharnas and processions on February 23 against victimisations, repressions, and canards perpetrated by the Government against the strike.

In Parliament

Under Urgent Public Importance, Samar Mukherjee, leader of CPI(M) Group in Lok Sabha, raised the issue on February 23, He said, "The Working Class of India registered their protest against the anti-labour, anti-democratic policies of the Government, as well as against high prices, by observing a one-day token strike throughout the country, at the call of the National Campaign Committee of the Trade Unions. The Government, instead of negotiating with the workers, resorted to blatant misuse of the media under its control, and resorted to repressive measures. Today thousands of workers all over the country are observing as protest day by observing mass protest meetings. I draw the attention of the Government to this situation and urge upon the Government to stop victimisation, withdraw punitive actions, lock-outs and lay-offs and to start negotiations with the workers' representatives."

N.C.C. Condemns Government Measures

In a meeting held on March 10 at New Delhi, the National Campaign Committee condemned the repressive measures taken by the Government against the workers. It congratulated the workers all over India for the successful observation of the anti-victimisation day on February 23. It hailed the victories won by the workers who forced the managements to withdraw the victimisations and demanded of the Government to withdraw all the penal measures forthwith.

The meeting also congratulated the two lakh textile workers of Bombay for their glorious strike and urged upon the Government to initiate immediate discussions with the unions organising the strike for an early settlement. The meeting denounced the Government actions in trying to run the refinery of Bharat Petroleum Corpn. with the help of armed forces technicians when the workers are on strike since January 16.

All India Movement by L.I.C. Employees

L.I.C. employees all over India have taken a joint action programme demanding repeal of the LIC (Amendment) Act, 1981, restoration of the right to collective bargaining by crapping of the notifications of February 2 and July 27, 1981 and abrogation of the plan to split the LIC.

In a joint statement, the leadership of the A.I. Insurance Employees' Association, A.I. Life Insurance Employee's Association, A.I.L.I.C. Employees' Federation and the National Organisation of Insurance Workers (B.M.S.) warned the employees of the unfettered power acquired by the Government after the Supreme Court judgement upholding the LIC (Amendment) Act, to determine the employees' service conditions negating the process of collective bargaining. They further warned the employees of the Government's plan to break their unity by splitting the LIC, ignoring the numerous representations made by them. They called upon them to further close their ranks and implement the action programmes unitedly.

The action programme includes one hour walk out strike on March 24 against the Government's order to implement the provisions of the notification over riding the collective agreement of January, 1974. In case the Government introduces the bill on the split, there would be two hours walk out strike and on the government's changing service conditions, there would be one day's strike on the same day. The programme set a target of ten lakh signatures of the policy holders against the split of LIC. The programme further includes observance of All India Demands Day on April 2 and a national convention at new Delhi on April 17.

Consumer Price Index Numbers

State/Centre	Base 1960			State/Centre	1981		
	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.		Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
Andhra Pradesh				Orissa			
Gudur	463	466	464	Barbil	429	420	423
Guntur	501	503	508	Sambalpur	486	478	488
Hyderabad	480	476	468	Punjab			
Assam				Amritsar	485	472	467
Digboi	446	448	354	Rajasthan			
Doom Dooma	357	353	354	Ajmer	478	483	488
Labac	354	360	357	Jaipur	491	492	496
Mariani	366	363	362	Tamil Nadu			
Rangapara	381	361	364	Coimbatore	485	489	481
Bihar				Coonoor	477	471	467
Jamshedpur	435	430	433	Madras	463	461	454
Jharia	442	440	436	Madurai	497	492	474
Kodarma	497	490	494	U.P.			
Monghyr	513	496	484	Kanpur	449	440	441
Noamundi	426	431	435	Saharanpur	471	467	467
Gujarat				Varanasi	505	496	495
Ahmedabad	447	443	460	West Bengal			
Bhavnagar	462	464	462	Asansol	464	467	462
Haryana				Calcutta	426	426	419
Yamunanagar	493	487	489	Darjeeling	379	378	382
J. & K.				Howrah	407	405	403
Srinagar	497	477	477	Jalpaiguri	362	357	355
Karnataka				Raniganj	441	451	446
Ammathi	468	456	459	Delhi	480	474	476
Bangalore	532	523	524	Other Centres			
Chikamagalur	466	485	495	Berhampur ('49)	644	668	649
Kolar G.F.	483	471	466	Cuttack ('49)	568	567	582
Kerala				Jabalpur ('49)	585	589	594
Alleppey	477	470	472	Beawar ('51-52)	581	577	574
Alwaye	463	464	466	Tripura (1961)	415	414	416
Mundakayam	458	456	457	H.P. (1965)	335	335	335
Madhya Pradesh				Goa (1966)	326	327	328
Balaghat	478	478	479	Bhilai (1966)	315	310	306
Bhopal	480	485	485	Bhilwara ('66)	306	305	306
Gwalior	481	468	469	Chhindwara ('66)	254	253	250
Indore	488	483	491	Kothagudem ('66)	317	316	306
Maharashtra				Rourkela ('66)	331	327	322
Bombay	470	469	468	All India ('49)	562	559	558
Nagpur	484	479	485	-do- ('60)	462	460	459
Sholapur	508	521	530				

Figures in bracket indicate base year.

January 19

From Centra Page Against Budget and Productivity Linked Wages

The N.C.C. further condemned the additional burden of Rs. 1300 crores imposed on the common people by the recent budget, the railway budget and the increase in postal charge. Over and above, the impending impounding of D.A. was there. It

further condemned the directive issued by the Bureau of Public Enterprises to link wages with productivity in Steel, Coal and other industries. It called upon all sections of workers to wage militant struggles against all these attacks on their living standards.

The N.C.C. decided to hold a meeting with the national federations on April 16 at New Delhi to chalk out future course of actions in pursuance of the demands raised in the June 4, 1981 Bombay Convention.

W. Bengal Jute Workers Preparing For Indefinite Strike

OVER two lakh Jute workers of W. Bengal are preparing for a continuous strike preceded by one day's protest strike, against violation of the 1979 tripartite settlement by the Jute Barons and demanding implementation of the recommendations of the Labour Minister, W. Bengal on the grades and scales of pay.

In a statement, Kamal Sarkar, General Secretary of Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union (CITU) denounced the policy of the Government of India for supporting the Jute barons who have locked out or closed thirteen jute mills, throwing more than fifteen thousand workers out of employment. Instead of compelling the mill owners to open the mills, the union Government is granting crores of rupees to them to overcome the so-called "crisis" in the industry. The Central Executive Committee of the union in a resolution expressed its solidarity with the striking workers of the J.K. Jute mill, Kanpur and demanded of the U.P. and the Central Government to intervene to make immediate settlement of the workers' demands.

