

Calls to Resist the New Attacks

THE CITU Working Committee which met at Trivandrum from May 31 to June 2nd, 1985 gave a clarion call to the working class of the country to resist unitedly the retrograde changes in the government's fiscal and labour policies.

The meeting started on schedule with the hoisting of flag near VJT Hall, Trivandrum at 9.30 hours by Com. B.T. Ranadive, President, CITU. 68 members of the Working Committee and a few invitees attended the meeting. A number of comrades had sent letters and telegram seeking leave of absence owing to their sickness or other pressing work. Com. K.N. Ravindra Nath, Chairman Reception Committee, welcomed the members to Trivandrum. In a short speech he highlighted the impact of the governments' policies on the traditional industries in Kerala and the struggle that is being conducted. He hoped that the Working Committee would give guidance to all the struggles of that are being conducted throughout the country.

Before delivering the Presidential address Com. BTR called upon the members to pay homage to the memory of Com. P. Sundarayya by standing one minute in silence. He then delivered the Presidential address and declared the meeting open (*Presidential address was published in the June issue*).

Com. P. Ramamurti moved the resolutions on Martyrs, Condolence resolutions on Com. P. Sundarayya, Konstantin Chernenko, Parimal Mitra, N.V. Bhaskara Rao, Saradish Roy and others. Members passed the resolution paying homage to their memory by standing 2 minutes in silence.

General Secretary's Report

After the minutes of the previous meeting was confirmed, Com. Samar Mukherjee, General Secretary, CITU placed his report which highlighted the following points:—

He stressed that friendly relations of CITU with International Trade Union Movement have further increased in this period. He laid special emphasis on the Joint Communiqué issued by the representatives of the AUCCTU and the President, CITU at New Delhi on 12th April, 1985.

He briefly reviewed that a serious situation had arisen after the dastardly assassination of Smt. Indira Gandhi and the difficulties with which our Comrades in Punjab are functioning. He stated that the divisive forces have raised their ugly heads and the CITU must continue its fight against these dark forces.

Referring to the Bhopal gas tragedy he said "It

must be understood that safety, lives of people and lives of workers are generally treated as expendable by the bureaucrats, the industrialists and the bourgeois leaders in the Government. The necessity of quick resource mobilisation leads them to find out means for quick and super profits. In their drive for the same they trade on the lives of the people. Hence we find that proper safety rules have not been framed, the existing laws are not implemented and violated and the implementing machinery completely subservient to the needs of the industrialists specially the monopolies and multinationals". Giving data on accident in the mines as well as in industries, he called upon the CITU units to educate the Working Class about the gravity of the situation.

He then dealt with the struggles against closures and lock-outs in detail. He drew attention of the members to the following statement of the Union Labour Minister in the conference of the Labour Ministers on May 11th, "Industrial Sickness is a concomitant phenomenon of the very process of industrialisation in which vigorous and well managed units grow while poorly conceived, inefficient and marginal ones languish and gradually disappear from the industrial scene. Corporate sickness is scourge of industrialisation as much in industrialised countries as in industrialising countries".

The CITU had taken a clear position as far back as in 1982 when it had stated that "The growing incidence of industrial sickness calls for radical change in the policies of the Government. The "Industrial Policy Resolution" adopted in 1956 has been changed and now the policy of openly wooing the multinationals has been introduced. The MRTP Houses have been allowed to start industries in sectors which were exclusively reserved for small scale and medium industries. A reversal of these policies is necessary if the incidence of industrial sickness is sought to be controlled.

Effective steps are also necessary so that the Government could intervene in case of diversion of funds and corrupt practices resorted to by the management of private sector undertakings who allow the industry to become sick and block public funds. Appropriate laws to punish the guilty owners and confiscate their properties should be enacted and strictly enforced.

The Government should also come out with the policy of exemption of excise duty and other taxes for limited period to help rehabilitation of the sick industries.

