



THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN

June 22, 1941

IT was on June 22, 1941 when the Nazi Germany suddenly and treacherously attacked the Soviet Union, that the flames of the World War II crossed beyond the bounds of the capitalist system and declared war against the Soviet Union, the first socialist state in the world. For the Soviet Union the war against Nazi Germany and its satellites was a patriotic war of liberation. It assumed a nationwide character and affected all spheres of social life and activity of the state. The Soviet-German front was a scene of life and death struggle between socialism and the most reactionary forces of imperialism—fascism. The entire character of the World War II changed radically. An anti-Hitler coalition took shape which waged a just war of liberation against the fascist block. It reflected an important demand of the time, the rallying together of the working class, of the popular masses and of all the freedom loving forces in the struggle against fascism for peace and social progress. The armed forces of the fascist coalition were routed and the state-political system of fascism as a form of political power of the most reactionary sections of monopoly capital collapsed. The Soviet Union, its people and the red army were a force that exerted a decisive influence on the course and outcome of the entire World War II. The victory of the forces of socialism, peace and democracy against the forces of fascist imperialism opened a new era in the world history. It was the second turning point in the world history after the great October socialist revolution. The old colonial system collapsed, a number of countries liberated themselves from the grip of colonialism, including India and the great socialist camp came to reality with one-third of the world turning to socialism.

Treacherous Munich Deal

Hitler attacked Soviet Union in a blitzkrieg manner along 3500 kilometers front both on the ground and in the air. The fascist barbarian had the plan to destroy the Soviets, to raise Leningrad, the cradle of the October revolution and to eliminate Moscow as the capital of the Bolshevik state. But Hitler could not have gained such barbarous power had he not been egged on by Britain, France and

America to strike against socialism. These imperialist powers who conducted the treacherous Munich Deal rejected all efforts of the Soviet Union for building up a collective security against the fascist Germany and on the contrary were seeking to make Hitler unleash a war against the Soviet Union. The events of the following years clearly showed that those who concluded the deal in Munich not only betrayed the interests of their own people but also committed a monstrous crime against humanity when they turned down the offer of cooperation by the Soviet Union. As the then Soviet Foreign Minister, Andrei Gromyko said in one of his speeches: "In their reckless attempt to hold a feast during the fascist plague, in their desire to be present at the funeral repast of the first, and as they hoped, the last socialist state, these circles betrayed the interests of even their own countries and people, pushed them into the abyss, to the edge of which they wanted to propel above all, the Soviet Union". The anti-Hitler coalition came into being only in late 1941 by which time France had already fallen, many European countries were occupied and Britain found itself in a critical situation. Britain and America at length realised that Germany would not share the world with any body. The imperialist contradictions between the USA and Britain on the one hand and Germany, Japan and Italy on the other had been aggravated to such an extent that coalition between them had become impossible. Objective pre-requisites compelled the USA and Britain to form an anti-fascist coalition.

Sacrifice of the Soviet People

However, this coalition and the formation of the Second Front was delayed and given effect to only in mid 1944 when the Soviet Union had already borne the main brunt of the war and practically ensured the defeat of fascism. The comparative loss of human lives and material loss of the Soviet Union and others can be seen as follows:

Out of a total of 50 million dead in the war, Soviet Union alone sacrificed 20 million lives. Number of dead in Germany were 13.6 millions, Japan—2.5 millions, France—6 lacs, Britain—3.75 lacs and America—3 lacs. The total material loss amounted to 4 Trillion Dollars. Soviet Union lost 33 per cent of its national wealth, France 1.5 per cent Britain 0.8

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per cent, but the US Corporations profited by 1,17,000 million dollars.

Invincible Character Socialism

As said above the feat was achieved by the Soviet Union because of the invincible character of socialism. It mobilised the entire people in the great patriotic war. It proved the superiority of Soviet military art and strategy. The labour front quickly became an arsenal, forging weapons for the red army and supplying it with everything it needed. By the end of 1942 the Soviet Union surpassed Germany in the out-put of weapons and in many cases in the quality of the armaments also. This was despite the fact that large US and British Corporations like the General Motors, Ford Motor Company, ITT, Standard Oil, etc, manufactured and supplied everything that Germany needed. The Soviet Union fought for the future of their people, their freedom and freedom of the generations of other countries also against fascism and imperialism. The fact is that, for the Soviet people during the years of the war, the past merged with the present and the future. The image of their unconquerable forebears merged with a social awareness born out of the revolution. In defending their homeland the Soviet people upheld socialism which was born and established in their soil. Workers, peasants and people from all aspects of life put on uniforms and fought heroically for a way of life based on freedom equality, justice, peace and democracy. The Communist Party guided the people's struggle. Guerrillas and under ground fighters co-ordinated their operations with the regular Soviet army units and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. As Stalin said: "The aim of this national war in defence of our country against the fascist oppressors is not only the elimination of the danger hanging over our country, but also to aid all European people groaning under the yoke of German fascism".

Therefore, although the Nazis imposed their inhuman regime on the captive nations and created an atmosphere of terror and intimidation, they failed to crush the people's will to win back freedom and independence. The determined struggle of the Soviet people against Nazi invaders was a powerful catalyst in intensifying the anti-fascist actions of the captive nations.

Lessons of the Past

And now it is only because of the Soviet Union's mighty defence capabilities that there has been no World War during the last 41 years. The lessons of the past are a reminder of what happens when attempts are made to use force in solving the historical dispute between different social systems. The victory in the great patriotic war demonstrated the vitality of the socialist system and proved that socialism possesses, besides military and economic strength, political and military superiority.

During the entire period before the Second World War, particularly since the rise of fascism in Germany, the international situation was marked by a conflict of two policies, the policy of disarmament and peace advocated by the Soviet Union and

the policy of re-arming and war preparations advocated by the imperialist powers. The same situation continues at the present period. Because imperialism cannot change its character. It requires war for its existence. The US imperialists have converted their industries into a military-industrial complex. Reagan is now dreaming the dead barbarian's dream for world domination. The situation is all the more serious because the character of war that the US imperialists and their NATO allies are preparing now is a nuclear holocaust. A total of 70 million people died in the first two World Wars, but the nuclear holocaust will exterminate human life itself. The imperialists want to rewrite history by distorting the past and take the world back to the pre-1917 era. They are hectically trying to confuse the world working class with the myth of Soviet military superiority and talk of two super powers. To "save" the world from communism Reagan has openly declared war against it. He has rejected all the peace proposals of the Soviet Union and is spiralling the arms race extending it to the outer space. Their Star War programme is precisely meant for the nuclear first strike. The U.S. imperialists want to dictate the world and challenge the Soviet Union and the socialist system from the position of power. They had virtually announced their intention by dropping the Atom Bombs in Japan when the war had practically ended. Since then, with each passing day they have confirmed their global intentions and for war. And now, they have treacherously replied to the Soviets and the Warsaw Pact peace proposals by renouncing the SALT-II and going ahead with the nuclear tests.

Intensify Struggle for Peace

History teaches us that the working class and people must fight against war before it begins. Merely shouting for peace or simply a pacifist attitude towards war is not sufficient at the present juncture. The working class must come forward against the imperialist war mongers and in defence of Soviet Union and socialism. Proletarian internationalism demands this partisan attitude. The working class must explode the theory of two super powers, expose the zingoist character of imperialism and stand solidly behind the proposal of M.S. Gorbachov to make the world free of nuclear, chemical and all other weapons of mass annihilation by the turn of the century.

June 22, 1941 must be remembered in this context and especially in this centenary year of the May Day and the International Year of Peace. During the last 41 years the peace forces have increased enormously, uniting the working class with various sections of other people. It is a good development that the Indian working class also under all the central trade unions have united on this question and decided to observe a day for peace and disarmament. The Indian working class must go ahead to step up united struggle and project itself as the greatest anti-war force and merge itself with the international struggle for peace. The CITU has to be in the forefront of the struggle to fulfil its international task.

Central Trade Unions Observe Anti-Apartheid Day

ALL the Central Trade Unions in India unitedly observed the Anti-Apartheid Day at New Delhi on June 16. The day was observed in pursuance of the previous decision of the Central Trade Unions to mark the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, coinciding with the Tenth Anniversary of the Sweto massacre when hundreds of black school children were brutally killed and injured by the racist South African police.

The ten Central Trade Unions which jointly sponsored the meeting at Constitution Club were CITU, AITUC, INTUC, HMS, BMS, UTUC, TUCC, UTUC (LS), NFITU and NLO. The meeting was also attended by A.N. Mulla, the representative in India of the African National Congress which is leading the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, and by the wife of the Ambassador of the South West African People's Organisation (SAWPO), which is spearheading the freedom struggle in Namibia.

The meeting was presided over by S.L. Sharma of INTUC. Samar Mukherjee, General Secretary of CITU moved the resolution (printed below) of the meeting. Speaking on the resolution Samar Mukherjee recalled how the school children at Sweto became martyrs, fighting against the apartheid regime's attempt to impose the African language on the school children. He denounced the imperialist countries, especially the USA and UK for lending support to the barbarous white minority rule and called upon the workers to unitedly demonstrate their solidarity to the struggle of the South African people. Others who spoke were A.N. Mulla of ANC, Y.D. Sharma (AITUC), Prabhakar Ghate (BMS), Brij Mohan Toofan (HMS), Pratul Chowdhury (UTUC) Gyan Singh (UTUC-LS) and N.N. Sharma (NFITU). The resolution called upon the workers to raise a Solidarity Fund in support of the South African people's struggle.

Resolution

This meeting of the ten central trade union organisations held at the Constitution Club, New Delhi on June 16, 1986 in observance of the National Anti-Apartheid Day, as declared in their earlier meeting of February 17, vehemently denounces the continued pursuance of the apartheid policy in its most savage form by the minority white racist Government in South Africa in open defiance of world public opinion.

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the SOWETO uprising, this meeting of the trade union centres pays homage to the thousands of the South African people who became martyrs fighting against the white racist regime.

This meeting also strongly condemns those Governments, who, while professing to be the defenders of freedom and human dignity, continue to extend political, economic and military support to the racist regime and who have been resisting all attempts to impose mandatory sanctions against the present minority Government in South Africa.

This meeting deplores the use of veto by the Governments of the USA and UK against the resolution on mandatory sanctions in the UN Security Council.

Emboldened by such tacit support from some Governments, the racist South African Government had the temerity to bombard the front line countries like Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana in blatant violation of all international laws and norms. Not content with this, the aggressive racist Government carried out a second attack against Angola. Despite these aggressive actions, some western countries continue to oppose the imposition of mandatory sanctions against the racist regime. There are also reports of plans for fresh attacks against the neighbouring countries.