In another statement, Niren Ghosh, M.P. and General Secretary of the All India Jute Workers' Federation made a scathing criticism of the Singhanias Group for victimising the workers of the J.K. Jute Mills and condemned the Government of U.P. for supporting the Singhanias in their anti-labour policies. He quoted the example of the Ganges Jute Mill at Bansberia, W. Bengal, where the Singhanias have locked out the mill throw-

ing seven thousand workers out of employment.

Both Kamal Sarkar and Niren Ghosh demanded immediate nationalisation of the Jute industry including raw jute trade.

MOVEMENT BY TEAGARDEN WORKERS

Cha Bagan Mazdoor Union (CITU) has given a call to all tea garden workers in W. Bengal to observe protest day on March 23, against anti-labour activities by the employers. Since some time past the employees in Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Terai have been attempting to take away the existing rights and privileges of the workers in the name of recession. Refusal to provide housing, even to repair the houses, deduction of wages, refusal to supply rations, forced premature retirements, refusal to fill in the vacancies, increasing work-load, forced leave without pay, non-payment of bonus and threat of closures have forced the workers to go on a path of struggles. The union has appealed to all workers to initiate united actions, to defend their rights by holding joint rallies, demonstrations, meetings and wearing badges on the day in all the tea gardens.

RAJASTHAN, UP. GOVT. EMPLOYEES' INDEFINITE STRIKE

ABOUT four and half lakh Government employees and teachers of Rajasthan went on an indefinite strike from March 18. The call for strike was given by the Rajasthan State Govt. Employees' Federation demanding implementation

of the Beri Commissions' recommendations on revision of wage structure. As per reports, the strike has been complete, paralysing works in the Secretariat, Courts, hospitals, schools and other places throughout the State.

Six lakh Employees of the Govt. of U. P. also launched an indefinite strike from March 22. The Govt banned the strike under ESMA and arrested more than fifty workers. Despite these repressive measures more than eighty per cent of the workers joined the strike.

Extending support to the striking employees CITU called upon all its affiliates to extend solidarity with the workers.

CITU CONGRATULATES GOVT. EMPLOYEES

Congratulating the Govt. employees of Rajasthan and UP for launching their successful strike defying the ESMA and NSA, P. Ramamurti, General Secretary, CITU condemned the Govt. of India for issuing instructions to all State Govts. not to agree to any major economic demands of the employees. He squarely put the responsibilities for causing hardship to the people due to the strikes to the Govt. which under the conditionalities of the IMF loan, have taken recourse to the path of repression. He demanded of the Govt. to change its course of confrontation with the employees, who under the burden of high prices were being forced to take the path of struggles, and negotiate honourable settlements to avoid hardships to the people. He called upon all trade union centres to express solidarity in support of the striking employees to defeat the anti-labour policies of the Govt.

National Campaign Committee Condemns Impounding of DA, HRA and CCA

Comrades D.D. Vasist, General Secretary HMS, Parvati Krishanan Secretary AITUC, M.K. Pandhe Secretary CITU, R.K. Bhagat Secretary BMS, Prithvi Chanda General Secretary UTUC (LS), Susheel Bhattachagge Vice President UTUC, Amar Prasad Chakravarty, M.P. General Secretary TUCC and J.S. Dara have issued the following Statement to the press on March 16.

THE National Campaign Committee of Trade Unions strongly condemns the arbitrary decision of the Government of India to compulsorily deposit the arrears of instalments of dearness allowance to the Government Employees in the Provident Fund Account. In a similar manner the decision of the Government will result in impounding additional HRA, CCA etc accruing due to merger of DA in basic wages upto 320 Consumer Price Index Number. The decision of partial wage and DA freeze on the Government employees and if not effectively resisted by the Government employees it is likely to be repeated in future.

While the DA has been recognised as a legitimate payment to compensate rise in prices the Government has now assumed powers to announce the payment of DA whenever it chooses to do so and impound them whenever it considers necessary.

By this measure the Government of India has introduced the compulsory Deposit Scheme through the back-door. When prices of essential commodities are sky rocketting this step will further lead to decline in real standard of living of the 30 lakh Central Government Employees, and over 50 lakh State Government Employees.

When the sword of N.S.A. and E.S.M.A. hanging over the

employees the Government seeks to put these employees under straight jacket.

The National Campaign Committee condemns the statement of the Finance Minister in Parliament indicating that this was a matter between the Central Government and its employees only and he would not allow "interference" by the Central Trade

ENHANCEMENT OF STIPEND

From Page Three

Director General (Employment & Training) Ministry of Labour who is the Chairman of the Council to this arbitrary method of treating unanimous decision of the Council with scant respect. He claimed that the Council should have been taken into confidence before taking a decision to scuttle the recommendation as otherwise tripartite forums would be open to question. An immediate meeting of the Council has also been demanded.

In another letter to the Finance Minister, it was pointed out that the mischief must have been done at the instance of his ministry and his intervention was sought as it also meant that the Govt. had gone back on their own proposal even.

It was pointed out that it is ludicrous to suggest stipends for Graduate and Technician Apprentices at a rate lower than the minimum wages fixed

Unions thereby indulging in the slander against genuine representative of workers whom he characterised as trade union wings of political parties. It wants to make it clear that the Central Government Employees are part of the National Campaign Committee and they are against this unilateral decision to impose the partial wage freeze on them. The National Campaign Committee considers this attack as a precursor of similar attacks on the working class as a whole and calls upon trade unions of all affiliations to resolutely oppose this dangerous move of the Central Government so that it is forced to withdraw this anti-working class measure.

for agricultural labour or those under scheduled employment or for the Trade Apprentices.

It is desirable that the unions while taking steps for implementation of revised rates of Stipend of Apprentices, should champion the cause of upward revision of stipend for the Graduate and Technician Apprentices.

Simla Hotel Workers Fight Victimisation

IN protest against the victimisation of from CITU activists the workers of Hotel Victory at Simla observed one day strike on 8 March. The workers from other hotels in Simla organised demonstration in support of these workers.

Prior to the strike the workers organised relay hunger for several days demanding reinstatement of the workers. The management tried to remove the tent of the hunger strikers but due to the unity of the workers they failed in the conspiracy.

On 7th March a gate meeting was held opposite the hotel which was addressed by M. K. Pandhe, Kapur and Dhani Ram.

Spectre of Crisis

From Page Two

ductivity. Authority to arbitrarily fix wages and bonus for LIC workmen has already been assumed. The offensive against the salaries of the wage-earners is on the increase. Finance Minister is reported to have advised the state Govts not to undertake any major wage revision for their employees without consulting center.

Balance of payments gap

All these have been adopted only to cover the gap in balance of payment which has been over Rs. 5000 crores for two successive years. The protectionist policies of the advance capitalist and imperialist countries and the loot by the multinationals have resulted in this impasse. Refusal to attack the huge profits of the monopolists and multinationals and absence of proper land reforms have denuded the vast multitude of the working people. The peasantry, the agricultural labour and the working class are increasingly coming out against these attacks on their living and working conditions.