He drew attention of the members to the serious

situation arising from closures, retrenchments and lay-offs as revealed from the following data:

Year	Closures		Lay-Offs		Retrenchment	
	No. of Units	Affected workers	No. of Units	Affected workers	No. of Units	Affected workers
1980	338	18,052	1603	300,300	724	15,341
1981	349	37,377	1323	311,308	726	17,320
1982	286	26,602	1521	306,400	758	15,922
1983	226	43,234	1300	244,057	688	20,376
1984	188	71,937	809	135,481	485	9,985

He also drew a contrast of the growing unemployment and inability of the Government machineries to find employment for those whose names are registered in the employment exchanges. He stated that during the last three years the employment in the organised sector was being reduced as will be seen from the following figures:

Employment in the Organised Sector (In Lakhs)

At the end of	Public Sector	Private Sector	Total	Percentage Public Sector	Private Sector	Change from Previous
March '82	159.5	75.5	234.9	3.0	2.0	2.7
March '83	164.3	75.2	239.5	3.0	-0.3	2.0
March '84	168.6	74.3	242.9	2.6	-1.2	1.4

Quoting from the CITU's memorandum to the Committee on Controls, he stated that in case of sickness and closures, the workers' dues should be made the first charge. The monopoly houses who refuse the diversify production and revive the units should be blacklisted and no further licenses for new industrial undertakings and further loans from Public Financial Institutions should be given to them. The laws should be changed to enable the banks to realise the money from the personal assets of the directors and others in case mismanagement of finance is suspected.

He then elaborated as to how the Govt's mind is working and stated that we should intensify campaign and struggle in respect of right to work being accepted as the justiciable fundamental rights and unemployment relief. He also stated that struggle for reduction of duty hours also should be thought, wherever feasible.

He then elaborated the position of the united struggle and that it has weakened to some extent. He also self critically stated that such slackening was

seen in the CITU organisation also. One of the main reason for this that the CITU is functioning under repressive conditions. It was stated in his report that:

In quite a large part of the country the CITU unions, its members are under severe repression. Trade Union rights are being denied to them. For protesting against this and championing the cause the workers our leaders are being murdered, maimed victimised, arrested and beaten up. The rank and file workers are heroically fighting against these attacks."

Then he gave details of the holding of the conference, State Committee meetings, Secretariat meetings in order to show how democratic functioning in the CITU organisation is maintained.

In his report he drew special attention to one of the weaknesses in the organisation i.e. about the working women. Com. Vimala Ranadive, Secretary, All India Co-ordination Committee of Working Women also submitted an additional report to explain the position of the functioning of the co-ordination committee. Most state committees were not taking any interest, who were once again warned for their neglect.

He then drew the attention of the members to the fact that the membership did not reflect the influence of the CITU. One of the reasons was that attention to the unorganised labour was not being properly given. Concluding his report, Samar Mukherjee stressed on the following tasks:

1. Successful holding of State level convention on lock-out, closure, retrenchment etc. within three months.

2. Constant ideological campaign and exposure of the Congress(I) Socialism and popularisation of scientific socialism — campaign about education, culture & ideology.

3. Development of cadres.

4. Improvement in the functioning particularly democratic functioning of the State and District committees, so that unions also are enthused about the same.

5. Review of struggles and review of membership drive.

Resolution Sub-Committee: A resolution sub-committee was formed with P.K. Ganguly as Convenor and R. Umanath, Biren Roy Sunil Basu Roy, P.P. Sanzgiri, K.N. Ravindranath and M.M. Lawrence as members.

Credential Committee: A Credential Committee was formed with Parsa Sathyanarayana as Convenor, and Chittabrota Majumdar, O. Bharathan and A.K. Padmanabhan, as members.

Other Reports

The President then asked P.K. Ganguly to place a report about his visit to Soviet Union, the international trade union conference and the celebrations of the 40th Anniversary of the Victory over Fascism. *(The report has been published in the June issue).*

M.K. Pandhe placed a report about the meeting of the public sector employees held at Bangalore on 27th May, 1985 in which 284 delegates from 85 unions had participated. A detail report about the position of the Public Sector units was placed which was adopted by the delegates after a debate for 2 days. A declaration was also placed, discussed and adopted. *(A detailed report on this meeting alongwith the declaration adopted in the meeting is being published in this issue).*

P.K. Ganguly then placed a report on the Seminar on Bhopal Gas Tragedy held at New Delhi on May 24, 1985 which was inaugurated by Shri P.N. Haksar. The Seminar adopted a resolution and decided to observe December 3 every year as Bhopal Day. *(A report on the Seminar has already been published in the June issue).*

Discussion on the General Secretary's report and the Presidential address started. Jeeban Roy, Biren Roy, N. Padmalochanan, Mohammed Amin, Mangat Ram Pasla, Sunil Basu Roy, S.N. Solanki, V. Cherian, B.P. Mukherjee, P.P. Sanzgiri, Prem Kishan Sharma, Chittabrata Majumdar Suryanarayana Rao, Sushil Bhattacharya, Vimala Ranadive, Ananda Pathak, Harshay Singh, G.S. Balajidas, Shivaji Patnaik, A.K. Padmanabhan, Chandi Prasad, and E. Padmanabhan, spoke on the general secretary's report. Samar Mukherjee replied to the points raised. The report was adopted unanimously.