The white minority Government of South Africa is sparing no effort to perpetuate its apartheid policy and has been ceaselessly escalating violence against the South African people. A state of emergency has been declared in a bid to ruthlessly suppress the uprising of the freedom loving South African people. Even paying homage to the martyrs in Churches on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the SOWETO uprising has been banned.

This meeting of the trade union centres congratulates the non-aligned countries and some Commonwealth countries for their unequivocal condemnation of the South African racist Government and calling for mandatory sanctions. Our Prime Minister and Chairman of the Non-aligned movement has not minced words in his denunciation of the white regime and in emphasising the need for mandatory sanctions to bring the apartheid system in South Africa to an end.

This meeting of the trade union centres reiterates the solidarity and commitment of the Indian working class to treat the heroic struggle waged by the South African Liberation Movement as its own and to strengthen the South African Congress of Trade Unions and African National Congress in their determination to wipe out the condemnable apartheid policy.

This meeting also reaffirms the resolve of the Indian working class to participate in all international actions initiated by the fraternity of
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Central Trade Union Delegation Vists Punjab

A delegation on behalf of Central Trade Unions visited Punjab on 11th, 12th and 13th June 1986 as per decision of Trade Union Convention for National Integration Against Communalism and Divisive Forces held in New Delhi on 11th May, 1986. The delegation consisted of Samar Mukherjee, General Secretary-CITU, Chaturanan Mishra, M.P., President-AITUC, S.L. Sharma, Member of Working Committee of INTUC, R.K. Bhakt, Secretary-BMS, Kamla Sinha, Vice-President-HMS and Gyan Singh, Secretary, UTUC (L.S.). The representatives of UTUC, TUCC, NLO and NFITU could not go in the delegation but they associated with the purpose of the delegation.

The delegation visited Taran Tarn, Jandialaguru, Krishan Nagar in Amritsar on May 11 and met several people from different walks of life. They also met families of victims of terrorism every where who talked to them frankly and expressed that the sense of insecurity could be removed only if firm steps were taken against the terrorists.

The delegation found that a feeling of insecurity prevailed among a section of community due to planned attacks by the terrorists. The law and order machinery in the state was broken down due to failure of the local administration and police officials to prevent the murders of innocent citizens. The delegation was happy to note that by and large the workers and employees firmly and unitedly opposed the extremists, terrorists, separatists and communalists of all types. They also condemned the clandestine help given by the foreign powers to destabilise the situation in India and expressed the need to isolate the terrorists. The delegation felt the necessity for upholding the Punjab accord so that peace was established in the state on its basis.

Massive Peace Marches

The trade unions in Punjab held a massive rally and Peace March in the city of Amritsar on 12th. More than ten thousand participants from workers, teachers, bank employees, electricity workers, etc, participated in the rally and Peace March. Industrial workers came after stopping the work for four hours. The rally was addressed apart from State leaders like Mangat Ram Pasla, CITU; Piara Singh Deosi, AITUC; Balwant Rai Kapoor of INTUC; Khushpal Singh of HMS and R.L. Hawa of BMS, by the central leaders of the trade unions. Samar Mukherjee, General Secretary of CITU emphasised the need of political and ideological campaign against the secessionist extremists supported by imperialism, the task of which had to be taken up by the working class. Other democratic, secular and patriotic forces are also to be taken together for this task. Chaturanan Mishra of AITUC, Kamla Sinha of HMS, R.K. Bhagat of BMS, S.L. Sharma of INTUC and Gian Singh of

the UTUC(LS) also addressed the rally. The Peace March started at 2 P M from Gole Bag and passed through the main centres of the city. The march ended at Hall Gate where the rally was again addressed by Vijaya Mishra of CITU and Balwant Rai Kapoor of INTUC. The peace marchers were greeted by the people and the shopkeepers throughout the routes with great enthusiasm and were served with sweet cold water. A large number of women also participated in the march and the rally.

Another state level rally was held in Company Bag of Jalandhar on June 13. The workers and employees came with their banners and flags from all corners of the state to join the rally. The rally was addressed by the state leaders of the above mentioned unions including Mangat Ram Pasla who stated that the hand of imperialism headed by America was clearly visible behind the communal riots and secessionist extremist activities. He appealed to the people to work ceaselessly for communal harmony and to identify, isolate and to fight back the communalists of all hues.

The rally was also addressed by the central leaders like Samar Mukherjee, Chaturanan Mishra, Kamala Sinha, Gian Singh, S.L. Sharma, and H.N. Bishwas.

Samar Mukherjee cited the example of West Bengal. He explained that while in the Cong(I) administered states the people were called in the streets to attack the people of minority community under the Left Front Govt of West Bengal the workers and people were called in streets for the defence of the people of minority community. He also explained that it was the working class which by the virtue of its social position was in need of unity inspite of difference in their languages, castes and communities and that is why the working class in alliance with other working people can work for unity and it was the only class which could fight the imperialist interventions to the last point and defend the independence of the nation as well. The rally was addressed by other central trade union leaders too. The Peace March was taken out in the main bazars of the city covering more than two kilometers area. A pledge was taken by all participants in both the rallies to work for communal harmony, forming defence committees to defend minority communities and for unity and integrity of the country. The committees will be formed at state level, district level, village level and also in the industrial areas.

A press conference was organised later which was addressed by the visiting central leaders. The central leaders also addressed a press conference at Delhi after their return on June 14 and explained their experience to the press. As per the decision of the 11th May Convention all the Central Trade Unions will observe the National Integration Day on August 9.

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West Bengal State CITU Conference

THE Fourth State Conference of the West Bengal Committee of CITU was held at Siliguri from 14th to 17th May. The Conference was held at a time when separatist forces in the hill areas of Darjeeling only a few miles away from Siliguri, were posing a serious threat to the unity of the working class and the people. These separatists had called for a 72-hour Bundh in Darjeeling from 12th to 14th May, on the eve of the conference, on the so-called demand for a separate 'Gorkhaland'. Terror and violence were let loose by the separatists with the help of anti-socials and active support of the Cong(I) to force the bundh on the people. However, timely intervention and correct handling of the situation by the State administration and the courageous resistance by the workers led by CITU and democratic people helped in containing the separatists. The Bundh had some impact in Darjeeling and some other towns, but the tea-garden workers led by the CITU heroically resisted the terror and violence and kept most of the gardens working. The challenge of the separatists could not in the least disrupt the preparations for and successful holding of the conference. Over 500 volunteers, both men and women, drawn from workers, peasants and middle class employees, students and youth worked tirelessly all through the four days to make the conference a resounding success. The conference was attended by 1062 delegates including 29 women, representing 1066 unions with a total membership of 8,18,076.

After hoisting of the red flag by Com. Lalsai Kherwar, a veteran leader of Darjeeling Chia Kaman Mazdoor Union and homage to the martyrs, the conference was inaugurated by B.T. Ranadive, President, CITU, in the afternoon of 14th May. Com. BTR called upon the working class to realise the significance the threats posed by the attempts of the imperialists led by US imperialism to unleash the most devastating war in history with the aim of destroying Soviet Union and the Socialist camp and subjugating the world. In the centenary Year of May Day, the working class must strengthen its unity and international solidarity to fight this danger. He also warned the working class of the growing danger of separatism, casteism, communalism and provincialism encouraged by the imperialist and reactionary forces to divide the T.U. and democratic movement. This threat to the unity and integrity of the country and the toiling masses must be fought by the working class with all its strength. Analysing the internal situation he said, faced by the ever-deepening economic crisis the Govt. of Rajiv Gandhi is about to launch fierce attacks on the toiling people through its anti-people policies. He called upon the working class to assume leadership in all spheres of mass movements and political struggle to establish itself as the emancipator of the human society. Criticising the TU movement, he said that nothing was done for the demands of the unemployed youth and workers. Whenever there was a crisis, the capitalists tried to use the unemployed and unorganised

workers against T.U. and democratic movements. These unemployed youth and workers also got easily swayed by separatist and divisive slogans. The T.U. movement cannot advance without championing the cause of the unemployed and unorganised workers. The CITU must shoulder the responsibility of organising the unemployed and unorganised workers and youth and politicalise them through continuous militant struggles. Concluding, he pointed out that the Left Front Govt. in West Bengal was the outcome of fierce class struggle over the last two decades and it was a source of inspiration for the exploited masses all over the country. It was the working class, organised and politically educated, who could play a vital role in defending the L.F. Govt.

Samar Mukherjee, General Secretary CITU and Jyoti Basu, Vice-President CITU also addressed the delegates on 16th May. Samar Mnkherjee stressed on the urgent task of preparing the working class politically for the leadership of all sections of the people for a total confrontation against the anti-people new economic policy of Rajiv Gandhi. Jyoti Basu stressed the need for raising the political consciousness of the workers while carrying on economic struggles. He said, without making the working class conscious about their ultimate goal of ending capitalism and feudalism and building of a new society, the main purpose of the T.U. movement was bound to fail. He urged the delegates to make the working class conscious about the political significance of the Left Front Government in the State as well as its limitations under a bourgeois landlord set-up.

Monoranjan Roy, General Secretary, CITU, West Bengal, placed the report before the delegates. While presenting the report, he warned the delegates about the challenge posed by separatist forces in the State and stressed that only a politically conscious working class could lead the fight against the danger posed by separatist forces. He stressed the need for closer contact with the mass of workers from below in order to explain the present situation and raise their political consciousness. The working class, he said, must also change their attitude towards women workers who have always played an important role in T.U. and democratic movements.

In all 47 delegates including 6 women from all districts and various industries took part in the discussions on the secretary's report. Monoranjan Roy replied to the question raised in the discussions after which the report and accounts were adopted unanimously.

Resolutions were adopted by the conference on the following current and urgent issues: Against war and for peace; Against new economic policy of the Government of India; Sick and closed industries; Mechanisation, Modernisation and New Technology in industry; Against price rise; For worker-peasant alliance; May Day Centenary; Unemployment pro-
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T.U.s Observe Save Public Sector Day

IN pursuance of the call given by the Convention of public sector unions held at Durgapur on March 28 and 29, the public sector unions observed the save Public Sector Day all over the country on May 21. At Calcutta the programme was organised jointly by the Bank Employees Federation, Insurance Employees Association, Steel Workers Federation, All India Coal Workers' Federation and others. A leaflet was published jointly by the various unions and gate meetings and demonstrations were held by the employees wearing badges. A protest rally and mass meeting was also held at Dulhouse Square on May 22, as the Congress (I) had motivatedly called a blockade of Writers' Building on May 21. The meeting was presided out by Naresh Pal and addressed by Tapan Sen, Naresh Des, Santi Bhattacharya, Gopinath Dey, etc. The speakers denounced the Arjun Sen Gupta Committee's report and the Government's policy to denigrate the public sector and strengthen the hands of the private monopolists. They further cautioned the workers about the freedom given by the Government to the multi-nationals and called upon them to intensify united struggles to defeat the Government's policy. Conventions and rallies were held at Burdwan and other places of Bengal also on May 20 and 21.

