



THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

Central Trade Unions Observe National Integration Day

IN pursuance of the Call given by the All India Convention against Communalism held at Delhi on 11th May, the Central Trade Unions observed National Integration Day all over India on August 9, 1986 by holding rallies, processions, etc, which were joined by thousands of workers and employees of all sections from various trade unions. Following are the reports:

Delhi: At Delhi, as the Administration did not give permission to the trade unions to take out a procession, a mass meeting was held at Feroz Shah Kotla Ground, being jointly sponsored by AITUC, BMS, CITU, HMS, INTUC, NFITU, TUCC, UTUC (LS) and UTUC.

Over 5,000 workers including large number of women attended the meeting. The deliberation of the meeting was conducted by a Presidium consisting of K.G. Srivastava (AITUC), Veerendra Bhatnagar (BMS), M.K. Pandhe (CITU), S.P. Singh (HMS), D.D. Shastri (TUCC), O.P. Khullar (UTUC-LS) and Pratul Crowdhury (UIUC). The meeting was addressed by Indrajit Gupta, General Secretary of AITUC; Prabhakar Ghate, General Secretary of BMS; Samar Mukherjee, General Secretary of CITU; Veereshwar Tyagi, Secretary of HMS; D.D. Shastri, Secretary of TUCC; Gyan Singh, Secretary of UTUC (LS) and Sushil Bhattacharya, Vice President of UTUC.

The speakers condemned the administration for not giving permission to the trade unions to take out the procession campaigning for communal harmony and for national unity and integrity, while they allowed the religious fundamentalists to take out processions on the issue of Babri Masjid-Ramjanam Bhumi issue. A resolution was unanimously adopted calling upon all sections of the working people and the trade unions to take the lead and unitedly intervene affectively against the Divisive, Communal, Secessionist, Chauvinist, Casteist and anti-national forces, which are being backed by the internal reactionaries and external agencies intended to dismember the country, and safeguard the unity and integrity of the country. The resolution declared that a programme for sustained movement will be worked out to this end and implemented from joint platforms and in joint actions throughout the country.

Although the programme to fight the divisive forces unitedly was originally taken by the ten Central Trade Unions, yet the NLO remained

absent for the 11th May Convention itself. In the mass meeting at the Feroz Shah Kotla ground, the INTUC and NFITU also could not send any representative. The INTUC however sent their flag which was hoisted in the ground alongwith the seven flags of the other trade unions.

Samar Mukherjee's Speech

Samar Mukherjee drew pointed attention of the workers to the black hand of the imperialists behind the divisive forces of all sorts. He called upon the workers to take serious note of the conspiracy of the imperialists to dismember the country by jacking up these forces taking advantage of the deplorable socio-economic condition of the country. He lucidly brought home the fact that the ever depressing socio-economic condition and the uneven development of the country was the result of the capitalist path of development and the feudal and semi-feudal forces sharing power in the government. With this social set up, and the government depending on the imperialist agencies for the development of capitalism, the situation had become a breeding ground for imperialism for their destabilisation plans to balkanise the country. The government of India, on the other hand, instead of exposing and fighting the sinister role of imperialism and the divisive forces, were compromising with the divisive forces for its electoral gains. He said that the bourgeois-land-lord government cannot protect the unity and integrity of the country. It is the working class which have to take up the reins. It is true, he said, that the working class have been waging united militant struggles for their economic demands. But that has yet not instilled the class consciousness among the workers. This has been proved by the fact that they also get involved in communal passions and turn into Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians or upper castes and lower castes whenever there is a divisive flare up. The Gujarat caste battle was a classic example of this low class consciousness of the workers. He called upon the mass of the workers to intervene into the situation unitedly to stop such divisive flare up. Giving example of W. Bengal, he said that the divisive forces backed by imperialism were trying to raise their ugly heads in that State too. But the moment there arises any such move, the working class immediately come out on the streets to unitedly thwart their evil designs. He cited the current determined struggle of the

working class against the G.N.L.F. While congratulating the trade unions for their first united demonstration against the divisive forces, he exhorted on them to consolidate and further strengthen the unity for the national cause.

(Resolution of the Delhi mass meeting printed after the report.)

W. Bengal: Jointly sponsored by nine Central Trade Unions, a convention was held at Muslim Institute Hall, which was conducted by a presidium consisting of one representative from each trade union. Manoranjan Roy, General Secretary of the State CITU placed the resolution against the divisive and secessionist forces. Others who spoke were Subrata Mukherjee, President of the State Unit of INTUC; Kamalapati Roy of the State Unit of AITUC; Anil Das Choudhury of UTUC; Arabindo Ghosal of TUCC; Debesh Sanyal of BMS, etc. Manoranjan Roy explained the secessionist move of the so-called Gorkha National Liberation Front for a Gorkha Land and condemned the role of the Government of India for not clearly defining its stand on the issues. He drew the attention of the audience to the militant and united resistance given by the tea garden workers at Darjeeling braving the violent attack on them. He called upon all the secular and patriotic forces to foil the conspiracies of the imperialists and maintain the unity of the people and the country.

Tripura: The State CITU alongwith other trade unions organised a convention at Town Hall, Agartala. Moving the main resolution, Biren Datta, the State General Secretary said that for a change in the social system the working class must forge its impregnable unity as a class which cannot be disrupted by the divisive forces and while fighting the opportunist policies of the government of India, it must at the same time direct its struggle against imperialism which is backing the secessionist forces to destabilise the country. Initiating the discussions, Baidyanath Majumdar, the State CITU President said that under the bourgeois-landlord rule, on the eve of the 40th Independence Day we are faced with a situation to decide whether we can maintain the unity and integrity of the country or allow it to be torn to pieces under the imperialist designs. He said, to reach its final goal, the working class has to lead the struggle to maintain the unity of the country and mobilise all sections of the toiling people with it, especially the weaker and minority sections who are worst affected by the communal flare up and are particularly utilised by the ruling classes and the imperialist agencies. Among others who spoke were Sunil Das (AITUC), Sudharshan Bhattacharya (UTUC), Bijoy Krishna Roy (TUCC), Ajay Bishwas, M.P. (CPI-M) and leaders of various other trade unions.

Gujarat: A massive State level convention was held at Ahmedabad which was attended by about 2000 delegates from various parts of the State. The convention was jointly convened by CITU, AITUC, INTUC, HMS, HMKP, TLA, etc. The resolution of the convention was moved by Har Kishan Shah, the State CITU Secretary. Among those who spoke were G K Parmar (CITU); Masudal Hassain, MP

CPI(M); Homi Daji (AITUC); Ratilal Shah (INTUC); Ajit Khanderia (HMS); Suryakant Patil (HMPK); Manilal Parmar (TLA) and also the Chief Minister of Gujarat. The convention decided to hold a Peace March on August 15 and thereafter to hold district level conventions all over the State.

Assam: To observe 9th August as the National Integration Day successfully, a State level convention was organised jointly by CITU, AITUC, HMS and UTUC (LS) on August 3 at Guwahati. The convention was attended by hundreds of workers from various industries and government employees from different trade unions. The convention resolved to carry forward united struggle by all sections of the working people against the imperialist backed divisive forces of all sorts to maintain the unity of the people and the country. Among those who addressed the convention were Amal Ghosh Dastidar, the State CITU General Secretary; Renuka Devi Barkotoky (INUC); Bhogeshwar Datta (AITUC) and Heman Das, MLA, CPI(M).

Bihar: A hall meeting was jointly organised by CITU, AITUC and HMS. The meeting was addressed by Yogeshwar Gope and Chandni Prasad (President and General Secretary of the State CITU); Kamla Singh (HMS); Ram Avatar Sashtri (AITUC) and leaders of various other trade unions. Similar meetings were also held in the industrial centres like Bokaro, Dhanbad, Ranchi, Hazaribagh, Jamshedpur, etc.

Haryana: A convention was organised by the Trade Union Council of Karnal, consisting of CITU, AITUC, INTUC, BMS, and other trade unions of different workers and employees. About 15 leaders of different organisations spoke on the resolution against the divisive forces, denouncing the imperialist conspiracies and assailing the government of India for its opportunistic policies. After the convention a massive procession was taken out which culminated before the Deputy Commissioner's residence into a public meeting. After the demonstration, a memorandum with the resolution was handed over to the Deputy Commissioner.

Madhya Pradesh: The Joint Trade Union Council of Indore consisting of CITU, INTUC, AITUC, BMS and other trade unions observed a National Integration Week from August 9 to 13. Gate meetings were held at the industrial centres and establishments from August 9 to 11. On August 13, a convention was organised. The convention adopted the resolution taken by the ten Central Trade Unions in the 11th May Convention held at Delhi. The convention decided to take out a Peace March for communal harmony on September 1 at Indore. The Koyla Shramik Singh (CITU) organised a mass meeting at Banki on August 9, which was attended by different other trade unions and the colliery workers.

Uttar Pradesh: At Bareilly, a district convention was jointly organised by CITU, AITUC, INTUC, HMS and BMS. The Meerut District CITU also organised a meeting and issued a statement. A joint convention was held at Bulandshar and a massive rally at Shaharanpur.

Karnataka: The National Integration Day was organised at different centres of the State by I(M), CITU, SFI, DYFI and Prant Raita Sangh. At Bangalore, a Preparatory Committee consisting of CITU, AITUC, HMS, BMS, INTUC and different other trade unions convened a convention at Town Hall on August 2. The Convention was addressed among others by S. Suryanarayan Rao, T.S. Anantram, R. Srinivas (CITU); Babu Mathew, M.S. Krishnan, M.C. Narsimhan (AITUC); Sheshadri (BMS); Ramdev (HMS); Adantaya (INTUC), etc. The convention decided to hold a big rally against the divisive forces on October 2 at Bangalore and then organise districtwise conventions throughout the State. Conventions, meetings, rallies and processions were also held at Bijapur, Bagalkot, Udipi, Mangalore, Mysore and in several places in Dharwar district. Various trade unions and people from different walks of life participated in the programmes. 2000 copies of Com. BTR's article on National Integration were sold on the day. Lakhs of leaflets were also distributed and posters pasted throughout the state.

ATTACK ON WORKERS OBSERVING NATIONAL INTEGRATION DAY

The involvement and collusion of the administration with the divisive forces and the anti-socials was laid bare at Barsua (Orissa) and Bokaro (Bihar) when the workers were holding the National Integration Day. At Barsua when about 300 CITU workers, who came by train, were proceeding to attend the public meeting at about 2 P.M., a big number of anti-socials led by some hirelings of the SAIL management and one gangster of village Bonai, attacked the workers with lethal weapons. A large number of workers including female labourers were seriously injured and hospitalised. The CITU had obtained the permission for the meeting and the whole incident lasting for about two hours occurred in presence of the full police force led by the DSP and the SDO. But they remained simply onlookers. The meeting had to be abandoned. The hoodlums went on threatening the workers in the entire area moving in open jeeps and motor cycles till late night. When at about 10.30 P.M. Ananta Rout and Lambodar Nayak, the CITU leaders went to see the DSP, he refused to intervene into the incident on the plea that it had occurred inside the railway station, while in fact, it occurred outside the station and the bazar road. The CITU has lodged a protest to the Chief Minister of Orissa and to the Union Home Minister.

Bokaro: At Bokaro the attack was launched by the CISF when the workers were holding a joint demonstration in front of the Administrative Gate of the Bokaro Steel Plant. About 150 workers were seriously injured including some leaders of both AITUC and CITU. The attack was so reckless that even some journalists were also beaten up. A joint rally was held on August 16 by CITU, AITUC, TUCC and HMS to protest against the highhandedness of the CISF. The rally was addressed among others by M.K. Pandhe (CITU) and Indrajit

Gupta (AITUC). The 40,000 workers have decided to down their tools on August 30 in protest. The unions lodged joint protest during the meeting of the Joint Committee of Steel Industry at Delhi on August 12 and 13 and met the Chairman of SAIL and demanded immediate action against the DIG of CISF who ordered the attack. The CITU Secretariat also issued a statement on August 16 demanding action against the culprits.

Resolution Adopted by the Central Trade Unions

National Integration Day — 9th August, 1986

This mass meeting for communal harmony and national integration organised on 9th August, 1986 at Delhi, jointly by nine Central Trade Unions, viz, AITUC, BMS, CITU, HMS, INTUC, NFITU, TUCC, UTUC(LS) expresses grave concern over the highly deteriorating communal situation in the country. Divisive forces like communalism, secessionism, casteism and regional chauvinism aided and abetted by internal reactionaries and external agencies have made damaging inroads into our national unity. In the wake of the secessionist movement by the extremists in Punjab, the demand for a separate Gorkha land by the so-called Gorkha National Liberation Front constitute another anti-national move intended to dismember the country. These inroads find expression in such intensity and in such diverse form that in the result, mass movements and organisations are paying heavy toll. There have been large scale communal riots in J & K, Punjab, Delhi, U.P., Gujarat and other places recently.

The communal elements use any pretext to foment riots. Issues like the Supreme Court Judgment in Shah Bano case and then the Court Order in Babri Masjid-Ramjanam Bhumi case were used by the religious fundamentalists to flame up communal riots. These communal elements openly use places of worship for collecting arms and arsenals to commit crimes.