Resolutions

Nrisingha Chakraborty moved the resolution on closure, lockouts, retrenchment and denotification. Jamini Saha, seconded the resolution, Com. Balaji Das also supported the resolution. Two amendments to the resolution were proposed which were accepted and the amended resolution was passed unanimously. D. Janakiraman moved the resolution on 'Labour Policy of the Government which was seconded by Suryanarayana Rao. M.K. Pandhe, A.K. Padmanabhan, R. Umanath and Nrisingha Chakraborty participated in the discussion. On the basis of the points made in the discussion it was suggested that the resolution would be redrafted. With the stipulation the resolution was passed. The President also directed that a separate resolution would have to be passed in regard to Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act.

P.K. Ganguly moved the resolution on the 40th anniversary of victory over fascism which was seconded by M.M. Lawrence. The resolution was

adopted unanimously. M.K. Pandhe moved the resolution on Joint Communique between AUCCTU and CITU which was seconded by Prem Kishan Sharma and was passed unanimously. Nrisingha Chakraborty moved the resolution on 'Economic Policy of the Government' which was seconded by P.P. Sanzgiri. P. Ramamurti spoke at length on the retrograde changes that are being brought about. The resolution was passed with the suggestion that it should be redrafted on the basis of the points made by P. Ramamurti and others. M.K. Pandhe moved the resolution on Bangladesh Cyclone Tragedy and P.K. Ganguly supported the same. The Kerala state committee of CITU suggested that the meeting should give a call for relief to the cyclone affected workers and they offered a sum of Rs. 5000. This offer was followed by Tamilnadu Rs. 2000, West Bengal Rs. 10,000 with promise for more, UP Rs. 1000, Maharashtra Rs. 1000, Steel Workers Federation of India Rs. 2000, Hind Motor Workers Union Rs. 1000, Coliery Mazdoor Sabha of India Rs. 1000, Bihar Rs. 1000, All India Coal Workers Federation Rs. 1000, Plantation Workers Federation Rs. 1000, All India Jute Workers Federation Rs. 1000, Water Transport Workers Federation, and Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Delhi, Haryana, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab State Committees of CITU Rs. 500 each. The meeting also adopted other resolutions.

Accounts of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions, the working class and the CITU Mazdoor for the year 1984 were passed.

M.K. Pandhe gave a report about the National Campaign Committee decisions on the issue of closure, retrenchment, etc and stated that there is every likelihood that the National Campaign Committee may give a call for an all India Convention sometimes in August 1985. He also reported the developments in regard to the proposed convention of textile workers. There is every possibility of meeting for discussion on problems of the National Textile Corporation workers in consultation with other central trade unions. Com. A.K. Padmanabhan and R. Umanath spoke about the problems of textile workers as a proposal for holding a Convention at Tamil Nadu is pending. Both stated if the AITUC agree, a joint convention can be arranged in Coimbatore in August 1985.

Then the Credential Committee placed its report which showed that 76 unions with a membership of 25,702 had applied for affiliation to CITU for which 51 applications with 20,516 members had fulfilled all the constitutional obligations and were straightaway granted affiliation. The remaining were granted provisional affiliation subject to their fulfilling the constitutional obligation.

The question of verification of membership of the unions was discussed. M.K. Pandhe placed a report about the present position in regard to discussion with other Central Trade Unions in order to find out an agreed revised procedure for verification. He said

that after the International Labour Conference was over in June, the issue was going to be finalised. He drew the attention of the members to the necessity for fully preparing all affiliated unions for participating in the verification process. Nrisingha Chakraborty highlighted certain aspects without which the membership could not be credited to CITU account.

P.K. Ganguly placed a report on workers' participation in management and appealed to the unions and State Committees to send reports on implementation of the scheme to the central office. Other resolutions were read out from the chair and passed unanimously.

Summing up by BTR

Then Com. BTR summed up the deliberations. At the outset he drew the attention of the members to the fact that an unique situation had arisen out of a new retrograde change in the policies of the Govt. The CITU unions were in the thick of struggles throughout the country. It was through these struggles that the CITU was progressing and advancing. All must understand that in the new situation unless we are able to reorientate ourselves we would not be able to meet the situation by pursuing old methods. He called upon the members to build a solid working class base cutting across caste, religion and other considerations which alone would help us to fight against the divisive forces. As far as reservation is concerned we should take a flexible approach and oppose all methods which may divide the working class.