The CITU Coordination Committee at Meerut also observed the day by holding meeting of several unions. The CITU, AITUC and HMS unions in Bharat Aluminium organised meetings at Korba (MP) and distributed leaflets laying bare the Government's derogatory policy in public sector.

The Rajasthan Bank Employees Federation along with other unions held meetings and a symposium on the day. The symposium on the role of public sector was addressed by the representatives of workers, teachers and people of different aspects of life.

The Hyderabad City Council of CITU organised a procession and rally on the day which was participated by workers of almost all the public sector undertakings in the city. Among others the rally was addressed by P. Satyanarayana, the State CITU President. The Koyla Shramik Sangh, Bilaspur also held demonstrations and meetings.

The Karanataka CITU formed a Save Public Sector Committee which organised a symposium at Bangalore, which was attended by representatives of the public sector unions in the city. Inaugurating the symposium, B.T. Ranadive, President of CITU explained the role of public sectors in a third world country like India and the Government's retrograde policy of denigrating it. He also detailed the dangers of allowing private monopolists and multi-nationals into the public sector, the danger of loos-

ing economic independence by the country and called upon the employees to fight this policy tooth and nail.

Similar observations of the day was made by the unions at Tripura, Tamilnadu, Chandigarh and other parts of the country.

Meeting of Advisory Council of Industry

A meeting of the Central Advisory Council of Industry was held at New Delhi on April, 24. The meeting was attended by the representatives of CITU, AITUC, INTUC, and HMS. Biren Roy, Working Committee member of CITU attended the meeting on behalf of CITU. Representatives of various employers' organisations, FICCI, Engineering Association, etc. were also present. N.D. Tiwari, Chairman of the Council and Industry Minister presided over the meeting. Other Central Ministers were also present. The subject matter of discussions was the industrial policy of the Government. However, no agenda papers were submitted to the participants.

Biren Roy assailed the industrial policy of the Government. He pointed out that the postulates of the new policy were removal of controls, freedom to private sector, denigration of the public sector and national planning and opening the Indian market to the multi-nationals. He said that entry of multi-nationals would not only mean unbridled exploitation, but would also lead to the danger of undermining the economic independence of the country. He criticised the new economic policy and the drive for modernisation, which would further give rise to unemployment which had already become three crores. The growing closures and sickness in industries had made the condition of the working people miserable. He said that the workers were prepared to intervene in the management of the industries. The CITU has been demanding since long workers' participation in management on the basis of full equality and their representation through secret ballot. But the scheme has not made any headway in this respect. He demanded change of the policy so as to benefit the working people and not the monopolists.

The representatives of the other trade unions also spoke by and large on the same line. The employers' representatives advocated more relief for them. Referring to Biren Roy's speech, N.D. Tiwari admitted the growing sickness, unemployment, etc. but he defended the Government's policy and modernisation. He denied denigration of the public sector and lessening of controls, but defended joint sector for "development" of the country. Regarding workers' participation in management he assured to call a meeting of the employers and the trade unions at an early date.

Stop Privatisation of Public Sector

B. T. RANADIVE, President, Centre of Indian Trade Unions has issued the following statement on June 2:

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions is very much surprised to learn from Press reports that the Minister for Programme Implementation has already formed a six-member National Advisory Council under the chairmanship of Shri ratan Tata and other monopolists from Private Sector to "monitor the implementation of Central projects, remove bottlenecks and evolve methods for their completion on schedule". It appears that the Minister has forgotten the fact that it was the private sector which had been resolutely opposing the public sector, it was they who in their greed for resources mobilisation had been creating impediments in the way of smooth completion of the projects and resort to cost escalation. The manner in which this was announced by the minister shows that the Govt has come to the conclusion that the officers in the Public Sector and the workers at large can no longer be trusted to complete the work on schedule. The statement of the minister would also indicate that the stories of bottlenecks arising out of inadequacies in the infrastructure like railways, transport, electricity, cement etc. were only figments of imagination invented in the past to hoodwink the people. If all the past statements are true, the announcement would mean that this is a part of the new policy of privatisation and denigration of the public sector as recommended by the Arjun-Sengupta Committee which the Industry Ministry tried to deny the other day in the meeting of the Central Advisory Council for Industry.

The CITU would also like to point out that setting up of such a committee militates against the policy of tripartite and violates the Govt resolution on Workers' Participation in Management. It would also render the work of the Committee on Public Sector set up under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Labour irrelevant.

The CITU records its strong protest against this policy of privatisation and undermining the role of labour, and appeals to the entire working class of the country and the leaders of all Central Trade Union Organisations to raise their powerful voice against this attempt to allow the private sector particularly the monopolists to increase their grip on the Public Sector.

CITU Denounces Repression on Kerala Teachers

B. T. RANADIVE, President, Centre of Indian Trade Unions has issued the following Statement on June 11:

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions denounces the repression let loose by the Govt. of Kerala on the Kerala teachers, University employees and students who are struggling against the crude attempt at privatisation and commercialisation of education in Kerala. The Government had all on a sudden changed the system prevalent for over two decades and issued orders for setting up separate Boards and evaluation camps as a means to transfer a part of college education to Schools. Barring a handful, all teachers non-teaching employees and the students have unitedly opposed the move. The Govt., of Kerala has not only ignored the universal protest but also has taken recourse to invoking ESMA for declaring the strike illegal and brutal repression by a massive arrest of 50 teachers and employees including some women for their refusal to work in the Valuation Camp.

The CITU demands that the Govt. of Kerala should release all arrested personnel and settle the question through discussion so that the future of more than one lakh students is not jeopardised in such a blatant authoritarian manner.

The CITU appeals to all trade Union Centres and democratic forces and calls upon its State Committees and affiliated unions to raise their powerful voice of protest against this repressive policy to help privatisation of education in Kerala.

CITU Greets the Working Class and People of West Bengal

B. T. RANADIVE, President, Centre of Indian Trade Unions has issued the following statement on June 17:

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions warmly greets the Working Class and the People of West Bengal for their massive support to the left-front candidates in the recent municipal elections in West Bengal. They have correctly decided to support the CPI(M) led left-front as it not only makes a sincere attempt to give immediate relief to the people but also acts as the advance outpost of democracy.

The CITU congratulates Com. Jyoti Basu, the Vice-President and Chief Minister of West Bengal and the leaders of the State Committee of CITU for this notable success in the service of the working class and people of West Bengal.

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M.K. Pandhe

Stop Massacre of Labour Laws and the Workers in Haryana

SAMAR MUKHERJEE, General Secretary, Centre of Indian Trade Unions has issued the following statement on May 28:

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions denounces the Govt. of Haryana who have allowed the authorities in various units and undertakings to ride roughshod over all Labour Laws and trample them under foot at their will. In Haryana Concast, workers have been suspended and removed from services without following the procedure under Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Act and Industrial Disputes Act. When the workers protested against this, an illegal lock-out has been imposed and the workers have been implicated in false police cases. In Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar the just demands of the Safai Workers have not been settled. On the other hand the leaders were subjected to penal transfer. Two Safai workers have already started hunger strike against the suppressive action. The Govt. so far has refused to intervene. The agreement between the workers of Medical College at Rohtak and the management has not been implemented yet and there has also been no Govt. intervention. The demand of nationalisation of Hissar Textile Mill is not being considered by the Government. It appears that in the Hissar Industrial Area, the Minimum Wages Act, Safety Laws and Trade Union Rights are not being implemented.

The CITU had been drawing the attention of the Union Labour Minister in regard to the serious situation developing in Haryana, in which workers are denied the benefits of law by force applied by the managements through hirelings and police duly supported by the state. The situation demands thorough enquiry and corrective measures.

The CITU demands that the Govt. of India should immediately intervene in the matter and protect the workers against the mismanagement and repression by various managements.

CITU Supports the Struggle of Journalists

NRISINGHA CHAKRABARTY, Secretary, Centre of Indian Trade Unions, has issued the following Statement on June 3:

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions extends full support to the struggle of the journalists of Delhi who are demanding continuation of the services of its General Secretary Shri S.K. Pande by the management of the Press Institute of India. It also supports the struggle launched by the Confederation of Newspaper and News Agency Employees' Organisations against the Wage-Board Chairman and Members who have exhibited their pro-media monopolist bias through their belated and meagre Award on Interim Relief.

The CITU demands that the Govt., should concede the demands of the Journalists and newspaper employees without allowing further deterioration in the situation.

CITU Denounces South- African Attack on Angola

D. T. RANADIVE, President, Centre of Indian Trade Unions has issued the following Statement on June 7:

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions denounces the racist Botha Regime of South Africa for their brazen, unprovoked missile attack on Angolan port causing wide spread damage to oil installations and various ships and tanks. This attack is virtually an undeclared war in order to help the mercenaries and rebels who are fighting against the Angolan Govt. in order to subvert the same. All peace loving people should condemn not only the South African regime but also their imperialist and zionist aider and abettors.

The CITU calls upon the entire working class of the country to denounce this dastardly attack and express solidarity with the South African people who are fighting against this racist regime by making the Anti-Apartheid Day on June 16, 1986 a success.

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blem; Against the proposed National Education Policy; Demand for repeal of Article 210 & 311(2) (a) (b) (c) of the Constitution; Support to L.F. Govt.; Centre-State relations, Against separatism and for communal amity; Demand for nationalisation of Jute and Cotton Textile industries; Against the Muslim Women Law; Solidarity with Nicaragua; Against US aggression on Libya; Against Apartheid Policy of South Africa; In support of demands raised by Central Trade Unions in the State; etc.

The Conference unanimously elected a 550-member State Council, a 170-member Working Committee and the following office bearers:

President-Md. Ismail; Vice-Presidents-Joyti Basu, Niren Ghosh, Krishnapada Ghosh, Ratanlal Brahman, Biren Roy, Subodh Sen, Nikhil Mukherjee, Haridas Malakar, Rabin Mukherjee, Subhas Chakravarty; *General Secretary*-Monoranjan Roy; *Secretaries* — Kamal Sarkar, Harisadhan Mitra, Rajdeo Goala, Santi Ghatak, Arati Dasgupta, Kali Ghosh, Bamapada Mukherjee, Prabir Sengupta. Shyamal Chakravarty, Mrinal Das; *Treasurer*-Somen Kundu.