All the nine Central Trade Unions note with regret that the industrial centres have also been seriously affected due to the criminal activities of these divisive forces. It has also been the experience that in most of the communal riots the working class, particularly the weaker sections are the victims. The conflict between the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on one hand and the Caste Hindus on the other on the question of reservation of jobs led to casteist violence in Gujarat and other States, which has seriously affected the unity of the working class.

It is therefore urgently needed that the organised working class intervene immediately and effectively in this critical hour to preserve communal amity and bring a sense of oneness in the country in co-operation with all secular and patriotic forces. Arising out of a very close knit relationship of common interests and common threats, the working people constitute a significant section of the population who are ideally placed to combat all these

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N.C.C. Decides to Fight the Government's Policy on Public Sector

THE National Campaign Committee of Trade Unions in its meeting held on July 29 at Delhi assailed the Government's policy of privatisation of the public sector and unanimously decided to fight the policy demanding its reversal. The meeting discussed in depth the retrograde shift in the policy and was of the unanimous opinion that it was one of denigration of the public sector not only in favour of the Indian private monopolists, but also the multinationals. The public sector is being made to compete with the multinationals. The meeting was of the opinion that the Government had surrendered to the demands of the World Bank. The disbandment of the public sector, allowing free entry to the multinationals, would endanger the economic independence of the country and set at nought the objective of self-sufficiency and indigenisation and also retard industrial growth. The meeting also expressed serious indignation at the Govt's attempt to bypass bipartism and stall the forthcoming wage negotiations which are scheduled to start.

To discuss the issues, particularly related to the policy on public sector, the meeting decided to convene an extended meeting of the national federations and the public sector unions at Delhi on August 14 and then to hold an All India Convention of workers and employees of the public sector at Delhi in October to chalk-out programmes of action.

The meeting also noted with satisfaction that the INTUC's policy also is to defend the public sector against privatisation. It welcomed the suggestion to approach INTUC also to join the movement so that all the Central Trade Unions could unitedly put the force of the entire working class to intervene into the dangerous policy of the Government and the functioning of the public sector.

The meeting also condemned the Fourth Pay Commission's report for not conceding the main demand of the Central Government employees of parity in pay with public sector employees. It extended full support to the agitations launched by the different sections of the employees and was confident that all the Central Government employees would launch united struggle to achieve their demand.

The meeting was presided over by Umraomal Purohit of HMS and attended by Samar Mukherjee, Nrisingha Chakrabarty, P.K. Ganguly (CITU) Indrajit Gupta, K.G. Srivastava, T.N. Siddhanta, Homi Daji (AITUC); Veereshwar Tyagi, S.P. Singh

(HMS); O.P. Aghi, R.K. Bhakt (BMS); J.S. Dara (ITUC-Dara); D.D. Shastri (TUCC); Pratul Chowdhury (UTUC) and Pritish Chanda (UTUC-LS).

Meeting with the Federations

The meeting with the federations on August 14, was attended by 60 representatives of the various national federations, including the constituent Central Trade Unions of the NCC. Com. K.G. Srivastava of AITUC presided over the meeting. Initiating the proceeding he briefed about the proposal of NCC taken in its meeting on 29.7.86 to hold a convention on public sector at Delhi in October. The NCC decided to convene the convention to discuss the pros and cons regarding recent retrograde policy of government to denigrate the public sector, go in for privatisation and further inviting the multinationals. He said that since many non-NCC unions, including INTUC unions were also prepared to join, the convention should involve as many trade unions as possible so that a broad based struggle could be built up in defence of the public sector.

The following 20 representatives including the leadership of the Central Trade Unions spoke in the meeting: Dongra (Defence Employees), Purna Chandra Rao (Convenor, Coordination Committee of Public Sector Unions, Hyderabad), B.D. Panch (BHEL, Delhi), R.K. Bhakt (BMS), Mittal (AIRF), Harish Sharma (BEFI), N.C. Sharma (Fertilizer Workers' Federation), N.P. Upadhyaya (GIC), Brij Mohan Toofan (HMS), Suresh Panwar (IDPL), Jagmohan Lal Sharma (P&T), Roop Singh (University and College Teacher's Federation), S.K. Vyas (Confederation of Central Govt. Employees), Y.D. Sharma (AITUC), J.S. Dara (ITUC), Samar Mukherjee (CITU), Sri Krishna (Central Govt. Employees), Gyan Singh (UTUC-LS), Bhangu (AIREC) and S.K. Sanyal (AITUC).

All the speakers expressed serious concern over the policy of the government to privatise the public sector and over the recommendations of the Arjun Sengupta Committee. They further expressed serious opposition to the government's policy of invitation to the multinationals and also the move to scuttle down the forthcoming wage negotiations. They also suggested for a two day convention and welcomed the suggestion to make the convention a broad based one. The representatives of the Central Government employees also stressed on the report of the 4th Pay Commission and opined for inclusion of the demand for parity in wages with the public sector employees and also for amendment of Article 311 of the Constitution. Gyan Singh
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Public Sector Convention at Mavalankar Hall, New Delhi on October 20 and 21.

Secretariat Decisions

THE Secretariat of CITU met at Delhi on August 15, under the Presidentship of B.T. Ranadive. Samar Mukherjee, E. Balanandan, M.K. Pandhe, Nrisingha Chakrabarty and P.K. Ganguly attended the meeting. The secretariat discussed the following issues:

W.C. Meeting: Preparations for the Working Committee meeting to be held at Delhi from September 24-26 were discussed, apart from preparation of the report. The meeting decided to incorporate in the report a review of the implementation of the earlier decisions of the General Council by the State Committees and the unions and the activities keeping in view the tasks on the trade union movement with the developing situations. This would include the achievement in the struggle for united actions; May Day celebration, etc, with emphasis on the struggle in the public sector. The meeting also decided to adopt resolutions on public sector, 4th Pay Commission report, withdrawal of maternity benefit, continuance of EDA system, on language issue, Punjab, Sri Lanka, on the Gorkhahand issue, Indo-Pak relation, the proposed Child Labour Act, etc in the Working Committee meeting.

Lathi Charge by CISF: M.K. Pandhe reported that there was a brutal lathi charge by the CISF on the workers at Bokaro on August 9 when the trade unions were observing the National Integration Day. It was reported that the CISF was wrecking vengeance on the trade unions for having raised the charge of corrupt practices by the CISF. The Secretariat condemned the lathi charge and demanded an impartial enquiry into the misdeeds of the CISF. It also demanded compensation to all those who were injured by the lathi charge.

Electricity Workers' Demonstration: E. Balanandan reported about the electricity workers' demonstration at Boat Club on August 12 in demand for a national wage policy. About 5000 workers from all over India joined the demonstration and a large number courted arrest led by E. Balanandan. The meeting extended full support to the struggle of the electricity workers.

Peerless Employee's Convention: P.K. Ganguly reported about the all India Convention of Peerless employees which was held at Delhi on August 7, demanding nationalisation of the company. The meeting extended full support to the struggle and reiterated its demand for nationalisation in the interest of the lakhs of employees and involvement of millions of people in the business of the company.

Convention on Public Sector: M.K. Pandhe reported about the meeting of the National Campaign Committee with the federations, which was called

at Delhi on August 14 to decide about holding a convention against the government's policy of privatisation of the public sector. The Secretariat endorsed the decision of the meeting to form a broad based Preparatory Committee with those public sector unions also which are not in the NCC including the INTUC unions which are prepared to join the convention and fight against the retrograde policy of the government. It also endorsed the decision to hold a two day convention in October instead of one day as earlier decided.

On Railway Accidents: The Secretariat viewed with serious concern the recent railway accidents which killed a large number of people. It condemned the Ministry of Railways for having diluted the safety rules by withdrawing the provisions of guard and brake van, by suspending issues of vacuum certificates and not notifying the stations when a particular train was running without brake van or guard. The attempt of the authorities to run long distance trains without following these elementary safety precautions coupled with the failure to replace the over aged rolling stock, bridges, railway tracks, etc and forcing the loco running staff to work for more than 10 hours at a stretch in violation of the agreement arrived at in 1973, had created the serious situation in which so many accidents had taken place taking a toll of more than a hundred lives this year. The Secretariat demanded a thorough review of the situation so as to ensure safe travel in the railways.

CITU Discriminated in Assam: Nrisingha Chakrabarty reported about exclusion of CITU from all tripartite bodies in Assam by the State authorities. The membership of CITU was arbitrarily reduced by the State government excluding it from such bodies. The meeting strongly condemned the discriminatory action of the State government which violated the principle of tripartism and was against the ILO recommendation on the subject. The CITU has already lodged a protest. The meeting demanded an immediate rectification of this discriminatory treatment.

Delhi Textile Strike: M.K. Pandhe reported about the settlement in the long drawn strike in the Birla Textile Mills, Delhi. In view of the strike in DCM still continuing and the management remaining adamant despite settlement in Ayodhya and Birla Mills, the Secretariat demanded of the Government to intervene immediately to compel the management to settle the dispute, failing which, to take over the management.

Meeting of Sugar Coordination Committee: P.K. Ganguly reported about the meeting of the Coordination Committee in Sugar Industry, which was called at Delhi on August 10 and 11 to finalise the reply to the questionnaire sent by the Wage Board. However, only four State Committees viz, Tamil

nadu, U.P., Haryana and Rajasthan sent representatives, who were not prepared with the replies. As suggested by the meeting, the Secretariat decided to ask the Wage Board for extension of the time for submission of the replies to October 31. It called upon all the State Committees to whom the questionnaire has been sent to expedite the replies.

Visit of COSATU Delegates: M.K. Pandhe reported about the visit of CTUC representatives to CITU office on August 11 and the proposed visit of a delegation from the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) in India to meet the trade unions. They will visit Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Dhanbad and Durgapur. The Secretariat decided to organise joint meetings to greet the COSATU delegation and also receive them at the Central Office of CITU at Delhi on September 8. M.K. Pandhe also reported about his recent visit to England and contacts made with the British TUC.

Minimum Wage: P.K. Ganguly reported about the recent proposals sent by the Government revising the minimum wages of workers in various mines. The wages proposed even after revision were below the poverty line. He also reported that despite repeated representations, the government had not yet decided upon any criteria to determine the minimum wage which resulted in utter chaos in the field. After the 1983 strike and signature campaign there was no movement on the issue. He suggested an all India movement to press upon the Government to decide on the issue. The Secretariat decided to discuss the issue in the Working Committee meeting.

Verification: P.K. Ganguly reported about the meeting on verification held with the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) on July 31, in which the main point that yet remained to be decided was on the question of spot verification of the agricultural/rural workers. The trade unions were also supposed to send their suggestions regarding classifications of the industries. The Government had also sent their comments on the twelve agreed points. To decide on all these points the Central Trade Unions had decided to meet on September 2 and then intimate to the CLC for calling a meeting to finalise these issues. Regarding the question of spot verification of the unorganised agricultural/rural workers, the Secretariat opined that there cannot be any spot verification of such workers.

Disaffiliation of Union: The Secretariat discussed the question of disaffiliation of the Hindustan Lever Contractor's Labour Union which was referred to by the General Council. Nrisingha Chakrabarty placed the relevant papers regarding the activities of the union. The meeting found evidences that the union was acting against the policies of CITU and therefore disaffiliated it from the CITU.

CITU Nominations: The Secretariat made the following nominations: E. Balanandan was nominated to attend the 11th Congress of WFTU to be

held at Berlin from September 16-22. Mangat Ram Pasla was nominated to the Regional P.F. Committee in Punjab. P.K. Ganguly was nominated to attend the workshop on Worker's Participation in Management organised by the National Productivity Council at Delhi on September 11 and 12.

Working Committee Meeting

NOTICE

It is hereby notified that a meeting of the Working Committee of CITU will be held at New Delhi from 24th September 1986 to 26th September 1986, to discuss the following Agenda:

1. President's Address
2. Condolence
3. Confirmation of the minutes of the last working committee meeting held at Calcutta on 31st March, 1986.
4. General Secretary's Report.
5. Review of re-orientation in our work.
6. Review of Struggle for Trade Union Unity.
7. United Trade Union struggle against Divisive Forces.
8. Problem of Unemployment.
9. Public Sector Employees struggle.
10. Fourth Pay Commission Report.
11. Verification of membership of Central Trade Unions.
12. Other subjects with the permission of the Chair.

All State Committees are requested to send their reports covering items 5, 6, 7 of the Agenda by 31st of August '86. All members are requested to reach New Delhi one day ahead of the meeting so that they could study the report. The meeting shall commence from 9.30 A.M. on 24th September, 1986.

General Secretary, Delhi State Committee of CITU, 3-Vithalbhay Patel House, New Delhi-110001 is requested to form a Reception Committee for the purpose.

Those who require return reservation may please inform the Reception Committee with particulars of their expected date of return sending money in advance. All Members are requested to attend the meeting.

Samar Mukherjee
General Secretary

Successful Jute Strike and Rural Bengal Bundh

2.5 lakh Jute workers and entire rural West Bengal observed complete general strike on 7th August 1986 on 8 point demands which included (1) Immediate nationalisation of Jute Industry and Jute Trade, (2) Monopoly procurement of raw jute direct from the growers at remunerative price (3) Complete ban on the import of PVC Grannules, the raw materials for manufacturing synthetic bags, (4) Closed and locked-out mills be opened immediately, etc.