He scathingly attacked the concept of introduction of computers as an appropriate technology, which is actually a device suggested by the capitalist world to deprive the under developed countries and keep them under enslavement. It must be understood that due to the stiff resistance of the trade union movement, the management and the Government sometime are forced to discuss computerisation with the trade unions and assure no retrenchments. Unless the stiff resistance continues, this present limited protection also may not be available. To day bureaucrats in India feel that without such a higher technology it could not survive the international competition and hence the middle class workers would be facing a serious attack on their employment. The CITU must therefore take up a correct position so that the workers come to rally behind us and we are able to fight back the consequences of computerisation.

Now the Government is forced to speak about workers' participation in management. The Govt. is utilising this slogan to blame the workers for all the ills of the industry. To meet the challenge, we must agree to participate in the management but only on a equal footing.

It should also be understood that the public sector in India is different than the public sector in advanced capitalist countries. In our country this is utilised to fight back the imperialists attempt of enslavement. Hence we should oppose denigration of the public sector and help its proper functioning so that self reliance is not sacrificed.

On the question of the economic policy the members were warned to take the new orientation seriously. This Govt. is intent to destroy all the fundamental postulates since independence and the wholesale reversal of the ideas is in the offing. It must be understood that the Govt. is opening the gates of the economy of our country for the multinationals to invade and enslave us. Not only the working class but even some economists have since understood the game and are opposing. In order to do away with the losses of the public sector, it is now being proposed that these may be transferred to the joint sector, which means that ultimately it would go the hands of the private sector and the workers would have to face a serious attack. It must also be understood that the earlier position of simple condemnation of the public sector had to some extent affected our vision about the need to protect it from the attacks of the monopolies and the multinationals. For the first time we are having a Prime Minister who had no contribution in the struggle against the foreign imperialist domination, and therefore may be amenable to the diktats of the multinationals. This would bring in a new chapter of attacks on our existing trade union rights. The working class have further to be organised in the struggle to resist these attacks. It is the working class alone who with the support of the democratic masses can reverse this anti-people thrust. He said that after the tour of USA of the Prime Minister is over we must be prepared to face the worst. Before concluding he said that changing the level of consciousness of the workers is a long drawn struggle. Unless we continuously work for heightening the level of consciousness of the working class it would not be possible for it to play the role the history has placed upon it. To do so we must change the pattern of our functioning also. He thanked the Kerala CITU for the excellent arrangements which were made. Com. Anirudhan expressed the feelings of the state committee and thanked the members for their co-operation.

A huge rally and mass meeting on June 2 marked the end of the Working Committee meeting. Despite torrential rains, processions started converging at the Gandhi Park Maidan from the afternoon. By 9.30 P.M. when the meeting was over, processions were still coming.

The mass meeting was presided over by Com. Sushila Gopalan and was addressed by Com. B.T. Ranadive, Com. E.M.S. Namboodiripad, Com. E. Balanandan, Com. P. Ramamurti and Com. K.N. Ravindranath.

Resolutions

On Martyrs

THIS Meeting of the Working Committee of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions held at Trivandrum from May 31 to June 2, 1985 dips its red banner in the memory of those comrades who in the course of their struggle for emancipation of working class and the people of the country have died in the hands of goonda hirelings of the Management or Police firing and attained martyrdom. This meeting pledges to carry forward their unfinished task.

On Com. Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko

This Meeting of the Working Committee of Centre of Indian Trade Unions, held at Trivandrum from May 31 to June 2, 1985 joins the working class and the people of Soviet Union to express deep sorrow at the passing away of Com. Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Soviet Union and the President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of USSR on March 10 at the age of 73. His short period of one year in office was marked by his determination to further the struggle for the defence and consolidation of the socialist system and world peace against the war pursuits by the US imperialists.

Born on September 24, 1911 in a peasant's family, Com. Chernenko started party work from early years. In 1930 he volunteered his services in the Red Army and served in the Frontier Troops till 1933. After completing his service in the Army he started working in the various party bodies. In 1956 he was promoted to the staff of the CPSU Central Committee. In 1960 he became the Head of the Secretariat of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. He was an Alternate Member of the Central Committee of CPSU from 1966 to 1971. In the March 1976 Plenary Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee, he was elected as a Secretary of the Central Committee. In 1977 he became an Alternate Member of the Polit Bureau of the Central Committee of the CPSU. On Feb. 13, 1984, he was elected as the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee in its Extra-Ordinary Plenary Meeting and was elected as the President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet in April, 1984.