The open session of the Conference was held on 17th May afternoon at the Hindi High School Maidan. Over one lakh people including men and women workers, peasants, middle class employees, students, youth etc. came from far and near in colourful processions to join the rally and meeting. The open session was presided over by Ratanlal Brahman and addressed by Jyoti Basu, Samar Mukherjee, Monoranjan Roy, Ananda Pathak and other leaders.

Secretariat Decisions

THE Secretariat of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions which met at New Delhi on June 20, 1986 under the presidentship of Com. B.T. Rana-dive President — CITU, and was attended by Comrades Samar Mukherjee, E Balanandan, Nri-singha Chakrabarty, and P.K. Ganguly, reviewed the international and national situation.

It condemned the attempt of the Reagan adminis-tration of the USA to renounce the SALT — II agreement on flimsy grounds. It welcomed the fresh proposal of USSR for reduction of strategic arms by about 40 per cent from its existing level while maintaining the balance of forces. It called upon the working class to point to the two different approach of the USA and the USSR, expose the subterfuges of the Reagan administration and intensify the struggle for peace lending its full contribution to the rising international peace struggle which only can force the US imperialists to respond in favour of the fresh proposal of the Soviet Union.

The Secretariat in response to the appeal of the World Trade Union Conference on Social and Economic Aspects of Disarmament held at Dublin, decided to observe 6th August 1986 as Hiroshima Day and 1st September 1986 as Day for Interna-tional Trade Union Action for Peace. In view of the fact that the United Nations has declared this year as International Year for Peace, the Secretariat, called upon its State Committees to take initiative to mobilise all trade unions which would like to join in the programme and observe the days in a most befitting manner by holding peace rallies, demonstrations etc.

The Secretariat heard the report of the visit of Trade Union delegation to Punjab. The huge mobi-lisation of the workers of all communities and castes during the visit of the delegation showed the urge for unity among the working class. The Secretariat therefore called upon all State Committees to organise and observe the National Integration Day on August 9 in a suitable manner. An effort should be made to mobilise the entire working class with the active support of all ten Central Trade Unions which have given the call from the Convention held on May 11 last.

The Secretariat reviewed the situation arising out of the recalcitrant attitude of the DCM and other textile managements in respect of the quantum of interim relief payable to the workers. The Secre-tariat condemned the insistence of the management to link the interim relief to productivities which is unheard of in the conciliation process and their right to victimise the workers. It is this unjust demand of the management which is responsible for the continuing strike. The Secretariat warned the management that they must change their attitude and settle the issue by the next round of discussion

failing which the entire working class of Delhi will take up solidarity action in support of the textile workers as they can no longer remain silent spectators.

The Secretariat reviewed the situation in Kerala. It condemned the Karunakaran Government for creating an impasse in the field of education by its arbitrary action and then attempting to suppress the struggle through brutal repression in an authori-tarian manner. It also continues to harbour those who are guilty of inviting the anti-national Kuwaities and repress those who demand action against them by lathi-charge and mass arrest. The Govern-ment has also shown its incompetence in the field of electric generation. According to a Press report there would have been no necessity of the power cut if the repair work on the tunnel leakage in the 100 crore Edamalayar Hydro-Electric Project was completed in time. The cent per cent power cut imposed by Karunakaran Government resulted in the lay off of 1.81 lakh workers which the Secre-tariat condemned. It expressed solidarity with all sections of people of Kerala who are struggling today against the corrupt and inefficient Karunakaran Government of Kerala.

The Secretariat condemned the anti-labour atti-tude of the I.D.P.L. management which has forced the Medical Representatives to take up struggle to secure their just demands and demanded that the management should negotiate and settle with the FMRAI leadership so that they need not go on strike on August 8, 1986. The Secretariat extended full support to the medical representatives of IDPL in their struggle.

The Secretariat considered the appeal of National Executive Secretariat, Central Sandinista Workers of Nicaragua and directed the State Committees to express solidarity with the Nicaraguan workers on the occasion of the VIIth Anniversary of the popular Sandinista Revolution on July 19 this year.

The Secretariat also adopted a resolution expres-sing solidarity with the workers of Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea during their monthlong struggle against U.S. imperialism and for unification of Korea.

The Secretariat meeting also reviewed the orga-nisational positions and took decisions on the same.

In the earlier meeting held on May 31, the Secretariat heard report about the industrial rela-tion situation.

The Loco Running Staff of South Eastern, Eastern and NF Railways were on hunger strike from 26th May under the leadership of AILRSA on demands like implementation of Ten-hour maxi-mum duty agreement, cancellation of all victimisa-
(Contd. on page 24)

Successful End of LRSA Hunger Strike

INDEFINITE period hunger strike by LRSA units of SE, E, and NF Railways which commenced on 26th, 27th and 28th May respectively ended after 32, 55 and 58 hours when honourable settlement was reached between the respective LRSA units and the railway administration concerned. NE Rly unit of LRSA and the Lucknow Divisional Unit of Northern Rly which staged 48 hour token hunger strike also ended as scheduled. Number of participants in hunger strike was 46 on SE Rly, 65 on E Rly and 103 on NF Rly. While in accordance with organisational decision, only the Zonal Committee members and the victimised took part in hunger strike, a large number of other LRSA members and members of fraternal organisations of railwaymen squatted alongside the hunger strikers as long as the hungerstrike continued. Zonal units of the All India Railwaymen's Federation on SE, E and NF Railways conveyed their support to the cause of the locomen on hunger strike and the units of the All India Railway Employees Confederation of which LRSA is a constituent, organised programmes in demonstration of solidarity with their struggling comrades of LRSA. At Gardenreach, SE Rly, a massive gathering was organised by local AIRF units, i.e., branches No. 182 of SERMU in support of hunger strike and in a resolution urged the SE Rly Administration to immediately settle the demands of locomen. Besides the unions and associations of railwaymen those of other Govt employees, employers in the public sector, industrial federations, etc also came out in support of LRSA struggle.

One of the major factors which made honourable settlement possible in the case of SE and E Rlys was the timely and effective intervention by the Left Front Govt of West Bengal. Basudev Acharya MP also met the General Manager SE Rly to bring about an early settlement. On NF Rly the Joint Council of Trade Unions, Assam, played a unique role in bringing pressure on the NF Rly authorities to reach a settlement with the Locomen.

In fact justness of the demands of railwaymen, massive expression of their anger as well as their unity and determination, support from wide section of non-railway trade unions, intervention by Parliament member and the Left Front Govt of West Bengal together produced such a powerful impact that the railway authorities started taking steps to fulfil some of the demands even before coming to negotiation table about which they were reluctant but which they ultimately agreed under heavy pressure.

According to the settlement, on SE Rly and Danapur Division of E Rly, where payment to the victimised under court order was illegally discontinued inspite of their cases remaining pending, orders have been issued to resume payment. In the cases of E and NF railway further review has been assured on appeal in connection with cases either

covered by the Supreme Court judgement itself or by subsequent High Court judgements, which were earlier rejected by the railway administration. There is no such case on SE Rly. Further, immediate payment of settlement dues, condoning break in service has been ordered for those who retired with break in service. Action has also been assured in respect of some pending demands besides those relating to victimisation. Further discussion has also been assured in some cases.

Victory for CLW Workers

As the first phase of a phased programme of trade union action against victimisation, the CLW Labour Union gave a call to boycott the Railway Week (14-20 April) programme this year. The programme for the next phase consisted of meeting at different places from 11th to 15th May and two days' mass dharna. An open letter addressed to the Chairman, Railway Board (CRB), explaining the grievances of staff and corrupt practices by the General Manager, was widely circulated when the CRB came on a visit on 15th May, the last day of the second phase when the Dharna was still continuing. The CRB invited the Labour unions for the talks on his own initiative. After the talks, order was issued reinstating a victim of Rule 14 (II). It was decided in course of the talks that the union would discuss other demands with the General Manager, and a date was also fixed. It may be mentioned that all negotiations with the union had been stopped since 31st Jan this year and the General Manager issued a message on Bengali New Years Day with slanderous statements about the union. Apparently the Railway Board Chairman realised the situation arising out of the growing resistance organised by the union against high handed actions of the General Manager and made him realise too.

Ludhiana Rly Workers Stop Work

Angered by a serious accident which occurred due to sheer negligence of the DME/Diesel, and in which 2 persons were seriously burnt, one of them having subsequently died, about 1000 workers of Ludhiana Diesel shed, N. Rly, stopped all work from 12 hours on 11.6.86 to 17 hrs of 12.6.86. This was 4th accident of this nature during the current year and 9th since the establishment of the Diesel shed. The Divisional Mechanical Engineer (DME) issued order directing the staff to carry out welding work on filled Diesel Oil tanker strainer. Workers have been protesting against this unsafe working ordered by the authorities, but they remained adamant. Even on the day of this accident workers protested but the authorities forced the workers to carry out welding on the strainer of a Diesel tank of a diesel locomotive having 500 liters of diesel oil
(Contd. on page 11)

United Strike of Delhi Textile Workers

NEARLY 20 thousand workers employed in 5 textile mills in Delhi are on strike since 28th May 1986 to press for the 11 point charter of demands which includes demand for Rs. 100 as interim relief, annual increment of Rs. 10, full neutralisation in the rise in cost of living, house rent allowance, reduction in the workload unilaterally imposed by the managements since 1979, regularisation of casual, temporary and badli workers, abolition of contract labour system increase in leave facilities, reopening of weaving sheds of Birla mills, withdrawal of the notice of closure by the DCM management, withdrawal of new textile policy of the government of India and withdrawal of all victimisation and police cases against workers.

The Textile Unions' Sangharsha Samity which is leading the strike of the workers consists of unions belonging to CITU, INTUC, AITUC, HMS, BMS and Lalit Makhn group. The strike is a complete success and peaceful. Earlier the workers observed one day strike on 4th April which also was a complete success.

The mill management resorted to large scale victimisation of workers which included hundreds of charge sheets, summary dismissal of leading trade union activists and workers on fictitious charges. However, the managements failed to break the unity of the workers.

The Lt. Governor intervened in the dispute and tried to resolve the dispute. However, the mill managements did not agree to the proposals given by the Lt. Governor. They went to the court and obtained orders preventing workers from holding meetings near the gates.

However the Sangharsha Samity carried forward the agitation with determination. They held several demonstrations demanding acceptance of their legitimate demands. The demonstration before the residence of the Prime Minister was attended by a large number of workers while more than 1000 workers courted arrest at Patel Chowk on 12th June 1986.