Jute industry has a vital role in the economy of the country, but due to ruthless exploitation, deliberate neglect and mismanagement by Jute barons the industry is facing a serious crisis jeopardising the livelihood of 2.5 lakh jute workers and 40 lakh jute growers. This has been further aggravated by the recent policy of the Govt of India to allow free imports of synthetic grannules for the manufacture of synthetic bags and the Railway ministry's circular indicating that henceforth materials like salt, cement etc., will be carried only in synthetic bags. The jute cultivators are also facing serious situation where they are being deprived of a remunerative price in the absence of monopoly procurement of raw jute by the J.C.I.

Considering all these factors, all the trade unions functioning in Jute industry including CITU, AITUC, etc., met on 14th July 1986 and jointly gave a call for observing 24 hours strikes in Jute industry on 7th August '86. This was followed by a joint call given by the Left Kisan Sabhas to observe 24 hours general strike in rural West Bengal. Both the calls were supported by the Left Front. Greater Calcutta's industrial areas' jute mills, Assansol, Durgapur, Raniganj, industrial areas of 24 Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly, Haldia, Kharagpur, Tea Gardens of North Bengal and Railways were exempted from the Bundh.

In support of this strike and Bundh a mass campaign was organised throughout the states and in industrial areas by organising meetings, street corner meetings, gate meetings, etc., which continued for three weeks. The strike and Bundh was a complete success. All transport excepting railways which was excluded from the strike, came to a stand still on the day. All offices, shops, schools and colleges were closed. Agricultural workers and peasants did not work in the rural areas. In the industrial areas demonstrations were organised in support of the strike. This strike set a glorious example of united struggle of the working class and the peasantry.

On the day of the strike a huge rally of workers and employees were held at Calcutta at Sidhu-Kanhu-Dahar. This rally was jointly organised by CITU, AITUC, UTUC, TUCC, HMS, 12 July Committee, Bank Employees' Federation and Mercantile Federation. Monoranjan Roy, General Secretary, West Bengal State Committee of CITU presided over the meeting. A resolution congratulating the working class and the peasantry for the

successful observance of the strike was passed. The resolution reiterated the demands and called upon the working class and people of West Bengal irrespective of their political opinion to continue the campaign. Niren Ghose of CITU and leaders of other organisations spoke in the meeting.

Meeting of Study Group for Construction Workers

The Tripartite Study Group for the Building and Construction industry which had split itself in three groups (when the CITU representative could not attend the meeting due to being abroad) considered different aspects of the problem. During the course of indepth study, a demand for Contract Labour Board in pattern of Dock Labour Board was raised very forcefully. The study revealed that in Bombay, such Labour Boards are already in existence for Mathadis various schedules of employment. These Board even fix up wages of the workers through tripartite discussion.

On August 8, when the Study Group met in plenary Session to discuss the reports of all groups, it was noticed that all these groups, too had projected the necessity for having such Boards. At this stage, the representative from the Builders' Association of India circulated a draft Bill for the Building and Construction Industry workers (Conditions of Employment, Service, Safety, Social Security, Regulation of Relation and Welfare) Act 1986. While introducing the voluminous 82 page document, the representative explained the basic parameters of the proposed Act which indicated that the industrialists want the Board to do their clerical labour while they would recruit the people and fix up their wages etc. As it was not possible to examine the Bill in a meeting it was decided that all members should go through the Bill and make clause wise suggestions by 31st August '86 so that the issue could be finalised after obtaining the opinion of the Builders' Association of India. The next date of the meeting was fixed on 19th September 1986.

On August 9, 1986, CITU office received a packet of documents from the Convenor, Co-ordination Committee of Construction Workers' Unions, Calcutta, which also contained another draft of a Bill titled "The Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Bill 1986. CITU's representative in the Study Group, Nrisingha Chakrabarty, had immediately sent two copies of the same to the authorities so that they could simultaneously examine the same. Copies of the Bill proposed by the Builders' Association of India have been sent to the Convenor of the Co-ordination Committee and Santi Ghatak for a similar evaluation of both the Bills. All concerned have been asked to send their comments by August 25, so that a suitable document could be presented to the study group.

Meeting of Study Group on Leather Workers

THE fourth meeting of the Tripartite Study Group on the living and working conditions of the leather workers both in the organised and decentralised sectors was held on July 30 at Delhi. The Additional Secretary in the Labour Ministry presided over the meeting. The draft report circulated by the Labour Ministry on the basis of the discussions held at the meeting on May 19 was discussed. S. Chandrashekar represented CITU in the meeting.

The study group had before it two reports by two study teams, one from Tamilnadu and the other from U.P., entrusted with the task of conducting field surveys in the respective states. The Tamilnadu study team had visited various centres in Tamilnadu, like Dindigal, Erode, Vaniyambadi, Ambur, Ranipet and Madras and prepared a comprehensive report detailing the horrible working and living conditions of the leather workers in the organised sector. How the tanners were evading all labour legislations by successfully evading their registration under the Factories Act, had been brought out by this report. Excepting a few tanneries, others were not providing the welfare measures contemplated in the various Acts. Strict enforcement of the labour legislation by the Factory Inspectorate, notifying all the Tanneries under Section 85 (i) of the Factories Act, so that workers employed in all Tanneries are assured of safety and welfare amenities provided under the Act, ensuring treatment of effluents, not granting license where tanners do not provide for effluent treatment, safety measures in the Tannery, constitution of a Welfare Fund for leather workers by levying a suitable cess on the leather industry, etc were some of the major recommendations of the Tamilnadu study team. The Tamilnadu study team drew special attention to the fact that the Central Govt agency—the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), was not paying Bonus to workers, nor were the workers covered under the ESI. It suggested that the KVIC should ensure these benefits to workers.

While many of these recommendations were accepted by the Study Group, differences arose over constituting the Welfare Fund and covering the workers in the self-employed sector. The labour representatives pointed out that the terms of reference of the Study Group, clearly stated that the living and working conditions of the self employed should be studied. Further the Industrial Committee on leather and footwear industry had already decided that a pilot study of the living conditions of the self employed should be conducted. It was decided that a pilot study would be conducted and that the agency which should conduct the study would be decided soon.

Regarding constitution of a Welfare Fund for leather workers, it was decided to collect the follow-

ing data before coming to a conclusion:

(a) Minimum wages fixed for the tannery workers by various State Govts, and this should be compared with the minimum wages fixed for Beedi, Mica etc workers for whom Welfare Funds already exist; (b) Functioning of the Welfare Fund in the various states, the income, expenditure, the welfare measures carried out, etc.

The labour representatives pointed out that the leather industry had made rapid strides in the country and has become a major source for earning foreign exchange. Machines have been introduced, production has gone up and the tanners have made enormous profits. But there is a reduction in number of workers and their working and living conditions remained horrible. The organised section of workers and the self-employed are entitled to get a portion of wealth created by them to be earmarked for improving their living conditions, medical facilities, and for providing scholarship for Technical Education etc by the creation of welfare fund and implementing it through the State Government.

Electricity Workers Court Arrest

AS per the call of Electricity Employees Federation of India, a demonstration was held by the electricity workers of India in New Delhi on August 12. Even with special request the police did not allow the procession to proceed from Sivaji Park. Not only that, six buses were stopped by the Haryana police while they were coming to join the demonstration. Many workers were also arrested while walking on the roads. In spite of all this several thousand workers assembled at the Windsor Place and a huge procession was taken to the Boat Club which was led by E. Balanandan, President EEFI; D. Janakiraman, Secretary EEFI; and the state leaders who came to participate in the demonstration. Mainly workers from Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar, UP and from other Hindi speaking states joined the procession in a big way. From Kerala, West Bengal, Tamilnadu, the representation was token. 22 unions took part in the demonstration from 14 states. At the Boat Club the rally was held in which Com. B.T. Ranadive, M.K. Pandhe, Janakiraman, E. Balanandan and other leaders of the Electricity workers spoke. The slogans raised by the workers for communal harmony and peace attracted the people's attention. The demand to have a national wage for Electricity workers and for that the appointment of a tripartite body by the Government of India together with other 9 demands were submitted to energy Minister by the union leaders. He promised quick action on the demands. Before the close of the meeting the police arrested several hundred workers including President E. Balanandan and Secretary Janakiraman. Later in the evening they were released by the police.

Movement Against Unemployment

The CITU General Council Meeting held at Calcutta from March 31 to April 2 called upon the State Committees to organise movements against the growing unemployment and champion the cause of the unemployed demanding Right to Work to be incorporated in the Constitution as a fundamental right and unemployment relief to the unemployed. In pursuance of the call some of the State Committees organised conventions, etc on the question of unemployment. Following are the reports. The State Committees of W. Bengal, Tripura and Orissa have also observed anti-unemployment day as a part of the May Day Centenary programme as per the call of the General Council.

Kerala: First time in the history of the trade union movement in Kerala, the organised working class took the initiative of organising a State level convention at Ernakulam on the 3rd of August to champion the cause of the unemployed and bring them into the fold of the movements demanding the right to work as a fundamental right to be incorporated in the Constitution. This was in pursuance of the historic call given by the General Council of CITU which met at Calcutta during last March-April. The massive convention jointly organised by the Kerala State Committee of CITU, Federation of State Government Employees and Teachers Organisations (FSETO), Confederation of Central Government Employees' Organisations, Organisations of other Central and State public sector employees, DYFI, Kisan Sabha, Agricultural Workers' Union and Democratic Women's Association was attended by over 2100 delegates from all parts of the State. The spacious town hall was jampacked and large number of workers had to wait outside the hall in spite of inclement weather, to listen to the speeches of the leaders.

A presidium consisting of Comrades O J Joseph (CITU), K V Devadas (FSETO), P P Balakrishnan (Confederation), S Sarma (DYFI), K M Sudhakaran (Agricultural Workers Union), Devarajan (Kishan Sabha) conducted the deliberations of the convention. Com. V G Bhaskaran Nair welcomed the delegates and workers. The convention was inaugurated by Com E Balanandan. Com K N Ravindranath, Gen. Secretary, CITU Kerala State Committee moved the resolution demanding the right to work as a fundamental right to be incorporated in the Constitution and failing to provide employment, the government must provide unemployment relief of at least Rs. 100/- per month to the unemployed. Com K K Chellappan presented the detailed programme of campaign and agitation which was unanimously accepted with thunderous applause by the delegates. Com M M Lawrence, Secretary, CITU addressed the gathering. Others who addressed the convention included Comrades K V Rajendran (FSETO), P S Ramankutty (Confederation), K Chandran Pillai (DYFI), K M Sudhakaran, S S Potti (AIIEA) T. M. Methian (Kishan Sabha) and Sukumaran Nair (BEFI).

The convention after deliberations unanimously

decided to unleash a campaign for full employment by organising regional conventions and marches during the month of October embracing the masses, employed and unemployed at all levels in every nook and corner of the State. The four major jathas will culminate at Trichur on 26th of October where a big procession and rally will be held. The convention also decided to embark upon a continuous strike action for two or three days before Nov. 15 to press the demands of the unemployed. The convention also decided to strive to enlist the support and participation of all other trade union movements in the State.

Com. E. Balanandan in his erudite exposition of the class content of the anti-people policies of the ruling classes of our country exhorted the leaders and delegates assembled that they should explicitly realise the importance of the imperative responsibility of the employed in taking up the campaign and leading effectively the agitations for the cause of unemployed whose number is increasing day by day. Organised working class has to see the emerging problems in its total national and international perspective. He said that the problem of unemployment is a social problem and the working class and their trade unions have to organise powerful movements alongwith other toiling masses in this issue. The trade unions should not confine their activities to the betterment of the employed alone in the respective industries or institutions. Vehemently criticising the new economic policy of Rajiv Gandhi, he warned that the growing dependence on foreign finance capital and high technology for our development and allowing unchecked penetration of the multinationals into our economy are fraught with dangerous potents. Economic dependence will inevitably lead to political interference with the sovereignty, integrity and independence of our country. In his one hour speech he also drew the attention of the delegates to the countinuously growing pauperisation of middle and small peasants and agriculturists and consequent shrinking of the internal market which in turn impeded the progress of industrial development. They also swell the number of unemployed and their migration to urban areas and created social problems.

Karnataka: The Karnataka State Committee of CITU had held a State level convention on Unemployment on 22nd May which was inaugurated by Com. B.T. Ranadive, President of CITU. That convention had given a call to observe unemployment day on August 8 throughout the State by organising Dharnas in front of Employment Exchanges by unemployed youths. Accordingly the Day was observed in Bangalore, Bijapur, Kundapur and other places. In Bangalore two processions were taken out and Dharnas were held in front of two Employment Exchanges led by S. Suryanarayan Rao, T.S. Anantram, R. Srinivas, P.K. Subramanya, Jhon Vincent and K.S. Subramanya. In Bijapur V.M. Sonnad led the demonstration and Dharana. In

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Protest Against Pay Panel Award

THE massive dharna in protest against the Pay Commission's report which was scheduled to be held on 4th August in front of The Prime Minister's residence had to be abandoned at the last minute because the period for which section 144 was promulgated in the capital was extended with consequent withdrawal of the permission for the Dharna. In spite of this however, over five hundred workers from all over the country arrived at Delhi on 3rd and 4th who were diverted to Laxmi Narayan Dharmasala, where the meeting of the National Campaign Committee of Railwaymen finalised the memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister and submitted to the Prime Minister's Secretariat on 4th August. The memorandum reiterated the justification of parity in wages of Central Government employees with those of the Public Sector undertakings, in refutation of unfounded arguments put forward by the Commission, against the concept of "Comparable Wage" based on the principle of "equal pay for equal work", which was upheld by Second Pay Commission and the justification of which could not be denied by the Third Pay Commission also. The memorandum showed how the recommended D.A. system would act as a double action built-in depressor of real wage. The memorandum pointed out various other anomalies in the report which hit the employees. It demanded modification of the recommendations suggesting various points.