Authoritarian Drive

The Govt. has armed itself with draconian powers like ESMA, NSA etc. to ruthlessly suppress the struggle of the people. On February 8, the Home Ministry, by a notification, declared all economic activities under ESMA as 'essential' for the purpose of application of NSA. This is the authoritarian thrust of the Government.

Corruption

As is known to every body corruption walks hand-in-hand with authoritarianism. Scandals after scandals are coming to light. Dacoits are holding open 'darbars' with official

patronage-while Innocent people rot in jail over thirty yeears as under-trial prisoners. Connections between the ruling party men, the police, the bureaucracy and the anti-socials/criminals are exposed every day. The rot in body politic is more and more evident. In this background the attack against the opposition, the judiciary and the press, is being intensified. Attempts to install Presidential form of Govt. and curbing the powers of the Supreme Court and High Court etc. are continuing unabated. Degradation of moral values in society has become a concern for all.

Struggle For a Change in the Policies

The working class has,

Railway News

From Page Four

they do not propose to take work from them, It is entirely their choice but they must pay their last salary."

The Union of India by a petition transferred the writ petitions filed by Kartar Chand and others, respondents in this case from Chandigarh and Jodhpur High Courts. The railway authorities stopped payment of salary to them on the ground that their P. F. money has been exhausted and hence the appeal on which the above order was passed.

M. K. Ramamurthi, Sr, Advocate, Umesh Mishra and other advocates appeared for the respondents.

LRSA's complaint to I.L.O.

T. Hanumaiah Actg. Secretary General, AILRSA has filed a detailed complaint relating to violation of ratified I.L.O. Convention no. 1 giving details asto how the railway workers are being subjected

therefore to continue, rather intensify its struggle against price-rise and anti-labour policies of the Govt and demand a change in the policies. The mighty unity forged through the Bombay Convention on June 4 last which culminated in the Workers March to Parliament on November 23 and the historic strike action on January 19, 1982 has to be strengthened still further. The National Campaign Committee of Trade Unions, which is meeting in the middle of April has the responsibility to chalk out a suitable programme of sustained struggle and action. This is the need of the hour and working class can neglect the same only at its own peril.

to discriminatory H.O,E.R. as compared to other industrial workers in India and also violation of I.L.O. Conventions no. 87 and 98 relating to Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining.

Referring to the observations of the Committee on Freedom of Association in a complaint filed by CITU in regard to their struggle in Jan/Feb. 81 (Case no. 1024), he submitted details asto how the elementary right of freedom of association is being trampled underfoot.

The Committee on Freedom of Association has acknowledged receipt of this communication which has been registered as case no. 1113 and directed that any additional information or supporting evidence may be sent by March 29.

Samar Mukherjee, M. P., Treasurer, CITU forwarding a copy of the complaint to Indira Gandhi has urged upon her for a proper review.

Kerala Convention Of Women Teachers

A Convention of Women teachers, organised by the Kerala Govt. Teachers' Association was held at Trivandrum on December 11 and 12, 1981. 800 delegates from various parts of the state attended the convention.

Inaugurating the Convention, K.R. Gouri Amma, the former minister of Agriculture, Kerala and an eminent leader of the Mahila Federation depicted the ruthless exploitation of women under the present social system and called upon the women workers to lead militant struggles to break the remnants of the feudal shackles. In the process they must emerge as a part of the general working class movement for their real emancipation. Maithily Sivaraman, leader of the Working Women's Association called upon the delegates to organise all women whether employed or not, to fight against social injustices.

Presenting the charter of demands, Sony Komath, the Convenor of K.G.T.A.. Mahila Wing, said that a woman has to shoulder the burden to carry on manyfold duties at a time. She is a wife, a housekeeper, a mother and a worker. Despite such multifarious duties, women are denied of the social justice of equality. She stressed the need for more participation of the women workers in trade union struggles. Among others who spoke were M.O. Mallika, Convenor of N.G.O. Union. Mahila Wing and Vijaya S. Menon. P. Valsala, the novelist, presided over the literary session, which was addressed by Madhavikutty and P. Govinda Pillai among others.

The delegates marched in a procession from Museum Junction to Gandhi Park Maidan where a public meeting was held. Among others Bhargavi Thankappan. M.L.A., addressed the meeting.

International Women's Day

March 8, International Women's Day has been observed with more enthusiasm this year, with special emphasis on peace. About 40 women's organisations including All India Democratic womens Association and All India Co-ordination Committee of Working Women observed this day at New Delhi in which Sushila Gopalan M.P. and Vimal Ranadive participated. The theme of the meeting was "Peace—A vital necessity for Women's development and national progress". The meeting adopted a resolution for launchion a country wide awareness of the basic problems facing women and the need to preserve peace.

In a similar meeting at Calcutta, Kanak Mukherjee M. P. Pankaj Acharya and other leaders of Ganatantrik Mahila Samiti participated. A powerful appeal for peace and Social Development for Women was made from the meeting.

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A. I. Lawyer's Union

ABOUT three hundred delegates from amongst men in legal profession from all parts of the country met in a two-day conference at new Delhi on March 13-14 and resolved to form an All India Lawyers' Union for which a preparatory committee has also been formed.

The conference was presided over by Daniel Latifi, and addressed by three former judges of Supreme Court, H. R. Khanna, V. K. Krishna Iyer and A. C. Gupta, amongst others. A Steering Committee Consisting of Arun Prokas Chatterjee, N. N. Gupta, Hardev Singh, Umesh Mishra, S. C. Birla, R. B. Singh, Hasim Abdul Halim etc. with Daniel Latifi as the Chairman was formed. Jyoti Basu, Vice President-CITU and Chief Minister Govt of West Bengal (also a Bar-at-Law) addressed the concluding session.

The Conference assumed importance in the back-ground of increasing attacks on judiciary in a situation of deepening crisis. The Conference adopted resolution against proposal of Presidential form of Govt. condemned ESMA and NSA and proposed a system of proper legal aid to the poor. The problems facing those engaged in leggl profession were also discussed. It was also decided to hold a bigger convention sometime in September for formation of the All India Lawyers' Union.

The delegates, assembled near the Supreme Court on March 15 and marched to the Boat Club and presented a memorandum to the Govt. The rally was addressed by Samar Mukherjee M.P. and Somnath Chatterjee M.P.

AITUC-CITU Oppose Productivity Linked Wages In Steel Industry

Indrajit Gupta M.P. General Secretary AITUC and M.K. Pandhe Secretary CITU have issued the following statement to the Press on Feb. 26.

At the meeting of the National Joint Committee for the Steel Industry held on February 24 and 25, the representatives of the SAIL management have clearly indicated to the workers' side that any future wage-increase in this industry must be "productivity oriented" and should be only prospective and not retrospective.