Seeing the failure of the Delhi Administration to prevail upon the textile mills to accept the workers' demands the Sangharsha Samiti met P.A. Sangma on 17th June and requested him to intervene in the dispute. The Union Labour Minister called a joint meeting of the representatives of the Sangharsha Samiti and the managements of textile mills on 19th June. The Lt. Governor, Labour Secretary, Secretary of Deptt. of Textile, Chief Labour Commissioner attended the meeting. In the meeting Lt. Governor gave a resume of the dispute and pointed out how his efforts to resolve the dispute could not result in success due to the attitude of the management.

The spokesman of the mill managements tried to balm the workers for the state of affairs and stated that the strike was violent. M.K. Pandhe while replying to the charges of the management stated that the Government should come forward to bring pressure on the management so that they accept the demands of the workers. He pointed out how textile workers in Delhi were getting Rs. 250 to Rs. 300 less than Bombay textile workers. The CITU representative suggested that the Chief Labour Commissioner should immediately conduct negotiations with a view to find out a settlement.

However after two days of protracted negotiations Sanghars Samiti gave the following minimum proposals for the settlement of the strike.

1. Payment of Rs. 70 to each worker as interim relief from September 1985.
2. The demands of the workers should be referred to mutually accepted arbitrators who would give the award in 6 months. The Reference to tribunal would not be pursued.
3. The cases of dismissals after 10th April 1986 should be withdrawn. The cases of 21 workers should be referred to arbitration for award within 3 months.
4. Regarding workload and work norm a joint committee should be constituted with two representatives from each side. Unanimous recommendation of the committee should be accepted by both the parties. In case of dispute the matter can be resolved through mediation of the Labour Department.

The management asked for time till 24th June to give their comments and alternate proposals. This long gap of 4 days caused apprehensions among the workers' representatives who protested at this dilatory tactics of the management.

Meanwhile workers are continuing their agitation and joint movement to pressurise the management to accept the reasonable demands of the workers. Extending full support to the struggle B.T. Ranadive President CITU issued a statement demanding of the management to settle the workers' demands.

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which immediately caught fire causing burn injuries to workers. Workers resumed work only after the Senior Divisional Officers Committee started enquiry about unsafe method of working in the shed.

About 500 workers of the steam Loco shed also joined their diesel shed brothers in protest action.

May Day Centenary: May Day Centenary was observed jointly by Eastern Rly Unity Committee and the coordinating committee of Railway workers cultural organisations at the Calcutta offices of E and SE Rlys through a month long programme in May which included mass meetings, seminars and cultural performances.

Unemployment and the Working Class

B.T. Ranadive

THE unemployment situation in the country has become very critical and threatens to create economic instability and impose economic suffering on those who are out of or seeking jobs. Year after year, the problem instead of getting lesser in intensity, gets intensified and every new year adds a few lakhs or more than a million to those who have no jobs. After the announcement of every successful plan, the backlog of unemployment continues to increase despite the repeated promise of the planners that all new entrants will be absorbed and the backlog will be reduced. The full extent of this unemployment is not really seen because the Planning Commission makes fantastic claims about creating new jobs though in reality the creation of new jobs is in no way commensurate with the jobs required. The gravity of the situation can be seen from the fact that between 1975 and 1981 the growth rate of employment in public and private sector was only 2.3 per cent a year. In contrast there was 14 per cent growth in registered unemployment in one year alone from August 1981 to August '82. In that year, the number of unemployed increased from 17.2 million to 19 million. The 6th plan claimed that its schemes for jobs would provide 34 million new jobs and take care of all the new entrants in the labour market. But where are the job-seekers to get jobs from? Not in organised industry, not in modern industry but in the over-crowded occupations from which people are fleeing in thousands. To quote the 6th Plan Commission, "The major employment generating activities are to be found in agriculture, rural development, village and small-scale industries, construction and public administration", i.e., mostly in industries with low paid and sweated labour. So scattered are these industries that no one will know whether any increase has taken place and to what extent.

The claims to provide jobs in these industries are now completely blown up. For the last two or three years, the administrative services have put a ban on recruitment.

Ruin of Small Scale Industries

The years since the Sixth Plan have witnessed ruination of village and small-scale industries and also restriction of construction work by the public administration. Ruination of such industries as coir and cashew-nut industries in Kerala, the havoc that the present ministry has done to job employment in these industries and the restricted employment available are witness to the fact that all traditional industries which employed comparatively larger number of people per unit of capital are facing total ruin.

The planners say that at the present rate of growth the organised sector can provide only 4-5 million regular jobs in the course of the Sixth Five-

Year Plan. This would still leave large numbers for absorption in agriculture, small-scale sector and other unorganised industries, i.e., they must seek employment in agriculture and non-farm activities characterised by a high degree of under-employment.

Educated Unemployed

The same fate is assigned to the educated. The number of educated unemployed, matriculates, graduates and above at the beginning of 1980 was estimated at 3.87 million. Today, of course, the number is much bigger and may exceed even 5 million. To meet the total demand for jobs from this sector during the Sixth Plan, 6 million jobs were required. But who will give them? The Planning Commission says that they must provide jobs for themselves. It says, "The increase in employment in the organised sector from year to year has been 0.8 million. Even if it is assumed that any future increase in the organised sector is wholly taken by educated persons alone, we find that there will not be enough room for the educated persons unless they are diverted either into self-employment or the absorption capacity of the organised industry is increased substantially. The second alternative does not seem to be feasible leaving the option of self-employment as the major mode of employment."

Bankruptcy of Capitalist Planning

The limitations of the capitalist path, its stagnation in industries is spelt out here.

Does the Seventh Plan offer any viable policy to fight unemployment? It offers no new policy. It pursues the same line as advocated in the Sixth Plan, i.e., reliance on finding more employment in the agricultural section, inability to provide jobs in modern industry, reliance on traditional industries, which are getting ruined. Once more the main sources of employment is to be the overcrowded agriculture. This is nothing but cheating the people. It is known that it is necessary to draw large sections from agriculture to industry and the industrial growth must take place at a rapid rate. This is not possible under the plan. The so-called National Rural Employment Programme have hardly done anything to lessen the rigours of rural employment.

The planners claim that they will not only provide jobs to all new entrants to the labour market but also absorb the backlog which they place at 9.2 millions, though the number of registered unemployed in the cities has now reached nearly three crores. The planners claim that they will provide jobs for 38 million new entrants to the labour force and also provide 9 million jobs to absorb backlog

from the 6th Plan. This is based on an anticipated average annual growth rate of 5 per cent GDP for five years, a growth rate which has not been achieved in the past. There is nothing in the promise of the planners except statistical fanaticy.

What about the educated unemployed? The Planning Commission holds out false promises and show its utter inability to tackle the problem. It only talks in terms of not allowing the situation to deteriorate.

According to its conservative estimates, "during 1985-90, addition to the economically active persons of the educated categories would be nearly 10.6 millions. The backlog of educated unemployed at the beginning of 1985 works out at 4.7 million — 3.5 million matrics and higher secondary and 1.2 million graduates and above. The Commission observes, it would imply the need for creation of 9.4 million jobs for the educated over the plan period if the unemployment rate is not to deteriorate". Is there any possibility of achieving this restricted objective? No. For the plan relies on doubtful rounds job creation. The Commission observes "while the job opportunities for the matric, higher secondary pass and engineering diploma holders would emanate both from the organised and unorganised sections, those for the higher categories would be generated primarily in industry, banking, transport, communications and public services". It will be seen that for the educated the collapsing old industries, modernised new industries which restrict jobs by thousands and banking and communications which are adopting computerisation to kill tens of thousands of jobs, will be the main source of employment. They are supposed to create 9 million additional jobs. Besides, the New Education Policy with its informal and long distance education will deny jobs to tens of thousands of teachers.

Today, according to official statistics, the number of these registered in Employment Exchanges in the cities is 3 crores. No one has really calculated the extent of joblessness in the rural areas which may be anywhere between 5 to 7 crores, notwithstanding Government claims of providing jobs through programmes like rural employment guarantee scheme and other fringe measures. Here is a country where the productive capacities of more than 10 crores of people cannot be used for the advancement of the people, for the advancement of the economy and they are thrown out as waste of society, out-casts from a decent and civilised standard of living.

Unemployment Benefit

In advanced Western countries, there is a provision for unemployment benefit which the State is bound to give so long as the unemployed person does not find an alternative job. This right of unemployment relief has been a product of the organised working class movement and partly also it is due to the fact that some of these countries

were placed in a favourable situation to exploit other centres and transfer a small part of their super-profits for the benefit of the unemployed. Though the condition of the unemployed in the USA, Britain, France is certainly miserable, the unemployed are not turned on the streets immediately after loss of jobs. The State has to bear responsibility, give them doles and to a certain extent alleviate their suffering.

But in India, there is absolutely no provision for any unemployment relief. The provisions made by Kerala Government under the Nayanar Ministry and by the West Bengal Left Front Government under the leadership of Jyoti Basu could be only a small beginning and assertion of a principle. The main resources for the relief to the unemployed have to come from the Centre under Central legislation. There is no sign of any such legislation being passed. Apart from the two States already mentioned, some other States also provide some miserable relief to the unemployed in the cities. The State's responsibility for giving relief to the people is not accepted by the present bourgeois-landlord government. It seems while changing technology and adopting modernisation appropriate to the 21st Century, the Congress Government is not unwilling to carry the unemployment load of 20th Century into the next Century.

In India unemployment dogs the rural and urban areas alike, plagues the future of all young people. What is the prospect before a young man entering the labour market from the peasant or worker's family or a matriculate or a graduate hopeful of contributing his share to the progress of the country? Wherever he goes, he is told that the country has no use for his youthful vigour, for his young talent, for his education. He is forced to live a life of humiliation, dependent on the earnings of an aging father or some distant relative and taking only chance job which neither suits his talent nor does justice to his education. There are now cases in hundreds where graduates and undergraduates consider themselves fortunate if they get a municipal sweeper's job or some such menial work. India therefore offers a bleak future for the younger generation which is now swelling the labour market. This creates an explosive situation with the discontent against unemployment being diverted into fratricidal and communal channels. The recent riots in Gujarat on the question of reservation and anti-reservation when two sections of workers fought each other is the outcome of this diversion of the movement from common class struggle into internal fratricidal strife. When the anti-reservation conflict was going on in Ahmedabad, and workers were engaged in conflict, 14 textile mills were closed throwing out both Harijan and non-Harijan workers, but they failed to combine to fight this common offensive and their distress was diverted into internal conflicts. Such is the prospect for the T.U. movement if the unemployment question is not properly tackled and a common understanding

is not given to those who have jobs and to those without jobs.