Meeting of AIREC

The extended meeting of the Working Committee of the All India Railway Employees Confederation and the National Campaign Committee of Railwaymen held on 4th & 5th August expressed satisfaction that all Central Government Employees' Organisations including those belonging to JCM had voiced protest against the unjust recommendations of the Pay Commission and appealed to them to come forward for united struggle and not to fall prey to Government manoeuvres to settle the matter with the present meager, concessions. The meeting also decided to implement the following programme:

20th August to be observed as 3rd Anniversary of National Campaign Committee of Railwaymen through meetings and sustained poster campaign; 1st September '86 to be observed as Peace Day; Campaign Week will be observed from 2nd to 8th September; Conventions at the local levels within 2nd to 5th September; Conventions at the divisional level within 6th to 10th September and demonstrations at the Zonal level on 30th September. To take stock of the situation and to decide future course of action the next meeting will be held in the first week of October.

In the meanwhile dharnas and demonstrations were held by the railway employees in all the railways all over India on August 12 against the Pay Commission's report. Thousands of railwaymen participated in the demonstrations.

AILRSA on Railway Accidents

Accompanied by Comrade Basudev Acharya, M.P., Leader of the CPI(M) group, Com. S.K. Dhar, Secretary General, All India Loco Running Staff Association met Mohsina Kidwai, Minister for Transport on August 14 and submitted a memorandum on the recent railway accidents. While explaining the salient points of the memorandum, Com. Acharya and Com. Dhar stressed mainly two points. One is unsafe working conditions in train operations and movement, for which one after another train accidents occurred and within this year eight such accidents had taken hundreds of lives. Almost all the accidents were due to violation of safe working conditions in train operation. The accidents were mainly due to excess hours of work of the Loco Running Staff; non provision of Guards and Brake vans; non maintenance of proper repair of the engines and other rolling stock; non checking of trains and its brake power properly; non issuing of proper Vaccum Certificate; due to failure of Railway equipments and revised Railway functioning; introducing contract workers in track renewals, deep screening, packing and rail changing, who are most inexperienced and incompetent; failure of deadman's handle or due to single man driving in the EMU coaches. Accidents on mechanical failure are increasing day by day. The accident on 21st July occurred due to the excess hours of work of the driver (total 17 hours duty at a stretch). The recent accident at Garhwa Road on 6th August was not simply due to mechanical failure, but also due to non provision of Guard. So almost all the accidents occurred due to the adamant attitude and callousness the Railway administration.

The second point was heavy victimisations of the Loco Running staff and other railwaymen. Due to the 1981 agitation which was launched against all those unsafe working conditions in train operation, 662 persons have been removed/dismissed and thousands were retired and awarded with other penal measures including break-in-service, without extending any opportunity of self defence. Due to the Supreme Court's Judgement of 12th September, '85, the appeals are being rejected without holding enquiries.

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pernicious divisive forces.

With this mass meeting therefore, the nine Central Trade Unions take the pledge that they will mobilise all sections of workers to build up one solid mass opinion and unitedly and actively oppose and isolate all communal, secessionist, parochial, casteist, divisive, obscurantist and anti-national forces and lead the country to communal harmony, national unity and peace. We further declare that the programme for sustained movement to this and will be worked out and implemented from joint platforms and in joint actions throughout the country.

Rural Bank Employee's Struggle

AT the call of All India Regional Rural Bank Employees Association (AIRRBEA), 4000 Gramin Bank employees from almost every district in the country assembled at New Delhi on July 29 for staging dharna at Boat Club. But as police permission was not given, the venue was shifted to Mahasabha Hall on Mandir Marg. A deputation from AIRRBEA later met Viswanath Pratap Singh, Finance Minister and submitted a memorandum to him on the following pressing demands:

Equal pay for equal work and all India uniformity in wage structure on the lines in various industries like commercial banks, LIC, NABARD, etc; removal of disparities in wages amenities between one State and another (difference being upto Rs. 700/- at present); absorption of existing daily wage casual messengers/sweepers as regular employees and creation of full time posts in all branches; higher pay scales for Area Managers/Senior posts and promotional avenues which are totally absent; restoration of earlier higher pay-scales and status for Field Supervisors; Negotiation forums at the national and State levels and normal other amenities like LTC, leave encashment, emergency loan, etc. like other banks.

Wages in Gramin Banks, despite being nationalised scheduled banks and performing similar jobs are nowhere near the commercial banks as they are tagged with State Govt. staff emoluments. This has been done in the name of low cost banking for rural areas. For improving profits, 20 per cent to 25 per cent of loans should be earmarked for higher interest earning advances to local industries and undertakings in rural areas. This will make these banks viable, more effective to serve cheap credit needs of rural poor and at the same time help improve the employees' economic conditions. To facilitate better functioning, NABARD should be the overall administrative apex institution as against a three-tier control from Sponsoring Bank, NABARD and Central Government. In this context, the delegation informed the Finance Minister that AIRRBEA will support any form of re-structuring, reorganisation, merger with sponsoring commercial banks or one centralised bank for each State as proposed by AIRRBEA provided, the employees' demand for equal pay for equal job on all-India basis is ensured and they are not subjected to a continued depressed wage structure on plea of low cost banking.

The extended Central Committee meeting of AIRRBEA held on 30th July, decided that unless there be any positive response from the Government, the Gramin Bank employees will be left with no choice but to build up various forms of agitation all over the country including strike on 26 September. Members of Parliament belonging to various parties raised the issue of Gramin Bank employees in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 29 July and submitted a joint memorandum to the Finance Minister. Among them, Sukomal Sen, Masudal Hussain, Sudhir Roy, etc and Subinoy Roy from BEFI addressed the employees on dharna.

Bilateral Relations between CITU and TUC

DURING his recent visit to UK in July, M.K. Pandhe, Secretary, CITU had discussions with TUC leaders which further developed relations between the CITU and TUC.

Pandhe visited TUC National Education Centre at London on 15th July and had discussion with Stephan Faulkner regarding training programmes arranged by the TUC. Faulkner took him round the centre and explained its working. He attended two classes to see how the training was imparted to trade union officials.

Dr. Karl Wright, Director, Commonwealth Trade Union Council had a discussion with Pandhe regarding the activities of the CTUC. They also discussed the need for strengthening the solidarity with the working class of South Africa in their struggle against Apartheid. They visited the grave of Karl Marx at Highgate Cemetry and paid homage to his memory.

On 17th July Pandhe had discussions with Barry Bennett of the TUC International Department in the TUC Central headquarters at Great Russel street. Bennett explained about the struggle launched by the UK working class against the policy of Thatcher Government regarding privatisation of the economy. He also pointed out how the workers in UK are also fighting for disarmament. Pandhe explained the growing united movement of the Indian working class against Apartheid in South Africa, against communal and divisive forces and for national unity, against danger of war and for world peace. He also reported the developments in public sector employees' movement and how united movements were emerging in the country. The development of more contacts between CITU and TUC were also discussed.

Through the TUC, appointment was also fixed with Phil Heaton, Research Officer, National Union of Seamen for a discussion on the problem of Indian seamen. However he had to go out due to certain urgent assignment and hence Pandhe had a discussion with J. Kinahan, Special Services Officer of National Union of Seamen. He enquired about the reports in the British press regarding accumulation of millions of sterling pounds in UK banks, the amount of unpaid wages of Indian Seamen arising out of the difference between the ILO standard of wages and the actual wages paid to Indian workers. Kinahan explained that the UK Ship owners were prepared to pay the difference to Indian Seamen provided they are permitted to do so directly. The Government of India however proposed that the amount of difference in wages should be deposited with the Govt. created special fund from which the amount would be spent for the welfare of the Indian Seamen. Since UK Shipowners did not agree to this, the amount was lost by the Indian Seamen. It is learnt that the leadership of National Union of Seamen of India did not take any step in the matter. Pandhe requested Kinahan that Forward Seamens Union of India (CITU) would like to have regular

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M.P.s on Problems of Workers

Burn Standard: Basudev Acharya, Amal Datta, Satya Gopal Mishra, R P Das, Motilal Hansda, Saifuddin Chowdhury, Bibha Goswami, P C Malik, Ananda Pathak and Ajit Saha (all CPI-M) made a representation to the Minister of State for Public Enterprises, K K Tiwary, urging upon him to take necessary steps for providing funds for the modernisation of Burn Standard, a Central Undertaking which is on the verge of closure due to lack of modernisation. Two refractory units of the company have already been closed. The MPs demanded withdrawal of the closure notices.

NCWA-III: The MPs also addressed a letter to Vasant Sathe, Minister for Energy demanding full implementation of the National Coal Wage Agreement-III. They drew attention of the Minister to the victimisations resorted to by the management on the workers for demanding implementation of the agreement. They also pointed to indiscriminate and illegal mining by the ECL which has caused ecological problems and subsidence of the Raniganj town and demanded immediate stoppage of such mining.

National Tannery: Representatives of CITU, INTUC, AITUC & HMS led by Indrajit Gupta, Amal Datta, Gita Mukherjee, Basudev Acharya and Purna Malik met UN Tiwari, Minister for Industries, on July 30 and demanded nationalisation of M/s National Tannery, Calcutta, since 81 per cent of the shares of the company is held by Government of India and since its management was vested upon IRBI by the Govt. of India. Due to improper management, this very potential concern is gradually turning to red and despite its possibility to achieve viability, it is facing a crisis due to lack of working capital.

Bengal Potteries: The delegation further urged upon the Minister to nationalise Bengal Potteries Ltd also. The Minister informed that the Government had received a report from the Tata Economic Consultancy appointed by IRBI, which also concluded that the company was viable. He assured the delegation that he would consider the question of nationalisation. The delegation later met the Finance Minister also and discussed about the question of nationalisation of the two companies.

Sri Durga Cotton Mills: Demanding withdrawal the denotification order on Sri Durga Cotton Spg. & Wvg Mills Ltd, situated at Konnagore, W. Bengal and paving the way for its nationalisation, a team of MPs consisting of Basudev Acharya, Leader CPI(M) Lok Sabha, Bimal Kanti Ghosh of Cong(I), Indrajit Gupta (CPI) and Somnath Chatterjee, Amal Datta, Anil Basu of CPI(M) accompanied by Santasri Chatterjee, MLA, Ajit Bag Ex-MP and other trade union leaders of CITU, AITUC, INTUC and UTUC met Khurshid Alam Khan, Minister of Textiles on August 12 and impressed upon him to reconsider the decision of the Union Govt and make

an enquiry into the working of the mill to make it viable by streamlining the functioning of the IRBI. The team also met the Union Finance Minister V P Singh and sought his intervention in the matter so that the mill be saved from disaster. He assured the delegation that after examining the papers he will inform them of the latest position and shall do everything as is possible for him. Earlier a convention held at Konnagar on August 3, demanded nationalisation of the company.

Tyre Corpn. of India: Basudev Acharya and Amal Datta, alongwith a delegation of Joint Convention Committee of Tyre Corporation of India Ltd met N D Tiwari, on 13th August with a memorandum regarding the affairs of Tyre Corporation of India Ltd. They demanded for immediate remedial measures, to be taken for revamping the Corporation. The Minister assured that the selection of the Managing Director for the Corporation has been done and the appointment of other key posts are under process. He also assured adequate flow of raw material for steady production. For this purpose he said he would convene a meeting with financial institutions concerned as soon as possible.

Srikrishna Rubber Works: A joint delegation of CITU and INTUC unions of Sree Krishna Rubber Works Ltd alongwith Basudev Acharya, leader, CPI(M), Lok Sabha and Amal Datta, Chief Whip, CPI(M), Lok Sabha met the Minister of State for Finance on August 14 and submitted a memorandum signed by 30 Members of Parliament to the Minister and discussed with him the future of the unit. The delegation demanded the order issued by U.B.I. to stop its operation be withdrawn forthwith to save the unit from closure. The Minister assured the delegation that he would take necessary steps to restore the operation of Bank.

Paper Mills: A team of MPs consisting of Basudev Acharya, Amal Datta, and Sudhir Roy met N D Tiwari, Minister of Industries on August 14 alongwith Sitaram Gupta, MLA, and Achinta Mukherjee of Bengal Kagazkal Mazdoor Union (CITU) representing the workmen of Titagarh Paper Mills Co. Ltd and Bikash Choudhury, MLA of Bengal Paper Mill Mazdoor Union (CITU) representing the workmen of Bengal Paper Mill, Raniganj. The delegation submitted a memorandum signed by Somnath Chatterjee, Dipen Ghosh, CPI(M), D.P. Roy (Cong-I), Gurudas Gupta (CPI) and 20 other Members of Parliament for immediate take over of the management of Titagarh Paper Mill Co. and Bengal Paper Mill. The Minister assured the delegation that the matter is being looked into in right earnest by taking up the matter with all the financial institutions and commercial banks and expressed hope that a positive step would be taken by middle of September for reopening of the closed mills. The delegation submitted another memorandum to the Finance Minister, V P Singh and demanded immediate takeover of both the mills.