Com. Chernenko made great contributions to the collective work of the Central Committee and in implementing the resolutions of the 26th CPSU Congress. He devoted much attention to perfecting organisational work of the party in the masses, in improving the activities of the Soviets and the trade unions, as well as for raising the pace of economic, scientific, technical and agrarian progress. Heading

the Defence Council of the USSR he made great contributions to enhance the defence capability and the combat readiness of the Soviet Armed Forces for the defence of the Socialist system against the war manoeuvres of US imperialism. At the same time, he ceaselessly worked to translate the Leninist peaceful foreign policy for strengthening peace and international security, for curbing the nuclear, chemical and space arms race and averting the threat of a nuclear holocaust. In this respect he gave special attention towards strengthening co-operation and cohesion of the socialist countries, for unity of the world communist and workers' movement, furtherance of the Non-Aligned Movement and for support to people's national liberation struggles. The Indian people will always hail Com. Chernenko's contribution in strengthening the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Cooperation and Friendship which helps the struggle against imperialism. This meeting dips its red flag in memory of Com. Chernenko".

On Com. P. Sundarayya

This meeting of the Working Committee of Centre of Indian Trade Unions, held at Trivandrum from May 31 to June 2, 1985 mourns with profound grief the sad demise of Com. P. Sundarayya the founder member of the Communist Party of India, and a veteran leader of the movement of the toiling people of our country, on May 19 in a Nursing Home at Madras at the age of 72.

Com. Sundarayya joined the freedom movement at his age of 17, even before he could complete his college education and jumped in the non-cooperation movement that was raging the whole country in 1930. During his participation in the national freedom movement he joined the Communist Party of India and was later on appointed as Organiser for the whole of Southern Region. From 1936 Com. P. Sundarayya had been a member of the Central Committee of the Party. He was one of the founder members of the All India Kisan Sabha of which he was joint secretary for some time. Com. P.S. was in the thick of armed partisan struggle of the Telengana peasantry.

Com. PS was elected to the Polit Bureau in 1951 and to Rajya Sabha in 1952 after the 1st General Elections. He was also the leader of the CPI Group in Parliament. Com. PS was elected to the Andhra State Assembly in 1956 and was reelected in all elections till 1972. He was the leader of CPI and CPI(M) group in the Assembly. After 1972 he dedicated himself to the party work and did not contest any election. Com. Sundarayya was elected to the Central Committee, Polit Bureau and was the Central Secretary of the Party in October 1964 when

the CPI(M) made a break with the CPI and he continued in the post till 1976. He continued as a member of the Central Committee and later on became the Secretary of Andhra Pradesh Committee of CPI(M).

Com. P. Sundarayya was a member of the CITU Working Committee for the period from 1979 to 1983. Being a Communist Revolutionary, he earned the respect and love from all who came into his contact, because of his dedication to the cause of the party and his simple way of living.

The Working Committee dips its red banner in homage to this great son of our country and offers its heartfelt condolences to the General Secretary CPI(M) and Com. Leela Sundarayya.

On Com. Parimal Mitra

This Working Committee of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions, held at Trivandrum from May 31 to June 2, 1985, deeply mourns the sad demise of Com. Parimal Mitra, member of West Bengal State Committee of CPI(M), Minister of Tourism and Forestry, Govt. of West Bengal, Working Committee member of CITU and President of All India Plantation Workers Federation, on March 1, at the age of 66 at Salboni, Midnapur District, while on official work.

Born on 17th April 1919, Com. Parimal Mitra was attracted towards the Communist movement at an early age. He joined the banned Communist Party of India during the freedom struggle in 1939 and had to go underground in 1941. Since then he became a whole-timer of the party. As a young student he participated in students movements and was the founder President of the Jalpaiguri District Unit of the Students Federation. Later he participated in the peasant movements particularly in North Bengal and took a leading role in the historic Tebhaga movement. Due to his leading role in the railway workers movement also, he became the Vice-President of Bengal Dooars Railroad Workers Union and the Bengal-Assam Railroute Workers Union. From 1952 he devoted his work in organising the tea plantation workers in North Bengal and became the General Secretary of Tea Garden Workers Union. Later on he became the President of the All India Plantation Workers Federation. He was a member of the Working Committee of CITU since its foundation in 1970 and remained in the post till his death. He was elected to the West Bengal State Assembly from Kranti in Jalpaiguri district both in 1977 and 1982 and was the Minister for Tourism and Forestry in both the terms.