Two Aspects of Unemployment

The question of unemployment has two aspects. In recent years under the stress of the economic crisis a large number of factories have been closed or have been locked out and hundreds have gone sick. According to official statistics, nearly 500 big concerns and nearly a lakh of small concerns have gone sick, out of the latter more than 70,000 are considered to be non-viable, which means that they will be permanently closed and the thousands working in them will be jobless. Besides these sick industries there are widespread closures and lock-outs all of which have thrown tens of thousands of worker on the streets. Continuing modernisation process in the textile industry for instance, has thrown out nearly 75,000 workers in Bombay city alone. These tens of thousands of workers who have lost their jobs form only a part of the total unemployed in the industrial centres.

But the major part of the unemployed today consists of those who have hardly ever held a permanent job. A substantial part of these have never held any job. They are a floating mass which has never experienced the privilege of a job, the inspiration of a common working class consciousness, never had any ties with any T.U. organisation. They are an exclusive mass which can be easily used by any reactionary agency to fight those who are already employed and direct their ire against the T.U. movement itself. The three crores of registered unemployed in the cities mainly consist of this mass, who live from hand to mouth in the slums, get an occasional job and a small portion of which often indulges in anti-social activities including robbery, dacoity, trafficking in illicit liquor distillation and so on. Poverty is driving a small section of these new entrants to utter degeneration and thereby renders them easy prey to the wiles of the reactionaries and to act on their behalf.

New Economic Policy

How does the Rajiv Gandhi Government and its Planning Commission propose to meet this problem? It is noted, the 7th Plan has no plan to meet the challenge of unemployment. The 7th Plan line and Rajiv Gandhi's new economic policy are going to add further to the rapid growth of unemployment. Rajiv Gandhi's government is opening the full blast of computerisation and modernisation on the economy, when our country requires steady promotion and nurturing its small-scale industries which have got great employment potentiality. Computerisation, modernisation, automation - these are the new slogans of the Rajiv Gandhi Government under the excuse of increasing competitive capacity of Indian industry in the export market. Computerisation will deprive tens of thousands of employees working in the services industry out of their jobs. Computers have been introduced in rail-

ways and railways have stopped recruiting new people. Computers are being introduced in the banks, in the LIC and though in some cases immediate retrenchment is not unleashed, the capacity of these industries to employ people is getting thinner. Once the full offensive of computerisation starts, thousands of people from the Banks, Insurance and the mercantile concerns will be thrown out to add to the number of unemployed. In all Western countries, the service industry has been the biggest victim of computerisation and its working complement has been reduced by 30 or 40 per cent. It is estimated that in the coming two or three years India will be importing computers worth Rs. 10,000 crores. This is a major offensive against the jobs planned by the Rajiv Gandhi Government. It is also estimated that this will also lead at least to the immediate cut-down of jobs of 30 per cent in the banking industry.

Denigration of Public Sector : Freedom to Multinationals

The public sector policy of the Rajiv Gandhi Government promises another offensive against the jobs of the workers and also the officers. Rajiv Gandhi has declared that sick public sector units will be either closed down or handed over to private concerns. The closure of so-called sick units will definitely deprive hundreds of people of their jobs. If these are transferred to the private concerns, then the jobs of public sector workers will be at the mercy of private capitalists who know no other morality than that of profit at the expense of the workers and the common man. However this is not the only danger. The denigration of the public sector, the encouragement to privatisation is further accompanied by freedom given to multinational to enter India. Some foreign companies are being allowed to control management of public sector under the guise of supplying expertise in management. This will tremendously reduce the job potential of industries and again throw large number of people out of work. Firstly, the competition from multinationals will ruin the indigenous concerns, throwing workers out of work. Already voices of protests are coming from Indian industrialists against imports liberalisation and the facilities given to the multinationals. Secondly, the influx of multinationals will result in influx of sophisticated means of production and the job potential under the multi-nationals will be drastically reduced. The policy of disbandment of public sector, of privatisation and encouragement to multinationals to enter the Indian market is fraught with the gravest consequences for the employment situation in the country. They offer a challenge to the T.U. movement which must accept it, if it wants to protect the jobs of those who are already at work.

Weakness of T.U. Movement

In this connection, it must be stated that the T.U. movement on the whole has neglected the question of rising unemployment and left the unemployed to their fate. An organised campaign and fight was neither waged for those who are thrown out of jobs by closure of facto-

ries nor any consideration was given to the new entrants into the labour market. Much less was any consideration given to the grim unemployment situation in the rural areas where lack of jobs is leading to widespread destitution and misery inspite of all government claims to have lifted millions above the poverty line.

The failure to link TUs with the demand for relief and other demands of the unemployed has been a major weakness of our TU movement alienating large section of new entrants to the labour market from the organised movement of the working class. If continued, this policy would have incalculable consequences doing the biggest harm to working class unity and solidarity.

The employers and the government have already started pitting the unemployed against the employed, pointing to the latter as a privileged section. With the slogan of jobs for the sons of soil, they incite the unemployed youths in one State against workers from other States.

Rousing of provincial chauvinism and creating an illusion that by depriving workers from other States of their jobs, the unemployment problem can be solved, is part of the bourgeois tactics and strategy to avoid a joint class action of workers. In the absence of trade union intervention organisations like Shiva Sena in Bombay and similar Senas in other parts succeed in rousing local chauvinistic sentiments against workers from other States shattering both class unity and the concept of Indian unity. It is another form of divisive force attacking the unity of the working class movement and unity of the country and it gets a chance because the T.U. movement does not intervene in time to unite the employed and the unemployed in the common fight against the effects of the capitalist path.

In fact, it has been to some extent the acknowledged policy of the Congress government also to play one section of the people against another. Many Congress governments have issued instructions illegally and unconstitutionally to the Employment Exchange authorities in the State not to register the names of workers from other States on the exchange list. This is nothing but an attack on Indian citizenship and an attempt to meet the unemployment problem by pitting one section of workers against another. The Congress Chief Minister like Gundu Rao of Karnataka at one time threatened to throw out all Tamil workers from his State because they had gone on strike. The T.U. movement must understand that the ruling class and the ruling party are capable of using any chauvinistic weapon to divert the anger of the unemployed against workers from other States and split the unity of the working class.

Champion the Cause of Unemployed

It is high time that the organised T.U. movement undertook to organise the unemployed and prepared

a charter of their demands. The TUs should take the initiative to organise joint conventions of the employed and the unemployed to focuss attention on the problem and pressurise the authorities to grant immediate relief. They should unitedly move to pressurise the Government to embark upon policies to check the growth of unemployment. The TUs should come out with a document outlining the schemes of relief for the industrial and the rural unemployed and championing basic changes in Government's economic policies and measures to check unemployment. It is necessary to expose the claims of the Government that they are seriously fighting unemployment in the rural areas. The anti-poverty programme, the rural employment guarantee schemes and other devices do not touch even a fringe of the problem and are diversionary measures to make people believe that something big is being done in the rural areas. It is noted by many committees that the major part of the funds for these schemes goes into the coffers of corrupt administrators or Congress leaders and ministers and only a very small part reaches those for whom it was meant. Honest officials who really try to administer relief to the people under these schemes are suddenly transferred to some distant place so that the reign of corruption continues undisturbed.

Right to Work

The TUs therefore have to take the question of unemployment and prepare a charter of demands, the immediate aim being to secure adequate unemployment relief for those unemployed. At the same time, the united movement of the unemployed and the employed workers must demand that the right to work should be embodied in the Constitution as a fundamental right and the Government must accept responsibility to provide job or relief for every citizen who is prepared to work. The right to work is in fact the basis of all democratic rights and without this right many democratic rights become just formal decorative rights. It will be worth while considering whether the united T.U. movement and the unemployed together can organise a hunger march from the various State capitals of India to the country's capital proclaiming the demands of the unemployed, the unity of the employed and unemployed workers and demanding the right to work as a basic fundamental right to be embodied in the Constitution.

Without intense struggle and activity on the part of the employed workers, unemployed workers will not have justice done to them and if this is not done in time, this vast mass of workers unrelated to any T.U. organisation, denied of the inspiration coming from common struggle, is capable of being used for reactionary purposes against the working class movement, against the nation's interests. The responsibility will be entirely of the T.U. movement. The T.U. movement can no longer continue as the representative only of those who are having permanent jobs. This narrowing down of the T.U. movement has done the biggest harm to India's working class movement.

Socialist Countries Free From Unemployment

One must give a deeper thought to the question of containing unemployment in the country. Some times the ruling party and its leaders say that it is a worldwide phenomenon and India cannot escape it. But it is not a worldwide phenomenon. One-third of the world where socialist system exists is free from crises, is free from unemployment and at the same time, modernisation and automation and computerisation are not barred in these countries. This phenomena of unemployment exists only in imperialist and capitalist countries where the means of production are owned by private capital. Is unemployment inevitable? Yes, it is inevitable only under capitalism. The law of capitalist society, the law of private accumulation, of profit, in competition with others, directly leads to unemployment in the name of promoting social progress. Capitalist law of accumulation demands that each competing monopolist or capitalist should lessen his cost of production to get higher profits. It demands therefore that each should out-bid the other in introducing new labour saving devices so that with a smaller complement greater production and greater profits can be earned. This means that the larger the capitalist investment in sophisticated means of production, the lesser will be the number of employees per unit of capital. Marx called this the tendency of the increase in constant capital and relative decrease of variable capital which represents the wages of the workers. It is because of this inevitable logic of capitalist society that in spite of tremendous progress in science and industry, a rich country like America has to carry the burden of more than one crore of unemployed. The total number of people unemployed in the Western countries of Europe and America exceeds three crores.

India had the choice of avoiding this capitalist path and turning to a democratic economic order to march towards socialism. But India's leaders chose the capitalist path. Now you find that India is subject not only to the law of increased unemployment, she is also in danger of losing or undermining her economic independence under the pressure of the world multi-nationals. In India the problems are rather complicated because the process of building capitalism demands destruction of old and traditional industries. At the same time, under the capitalist path new industries cannot be built at a rapid rate to absorb all those people who are displaced by the destruction of old industries. What Marx called the process of primary accumulation which meant evicting masses of people from means of production is still going on in India. Traditional industries are still being destroyed but new industries are not absorbing all those displaced. So India experiences two fold destruction, one from the effects of the capitalist law of accumulation and another from the effect of the destruction of old industries which is going on in India.

The only way to escape this misery is to change our economic policies immediately, to the need of fighting unemployment, keeping other things in

view. This demands complete change not only of Rajiv Gandhi's new economic policies but also in the concept of planning and further demands that all planning efforts should be completely democratised so that political parties, people's representatives, mass organisations and Trade Unions should have a say in organising the economic life of the country. Only then we will be in a position to tackle the grim problem of unemployment.