Protest Against Closure Threat of HSCL

IN pursuance of the call by CITU and the Coordination Committee of HSCL Unions, the unions under the Coordination Committee of Public Sector Unions (CITU) have launched sending protest letters to the Minister of Steel and Chairman of the HSCL against the conspiracy of the government to close down HSCL, which will affect about 24,000 direct and 25,000 indirect workers. Based on the report of Arjun Sengupta Committee which has recommended that "non-core sector undertakings could hardly justify their existence by eating into the government resources", the government has taken a move which threatens closure of the HSCL. The Chairman-Cum-Managing Director of HSCL has issued a circular on June 4 proposing a "golden handshake" with the employees. This is a voluntary retirement scheme with the objective to off-load the so-called surplus workers. Apprehending the move of the government, the Joint Committee of HSCL Unions comprising of CITU, INTUC, Officer's Association and the Engineer's Association, prepared a viability report and submitted it to the Union Minister of Steel. A large number of MPs of various political parties also submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister urging upon him to desist from the move to save the public sector and the livelihood of nearly 50 thousand workers. The government of India thereafter constituted a "One Man Committee" to

examine the viability report. On the basis of the interim report by this one man committee, the CMD of HSCL has proposed this "golden handshake" with the employees. The Minister of Steel, K.C. Pant however, in a letter to Basudev Acharya, leader of CPI(M) group in Lok Sabha on July 31, has stated that at present there is no move to close down the HSCL. He repeated the same assurance to P.C. Malik (CPI-M) in the Consultative Committee meeting on August 14. The HSCL employees however and the public sector workers all over India are preparing to meet the challenge.

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of UTUC (LS) however wanted it to be within the bounds of the NCC units only, as in his opinion, bringing in other trade unions would dilute the NCC.

Summing up the deliberation, Com M K Pandhe (CITU) welcomed the common opinion to oppose the government's policy on public sector and the Arjun Sengupta Committee's report. He said that in the previous two conventions, only the Central public sector employees were involved. But now the government's policy will also hit the state public sectors, departmental undertakings, Electricity Boards, etc. In the previous conventions many other unions including the INTUC unions also came. There are so many public sectors in Bangalore and Hyderabad where all the unions are jointly fighting. The Public Sector Officer's Association is also fighting against the government's policy. INTUC has also expressed their willingness to oppose the policy and NCC in its meeting of 29th July had welcomed it. He also referred to the 67 public sectors where the industrial D.A. is sought to be imposed on the workers. Under the new situation therefore, he proposed to bring in all those who want to wage an united struggle to save the public sector. This will not dilute the NCC, but on the contrary broaden and strengthen the base of struggle. He gave the following proposals:

- (1) To invite all the unions, including INTUC unions and others who are not in NCC, the unions in the State Sector, Departmental Undertakings, State Electricity Boards, the Public Sector Officer's Association, etc in the Convention.
- (2) To make a Preparatory Committee with the public sector unions to organise the convention.
- (3) To hold the convention at Delhi for two days in October.
- (4) To make a Reception Committee with the Delhi Public Sector unions.
- (5) To call a meeting of the Preparatory Committee at Delhi to fix up the dates and other details.

Com. K.G. Srivastava, the President of the meeting asked for opinion on the proposals by raising hands. The proposals were passed unanimously. There was no one against, nor any abstention.

Visit of COSATU Delegation Cancelled

The proposed visit of the delegation from the Congress of South African Trade Unions to India has been cancelled. The CITU Centre received a telegramme on August 22, followed by a letter on August 25 from Stirling Smith, the Project Co-ordinator of the Commonwealth Trade Union Council, that the scheduled visit of the COSATU delegates have been cancelled because of harrassment by the South African Government. The CTUC had organised the programme of the COSATU to make a study visit to India from August 31 to September 20. Carl Wright, the Director of CTUC and Sterling Smith came down to India to arrange the programmes with different Central Trade Unions. The COSATU delegates were supposed to visit Bombay, Delhi, Dhanbad, Bnrnpur, Durgapur, Bokaro and Calcutta. The CTUC representatives visited the CITU Central Office on August 11 and finalised the programme with CITU in these places. All the programmes arranged by CITU therefore stand cancelled. The COSATU has very much regreted for being compelled to cancel the programme. According to Sterling Smith, they hope that conditions in South Africa will permit them to visit India in 1987. The CTUC has also regreted the inconvenience caused to CITU.

AROUND THE STATES

ANDHRA PRADESH

Conference of Hyderabad City CITU: The 4th Conference of the Hyderabad City unit of CITU was held on August 10, which was attended by 750 delegates representing about 20,000 workers from 41 industries. The conference was inaugurated by P. Satyanarayana and addressed by N. Prasad Rao. They stressed the role to be played by CITU in bringing the trade unions and the working class on a common platform to fight against the policy of the Central government and also the need to fight for the defence of national integrity and against the danger of war. 78 delegates participated in the discussion on the General Secretary's report placed by M. Purna Chandra Rao. The conference adopted several resolutions concerning the problems faced by the working class in the State and on national situation. It also demanded negotiations in the public sector undertakings. The conference unanimously elected S. Narasimha Reddy and D.G. Narasimha Rao as the President and General Secretary respectively.

HARYANA

Formation of Joint T.U. Council: The development of united struggle in Haryana took a forward step with the formation of a Joint Trade Union Council at Karnal. The T.U. Council consisted of the CITU, AITUC, BMS, INTUC and various other trade unions of government employees, bank, insurance and other industries. The central trade unions and 27 other unions held a convention on July 27 and formed the council. Many other trade unions have also expressed their willingness to join the council. The convention adopted a declaration resolving to develop united struggles to protect the interests of the workers against the growing attacks of the employers and the government. The convention elected twelve office bearers of the Council with O.P. Agnihotri as President and O.P. Bakshi as the General Secretary.

KARNATAKA

Indefinite Strike in RCC-Babcock: Led by CITU, the workers of RCC-Babcock, Shahabad, Karnataka have decided to go in for indefinite strike from September 1 in pursuance of their long standing Charter of Demands. The RCC-Babcock General Worker's Union had served fresh charter of demands on 23.7.85, prior of the expiry of the previous agreement on 31.7.85. But the management adopted a delaying tactics and ultimately called a negotiation after nearly one year on 21.6.86. The next negotiation was called on 11.8.86. But the management abruptly broke off the negotiation and showed a total negative attitude towards any settlement, compelling the unions to issue the strike notice.

Demonstration Before Police Commissioner:

Led by CITU over 500 workers took out a procession from Mysore Bank Circle and marched to the office of the Police Commissioner of Bangalore on July 24, demanding a halt to police interference in the workers' struggles. At the United Breweries after the prohibition of a lock out, the management had suspended 30 union functionaries and dismissed 3 of them. When the workers were observing a peaceful dharna in front of the factory, the police under instruction of the management attacked the workers and demolished the tent under which they were staging the dharna. In Hotel International also when the workers were peacefully demonstrating in protest against dismissal of 24 workers, the police intervened and attacked the workers. Similarly in Krishna Fibres and Rajiv Enterprises where the workers were agitating since the last 5 months against illegal lockouts, the police came and arrested over 50 workers. The police harassment on the auto rickshaw drivers are also on the increase. A delegation led by Narayana Rao Bhanu, T S Anantharam, R.Srinivas and K S Subramanya met the Deputy Commissioner of Police and handed over a memorandum demanding a stop to the police intervention in the workers' struggle.

MAHARASHTRA

Morcha against Price Rise: CITU affiliated unions in Bombay organised processions of industrial workers from different centres on Friday the 14th July and staged a massive demonstration near the University Campus demanding halt to price rise, relief to draught stricken people in districts, withdrawal of additional taxes imposed by the State Government, reduction of prices of essential commodities and distribution of that same through fair price shops, withdrawal of diesel and petrol price rise, reopening of closed textile mills and industrial units. The CITU mobilised a 5,000 strong morcha of industrial workers for the demonstration. Holding high their red flags and banners and raising slogans against monopolists and crying halt to I.M.F. and world Bank loan, workers from the city and far off suburbs came in large numbers to assemble at Azad Maidan. There, they were joined by employees from Banks, Insurance, mercantile establishments, etc. A good number of SFI, DYFI, Mahila Sramik Sangh activists joined by quite a few number of college teachers and professors and members and sympathisers of CPI(M) added enthusiasm and vigour to the procession. A memorandum submitted to the government briefly listed the horrible conditions prevailing in Maharashtra. To mention a few, the continuing draught situation in more than 36000 villages and yet no relief by the government inspite of tall talks. The increase in industrial production and yet drastic fall of work force. Two thousand factory workers for every one lakh population in 1981 having now reduced to 1650, mounting rise and the army of registered unemployed reaching 26 lakhs in the state, 50 per cent of them being educated. More than 14 textile mills are still closed. The memorandum further pointed out

that on the basis of government's own estimates, there has been a 10 per cent increase in the prices last year itself, and since then the prices of fuel, rice, wheat, dal, vegetable, oil, potato, mutton, fish and a host of other items of daily use have sky rocketed. Demonstrators who were stopped near the University Campus were addressed among others by S Y Kolhatkar, President, Ahilya Ragnekar, Vice President, Prabhakar. Sanzgiri, General Secretary and K L Bajaj, Secretary of the Maharashtra State CITU.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Successful Struggle by School Employees: In the Bishop Cotton School, Class IV workers formed their union called Bishop Cotton School Workers Union and affiliated it to CITU. D N Kapoor was elected General Secretary of the Union. The authoritarian administration of the school alongwith the local Congress (I) leaders tried its best to break the unity of the union and get it disaffiliated from the CITU. In spite of heavy pressure, the union led by CITU served a strike notice to the management with the demands like enhancement of salaries, to grant winter allowance and for recognition of the union. After witnessing the hundred per cent strike of all 90 workers, including the women workers, the management declared the school closed for a month and adopted the method of terror. President of the union Ram Nath was served with termination notice alongwith other four leading activists of the union. A huge police force was deployed in the school but the union continued its struggle heroically. The Dy. Commissioner of Simla, who is known as the hench man of Cong. (I) came openly against the striking workers. He openly pressurised the workers of B.C. School to join INTUC and when the workers refused to join and decided to remain in CITU, he threatened them with dire consequences. The workers gheraoed the DC's office for a whole day. At the instance of DC the management of the school recruited 12 workers from outside, but due to the persuasion of the union no recruit joined the duties. After 20 days' forceful strike the management conceded the demands of the workers. The whole striking period of 20 days was conceded as duty period, termination notices were withdrawn, workers got Rs. 60 per month enhancement, winter allowance and the recognition of the union was also achieved. During the struggle of the B.C. workers another union called Auckland School Workers Union affiliated to CITU achieved their demands after serving the demand notice.

GOA

Conference of Goa Mine Workers: Goa Mine Workers' Union Conference was held on 10th August, 1986 at Sonquelim. About 100 delegates attended the conference. The conference was inaugurated by Com. Prabhakar Donde. He briefed the national and international situation and made special emphasis on anti-war and peace activities and on the question of national integration and on the new economic policy of the govt. The report and the

accounts were placed before the conference by Com. Luisa Pereira. The report was discussed by the delegates and unanimously adopted. The conference was addressed by Com. Sitaram Mazrekar, General Secretary of the State CITU and other fraternal delegates.

ASSAM

Struggle by Mineral Oil Workers: Organised under CITU, the mineral oil workers of Digboi, Assam have launched agitation in pursuance of their long pending 9 point demands. The workers who are working under the contractors of IOC (AOD) are every time treated callously on the question of their demands. The principal employer, IOC (AOD) refuse to take any responsibility as the principal employer, the State and Central governments do not intervene effectively and the contractors refuse to negotiate or implement agreements. Over and above, they are faced with the onslaught of the secessionists. Even under such challenging circumstances the workers resorted to strike actions to compel the contractors to make the last settlement, which is yet to be fully implemented. This time also the workers observed two days Demand Day on May 12 and 13. But the contractors, the principal employers and the State government still remaining nonchalant, the union in its general body meeting held on August 12 decided to stage two day's hunger strike on August 25 and 26. The resolution adopted in the meeting in this regard has been sent to all the employing contractors, the principle employer and the State and Central governments. The CITU and Basudeb Acharya, MP, CPI(M) have taken up the matter with the Ministries.

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Kundapur another big Dharana was held which was led by Ibrahim Karkada.

Gujarat: The Gujarat State CITU has organised an "Anti Unemployment Satyagraha Week" from August 24 to 31. During this period a civil disobedience satyagraha will take place at Ahmedabad, Bhavanagar, Baroda, Kheda-Anand-Nadiad, Junagad-Rajkot-Probandar and Kandla. It has been planned that about 2000 to 3000 workers will court arrest in these places demanding right to work to be incorporated in the Constitution as a fundamental right and unemployment relief to the unemployed.