In his death the Communist movement has lost a revolutionary leader and the working class lost a dedicated worker, organiser and leader. The Meeting of the Working Committee of CITU dips its red flag in memory of Com. Parimal Mitra and sends its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved members of his family.

On Com. N.V. Bhaskar Rao

This Working Committee meeting of CITU held at Trivandrum from 31st May to 2nd June 1985, deeply mourns the sad demise of Com. N.V. Bhaskar Rao, a member of this Working Committee and Secretary of Andhra Pradesh State Committee of CITU, on October 24, 1984 following a massive heart attack.

Com. Bhaskar Rao was only 55 at the time of his death. He was also a dedicated party worker, a member of Andhra Pradesh Committee of CPI(M) and Secretary of its Hyderabad city unit. This Working Committee recalls his great contribution and sacrifice in building up united struggles of the working class and the advance of CITU in Andhra Pradesh. This meeting sends its heartfelt condolences to the Andhra Pradesh State Committee of CITU and the bereaved members of his family.

On Condolences

This Meeting of the Working Committee held at Trivandrum on May 31 to June 2, 1985 pays homage to the hallowed memory of Com. Saradish Roy, Leader of the CPI(M) in the Lok Sabha and many others who during the course of their struggle for changing the social order of our country with a view to usher in Socialism have breathed their last during the period from our last General Council Meeting in September 1984. The Meeting sends its heartfelt condolences to the members of their bereaved families.

On 40th Anniversary of Victory over Fascism

This meeting of the working committee of the CITU held at Trivandrum from May 31--June 2, 1985 congratulates the workers for responding to the call of the CITU to observe in a befitting manner the 40th Anniversary of Victory over Fascism, from May 1 to May 9.

This meeting draws the pointed attention of the workers to the fact that the victory over fascism by the Red Army and the working people of USSR led to a complete change in the world situation. It led a one third of the world going over Socialism, it saw number of East European countries establish socialist regimes. It ensured the victory of the Chinese revolution and saw the emergence of Socialist China, Korea and Vietnam. It facilitated the victory of Indian freedom struggle and led to the collapse of the British empire and the old colonial system. Very truthfully it has been described as the second great turning point in the history of the world after the October Socialist revolution.

The people of the world have noticed that while the USSR had been giving proposals for maintenance of peace, the Reagan Administration of USA with its intention of global domination and acting as the gendarmms of the imperialist countries has not only intensified its mad arms race through MX-missiles,

chemical warfare, star war, etc. but also had established Pershing 2 and Cruise missiles in Europe which are essentially first-strike weapons intended to attack and destroy the Soviet Union.

This meeting notes that the struggle for peace throughout the world has since been strengthened and in our country a large section of workers have been mobilised in the peace struggle while there are still quite a number of workers under the influence of several other organisations who do not consider imperialism as the gravest danger before the mankind.

This meeting calls upon the entire working class to realise that in the present context unleashing of a Nuclear War would lead to the liquidation of entire mankind and appeals to them to unitedly struggle against the danger of a nuclear holocaust by raising a resolute 'NO' to 'Nuclear War'.

This meeting calls upon to the CITU State Committees and the affiliated unions to make preparations for unitedly observing 1st September as the 'Day of Peace' this year. This year being the 40th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, this meeting as per the call given by WFTU also calls for holding solidarity actions on August 2 and 9 as international days of united action for total elimination of nuclear weapons.

WFTU Resolution

The WFTU in its resolution on 40th anniversary of victory over fascism has called upon to observe August 2 and 9. We are publishing as follows the relevant portion — Ed.

Recalling that this year is the 40th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the WFTU calls on trade unions of the world to take solidarity action on August 2 and 9 as international days of united action for the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

On Closures Lockouts and Retrenchment

This Meeting of the Working Committee of CITU held at Trivandrum notes with deep concern that notwithstanding the tall claim by the Government of India to the effect that the sixth plan period is closing with high satisfactory performance of the economy, the number of sick industrial undertakings had increased from 28,000 to 80,110 by December 31, 1983. The number of workmen who have been thrown out of employment is 37,000 in 1981, 26,000 in 1982, 43,000 in 1983 and 71,000 in 1984, accord-

ing to Government data which is a gross under-estimation.

The Government of India appears to have not taken any note of the programmes that were organised after the convention on 20th January 1984 and the Workers' March to Parliament on 18th April last year. They have abandoned whatever steps that were taken earlier to keep the industry moving and started denotifying several units. It openly pleads that sickness and closure are concomittant to the healthy growth of industry. The Government refuses to accept the right to work as justiciable fundamental right. It also refuse to accept unemployment relief being given to those workmen who have been affected due to closure and sickness in industry.