This statement was made in the context of the due expiry on 31-8-82 of the existing joint agreement, and its further revision subsequent to that date.

In other words, the SAIL authorities, obviously at the instance of the Government and its Bureau of Public Enterprises, have clearly given prior notice of linking wages with productivity and production as a precondition for any further wage-increases.

This confirms the worst fears of the entire trade union movement that the Central Government is determined to impose a wage-freeze on the working class in the name of increasing productivity. This was one of the main considerations behind the general strike of Jan. 19 at the call of the National Campaign Committee of Trade Unions.

Linking of wages with productivity, is just another name for imposing heavier work-load, intensification of labour, & reduction of labour costs. Besides it is an established, fact

that production & productivity do not depend mainly on the workers' own efforts in such a sophisticated industry as steel. In fact, on the Governments' own admission, production targets in steel are not being fulfilled because of the infrastructural failures, i.e. power, coal supplies, wagon movements, etc. Moreover due to absence of full neutralisation in Steel Industry real wages of workers have declined during the period of agreement.

Hence, the trade union movement is fundamentally opposed to the theory and practice of linking wages with productivity—a favourite capitalist gimmick, now shared alike by SAIL and the Tata's.

We wish to make it abundantly clear that if the SAIL and BPE, try to make future wage-revision discussions conditional on higher productivity, they will be responsible for provoking a confrontation which would threaten industrial peace in this vital industry.

All China Federation of Trade Unions Thanks CITU

(Letter dated February 6)

Dear Comrades

At your kind invitation, the Chinese Trade Union Delegation headed by Comrade Hau Xiya, alternative member of ACPTU Secretariat, had attended the All India Steel Workers Convention and made a good-will visit to India in last January and returned to Beijing, bringing back with it the deep feelings and friendship of the Indian workers and people towards the Chinese workers and people. We would like hereby to express our heartfelt thanks for your warm and cordial reception extended to the Chinese Trade Union Delegation during its sojourn in your country.

During its visit, the Chinese Trade Union Delegation had amicable talks with CITU leaders and made wide contacts with CITU cadres at various levels, as well as with workers, peasants and people from all walks of life, thus promoting mutual understanding and friendship. All these had left good and deep impression on the Delegation.

Both India and China are great countries in Asia. The further improvement of relations between our two nations and the strengthening of friendly relations between our trade unions and workers are not only in keeping with the common aspirations of workers and peoples of our two countries, but also of important significance to the cause of the International working class and to the safeguarding of peace in Asia in particular and the world in general. We wish to further exert efforts in building up friendly ties with the CITU and the Indian Working Class.

Glorious Strike of Bombay Textile Workers

Over two lakh textile workers of Bombay have downed their tools from January 18 and the strike has completed two months. The strike is a revolt of the Bombay mill workers against the treacherous agreement signed by the Rashtriya Mill Mazdoor Sangh providing for paltry benefits when the mill owners were minting money. The Maharashtra Government opposed any negotiations with the unions who have given the call for strike on the plea that the RMMS was the only "recognised" union under the Bombay Industrial Relations Act. This has been mainly responsible for the prolongation of strike and the Union Labour Minister Bhagwat Jha Azad only dittoed the stand of the Maharashtra Government though an estimated loss of Rs. 4 crores of daily production was reported.

The textile workers of Bombay observed one day strike on September 27 last year protesting against the treacherous agreement and demanding payment of interim relief. The INTUC leadership openly opposed the strike on the plea that the textile industry is "job oriented". The strike was complete and the textile workers have clearly told the millowners that they were not with the RMMS. The Government of Maharashtra instead of understanding the mood of the workers openly supported the anti working class agreement signed behind the back of workers and refused to initiate any negotiations with the "non-recognised unions".

In several recent agreements in Bombay city in the engineering and chemical industries the workers were given a wage rise of Rs. 200-300 per month and the textile workers were fully justified in asking for higher wages than provided in the INTUC "agreement".

After the successful strike RMMS leadership issued a press statement alleging that the textile workers of Rajeih and Phoenix mills were prepared to go on duties but due to inadequate police protection they were unable to do so. On February 5 more than 500 policemen were posted between the Lower Parel to Fergusson Road but no worker turned to join duties. The isolation of RMMS was thus complete.

On the eve of the strike the workers of Kohinoor Mills were lathi charged by the Maharashtra Police and the RMMS hoodlums but the Government arrested only the leaders of workers. The textile workers organised several demonstrations in protest against the repression and gangsterism.

Lal Bawta Mill Mazdoor Union (CITU) organised several meetings during the strike to condemn the pro-employer policies of the Maharashtra Govt. and the RMMS. The meetings were largely attended and the workers expressed their firm determination to carry forward the united struggle. A booklet has been published by the union on the issues involved in the strike and several thousand copies were sold among the workers.

The unity and determination of the workers forced the Maharashtra Government to announce in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly the readiness of Maharashtra Government to discuss with the unions of the striking workers. However the Government has not taken any step to start the negotiation in right earnest with a view to find a settlement to the most prolonged strike of the Bombay textile workers since independence.

(20th March)

Stay Order In Cement Arbitration

Karnataka High Court has granted a stay order on the proceedings of the arbitration, which was attempted to be imposed by the Cement Manufacturers' Association on all the workers in agreement with the INTUC Federation, behind the back of the workers and bypassing the CITU and AITUC unions. The INTUC on one hand demanded Rs. 1000/- as minimum wage in Cement industry, but on the other hand it accepted arbitration. It was ridiculous that INTUC expected grant of Rs. 1000/- by the arbitration without a struggle.

CITU has appealed to other organisations to launch joint movements in the cement industry in pursuance of their demands. The CITU unions will meet a Madras on April 3 to plan the future course of actions. (N.B. The news about the arbitration was published in the January issue)

The World Trade Union Congress

The Tenth World Trade Union Congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions was held at Havana from February 10 to 15. The particular significance of the conference was its broad character of representation. While twenty per cent of the participating organisations belonged to WFTU, the rest were either affiliates of other organisations or independent. Over 800 delegates and observers from 351 Trade Union Organisations and 136 countries representing about 270 million workers attended the conference. Representatives from United Nations, I.L.O., UNICEF, FAO, ICFTU, WCL, OAU, World Peace Council, Women's International Democratic Federation and 56 delegates from USA also attended the conference. Thus the congress embraced for the first time broadest sections of the working class for an united international movement against the imperialist designs.

The venue of the Conference at Cuba, first time outside Europe, also attained special significance in view of the aggressive designs of the United States to overthrow Socialism in Cuba, reverse the path of Nicaragua and subvert the struggles of the people of El Salvador, Guatemala etc. against their fascist cliques.

A presidium of fifty members conducted the proceedings of the Congress. Comrade Samar Mukherjee attended the Congress on behalf of CITU.