Orissa: A State level convention on unemployment was held at Bhubaneshwar on August 24 which was attended by 145 delegates from different parts of the State from various trade unions, Kishan and Khet mazdoor organisation, youth, students and women. Inaugurating the convention, Nrisingha Chakrabarty, Secretary, CITU called upon the trade unions to rise up against the growing unemployment and under-employment and champion the cause of the unemployed. Ajeya Rout, General Secretary of the State CITU moved the main resolution against unemployment, on which about 25 comrades spoke. The convention decided to observe November 12 as anti-unemployment day throughout the State.

Industrial Strike in Haryana

THE CITU and other trade unions in Haryana have jointly called for a one day industrial strike in the State on August 20 protesting against the anti-labour policies of the State government. The trade unions held a convention at Panipat on June 15 and discussed the various problems faced by the workers. Representatives of the various trade unions attended the convention from different parts of the State. The convention discussed above all, the question of minimum wages, the repressive measures adopted by the employers and the government to suppress the workers' demands, attack on trade union rights, callous attitude of the State Labour Department towards implementation of the labour laws, security of services, closures and lock-outs, privatisation of the State public sector undertakings, etc. The convention condemned the anti-labour and pro-monopolist attitude of the State government and unanimously decided to observe an industrial strike in the State on August 20 to press the government and the employers to concede the following demands:

- (1) Rs. 1200/- as minimum wage and inclusion of all industries and establishments in the minimum wage scheme
- (2) Extension and implementation of the Factory Act and Labour Laws in all the factories and establishments and protection of trade union right and the wages of the workers;
- (3) Ban on closures, lockouts and retrenchment and reopening of Hissar Textile Mill;
- (4) Reinstatement of all the dismissed workers of Haryana Concast, implementation of the agreements and withdrawal of the lockout and reimbursement of the workers' wages;
- (5) Implementation of the agreement in Hansi Spinning Mill and gurantee of trade union rights;
- (6) Confirmation of all the government farm and departmental employees and recognition of the P.W.D., Irrigation and Co-operative employees as industrial employees;
- (7) Abolition of the Contract System;
- (8) Deletion of Article 311 (2) (B) of the Constitution.

In the meantime, the management of Haryana Concast arrived at an agreement with the trade unions on July 23 and lifted the lockout without any pre-condition. They also agreed to take back all the 19 dismissed leaders of the unions. The management also transferred the Administrative Director of the company, which was one of the demands of the workers. However, the trade unions did not retrace from their decision

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contacts with the National Union of Seamen so that exchange of information of activities can be arranged.

Attempts were made to contact Arther Scargill, British Coal Miners' leader so that an appointment could be fixed. However Scargill was on leave and hence no meeting with him was possible. However representatives of the National Union of Miners agreed to develop fraternal relations with All India Coal Workers' Federation.

of strike. As per the joint decision, notices of the strike have been served on the different employer and the government, particularly pinpointing on the demand of minimum wage.

Nagasaki Day at Udaipur

UDAIPUR in Tripura observed the Nagasaki Day on August 9 in a massive way. The day was observed as a part of the year long celebration of the May Day Centenary. About 10,000 people joined the huge peace March, which started from the K.B.I. Maidan and after passing through various routes, culminated at the Town Hall. The special feature of the Peace March was the participation of a large number of school children with a number of tableau depicting the war manoeuvres of the US imperialism, the struggle for peace, against weapons and for job, the struggle of the South African people against the racist regime, etc.

The procession started with the releasing of white doves by the Agriculture Minister of the Left Front Government, Badal Chowdhury. With a jeep carrying a big white flag, the procession was led by sixty students, boys and girls with white flags and in white dress, carrying a huge banner with the inscription, "No more Hiroshima, no more Nagasaki." They were followed by nurses, doctors, fire brigade workers, etc. Then followed a long procession of girls and women of various institutions with tableaus against war and for peace. This was followed by students of various technical institutions who presented a tableau on the anti-war declaration adopted by the World Science Congress. This was followed by a row of men and women wearing the dresses of the different States of India projecting the multinational character of the country and the unity and integrity of the nation. Lastly followed the vast section of the workers and members of CITU, DYFI, SFI, AIDWA and different trade unions. The Peace March had started after a brief address by Badal Chowdhury, the Minister of Agriculture and others. Badal Choudhury said that the hundred year of May Day were hundred years of class struggle. Through revolutionary struggles the workers implemented the pledge taken hundred years ago and successfully established socialist states uprooting capitalism from one third part of the world. Imperialism knows that their doom is nearing. Therefore they want to devastate the world with a nuclear holocaust. He called upon the working class to carry forward their task as the leader of the struggle and fulfil their historic revolutionary mission to save mankind from the ravages of imperialism and war to usher in a society of peace, development and prosperity. The procession was led by Badal Choudhury, Keshav Majumdar, the Regional President of the May Day Centenary Committee, the S.D.O., and others.

Although the Hiroshima Day on 6th August was observed more widely all over the State with innumerable processions, the Udaipur procession was the largest by far in recent times. Preparations for the Peace March continued for quite some time through series of campaigns and meetings.

T.U.s Agree on Verification Procedure

AFTER a protracted struggle for improvement of the procedure of verification of membership, there was an agreement among all the ten Central Trade Unions on a modified procedure. The agreement was reached in a meeting of the trade unions on July 30. The twelve points of agreement were submitted to the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) in a meeting at the Shram Shakti Bhavan on July 31. The four points on which there was no prior agreement, were further discussed on July 31 and submitted to the CLC(C). P.K. Ganguly, Secretary, represented CITU in the meeting. The CLC(C) thereafter sent the Government's comments on all the points.

In case of agricultural/rural workers it was agreed that the same procedure cannot be applied, particularly there cannot be any spot verification in this case. The UTUC(LS) was the only trade union which insisted that the same procedure should be adopted for agricultural/rural workers. It was decided that on the question of the agricultural/rural workers, regarding separate procedure or otherwise, the trade unions will meet on September 2 and thereafter the CLC(C) will call another meeting to decide upon it. The trade unions are also required to send their suggestions regarding the classification of the industries. It was unanimously agreed that the next verification should be undertaken for the year ending 31st December, 1985. The trade unions represented were CITU, AITUC, INTUC, HMS, BMS, UTUC, TUCC, UTUC (LS), NFITU and NLO. The points of agreement and the Government's comments are published hereunder.

The CITU and AITUC, while agreeing to the improved procedure for verification, however made it clear that in principle they were for secret ballot. However, for the sake of trade union unity they alongwith the other non-INTUC trade unions comprising the National Campaign Committee demanded improvement of the earlier procedure and so agreed on the improved procedure. But the INTUC, while hailing the verification procedure in its journal, The Indian Worker of the August 4 issue, has trumpeted it as if it has won a total victory over CITU and AITUC. Being compelled under pressure of the majority of the trade unions, the INTUC seems to have forgotten its erstwhile slogan of "nothing short of Check off", from which it came down to "anything short of secret ballot". Being a toer of the Government's line, it has in fact supported the Government's arbitrary reduction of the membership of the CITU and AITUC when these two trade unions boycotted the previous spurious procedure of verification. It has also forgotten the result of the Government's arbitrary action to exclude CITU and AITUC from the Indian Labour Conference on the basis of its own arbitrary determination of their membership. It resulted in massive protests from the trade union

movement and the Government was ridiculed by the even the bourgeois press and forced to reverse its decision. The INTUC has been fruitlessly repeating its soliloquy against secret ballot because it knows that the secret ballot will end its reign as the so-called "largest trade union centre of India". In its scare for the secret ballot, it has failed to see the reality that the demand for secret ballot is progressively increasing. It is afraid that secret ballot will politicise the workers and damage the "production atmosphere". The INTUC actually is speaking as the spokesman of the capitalist employers and the Government, who use all their ideological armaments and the repressive machinery to keep the workers out of politics and under their suppressive boots force workloads to increase productivity, only to boost the profits of the monopolists. The INTUC is obviously afraid of politicalised sections of the working class, because it is they only who can expose the anti-worker politics of the monopolists and the Government and fight in the interest of the entire class. The CITU therefore condemns the jargons recorded in the INTUC's journal which go against the spirit of unity at a time when all the trade unions in India with INTUC itself are coming forward for united actions on several issues on both national and international situations vitally affecting the working class.

Points of Agreement by the T.U.s and the Comments of the CLC(C)

1. Periodicity: Verification should be undertaken once in three years. It was also agreed that the CLC(C) should be asked to take necessary steps to complete the process within a period of one year to make it meaningful and not outdated. The verification should cover such trade unions as have been registered under the Trade Union Act.

Comments: Verification shall be undertaken once in 5 years. CLC(C) shall make all possible efforts to complete the process of verification within a period of 1½ to 2 years. The final verified membership results shall be in force till these are replaced by next verification results. The verification shall cover such trade unions as have been registered under the Trade Union Act and are affiliated to Central Trade Union Organisations participating in the verification.

2. Submissions of Claims: The claims of membership should be submitted by the Central Trade Union Organisations in the manner hitherto followed and as far as possible on the basis of the annual returns submitted to the Registrars of Trade Unions.

Comments: Could be accepted.

3. Spot Verification: (a) Spot verification should

be conducted by the Verification Officer after informing the unions concerned at least a fortnight in advance: (b) The sampling figure for spot verification should be raised to 10 per cent, (c) The concerned worker should himself/herself sign his/her membership of a union as recorded by the verifying officer. In the case of an illiterate worker, thumb impression will be countersigned by a co-worker of his/her choice. The spot verification should not be conducted in the presence of any representative of the management.

Comments: (a) Spot verification shall be conducted by the verification officer after informing the unions concerned the period of spot verification at least a fortnight in advance; (b) The sampling figure for spot verification should be 2 per cent to 10 per cent depending on the size of the physically verified membership of union. In order to maintain uniformity in selection of sample for spot verification the following criteria shall be followed:— (i) Unions with a physically verified membership of upto 1000 — 10 per cent of such physically verified membership shall form the sample for spot verification; (ii) Unions with a physically verified membership of above 1,000 and up to 10,000 — 5 per cent of such physically verified membership, subject to a minimum of 100 members, shall form the sample for spot verification, (iii) The unions with a physically verified membership of above 10,000 — 2 per cent of such physically verified membership subject to a minimum of 500 members, shall form the sample for spot verification.

Note: The selection of members for spot verification i.e. for personal interrogation shall be made from among those members who were found to have paid their subscription during the course of physical verification of 15 per cent of names among the members of the union.

(c) Could be accepted. The spot verification should not be conducted in the presence of any representative of either the management or the union.

4. Physical verification: Physical verification should be simplified and restricted only to the checking of membership register, audited statement of accounts, Registration Certificate, affiliation certificate and receipt of payment of affiliation fee. The sampling figure should be raised from present 10 per cent to 15 per cent.

Comments: In addition to the registers/documents mentioned, unions shall also produce receipt books containing counterfoils of receipts for membership subscriptions and Constitution of the Union. The sampling figure of 15 per cent could be accepted.

5. Inter State Unions: The membership of inter-state unions should be verified on the basis of the annual returns submitted to the Registrars of Trade Unions in the State where the union is registered.

Comments: Could be accepted.

6. Raising of objections: In raising objections, the Central Trade Union Organisations should raise specific objections with appropriate grounds for the objections.

Comments: Could be accepted.

7. Notice to Unions: The notices should be issued to unions to produce records giving 15 days time from the date of receipt of the notice. A second opportunity should be given to the Union. Even after the issuance of the second notice, if union fails to produce records, a *THIRD* notice should also be sent to the union. Copies of all these notices should be sent, without fail, to both the State Committees and the Central Trade Union Organisation concerned.

Comments: The notice shall be issued to the unions to produce records giving them 21 days time from the date of issue of the notice. The verification officer shall issue the second notice on the next working day after the expiry of the first notice giving the same notice period. If the union fails to produce records even on the expiry of the second notice period, a third and final notice shall be issued by the Verification Officer giving the same notice period. The Verification Officer shall endorse copies of all the notices to the State Committee and the Central Trade Union Organisations to which the union is affiliated. All the notices shall be sent by registered post with A.D.

8. Reclaims: Reclaims after receipt of the first provisional results should be entertained within one month of such receipt.

Comments: Reclaims cannot be accepted as the claims are to be submitted only once, i.e. before the circulation of claimed membership to the other Central Trade Union Organisations, the provisional results of the verification shall be sent to all the Central Trade Union Organisations so as to bring to the notice of CLC (C) any errors, omissions for rectifications. For the purpose it is possible to give one month period from the date of despatch of results.

9. Authorised representatives: In view of the difficulties voiced by Central Trade Union Organisations that in certain cases the Registrars of Trade Unions do not cooperate in enabling their representatives to examine the records in the RTU's office, during the process of verification, a list of authorised representatives should be given to the CLC (C), intimation of the list should be sent to the RTUs and letters of authority issued by the CLC (C), to the representatives.