In this connection, the worker and the unemployed must know the truth why there is no unemployment in the socialist countries. When you come to the Socialist countries, you realise the truth that the working class movement is not opposed to modernisation, computerisation and other devices of scientific process. In Socialist society, this is precisely what is happening because the means of production is controlled by the society. They are not anybody's private property. Modernisation, computerisation, etc. leads only to the adjustment of labour and not towards loss of labour. It therefore releases the energy of the people for cultural advance and economy advance and does not lead them to lead a life of denial. Because the entire planning is directed towards increasing production with a view to increasing the standard of living of the people and not with a view to accumulate the profits of a few capitalists. Saving of labour time therefore means lesser hours of work and greater leisure for the development of personality. That is why a social system which can really utilise modern advance of science in the interests of society as a whole, that social system alone can really combine modernisation, computerisation with social progress, progress of the mass of the people as a whole.

Right to Work in Socialism

This is due to the fact that under Socialism there is equality of all in relation to the means of production. After all, the economic activity and the means of production are the main sources of living of the society. If there is no economic equality here, the entire social structure will become completely loaded against on section of society. Socialisation of means of production introduces the equality of every citizen in relation to means of production and thereby deprives a handful of men to impose either economic inequality or political inequality on the people. Not only that, it is only under socialised means of production that a constitutional right is given to a citizen — the right to work. Only the socialist constitutions embody this right and declare that every citizen has a right to work under Socialism, thereby the State cannot evade the responsibility to provide work and because of the social system it is able to provide work. The unemployed and the employed must master this experience of the socialist society and redouble their efforts in the end to see that India makes a big transition, abandoning the capitalist path to the path of socialist transformation so that the question of unemployment, crisis, etc. can be settled and people will no longer suffer either from economic crisis or from the crisis of unemployment.

Capitalism Generates Unemployment !

Unemployment Figures in India

(Urban unemployment registered in Employment Exchanges)

At the end of the First Five Year Plan	—	53 lakhs
” ” Second ” ”	—	71 lakhs
” ” Third ” ”	—	96 lakhs
” ” Fourth ” ”	—	1 crore
” ” Fifth ” ”	—	2 crores
		21 lakhs

(Source: Lok Sabha reply on 4th September, 1981 to a question by Com. Motilal Hansda.)

At the end of the Sixth Five Year Plan	—	2.39 crores
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(Source: Indian Labour Journal, September, 1985 issue)

At the end of December, 1985	—	2.62 crores
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Statewise Unemployment Figures (At the end of May, 1985)

(In thousands, as per Employment Exchanges)
(Source: Hindustan Times, 4.10.85)

Delhi	—	502.6	Assam	—	524.9
Chandigarh	—	98.6	Punjab	—	543.3
Pondicherry	—	68.1	Rajasthan	—	560.0
Goa	—	46.1	Orissa	—	603.0
Mizoram	—	20.9	Gujarat	—	652.8
A & N Islands	—	11.5	Karnataka	—	810.9
Lakshadip	—	6.2	M.P	—	1186.1
Meghalaya	—	13.6	Tamilnadu	—	1795.6
Nagaland	—	14.5	U.P.	—	2089.1
J & K	—	68.7	Maharashtra	—	2102.8
Tripura	—	95.4	A.P.	—	2218.8
Manipur	—	195.7	Kerala	—	2461.1
Himachal	—	279.0	Bihar	—	2650.2
Haryana	—	456.5	W. Bengal	—	4103.5

Registered Unemployment as on 31.12.85

(Men, women unemployment)
(Rajya Sabha question by Com. Sukomal Sen in the last session)

Men	218.22 lakhs
Women	44.57 lakhs

Educated Unemployment as on 30.6.85

Matric and above	132.62 lakhs
Below Matric	112.37 lakhs

Unemployment in Advanced Capitalist Countries

(In percentage of workforce, in actual number, in comparison with their increasing military expenditure and youth unemployment)

(Source: WFTU Journals)

1. In Percentage of Active Population

	1980	1984
USA	7.0	7.3
Canada	7.6	10.9
Great Britain	7.0	13.1
Italy	7.4	12.9
France	6.3	10.3
FRG	3.0	9.4
Japan	2.0	2.4

2. Unemployment in EEC Countries (In thousands)

	Dec. 1984	% in Dec. 1984	% increase from Nov. 1984
FRG	2325.2	8.6	0.3
France	2524.9	11.1	13.1
Italy	3053.9	13.5	9.1
Holland	796.5	14.3	2.7
Belgium	605.4	14.7	0.9
Luxemburg	2.7	1.7	8.8
U.K.	3219.4	12.2	3.7
Ireland	225.4	17.6	11.2
Denmark	263.0	9.9	—
Greece	107.9	2.9	—

3. Increasing Military Expenditure Resulting in Increasing Unemployment in NATO Countries

	Military expenditure			Number of unemployed (millions)		
	1973	1979	1983	1973	1979	1983
United States (\$ billions)	78.3	122.2	225.3	4.3	6.14	8.54
Great Britain (£ billions)	3.5	9.0	16.0	0.62	1.39	3.31
FRG (DM billions)	31.9	45.4	57.1	0.27	0.88	2.28
Italy (Trillions Lira)	2.9	6.4	14.7	1.39	1.7	2.4
France (billions FF)	42.2	95.4	164.2	0.39	1.35	2.31

4. Youth Unemployment in Western Europe

(Unemployed young people under 25 yrs of age as percentage of total unemployment)

FRG	23.4%
France	39.5%
Italy	47.4%
Holland	38.2%
Belgium	36.0%
Luxemburg	43.2%
Great Britain	37.6%
Ireland	29.9%
Denmark	29.0%

(Contd. on page 19)

Resolutions of the General Council

[The following resolutions which came in the General Council meeting of Calcutta held from March 31 to April 2, have been passed by the Secretariat.]

On Nationalisation of Peerless Co.

THIS General Council meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31-April 2, 1986 expresses serious concern over the fate of 4 lakhs field forces, 4000 office staff and over 2 crores of certificate holders of the Peerless General Finance and Investment Co. Ltd., as under the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act of 1978, the company has been asked not to conduct any business. The meeting considers that take over and nationalization of the company by the Government of India is the only solution in the interest of all concerned. The meeting notes that several representations have been made to the Finance Minister by the Peerless Employees Union, which is affiliated to the CITU and also by the organisation of the field staff, demanding nationalisation of the company. A large number of the Members of the Parliament of both the Houses have also made similar representations to the Finance Minister. But the Govt. has not taken any steps in this regard as yet. Extending full support to the struggle of the Peerless employees, the meeting calls upon all the State Committees and the affiliated unions to raise their voice of demand for nationalisation of the company.

On the Situation in Bharat Gold Mines

The General Council Meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31-April 2, 1986 expresses serious concern over the deteriorating situation in Bharat Gold Mines in the Kolar Gold Fields. The management is threatening the closure of the Bharat Gold Mines within five years time on the plea of losses and that the mines are not workable. This will affect the employment of over 12,000 workers. Already under the direction of the Govt. of India, the management has closed down certain sections of mining operations affecting about 2,000 workers.

The meeting condemns the Government for acting upon the report of Dr. Arjun Sengupta, whereas the one man Committee of Shri K. S. R. Chari appointed by the Govt of India to look into the working of K. G. F. opined that the mines would work for another 15 years. The plea of loss is also not tenable, because of the irrational policy of the pricing of the gold. In the Kolar Gold Fields the practice of fixing the price of gold at the international rate, as was done during the British regime, still continues. This is much lower than that of the Indian market which is prevailing in other gold mines.

The meeting therefore demands of the Govt to

accept the Chari Committee's report and start operations in the mining sections which have been closed down and take back all the workers. It also demands for an uniform pricing policy at the rate of the Indian market to avert unnecessary loss to the KGF. The meeting extends full support to the struggle led by the KGF Employees' Union with the above demands.

On Accident in Godavari Khani

The meeting of the General Council of the CITU held at Calcutta from March 31-April 2, 1986 strongly condemns the Singareni Collieries management for the utter neglect of safety in the mines which led to the death of eight coal miners due to Methane gas in Godavari Khani on 27th March 1986. Despite repeated recommendations of the safety conferences on Mines the coal companies have not yet introduced even methonometers in all the gassy mines.

The meeting demands of the Govt of India to take stringent action against those responsible for this accident and further ensure that all appropriate safety measures are adopted in the collieries to avert any future accident. It conveys heartfelt condolences to the bereaved members of the families of workers who lost their lives.

On Struggle of Titagarh Paper Mill Workers

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Calcutta from March 31-April 2, 1986 condemns the management of the Titagarh Paper Mills for having stopped the manufacturing process in the Kankinara Unit II from October 17, 1985 and also having locked out the Unit-I from November 3, 1985. The Left Front Government of W. Bengal rejected the management's plea for closure. But despite this the management suspended the manufacturing process and stopped payment of wages to the workers from December, 1985. The closure and the lock-out affected the livelihood of about 8000 workers. Apart from this, the Bengal Paper Mill, Raniganj and the Eastern Paper Mill, Bansberia are also closed since the last four years and 3 months respectively. All these closures have affected over 17,000 workers and their families. The closures have also resulted in the loss of more than 200 tons of daily production of paper which has led to the shortage in the supply of paper for the educational institutions also.

The meeting extends full support to the struggle of the workers and demands immediate opening of the closed and locked out mills and take over of the managements in the interest of the workers and the industry.

On Struggle of U.P. Cement Workers

This General Council Meeting of CITU held at

Calcutta from March 31-April 2, 1986 denounces the Govt of U.P. and the management of U.P. Cement Corporation for letting loose a reign of terror on the cement workers of Dala Mirzapur. The workers have been on struggle demanding abolition of contract system in the factory. All the trade unions except INTUC launched strike actions also with this demand. But the management with its goonda hirelings and helped by the U.P. police is terrorising the workers.

A number workers have been involved in false cases and put into jails. The Secretary and the Joint Secretary of the CITU union along with four other union functionaries have been dismissed from service. To curb protest actions, the Government has imposed section 144 in the factory area.

This meeting demands of the U.P. Government to immediately release all the arrested workers, lift Section 144 and prevail upon the management to reinstate all the dismissed workers. The meeting extends full support to the undeterred struggle of the workers with the demand for abolition of the contract system and demands of the management to arrive at a negotiated settlement with the unions.

On the Proposed Strike by Defence Employees

This General Council meeting of CITU held in Calcutta on 31st March to 2nd April 1986 congratulates the All India Defence Employees Federation for its decision to go on one day strike on 21st May, 1986 in protest against privatisation of the defence industry, victimisation of T.U. activists and other immediate demands.