The Congress highlighted the crisis of the capitalist world and the resultant war danger created by the U.S. imperialism and emphasised on the urgent task to carry forward the struggle for peace. It further highlighted the brutalities of the fascist dictatorship in various parts of the world, the depredations of the transnational corporations and the repressions by the ruling capitalist cliques in various countries and stressed the need for international working class movement against these.

Inaugural Session

The WFTU President, Sandor Gaspar asserted that the international workers' movement had acquired enough strength to fight for peace and defend the fundamental rights of the workers. He called upon the movement to struggle for a new international economic order.

Addressing the inaugural session, Fidel Castro made an indepth analysis of the world situation and elaborated the tasks of the working class.

Main Report

The main report of the Congress was placed by the Acting General Secretary, Ibrahim Zakaria.

The first part of the report highlighted the united actions during the last four years as called upon by the Ninth Congress in 1978, like those for peace, the right to live, against the consequences of the capitalist crisis, against transnational monopolies, for job security, for trade union rights, etc.

Challenges of the 1980.

The second part focussed to the challenges of the 1980s—the war preparations of the United States, its utilisation of the tremendous advances of science and technology for engulfing the world in a nuclear warfare, profiteering by the military—industrial complex, the basic question of the right to work and live, the denial of human rights to millions under colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and fascism. The third part called for further strengthening the unity of the world trade union movement. The concluding part called upon the WFTU to serve in a more consolidated way the interests of the workers.

A number of commissions worked on the main document—"Trade Unions and the Challenges of the 1980s", on peace and disarmament, on transnational corporations and on the draft charter on social security.

United States-The Gendarme of World Reaction.

Delegates from the capitalist countries highlighted the deep crisis and the consequent attack on the working class, those from Latin America spoke about the fascist onslaught and the delegates from the underdeveloped countries spoke on the repression by the ruling capitalist class. They all pinpointed to U.S. imperialism as the gendarme of world reaction. They accused the United States of spiralling the arms race, adopting an unprecedented military budget and slashing down social spending, of open interference in affairs of other nations, and suppressing trade union struggles and human rights.

Delegates from the socialist countries spoke of the struggle for peace against America's war preparations.

Struggle in India.

The main report referred to struggle in India as follows :

"Massive protest actions were organised in India in 1981 against the arbitrary powers assumed by government to declare strikes 'illegal' in so called 'essential services' which were so defined as to involve a blanket coverage. A million strong demonstration was organised by the... trade union centres in India before the Indian Parliament on 23 November 1981 and decision was taken to call a nationwide general strike on this issue on 19 January 1982".

On Last Page

Down With The Capitalist Path Of Development

(Abridged Speech of Comrade Samar Mukherjee, at the Tenth World Trade Union Congress.)

Greeting the delegates Samar Mukherjee dealt on the role of the United States in bringing the world on the brink of a nuclear holocaust. He said: "The decision of the Reagan Administration for mass production of neutron bombs and intensification of chemical warfare is threatening mankind with total extinction."

It is heartening to note that the working class of Britain and Europe have taken up the challenge. Protest rallies have started in the USA also. These are indications that the war-mongers can be put into a strait-jacket by the working class and the peace loving people.

As for as the people of India are concerned, the danger of war has come to its borders with the decision of the U. S. administration to arm the military rulers of Pakistan with a massive supply of sophisticated arms. Similarly the decision to develop the U. S. military base at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, overruling the protests of littoral states has heightened this danger. We are confident that the Indian working class in close cooperation with the working class of Pakistan will defeat the U. S. game of making Asians fight Asians.

India's Dependence of Foreign Loan

As correctly stated in the Principal Draft Document, the capitalist world is in the throes of deep economic crisis. India is also no exception to this. The inflationary spiral in India has been continuing without check for over a decade and has become a permanent feature of the Indian economy which has close links with western capitalist countries.

Utilisation of external assistance may be anywhere between Rs. 13,000 to Rs. 15,000 crore in the Sixth Plan. The burden of debt services as a percentage of exports rose to a peak 27 per cent despite rapid rise in the export earning. More exports are forced on the the country to pay back foreign debts.

Dictates of the World Bank and IMF

The interference of World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in India's economy is becoming more pronounced. The World Bank has been demanding abolition of food subsidies. The Bank has been pressing for abandoning the import substitution policy to follow an active export promotion policy—a policy to divert goods from the

internal to the external market. Simultaneously, it has been pressing for easier conditions for penetration of multinationals and foreign capital in general.

The IMF, in its negotiations over India's application for a loan of Rs. 5000 crore, is reported to have laid down similar stringent conditions. It also demands a say in the budget taxation proposals and control over the balance of payments position.

These pressures have resulted in the Government saddling the people with additional burdens.

Infiltration of the Multinationals

The Government of India has also met the demand for better facilities for multinationals. Foreign collaboration approvals, as well as those involving foreign capital participation, doubled in 1980 as compared to 1979. As in the previous year, the majority of the collaboration approvals was with three countries, the FRG, U.K. and USA. This was done at a time when the entire Third World was realising the menace to freedom and democracy from these agencies.

In India, the concessions were offered when the drug and other multinationals were defying Government directives regarding dilution of equity. Their protests have earned them the freedom to violate the FERA regulations and maintain 74 per cent equity holdings, under the plea that they were contributing advanced technology. They are so powerful that the Indira Government dared not implement the recommendations of the Hathi Committee to nationalise the concerns. The CITU had been consistently fighting against the nefarious activities of these transnationals. The CITU participated in the Conference held in Mosow on May 4 and 5, 1981, at the invitation of AUCCTU. In India a conference against the Transnational Corporations in the Drug Industry was held at New Delhi in April 1981, and a seminar in November, 1981. A clarion call for fighting against multinationals particularly in the drug industry has been given.

Sickness in Industry

Sickness in industry is growing. According to the Reserve Bank of India, at the end of June 1979, there were 345 large sick industrial units in which bank credit amounting to Rs. 1101.2 crore was locked up. This exceeds the value of the total investment in the public sector. The number of

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sick units in the small scale sector was as high as 20, 326.

Growing Pauperisation

More and more people are being pushed below the poverty line. The officially declared figure places 48 per cent of the people-i.e., more than 30 millions of our people-living below the poverty line. This is an underestimate, for this had already reached 61 per cent in 1973-74.

Unemployment

Registered unemployment has grown at an annual rate of 10.6 per cent between 1974-75 and 1980-81. The growth between 1979-80 and 1980-81 is 13.3 per cent.

Housing

This rapidly deteriorating situation is further worsened by the growing collapse of housing in urban and rural areas. Of the total urban population nearly a fifth is estimated to constitute the slum population. In 1985, the magnitude of such population needing housing accommodation is estimated to be about 37 million.

The number of families in rural areas needing housing assistance would be around 14.5 million.