Comments: In view of the difficulties being faced by the representatives of Central Trade Union Organisations in the process of verification with the
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Observance of Hiroshima Day

THE Hiroshima Day was widely observed on August 6 by the CITU State Committees and the unions in various parts of the country. The following are the reports received so far:

Tripura: The day was observed as a part of the year long May Day Centenary Celebration. The May Day Centenary Committee organised massive rallies throughout the state. Over one lakh people participated in the Peace Marches at different parts of the state. At Agartala the huge rally was addressed by B.T. Ranadive, President of CITU. The procession started from the Childrens' Park and culminated in the rally at the same place after traversing the different thoroughfares of the city. Workers, peasants, students, youth, women and tribal people participated in the Peace March in large numbers. Addressing the rally, B.T. Ranadive said that Hiroshima Day reminded the people of the war mongering character of imperialism. By dropping the Atom Bomb on Hiroshima at the end of the Second World War, American imperialism laid bare its craze for war and world domination. For this its particular vengeance is directed against the Soviet Union and the Socialist system which thrive on peace and development and constitute the greatest anti-war force. For this the American imperialism and its NATO allies are progressively building up huge nuclear arsenals around the world to establish their superiority over the Soviet Union. The destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are only a small fraction of the devastating potentialities of the nuclear arsenals built up by the imperialist powers today. It will exterminate the entire mankind itself. In pursuance of its global intentions, the US imperialists are also conspiring to dismember the third world countries by encouraging the secessionist and divisive forces. India stands as a classic example of the imperialist conspiracies. He exhorted to the mass that imperialism has to be rooted out of earth to root out wars. He reminded the working class of the revolutionary traditions of the May Day and called upon them to carry it forward for the establishment of socialism, which is the best guarantee for no war and for peace. The establishment of socialism in India will change the very face of the entire world. Among others who spoke were Dasarath Deb, Deputy Chief Minister of the Left Front Government of Tripura, Samar Choudhury, the Labour Minister and Manik Sarkar, the Convenor of the May Day Centenary Committee.

West Bengal: W. Bengal also observed the Hiroshima Day in a massive way throughout the State including in rural Bengal. A huge rally of several thousand people was held in front of the U.S. Consulate office despite heavy rains. Workers, students, youth, women, artists, litteratures, scientists and other joined the rally, coming in processions from various parts of the city. The rally raised sky rending slogans: "No more Hiroshima" "No more war", "Down with American imperialism", "Long live World

Peace", etc. People carried a number of Reagan's effigy and burnt them after the meeting. The rally was presided over by Baren Basu, the President of the W. Bengal State DYFI. Speaking on the occasion, Buddhades Bhattacharya of CPI(M) said that by dropping the Atom Bomb at the end of the last war, the U.S. imperialists actually declared their preparation for the third world war. After Japan they threatened to drop Atom Bomb on Vietnam and Korea also. They have shamelessly attacked Libya. Assailing American imperialism as the number one terrorists, he said that they are indulging in terrorist activities in the Asian, African and Latin American countries. They are the number one enemy of the freedom loving people. They are supporting the racist Pretoria regime and helping Israel against the Arab countries. He assailed America for encouraging the secessionist forces in Punjab, Assam and the so-called Gorkha National Liberation Front in Bengal. He said that the fate of mankind cannot be left with the war crazy US imperialists who have rejected all the peace proposals of the Soviet Union, and urged upon the working class to lead the struggle for peace. Among others who spoke were the eminent scientist Dr B.R. Nag; the DYFI General Secretary, Hannan Molla, M.P.; the State Secretary of DYFI, Robin Deb; Shyamali Gupta, the General Secretary of the State AIDWA, etc. The main resolution was placed by Tapas Basu, the State SFI President.

The day was observed in various other parts of the State also by processions, rallies, seminars, etc. Artists, litteratures, students including school children and youth took out several other processions also. The scientists also took out another procession from Satyendra Bhavan to Sidu-Kanho-Dahar. The procession was led by Prabhas Phadikar, the State Information Minister and Dr Sushil Kumar Mukherjee, the former Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University. Industrial workers also held gate meetings at different factory gates.

Tamilnadu: Hundreds of workers, students, youth and women marched to the US Consulate in Madras on the day. Activists of DYFI came from Madras, Chinglepat, North Arcot and South Arcot districts who were joined by the activists of CITU, SFI and AIDWA from Madras. A notable feature of the rally was that about 200 school children joined it. The procession was led by P.R. Parmeshwaran, V. Meenakshisundaram (CPI-M), A. Soundarajan (CITU), Sunit Chopra, S.P. Agathialingam (DYFI) and other District leaders of SFI, DYFI, CITU and AIDWA. All the participants wore black masks with the slogan, "We do not want war, we want to live" printed on the masks. They also carried hundreds of balloons with the same slogan printed on them. Trucks and cycle rickshaws carried huge boards with drawings and posters on the war danger and cartoons of the war

monger Reagan drawn in the form of a gun. Some trucks carried models of missiles and nuclear bombs with slogans calling upon the people to join struggles for peace against war. Thousands of leaflets were issued by DYFI and distributed to the people. At the rally, the leaders denounced the U.S. imperialists for spiralling the arms race and called upon all sections of the peace loving people to intensify the struggle for peace. After the meeting, white doves were released by the leaders. Hiroshima Day was also observed in the districts by holding peace marches, rallies, demonstrations and distribution of leaflets.

Bihar: CITU and AITUC jointly organised a rally at Patna on August 6. The rally was joined by members DYFI, SFI, bank employees, insurance employees, BSSR Union and others. The procession marched through the main thoroughfares of the city and culminated at the LIC gate where a mass meeting was held, which was addressed by Srikant Sharma, Amerendra Prasad Mishra (CITU); Raj Kishore Singh (A ITUC) and others. At Hazaribagh a procession was taken out and a rally was held which was addressed among others by Chandi Prasad, General Secretary of the State CITU. At Muzaffarpur a mass meeting was held at Kalyani Chowk which was addressed by Nand Kishore Shukla of CITU. Similarly, gate meetings were held in the industrial centres at Dhanbad, Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Bokaro, Barauni, etc.

Madhya Pradesh: The Koyla Shramik Sangh (CITU) organised a mass meeting in front of the CITU office at Banki to observe the Hiroshima Day. Large number of colliery workers belonging to CITU, AITUC, HMS and INTUC joined the rally. The rally denounced the U.S. imperialists for the devastation caused at Hiroshima and Nagasaki and resolved to build up united struggles against the war preparations by the Reagan administration.

Delhi: The State CITU organised a hall meeting on the day which was attended by workers from the industrial areas including from Ghaziabad and Faridabad, SFI, DYFI and AIDWA members. The meeting was addressed by Nrisingha Chakrabarty, Secretary, CITU and S.B. Bhardwaj, General Secretary of the Delhi State CITU.

Gujarat: According to a PTI report, the police brutally lathi charged and burst teargas shells on an anti-nuclear war procession of Adivasis on August 6 in Vedkabhudar village in Surat district. The processionists were proceeding towards the Kakrapad nuclear station shouting anti-war slogans in observance of the Hiroshima Day, when the police made the lathi charge on the plea that the processionists had defied section 144. The processionists threw brickbats in defence. A large number of Adivasis were injured and 211 were arrested.

Karnataka: At Bangalore the CITU District Committee organised a big procession and public meeting, which was presided over by T.S. Anantaram. S. Suryanarayana Rao spoke, explaining the significance of Hiroshima Day and called upon the people to build up struggles against the present war danger

created by the imperialists. Processions and rallies were held at Gonikoppal and other places. At Udipi the CITU unions alongwith LIC, bank employees etc held a hall meeting. Thousands of posters were pasted and leaflets were distributed in all the places.

HIROSHIMA OBSERVES ANNIVERSARY

Hiroshima marked the anniversary of the dropping of the first Atom Bomb by the USA on the city on August 6. Thousands of people assembled at the Peace Memorial Park to pay homage to the lakhs of people who fell victim to the US imperialist's barbarism 41 years ago. At 8.15 A.M., the time when the bomb dropped, the bereaved family members sounded a gong, and the crowd and the people around the city stood in silence for one minute. Soon after, some 1500 doves were released, dotting the sky and then scattering beyond the park and the dome. Beyond the cinotaph loomed the bombed ruins of the city's former industrial production hall, the skeletal shell dome frame of which stood in sharp contrast to the rebuilt city and the greenery of the park, and served as a grim reminder of the devastation. Black clad mourners deposited into the cinotaph books with the names of 4,941 Hibakusha, or the Atom Bomb victims who have died since the last August 6. The names bring to 1,43,590 the number of identified victims inscribed at the site. There are some 3,65,000 Hibakusha — survivors of Hiroshima and a second Atom Bombing of Nagasaki on August 9, 1945 in Japan today according to government statistics. Their average age is around 60.

A declaration read out on the occasion by Mayor Takeshi Araki of Hiroshima appealed to the nuclear powers to destroy all nuclear weapons and appealed for world peace. The declaration called upon the USA and the Soviet Union to hold a summit meeting at Hiroshima and take the first practical steps towards nuclear disarmament. Amidst choral music, Japanese officials and foreign visitors including Bishop Desmond Tutu, the South African anti-apartheid leader and Nobel Peace prize winner, and the citizens of Hiroshima streamed in to offer wreaths to the victims. The ceremony closed with the Hiroshima peace song, composed two years after the bombing. The song called on the citizens to rise up bravely to the sound of the peace bell. (*Xinhua, China Daily, August 7, 1986*).

Peace Meeting

In commemoration of the International Peace Year, an international peace conference commenced at Hiroshima on August 6. Scientists of international fame and Bishop Desmond Tutu addressed the conference. Nobel Prize winning scientists Nainus Powling and Dorothy Hodgkings hailed the Soviet Union for its preparedness to disband the nuclear weapons and moratorium on nuclear tests. They criticised the USA for embarking on a billigerent path. The conference called upon USA, Britain and France to respond to the appeal for disarmament.

1986 — The Year of Umkhonto We Sizwe

THE situation in South Africa is one of unprecedented political and economic crisis. It is the crisis of the apartheid system. P.W. Botha is caught in the cobweb of apartheid which he frantically tries to nurture with the doom writ large in his face. Feverishly trying for a way out, he helped by his imperial advisors — Reagan and Thatcher, is swinging from so-called reforms which failed to befool the people, to savage crack down on the movement. But the imperatives of the apartheid system, jacked up by the imperialist interests of USA and Britain, have led the Pretoria regime to march on blindly on the people, certainly to its own downfall, but leaving streams of blood in its trail. Over 2000 people have been killed since mid 1984 and thousands have been arrested and tortured. Along with Nelson Mandela, hundreds of leaders are languishing in the jails for years. Botha and his cohorts are playing the role of a new set of Nazis, unleashing their savage vengeance against the people struggling for freedom. During the last one year, he has clamped down two emergencies — one on July 20, 1985 and the other on June 12 this year — just four days before the tenth anniversary of the Sweto massacre of the school children, which shook the world. Anything and everything democratic have been banned — from the African National Congress, which is leading the People's Liberation Struggle to the media. The entire country has turned into a vast land of military barracks with the death squads and the specially powered police haunting the people with the craze for killing.

Umkhonto We Sizwe

But the people are undaunted. With more bloodshed, they are getting more determined — not for reforms, nor for sharing power with the racists, but to root out the very system of apartheid in its entirety, to end the domination of the white minority over the blacks, and to have the people's power, freedom of the people in their own land. They are not merely defying, but have trampled the ban orders on their organisations and activities underfoot. The fight is open on the streets — arms against arms. The ANC has declared the year 1986 as the year of Umkhonto We Sizwe (the Spear of the Nation) — the People's Army. It has called upon the people to join the army, take up arms and attack, advance and give the enemy no quarter. The operations of Umkhonto We Sizwe have a political and psychological impact. They have instilled self confidence into the people and transformed their latent anger against the regime into open mass confrontation. On one hand they have caused a feeling of insecurity among the enemy forces, and on the other, a conviction among the struggling people that victory is certain and near. This People's Army which was formed 25 years ago as an underground organisation, has now become a mass force driving the hounds of apartheid towards

the marsh, despite its founder leaders like Nelson Mandela being thrown into the jails. As President Oliver Tambo of the ANC has pronounced, "Let this Year of the People's Army see us engulf the apartheid system in the fires and the thunder of a people's war! Let the year of MK see us mount a military offensive that will push the enemy into a strategic retreat! Let us use the opportunities that this year gives us to replace each combatant with a hundred more, and building on our achievements, to create a formidable fighting force of the people, superior to the enemy forces because of the justice of our cause, the discipline of our combatants and the bravery and boldness of our warriors."

Since 1985, South Africa saw an intensification of the armed struggle and further unification of the fighting forces. This took many forms, such as political mobilisation, youth and student's upheavals, women's struggles, on the Church front and the last but not the least, further unification and consolidation on the trade union front. The formation of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), a federation affiliating 35 racially mixed trade unions representing over 5,60,000 members on December 1, 1985 has been a significant achievement in bringing together the white workers with the blacks to fight against racism and imperialism and uproot the system of apartheid. The formation of COSATU therefore added enormously to the strength of the democratic movement as whole. It was in this climate that the Umkhonto We Sizwe intensified the armed struggle and dealt serious losses to the enemy camp. In the first 9 months of 1985, the MK attacks were more than double the number recorded in 1984. There were 93 attacks upto September, 1985 as against 44 in the whole year of 1984. These attacks were not in the cities only, but engulfed the Bantustans as well.