In Jute and Textile industry the workers are seriously affected in a great way due to sickness and closure. The Government proposes, instead of giving unemployment relief, issuing of power-loom permits to small group of retrenched workers against their PF and retrenchment benefits, who could be organised in their areas of Urban powerloom Co-operatives. This meeting therefore condemns any such proposal by the Government which would deprive the workers of their PF and other dues in exchange of company's overaged looms. The Government also has refused to nationalise all the Units that have been taken over. They insist on take over of pre-take over liabilities of these units in case the State Governments want to nationalise any of them, thus blocking the nationalisation. They do not conduct enquiries and recover the pre-takeover liabilities from the personal assets of the owners who had defalcated and mismanaged company funds. They refuse to take workers' representatives in management with equal status and to democratise the functioning after taking over of the industry. This has led to a serious situation throughout the country. The situation is further aggravated due to indiscriminate computerisation while unemployment is growing apace and there are 2.35 crores unemployed according to the Live Registers of Employment Exchanges.

This Meeting congratulates the workers who have observed May 15 as a Protest Day against Lockouts, Closures and Retrenchment on the call of NCC. It welcomes the decision of the National Campaign Committee to hold conventions — State, Regional and District Level — by the 15th of August and take up further programmes of struggle. The meeting also supports the proposed one days industrial strike in West Bengal in support of re-opening of the closed and locked out mills and for taking over the management of those mills if the employers do not agree to reopen those mills, pending nationalisation. This meeting calls upon the entire working class, particularly those who are not affected by closure to take up the question of the closed and sick industries as a matter of policy and launch united struggle

to force the Government to take over all sick and closed industries.

Resolution on Joint Communiqué

This meeting of the Working Committee of the CITU held at Trivandrum from May 31-June 2, 1985 thanks the All Union Central Council of Trade Unions, Moscow, USSR for accepting our invitation and sending their representative here to discuss the international situation. The presence of Com. V.V. Kulik, Secretary, Ukrainian State Council and Com. K.I. Tuzikov in India and signing of a Joint Communiqué on behalf of AUCCTU and the CITU had helped the Centre of Indian Trade Unions to understand the depth of the dangers and the way in which the Soviet trade unions and workers are meeting it.

This meeting is confident that the bonds of friendship between AUCCTU and CITU will be further strengthened through the issue of the Joint Communiqué and the struggle for peace would be strengthened.

On Nationalisation of Textile, Jute and Sugar Industries

This meeting of the Working Committee of the CITU held at Trivandrum from May 31 to June 2, 1985 congratulates the 2.5 lakhs Jute workers for a complete united strike on May 17, 1985 on the demand of Nationalisation of Jute Industry.

This meeting specially congratulates the West Bengal State Committee of CITU and Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union for their sustained efforts for establishing complete unity by bringing in the INTUC fraction which hitherto remained out of united movement in West Bengal.

This meeting notes that the incidence of industrial sickness is very high in Cotton Textile, Jute and Sugar Industry. Out of 491 large sick units at the end of December 1983, 119 were cotton textile, 37 Jute mills and 44 in sugar industry employing lakhs of workers. By May this year, 18 jute mills were locked out throwing out of employment 70,000 workers. The number of jobless due to closure of mills in Jute industry would come to 72,000.

This meeting denounces the Congress(I) Government at the centre for rejecting the unanimous resolution of West Bengal Legislative Assembly for Nationalisation of Jute Industry which was personally presented to the Late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi by an all party delegation of the Assembly last year, as also the united demand by all the central trade unions. Even this year when the call for one day's token strike on 17th May 1985 was given, the present government was once again requested to respect the united demand of the jute workers. However, the Govt. has not come forward with any positive response as yet.

In cotton textile also all the central trade unions have demanded nationalisation of the entire industry. But the govt. instead of acceding to this demand formed an Expert Committee excluding the labour from it, which recommended for further modernisation and import of foreign technology which will further aggravate the situation.

Similarly the sugar industry also is facing a crisis with growing sickness and closures.

This meeting therefore reiterates the demand to nationalise the jute, cotton textile and sugar industries and calls upon the state committees and the affiliated unions to step up the movements drawing in other trade unions with the demand.