Fleecing the people

The Government with its policy of wage-freeze, its proposal for compulsory deposit of D.A., opposition to remunerative prices for the peasants, refusal of guarantee of decent wage to agricultural workers, its attack on the so-called high-wage islands and banning of strikes, seeks to transfer the burdens of the crisis to the common man while giving concessions to the landlords, monopolists, multinationals and big traders.

Social Security

The CITU welcomes the formulations in the Charter of Social Security. The position in India however, is quite different. Social security has to be all embracing. It must (a) cover medical care, (b) sickness benefit, (c) maternity benefit, (d) invalidating benefit, (e) old age benefit, (f) survivors' benefit, (g) benefit in respect of occupational injuries and diseases, (h) unemployment benefit, (i) family benefit. But the ESI Act covers only a very small part of social security and that too in the most niggardly way. The total per capita expenditure is restricted to Rs. 120 per annum. And for this meagre medical aid the workers are forced to contribute from their hard earned wages which are too inadequate to maintain them and their families in good health. The promised hospitalisation is another farce as the hospital accommodation works out at one bed per 1,500.

It must be understood that this criminal neglect of the workers' health is not due to paucity of funds. ESI Corporation has accumulated more than Rs. 3000 million of ESI money. The refusal to use accumulated funds, the refusal to take any serious action against defaulting employers, the proposal to withdraw benefits during strike-all form part of the single policy to curtail benefits while appropriating the workers' contribution for use by the Government.

Challenge of The '80s

The challenge of the '80s for the world working class, therefore, consists of steps to be taken to fight against the domination of the world by the advanced capitalist countries-the rich North.

The CITU would like to point out that the world trade union movement has to raise its powerful voice, in support of the struggle of the working class in the developing countries against hunger, against world domination by imperialist powers headed by the USA and for the betterment of their standards of living. The challenge of the '80s for the Indian working class also demands that it mobilises the people to force its own Government to change its anti-labour, anti-democratic policies. The CITU has been making sincere efforts for building up a united movement of the working class in the country. On June 4, 1981 a Conference was held at Bombay in which 4,000 delegates representing eight Central Trade Union Organisations and 40 National Federations participated. A programme of action against price-rise and the anti-labour policies of the Government was drawn up. The Government of India enacted the draconian Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA), in the teeth of opposition of all these trade union organisations and all opposition parties in Parliament, assuming powers to declare any strike in any industry or institution as illegal. The entire working class of the country observed a one-day general strike on January 19, 1982 in protest against these policies of the Government of India. There were large-scale arrests and victimisation before and after the strike. It needs special mention that there is ruthless suppression of trade union rights and violation of the right of freedom of association and right to collective bargaining in India, about which a complaint has been jointly submitted to the International Labour Organisation.

Pledge to Struggle

I take this opportunity to declare that the Indian working class, braving all repressive measures of the Government and the exploiting classes will move forward with the world working class movement to meet the challenges of the '80s. We are confident that the world working class movement will also express their solidarity and stand by us in our struggle against authoritarianism, against the pro-monopoly and anti-labour policies of the Government.

Long Live the Unity of the Workers of the World.

Uphold The Banner Of Proletarian Internationalism

(Abridged speech of Fidel Castro in the inaugural session of the Tenth Congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions.)

Laying special significance to the broad character of the Congress, Fidel Castro said that the interest shown for this Congress and the high level of participation we have referred to, are concrete expressions of the community of interests evidenced with ever greater strength, among all workers of the world. We can state that the Congress we feel so pleased in opening today is the Congress of the overwhelming majority of the organised trade union movement throughout the world.

For the first time, a Congress of this nature is held outside Europe and the fact that it takes place in Cuba, a country struggling for development in the midst of constant threats, slanderous campaigns and a rigid economic blockade, a country whose enemies have vainly attempted to isolate and prescribe from the remaining peoples of the world, invests it with a meaning of deep solidarity for which our people and Government wish to express their profound gratitude.

Focal contradiction

Of course, we do not ignore the heterogeneous political, philosophical and religious positions gathered in this hall. There is a wide range of circumstances and views.

Will it be possible, under these conditions, to find a common language? We believe it is possible, necessary and, what is more, indispensable. Contradictions may be many and at times serious. But the very fact of their gathering here proves that there is a more powerful and pressing contradiction: the contradiction with those who intend to drag mankind along the path of war, with those who try to profit in the midst of the disastrous situation the world economy is going through and unload the ominous consequences of the crisis on the workers' shoulders. In this difficult and dangerous juncture, we should aim at what unites us and not at what may separate us. We are convinced that without anyone necessarily having to abandon his position, the world's trade union movement can move toward dialogue, toward the search for paths of unity and towards concrete steps for common action, based on the supreme objective which defines trade unions in all continents: the defence of the interests of the

workers and of their peoples. It means defending their right to live, work and eat; the right to a safe, honourable and just existence.

Struggle For Peace

We are certain that at present, the most urgent and unpostponable task is the struggle for peace and safeguarding mankind from destruction caused by a nuclear holocaust. But, as we have underlined before, this battle is inseparably linked to the problems of development and to the efforts of the exploited peoples and workers in favour of more just and equitable living conditions. Workers are not only interested in living; they are also deeply concerned about the conditions they will live in. It is logical for workers throughout the world to express interest in the battle for peace and international detente. But, in large areas of the earth, there are huge masses of workers for whom life is so uncertain, subsistence so harsh and prospects so discouraging that the slogans of struggles for peace as such do not have a direct meaning. Thus, we are deeply convinced that, if we wish to develop a truly worldwide mass movement, the banners of the struggle for peace and the banners of the urgent and immediate claims the workers make must march closely united.

Danger of War

Responsible political leaders of the the world recognise that at present mankind is living through the most complex and serious situation since World War II. At present, only a few minutes would suffice for humanity, all fruits of man's work and intelligence, to be annihilated and destroyed for ever. An awareness of this growing threat constitutes the basic condition to denounce it, fight against it and resolutely mobilise ourselves before it.

Spiralling Arms Race

The responsibility for the increase of international tensions rests fully on the present U.S. Administration and some of its allies. They intend to stop the progress of all revolutionary national liberation-or simple progressive processes, by applying the false and ridiculous criterion that they are produced by alleged Soviet "interference or expansionism"; they encourage the unattainable objective of disrupting the strategic balance of forces, achieve military superiority and impose political negotiations from positions of force, based

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on blackmail and pressures; and, in attaining those goals, to unleash the most incredible arms race history has ever recorded. No propaganda campaign, nor distortion of reality, could conceal these essential truths.