The Imperial Interests

The rising struggle of the South African people as against the barbarous repression let loose by the Botha regime have drawn world wide support of the progressive and democratic forces to the ANC and the condemnation of the regime. The world slogan is for mandatory sanctions. USA and Britain stand isolated with a few Western capitalist countries in this world arena of rising liberation struggle. The repeated vetoes by these imperialists have thoroughly exposed their imperial interests. The boycott of the Commonwealth Games by the majority 32 countries further blackened Thatcher's face. With the racist regime in deep crisis, these external political factors have assumed special significance. Out of a total amount of about 31,000 million dollars of the Western countries' investment in South Africa, the American investments amount to about 14,000 million dollars and its trade with the country had

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Registrars of Trade Unions, they shall send a list of such representatives for issuing an introduction letters by CLC (C) to them asking the RTUs to render necessary assistance/cooperation in the instant process.

10. De-registration: Registrars of Trade Unions should be instructed to send a list of unions which have been de-registered to the respective Central Trade Union Organisations half-yearly.

Comments: Since there is no provision under Trade Union Act, CLC (C) will take up this matter with the Ministry of Labour.

11. Records of Registrars of Trade Unions: In order to facilitate the process of verification and obviate any delays it is requested that Registrars of Trade Unions be asked to keep their records on a uniform basis, on that of the list of industries on which verification procedure takes place.

Comments: CLC (C) shall be taking up with the Ministry of Labour to address all the respective State/Union Territory Governments in this regard.

12. Membership of unions in Concerns which are locked out, closed units or where a prolonged strike may be taking place: In all cases where lockouts, closures or strikes have been continuing for a period of three to twelve months, affecting the keeping of records in the year of reckoning, the annual returns submitted to the Registrar of Trade Unions of the previous calendar year should be accepted as a basis for the purpose of verification. No spot verification can take place in all such cases, and the process should be confined to physical verification only.

Comments: Could be accepted.

13. Stamp System: The following system should be followed: (1) Every stamp should bear a serial number, (2) The same serial number shall appear in a counterfoil stamp in the membership register, (3) The number of the membership card shall also be noted in the membership register tallying with the serial number of the stamp, (4) The date of receipt of membership shall be duly entered in the register.

Comments: Since the date of reckoning of the instant verification has been proposed by the Central Trade Union Organisations for 31.12.85, the system suggested may not be possible to adopt. Hence it may be used for subsequent verification.

14. Procedure of verification in the case of Agricultural workers/Rural workers' unions and related matters: Membership of agricultural/rural workers' unions will be taken into account in ascertaining total membership of a Central Trade Union Organisation but the consensus is that certain aspect of procedure of verification may be different from

that of normal procedure and this will be further discussed and decided by trade union representatives. The question of representation to the agricultural workers may have also repercussions on the structure of ILC and representation to ILO. This matter will also be discussed further.

Comments: Since consensus on this issue is yet to be arrived at, comments of this office will be furnished later.

15. Classification of Industries: The Central Trade Union Organisations will send their suggestions for amendment to the classification of industries to the Chief Labour Commissioner (C) by 31st August, 1986. He may also take it up with the Ministry of Labour for finalisation.

Comments: Could be accepted.

The following issue will be discussed further by the Central Trade Union organisations: Criteria for representation on Tripartite bodies at the International, National, State and Industry level.

CITU Condemns Highhandedness of Cong (I) M.P.

P.K. Ganguly, Secretary, issued the following Statement on August 25: The Centre of Indian Trade Unions condemns the highhandedness of Shri PC Sethi, MP, the former Union Minister, who reportedly made a forced entry into the Kidwai Bhawan Telephone Exchange and misbehaved with the women telephone employees on 23rd August as he failed to get a trunk connection. It has been reported that he was in drunken condition and came with a gun. It is most unbecoming for a Member of the Parliament, and he had no right to enter the Telephone Exchange. The statement made by him is simply an eye wash and the government is trying to cover his actions.

The CITU also condemns the government for further trying to intimidate the employees by sending the military personnel. The CITU congratulates the employees for immediately coming out in protest and extends full support to their struggle and demands immediate arrest of Shri Sethi and withdrawal of the military personnel.

Similar statements were also issued by Sushila Gopalan, General Secretary of AIDWA and Vimal Ranadive, Secretary of All India Coordination Committee of Working Women.

Editorial Board

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Manoranjan Roy, Niren Ghosh,
M.M. Lawrence, P.K. Ganguly

M.K. Pandhe

CITU's Solidarity With Nicaraguan Workers

RESPONDING to the call of the CITU Secretariat the CITU unions and State Committees are continuing to send messages of solidarity and contributions to the Nicaraguan struggle.

Till date, the working class and the people of W. Bengal have contributed Rs. 4.6 lakhs to the fund. Apart from this, the materials collected include exercise books for the school children, blankets, medicines, tumbler, needles, pins and many other materials of daily necessity. The collection was organised through the Nicaraguan Solidarity Committee, which was formed with the representatives of trade unions, students, youth, women, peasants' organisations and people from all walks of life. The collected materials were sent to Nicaragua in a Soviet ship on August 8.

From other State Committees and unions also messages of solidarity and contributions are continuing. Till August 24, the CITU Central Office has received copies of such messages from 81 unions in Tamilnadu and 15 unions in Karnataka including its State Committee. The Karnataka State Committee has contributed Rs. 1000/- and 134 unions from Kerala have contributed a total amount of Rs. 8802.

Acknowledging the messages and the contributions, the Ambassador of Nicaragua has extended greetings to CITU. The Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of Nicaragua has also acknowledged and sent greetings to all the unions individually. The letters are printed as hereunder:

Letter of the Ambassador

Dear Comrade, 29th July, 1986

I take this opportunity to extend greetings to the Centre of Indian Trade Unions on behalf of the Central Sandinista Workers and acknowledge the receipt of a covering note addressed to me, including the message dated 14th of July, 1986 to Comrade Judith Silva Jaenz, Incharge of Asia and Africa, International Relations, Central Sandinista Workers.

As desired by the Centre of Indian Trade Unions, the material sent to us has been forwarded to Managua, Nicaragua.

I take this opportunity to inform you that we have also sent to Managua, Nicaragua, the more than 100 greetings and felicitations sent to us by the various workers unions affiliated to the Centre of Indian Trade Unions from the State of Tamilnadu, on the occasion of the VIIth Anniversary of the July Revolution. May I at this moment take the occasion to express our gratefulness for the above messages received by us.

Halima Sirker, Ambassador

Letter of the Charge d'Affaires

Dear Comrade, 19th August, 1986

I take this opportunity to extend greetings and have the honour to convey our grateful thanks, for the Revolutionary Greetings sent to us, expressing

solidarity with our cause, on the occasion of the VIIth Anniversary of the Popular Sandinista Revolution.

Comrades, this expression of solidarity is the just vindication of our struggle and itself a strong indictment of the United States aggression. I hope that in future, also, you would continue to stand by us and in the process strengthen peace in Central America.

Romeo Lopez, Charge d'Affaires

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reached about 3,500 millions dollars in 1985. The figures for Britain are equivalent to those of America. So these two countries under state monopoly capitalism enjoy the lion's share of the loot from South Africa, ruthlessly exploiting the cheap black labour to boost the profits of the transnationals. In fact, with the largest deposit of gold and diamond in the world since the last hundred years, South Africa attracted every adventurer rogue from Europe for the commercial hunting of the black skin. In this fundamental sense, South African politics has been dominated by the gold question. It has been the interaction between gold mining, capital investment from abroad and the regime required to provide an organised stream of labour, that constitutes the central theme of South Africa's political history and hence the evolution of its social and political institutions and the distribution of economic and political power between the races and the social classes.

So far as USA is concerned, the actual events bear testimony to the fact that for the sake of attaining the goals of enslaving the peoples and protecting the vital interests of the American monopolies, the Reagan administration is bent upon to deal with South Africa according to the law of the jungle. Its policy of "Constructive Engagement" is only to boost the racist regime and protract the granting of independence to Namibia and intensify the undeclared war against Angola, Mazambique and other frontline States. Without its support South Africa could not have dared to ignore the resolutions of the UN, ILO and other international organisations, nor could have attacked the frontline states, nor could have continued to spill the blood of the South African people. Apart from this, the global intensions of the U.S. imperialists have drawn South Africa into the military strategy of the Reagan administration. Reports confirm that helped by the USA there is the development of a joint missile system by South Africa and Israel intended to deliver nuclear weapons.

Under the circumstances, USA and Britain cannot agree on sanctions, and so this is bound to further sharpen the contradictions between these countries and the progressive and democratic forces, the Non-Aligned Movement and among the capitalist countries themselves, and the racist regime will go further deep into the whirlpool of the crisis. The coming few months will be crucial with the Umkhonto We Sizwe heightening its offensives.

International Struggles

Soviet Union: More than 250 scientists from 95 countries, gathered in Moscow on July 22 for the international forum "Science, Technology and Peace", and the 14th General Assembly of the World Federation of Scientific Workers called upon all heads of states to show political willingness, persistence and a constructive approach in order to stop the world's mad slip towards nuclear disaster. The scientists called for the earliest agreement possible on the complete ban of nuclear tests, for the end of all weapons of mass destruction. They also said that it is inadmissible to take the arms race into space and called for the non-militarization of science. The forum upheld the Soviet proposal that the efforts, scientific and technological potentials of all countries be pooled so that outer space be used for peace and to help solve humankind's global problems.

Hungary: The World Federation of Democratic Youth in a press note issued on July 24 from its Head Quarters, Budapest has stated that over 30 lakh people from 42 countries have signed a memorandum demanding of the racist regime of South Africa immediate release of Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners. The memorandum has expressed solidarity with the struggle of the South African people under the leadership of the African National Congress for rooting out apartheid from the country and establishment of a free, democratic South Africa. The memorandum has also denounced the US and British imperialists for their support given to the Botha regime and demanded mandatory sanctions against South Africa.

Chile: The struggle of the people of Chile against the fascist dictatorship of Pinochet has entered a new stage. The overwhelming majority of the population in that country are fully determined to turn the year 1986 into the last year of the rule of tyrant Pinochet, to put an end to killings, tortures and persecution of innocent people, to the absence of rights and poverty of the broad circles of the population. On July 2 and 3 at the appeal of the National Civil Assembly, uniting more than 300 public organisations, trade unions including, a national strike was held. Hundreds of thousands of people went out into the streets, demanding the resignation of Pinochet and the reestablishment of democracy and justice. Punitive forces of the fascist regime used weapons, tear gas and water hydrants against the demonstrators. Six people were killed, many were wounded, more than a thousand were thrown behind the bars. These reprisals did not intimidate the people of Chile, they continue their struggle. The National Civil Assembly has called for observance of September 4 as the Day for Democracy in Chile. September 4 is the sixteenth anniversary of the last free election in the country (4.9.1970), which gave victory to the People's Unity candidate, Dr. Salvador Allende, who was later killed by the fascist coup detat on 11.9.1973.

USA: An important boost has been given to the

campaign to prevent Star Wars with the pledge by over 6,500 US scientists not to take part in the Reagan administration's space weapons programme. Among the signatories are 15 Nobel prize winners and the majority of professors from the top 20 university physics departments. Science departments in universities and other academic institutions are major targets for the Pentagon's effort to promote research into space weapons. The prospect of substantial government funds has lured many academic centres into working for the SDI. Science researchers know that by refusing Star Wars contracts they risk losing other Defense Department grants. In an interview in Science magazine, Donald Hicks, the Under Secretary of Defence for Research and Engineering, threatened just that, when he indicated that university departments opposed to Star Wars could find their funds cut. Calls have been made for the firing of Hicks for resorting to such bullying tactics. Nevertheless, the scientists' movement against space weapons remains firm. On receiving the signed pledge Representative George Brown Jr. (Dem. Calif) said "At a time when the administration has been seeking to purchase legitimacy for the SDI this boycott announces that the majority of the nation's top academic scientists are not for sale. By any standards this represents a major blow to the credibility of the programme".

France: The National Committee for Independence and Development (CND) held a meeting of about 100 people at Montreuil recently. Discussions focused on local conflicts in the Third World and their consequences on development, and on initiatives towards political solutions through negotiations. An Easter March organized by the Peace Movement from Bas-Rhin marshalled more than 200 Alsatians to join in solidarity with peace forces from Germany and Switzerland at Basle. Over 1,000 members of the Peace Movement assembled in front of the American Embassy in Paris on 6 May. They protested against American aggressions in Libya and called for peace in the Mediterranean.

Italy: Broad-based peace rallies and demonstrations were held in 100 Italian towns against US aggression against Libya and the attack on the Italian island of Lampedusa. Hundreds of thousands of Italians — 80,000 in Milan, Rome and Florence are now committed to preventing the escalation of acts of war. The entire population of Lampedusa demonstrated. As a result, there is greater mobilization of the movement for peace and security in the Mediterranean and worldwide.

DPRK: More than 10,000 youths and students gathered at an indoor stadium in Pyongyang on July 18 to call for "a broad united front" and "a mass campaign" on a regional as well as international scale to eliminate the danger of war and banish nuclear weapons from the earth. The meeting appealed to the youth and students of the world, calling for firm unity among them in the five continents to give momentum to the peace movement.