On New Economic Policy of the Government

This working Committee meeting of CITU held at Trivandrum from May 31 to June 2, 1985 denounces the new economic policy adopted by the government of India as anti-national, anti-people and anti-working class. Apart from imposing Rs. 1400 crores in the budget as additional indirect taxes on the common people and resorting to a huge deficit financing of Rs. 3500 crores on one hand, and giving a relief worth Rs. 1000 crores to the capitalists on the other hand, the policy is an open denigration of the public sector, strengthening the private sector and invitation to the multi-nationals. Controls and licensing have been removed in a number of industries to encourage the private sector. The monopolists have been given further concessions by allowing them to raise their assets from Rs 20 crores to Rs. 100 crores for being declared as MRTP houses. Import liberalisation in the name of importing advanced technology is another instrument to appease foreign capital which is going to ruin Indian industries.

It should be noted that undermining the public sector, strengthening the private sector and removal

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negotiations round the corner the workers are expecting a further wage rise to protect their real standard of living.

This meeting warns the working class in the public sector of the recent steps being considered by the Government of India to scuttle the bipartite wage negotiations machinery and impose a discarded wage board mechanism on the workers in the public sector undertakings, as per the recommendations of the Arjun Sen Gupta Committee. This meeting appeals to the trade union movement to defeat this conspiracy in the same manner as it had defeated the BPE guidelines during the recent phase of wage negotia-

tions and to maintain the hard won right of collective bargaining for the public sector workers.

This meeting, therefore, calls upon the working class and the trade union movement in India to close its ranks in the struggle against the Government of India's policies which, if allowed to continue further, will virtually liquidate the public sector in India. It therefore earnestly appeals to the entire working class to join the countrywide movement to achieve the following demands:

- (1) Withdraw all the concessions given to multinational companies and big houses by the Government of India;
- (2) Stop imports of all products and equipment which can be produced indigenously and develop indigenous production to achieve self-reliance;
- (3) End all bureaucratism and malpractices in the public sector and introduce a genuine scheme of workers' participation in the management through elected representatives with full powers;
- (4) No closure of existing public sector units. Develop more public sector units by taking over all the sick and closed units and save lakhs of workers from starvation;
- (5) Nationalise the cotton textile, jute, sugar and other major industries and run them efficiently in the public sector;
- (6) Accord unhindered trade union rights to the public sector workers and withdraw ESMA, NSA and all anti-working class measures taken by the Government of India;
- (7) Develop employment oriented projects in the public sector and withdraw the ban on recruitment;
- (8) Abolish the contract system in the public sector undertakings and regularise those workers in the public sector;
- (9) Accept the legitimate demands of the workers relating to further improvement in their working and living conditions such as removal of ceiling on bonus, payment of interim relief to those undertakings whose wages and DA are governed by the Pay Commission Report, etc;
- (10) Give full protection of job security to women workers in the public sector;
- (11) Scrap the Bureau of Public Enterprises;
- (12) Ban computerisation and introduction of other job killing devices.

CITU Greets SOHYO Conference

In reply to SOHYO's letter, B.T. Ranadive, President CITU sent the following message on June 22 to their Conference:

Mr. Takeshi Kurokawa
President, The General Council of
Trade Unions of Japan
Sohyo Kaikan, 2-11
Kanda Surugadai 3-Chome
Chiyoda-Ku, TOKYO

Dear Comrade,

I thank you for your letter dated the 14th of June informing us about the 73rd Annual Conference of SOHYO.

On behalf of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions, I convey warm greetings to the Conference and wish success to its deliberations. I am confident that the Conference will succeed in giving a new lead for the unification of the labour movement in Japan. The CITU and the working class of India appreciate the success of SOHYO and the labour movement in defending workers' living conditions, democratic rights of the people and world peace. The CITU wishes them further success in this direction. The year 1985 marks the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Very few acts in recent history compare with this planned inhuman infamy. The perpetrators of this massacre are again busy organising a nuclear war. Let our common efforts prevent this plot against peace. Let the memory of Hiroshima and Nagasaki impel us to fight till we are finally triumphant.

With Greetings,

Fraternally yours
B.T. Ranadive

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of government control have been the demands of the World Bank and the IMF for creating a favourable climate for the multinationals to enter the economic life of the country. The meeting warns the working class that the policy of undermining the public sector and allowing the multinationals to enter the economic life of the country means their entry into its political life also and spells danger to our freedom and independence, which is the avowed objective of the imperialists headed by USA.

This meeting therefore calls upon the State Committees and the affiliated unions to launch immediate campaign to educate the workers on this new economic policy and mobilise them in movements demanding its reversal. The meeting also appeals to all other trade union centres to come together in the task so that a countrywide united movement can be waged on this issue.