Military-Industrial Complex

This deeply reactionary and aggressive path is to a large extent backed by the interests and profits of the big international consortia, main beneficiaries of that policy. The corporations that make up the so-called military-industrial complex, whose boom and benefits already place them among the most powerful U. S. monopolies, together with the great interests of the oil and chemical industries, see their profits multiply tremendously, precisely as a result of a policy whose most pernicious effects are brought to bear on the huge masses of workers in the form of worsening the conditions of life, unemployment, inflation, serious impacts on social security and poverty. These imperialist measures seriously endanger world peace. The risks they imply are so obvious that millions of workers, employees, intellectuals and students, men and women, young and old, have taken to the streets to express their condemnation of that policy through the most multitudinous and combative demonstrations and protests ever recalled since the end of World War II.

Military Build-Up

The United States at present possesses 2112 nuclear delivery weapons comprising launching platforms for inter-continental ballistic missiles, strategic bombers, and sub-marines. In addition to this the U.S. has nearly four million men in arms, 200 tactical-operational missile delivery vehicles, which may be fitted to weapons; over 11 thousand tanks, 12 thousand field artillery including atomic howitzers; more than 20 thousand air force units of various kinds and 848 naval units, among them 79 nuclear submarines and 20 aircraft carriers. The U.S. has over 300 major military bases scattered over all continents, and more than half a million soldiers permanently stationed abroad.

The explosive capability of the present nuclear arsenal is estimated at nearly one and a half million times that the Hiroshima bomb.

The deployment of ever-more sophisticated and destructive means multiplies risks and increases the likelihood of a nuclear catastrophe being unleashed by irresponsible and rash actions.

Military Budget

In economic terms, this frenzied arms craze implies a fabulous increase in the U. S. military

budget in the next four years, so that in 1986 it will amount to the hallucinating figure on 373 billion dollars, 36 per cent of the country's overall budget for that year. Between 1982 and 1986, U. S. military expenditures are estimated at one and half trillion dollars.

Squandering of Resources

This arms race unleashed by the United States entails the monstrous squandering of resources in a world now facing the most serious economic crisis of the past 50 years.

The human mind indignantly rebels at the thought that many of the distressing problems that afflict most of the world population-hunger, lack of culture, faulty health care, shortage of housing and jobs-could be greatly alleviated if only a portion of the fabulous resources allotted to the military expenditures were destined to the just cause of the people's well-being and progress.

Effect on Mankind

What do these colossal figures, in concrete terms, represent for mankind? Approximately 25 per cent of the world's scientific personnel is dedicated to military activities. 60 per cent of the overall scientific research expenditures is absorbed by military programmes. The volume of such research projects is five times greater than that of the projects devoted to man's health protection. What is the result of this phenomenon before a reality of poverty, hunger, ignorance, squalor and shortage for resources in the so-called Third World? The countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America allocate 5.9 per cent of their gross national product to weapons and military expenditures, whereas they devote only one per cent to public health and 2.8 percent to education.

The cost of one modern tank would pay for the construction of one thousand class rooms for 30 thousand children in underdeveloped countries. The price of a Trident nuclear submarine-the USA is planning to build 13 of them before 1990-equals the cost of keeping 16 million children from the underdeveloped world in school for a year; or the construction of 400 thousand living quarters for two million people. Endless examples could be offered to show the absurd criminal nature of this huge squandering of resources.

Slandorous Propaganda

The arms race evidently embraces the two world systems and its negative effects are felt both on capitalist and Socialist economics. But an attempt to place similar responsibilities on both

the systems in this phenomenon is, in our view, a flagrant injustice. In all honesty and objectivity we must acknowledge that in the past 40 years the initiative for the creation or production of new types of strategic weapons has never come from the Socialist community. History shows that the Socialist countries have been compelled to incur considerable military expenditures to safeguard their integrity and their sovereignty in the face of their enemies' aggressive policy and threats.

Threat By whom ?

We might ask ourselves, "Is the United States actually threatened by anyone?" "Is any power making ready to war on it?" "Can the sky-rocketing increases in military expenditures adopted by that country be justified by threats against national security?" We are fully convinced that the answer is 'NO', and that the only possible explanation for this military warmongering path is the aspiration of the most bellicose and rightist Yankee imperialist circles, in their all-out attempt to prop up the United States' role of gendarme of world reaction and to erect a barrier before the irrepressible struggle of the workers and the peoples the world over.

Effect on Working Masses

The arms race becomes all the more insufferable in the profound economic crisis the capitalist system is currently undergoing, whose negative impact falls on the world economy as a whole and, with particular intensity, on the working masses.

As in the past, the reaction of monopolies in the face of crisis has been to curtail production, cut down investments, underexploit plant capacities and lay off tens of millions of workers. Monopolies and large transnationals, based on the progress of the scientific-technical revolution, take advantage of the crisis to intensify the exploitation of workers and to degrade working conditions.

Unemployment

In the last five decades, unemployment has reached unprecedented limits. In developed capitalist countries members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the 1981 official unemployment figure was 25 million, that is, four million more than in 1980 and ten million more than during the 1974-75 crisis. In 1982, this figure is estimated to reach over 28 million. These are dramatic figures that, nevertheless, do not reflect the actual extent of unemployment, since statistics in the countries affected use different means to deceitfully conceal it.

According to the International Labour Organisation's data, in 1980 there were some 455 million unemployed or underemployed workers in the Third World representing over 43 per cent of the working-age population. Since then, the situation impressively deteriorated.

Women Most Affected

The scourge of unemployment and the anti-labour offensive waged by exploiters at these times of crisis affect women the most. The principle of equal pay for equal work is acknowledged through legislation in many capitalist States, but in real terms, work remuneration differences between women and men range between 20 and 50 per cent.

The Third World Countries

The economic crisis of capitalism is today reflected more severely in the countries of the underdeveloped world, aggravated by the poor overall development of the productive forces in those countries and the malformation of their economic structures.

Figures show that the rate of growth of the underdeveloped countries' gross national product, as a whole, dropped from 4.8 per cent in 1979 to 3.8 per cent in 1980 and to 3.2 per cent in 1981. The annual rate of growth of the lowest income countries in the underdeveloped world during the sixties was only 1.8 per cent and 0.8 per cent during the seventies.

The share of underdeveloped countries in world exports-excluding fuels-was reduced from 25 per cent in 1950 to less than 12 per cent in 1980. The continuing deterioration in trade relations between basic products and manufactures, sharpened by the increase in oil prices, has likewise contributed to the emergence of a huge, chronic deficit in the balance of payments of oil-importing underdeveloped countries that amounted to some 53 billion dollars in 1980.

The most significant result of this situation from the economic point of view is the huge indebtedness of the underdeveloped countries. The external debt of the so-called Third World is estimated to have reached in 1981 the enormous figure of over 524 billion dollars, the tendency being the continued increase in the brutal vicious circle of debt-service payments with growing interest rates, and more debts. Of course, the overwhelming majority of underdeveloped countries will never be able to settle this colossal debt, a situation that can be summarised in very few words: hunger, ignorance, squalor, poverty, unemployment, lack of opportu-

nities, lack of security, despair, inequality.

The cause of this disastrous situation lies in the imperialist policy, its selfish, warmongering and the ill-fated economic and social heritage that the capitalist system of production—first through colonialism and later through neo-colonialism—has bequeathed the world, with its characteristic aftermath of wars, bloodshed, social injustice and the exploitation of classes and nations.

Workers' Role

We would have little faith in the enormous fighting capabilities of the exploited masses, both in underdeveloped and in developed capitalist countries, and very little confidence in man's capabilities of progress, if we did not firmly believe that mankind can and must solve these problems. In that struggle workers are to play a foremost role. It is they who must undertake in the first place—for being the most revolutionary class in society—the historic task of transforming the unjust and merciless social order that has given rise to these appalling realities.

Smash All Barriers

For more than a century, imperialism and the oppressors have followed the tactics of dividing, opposing and weakening the workers' actions. In our increasingly smaller and interrelated world today, the universal nature of the problems is such and the presence of monopolies in economic life so intense, that the community of interests of all workers is more forcefully enhanced, and demands an increasingly unanimous and international response.

There are no longer peoples or events shut within their frontiers. Proof of this is the activities of transnational consortia, which on transferring entire industries and plants to countries that have a lower living standard, have sought to create rivalries among the workers of the different countries, multiply their own benefits and evade, often with the backing of repressive and bloody regimes, the just demands of the working class. Transnationals, as has been denounced, are thus paying, in some countries, salaries 27 times lower than those paid out in highly industrialised countries.

Growing Solidarity

But, despite these and other manoeuvres, at present we find that growing solidarity is forcing its way among the workers and their trade unions in the different areas of the world, the awareness of unity develops and the strikes, demonstrations and

protests which express the struggles of the working class for its legitimate and unrenounceable rights become ever greater.

The world's labour movement is growing, not only in numbers, but also in scope and depth. The inter-relation between economic problems and the most vital aspirations of a political nature becomes even more manifest. If a few years ago wage demands were the essence of labour strikes, today, on the other hand, it evinces the struggle for employment, against lay-offs, in favour of trade union rights for the sovereignty and independence of their respective countries, against imperialist interference, for denouncing the arms race, for transforming the war industry into a peace industry, for detente, disarmament and peaceful understanding in international life.

Accept the Challenges

The challenge the world faces today is unprecedented. For the first time in man's age-old history, we are confronted with the actual possibility of annihilation of everything created by the people's intelligence and labour, of the disappearance of humanity. If past experiences are to be of any use to us, we must all become aware of the fact that this time we would have no second opportunity to amend our own mistakes.

We are united by mankind's vital interest in peace; the determined struggle against the absurd arms race; the aspiration of all the workers of the world to a better, worthier, more equitable, reliable and just life; the right of the peoples to economic and political independence; the struggle against colonialism, racism and fascism; the combat against the exploitation of oligarchies and neo-colonial plunder; the universal struggle for new and more just international economic order; the feeling of solidarity for the peoples still struggling for their liberation.

History unites us, our destiny unites us, our future unites us.

Let us struggle with all our might for man's survival and for a future truly worthy of being called human.

Proletarians of the world, unite.

APPEAL OF THE CONGRESS TO WORKERS AND TRADE UNIONS OF ALL COUNTRIES

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We, the participants at the TENTH WORLD TRADE UNION CONGRESS meeting in HAVANA (Cuba) from 10 to 15 February 1982, representing 269 million trade union members from all continents and social systems, WARMLY GREET YOU, Brothers and Sisters in all countries.

WE HAIL Your glorious struggles and united actions at national, regional and international level to safeguard peace, defend and improve life and working conditions and to uphold and to widen trade union rights and democratic liberties;

WE REJOICE IN YOUR SUCCESSES in the field of these class battles;

WE PLEDGE our solidarity in your struggles; and

WE PLEDGE to carry forward these great traditions of united struggles and solidarity, to carry forward our task of uniting all trade union forces ever more closely in the face of the concerted offensive of the transnational corporations, imperialism, neocolonialism and reactionary groupings directed at the workers' rights, democratic advance and the peace and security of the peoples. Holding high our banner of united action, we shall isolate and defeat all those who seek to sow disruption and divide the ranks of workers and trade unions.

AND WE ADDRESS a message of unity to you, from this Congress, upholding high the banner of international solidarity; and workers' unity is the source of the international trade union movement's power. This unity is the guarantee of its triumph.

WE APPEAL to you, to work with more force and more resolution with a view to mobilise all workers, from all the progressive

and anti-imperialist forces of the world in the struggle for :

—To ACT with greater vigour and unity to curb the aggressive ambitions of imperialist reactions and prevent a world nuclear catastrophe; stop the arms race and to insist that the colossal resources spent on the arms race be reallocated to finance the urgent needs of social and economic development and especially to create more jobs and to solve the problem of mass unemployment;

TO DEMAND the reversal of anti-worker and anti-social policies pursued by governments in the interest of the profits and expansion of the transnational conglomerates and other monopolies and to impose a democratic alternative in the interest of workers and peoples; and to carry out efficient measures against mass unemployment, high inflation, rising taxes and other negative phenomena that cause the sufferings of workers in most of the world;

TO FURTHER REINFORCE solidarity in support of struggles for national independence and against colonialism and neocolonialism, racism, zionism and apartheid, fascist military dictatorships and against imperialist intervention in the internal affairs of countries and for a New International Economic Order upholding national sovereignty and economic independence.

TO PROMOTE greater international trade union cooperation and to urge all international and regional trade union organisations to act together, in appropriate forms, to defend workers' interests;

TO STRIVE their utmost to build trade union unity at national, regional and international level, to build together in unity and solidarity, a better world for all mankind and to meet the Challenges of the 1980s.'

Unity is our mighty weapon. Solidarity is our mighty shield. Acting together in unity and solidarity, we are sure to succeed.

The World Trade Union Congress

From Page One

(Since the report was prepared in December, 1981, the details of the strike could not be incorporated in it. After the strike, however, WFTU had sent a Telegram greeting the Indian Working Class for the successful strike and condemned the repressive measures taken by the Government to suppress it).

Resolutions and Decisions.

The Congress adopted a number of resolutions like on solidarity with the struggles of the people for national liberations, on Latin America and

the Caribbean, on the struggles of the people of South Africa, with Arab countries, in Cyprus, in Korea, on El Salvador, etc.

It decided to observe June as the month of peace to coincide with the U. N. Special Session. It also decided to observe September 1, the day of the outbreak of the World War-II, as a peace and solidarity day.

The Congress further decided to hold regional seminars on peace and trade union rights. The Seminar for the South region will be held in New Delhi in November, 1982.

Sandor Gaspar and Ibrahim Zakaria were re-elected as President and General Secretary respectively.