The CITU calls upon its unions to express solidarity with the defence employees so that their just struggle is strengthened.

BHEL Voluntary Retirement Scheme Kept in Abeyance

In a BHEL Joint Committee meeting held on 27th and 28th May, 1986 at Bangalore, all the Central Trade Unions criticised the Voluntary Retirement Scheme prepared by the BHEL management which provides for premature retirement of the workers at the age of 50 years or above if found surplus by the management. The management offered 50 per cent of the total earnings as compensation, for the rest of the period of employment. The Central Trade Unions criticised the management for unilaterally introducing the scheme without even discussing in the Joint Committee. The decision of the Board of Directors taken on 2nd April, 1986 was unilaterally announced by the management without even sending a copy of it to the members of the Joint Committee. The management representative tried to argue that the scheme was purely voluntary but the workers' representatives

refused to accept the contention of the management. They demanded that the whole scheme should be discussed in the next meeting of the Joint Committee pending which the scheme should be kept in abeyance. After a long discussion the management had to agree to keep the scheme in abeyance till the next meeting.

(from page 17)

Rise in Part-Time Employment in Capitalist Countries

According to recent ILO figures, more than 35 million workers in industrialised capitalist countries earn their living from part-time work. The following gives this as percentage of the workforce.

Norway	: 24.3 per cent
Netherlands	: 21.0 per cent
Great Britain	: 18.5 per cent
Japan	: 15.8 per cent
Canada	: 15.3 per cent
*United States	: 14.1 per cent
Austria	: 10.0 per cent
France	: 10.0 per cent
Switzerland	: 10.0 per cent

*The Labour Research Association, however, estimates that part-time employment in the United States is now at 20 per cent.

The increases in part-time and in full-time employment between 1973 and 1983 was as follows:

	Full-time	Part-time
Canada	18.4%	52.3%
France	0.2%	100.0%
Japan	6.2%	26.6%
United States	14.8%	19.7%
FRG	negative	65.4%
Netherlands	negative	453.6%
Sweden	negative	37.2%
Great Britain	negative	21.9%

Part-time employment has become an increasingly integral part of capitalist society recently, to the detriment of the workers, who are the victims of reduced income and reduced chances of finding full-time employment, with the accompanying social contradictions.

Part-time employment, says the ILO information, is generally a matter of unqualified work, low wages and no prospects. Many part-time workers have to work either very early or very late hours, over weekends and holidays, without the recompenses which full-time workers usually have. They can be sacked easily and have no right to extra pay for changes of hours or overtime, nor to wage increases for seniority. They often have no health insurance, and social security benefits are limited or they are non-existent.

CITU Denounces Government's Plan to Close Down Textile Mills

B. T. RANADIVE, President Centre of Indian Trade Unions has issued the following statement on June 3:

The CITU condemns the government's move to close down a number of textile mills in the country, both in the private and the public sector, which will throw thousands of workers out of employment. A press report appearing on June 1 says that a large number of non viable textile mills, both in the Public and Private sector will be closed down and the workers "will be taken care of" by a "rehabilitation fund". They will get 75 per cent of their wages in the first year, 50 per cent in the second year and 25 per cent in the third year and then will be thrown into the wilderness "to pick up alternative lines of livelihood".

It is to be noted that the CITU and all other trade unions had condemned the new textile policy of the government, the results of which are now coming up. The Secretary, Department of Textile, Ministry of Commerce had called a meeting of the Central Trade Unions on September 27, 1985 to discuss about this "rehabilitation Fund". The Secretary, Shri S.S. Verma had to come out with

the government's plan to close down five mills on an average every year without any plan to open any new unit. All the Central Trade Unions had rejected the idea of the so-called rehabilitation fund which could not be viewed in isolation from the textile policy as a whole which the trade unions had rejected. But the government has not given the least consideration to the concern expressed by the trade unions and going ahead with its disastrous policy of mass closures and mass retrenchment only at the dictates of a few mill magnets and at the anti-worker recommendations of the Arjun Sen Gupta Committee on Public Sectors. When about one hundred mills are already closed affecting over one lakh workers, the government instead of making any efforts to open the mills and rehabilitate the workers, is going ahead with further attack on them and aggravate the unemployment situation in the country. This will also make the Committee on Public sector set up by the govt. irrelevant.

The CITU demands of the government to withhold its decision and calls upon its State Committees and the affiliated unions and appeals to all other Central Trade Unions to raise their voice of protest.

Consumer Price Index Numbers

(Base 1960)

State/Centre	Jan. 1986	Feb. 1986	Mar. 1986								
				Bangalore	699	714	713	Coonoor	670	675	680
				Chikamagalur	621	627	625	Madurai	654	658	658
				Kolar G.F.	642	645	638	U.P.			
Andhra Pradesh				Kerala				Kanpur	623	632	648
Gudur	556	559	569	Alleppey	698	698	690	Sabaranpur	622	627	649
Guntur	669	670	669	Alwaye	670	688	682	Varanasi	709	701	724
Hyderabad	648	653	647	Mundakayam	612	629	627	West Bengal			
Assam				Madhya Pradesh				Asansol	636	635	637
Digboi	608	621	634	Balaghat	630	633	639	Calcutta	612	616	622
Doom Dooma	493	493	498	Bhopal	711	717	723	Darjeeling	528	529	544
Labac	459	457	473	Gwalior	629	633	652	Howrah	579	585	591
Mariani	479	485	495	Indore	674	688	701	Jalpaiguri	503	500	508
Rangapara	472	465	484	Maharashtra				Raniganj	581	576	574
Bihar				Bombay	668	672	678	Delhi Territory	658	664	679
Jamshedpur	587	591	603	Nagpur	632	635	648	Other Centres			
Jharia	539	537	539	Sholapur	672	677	674	Berhampur ('49)	858	869	861
Kodarma	618	619	625	Orissa				Cuttack ('49)	862	837	831
Monghyr	630	635	630	Barbil	592	582	579	Jabalpur ('49)	801	813	826
Noamundi	559	554	550	Sambalpur	639	642	649	Beawar ('51-52)	732	737	738
Gujarat				Punjab				Tripura ('61)	561	565	577
Ahmedabad	607	608	609	Amritsar	620	617	636	H.P. ('65)	457	462	467
Bhavanagar	670	669	678	Rajasthan				Goa ('66)	479	490	492
Haryana				Ajmer	638	640	633	Bhilai ('66)	418	413	414
Yamunanagar	628	633	643	Jaipur	665	662	659	Bhilwara ('66)	407	411	413
J. & K.				Tamil Nadu				Chhindwara ('66)	335	337	338
Srinagar	655	657	694	Madras	653	656	649	Kothagudem ('66)	419	425	423
Karnataka				Coimbatore	689	688	687	Rourkela ('66)	431	428	429
Ammathi	628	621	635					All India ('60)	629	633	638

(Figures in bracket indicate base year)

Port & Dock Strike Withheld

THE All India strike of the Port & Dock workers which was scheduled to commence from June 16 demanding settlement of the charter of demands and full implementation of the previous settlement of 11.4.84, was withheld in a meeting of three Central Trade Unions, viz, INTUC, AITUC, and HMS, as the Ministry of Transport called a meeting on June 12.

In a statement issued on June 2, K.K. Roy Ganguly, General Secretary of the Water Transport Workers Federation of India stated as follows:

"We came to know through the press that the proposed indefinite strike of the Port and Dock workers all over India to commence from 16 June, 1986 has been withheld in a meeting held by the three Federations belonging to HMS, INTUC and AITUC.

Our Federation was signatory to the decision for the strike. We should have been consulted before taking any decision in the matter. We are sorry to note that we were not consulted on this question at any stage. We are also deeply grieved to note that a meeting of the four federations was not called even with prior intimation on the specific matter.

Water Transport Workers' Federation of India stands for unity of all the four Federations and we will do everything to strengthen this unity for the overall interest of the port and dock workers of the country. However, such decisions weaken the fabric of unity that the port and dock workers have built over a period of years.

In view of the decision taken by the other three federations, we also call upon our affiliates not to serve the strike notice as decided earlier.

We also appeal to the Port and Dock workers to preserve as well as to strengthen the unity and await for the outcome of the meeting convened by the Department of Surface Transport, Government of India at New Delhi on the 12th June, 1986".

The proposed meeting between the Government of India, Department of Surface Transport, Ministry of Transport and the representatives of the four major federations of the Port and Dock workers was held on 12.6.86 at New Delhi. Following the discussions held in the meeting the Chairmen of the major ports were advised to negotiate and finalise the issue of liberalisation of promotional opportunities of the Port and dock workers within a period of two months. Following the minor relaxation brought in the ban order issued in Jan. '84, they have been directed to fill up the promotional posts and resultant vacancy arising out of promotion,

retirement and death on examining the possibilities of redeployment of surplus staff, if any, and put up the proposals where new posts are to be created before the Ministry which the Ministry have assured to be decided early. A decision has been taken to pay the Port and dock workers 8.33 per cent of Ex-gratia with the limitation of 1600 and 2500 as was in existence in the last year. To formulate a scheme for payment of bonus linking with performances in addition to the payment of 8.33 per cent of Ex-gratia, the Ministry will place a guideline before the Federations within two months for discussion and finalisation. On the accepted guideline the port Chairmen will be authorised to formulate the scheme in consultation with the labour unions and such schemes will be discussed at the national level before it is implemented. The dock workers and clearing the forwarding workers at Madras under MSA shall be brought under the Madras Dock Labour Board through a registered scheme. The Madras Port Chairman has been given the responsibility of publishing the scheme. The next meeting for further discussions has been fixed on 8th July, 1986.

The Water Transport Workers Federation of India in a meeting held on 12.6.86 reviewed the discussions and opined that though the achievements which have emerged in the meeting on 12.6.86 were the outcome of the united pressure of the Federations, the port and dock workers should take note that the mere minor relaxation of the ban order will not help to resolve the grievances of the port and dock workers in regard to the issue of liberalisation of promotional opportunities and filling up of vacancies, and as such, the unity should be strengthened further for a determined struggle.

(Contd. from page 3)

working class and aimed at securing the release of all those freedom fighters, including the trade union leaders and activists, who together with the legendary Nelson Mandela are languishing in the racist prisons.

This meeting reiterates the support of the Indian working class to the struggle for the independence of Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO.

This meeting of the trade union centres calls upon all the workers to contribute generously to a fund that is to be instituted under the name of the Trade Unions' Solidarity Fund for South Africa.

New Delhi,
16th June, 1986

May Day Celebrations Abroad

United States

Thousands of workers in several cities of USA celebrated the international labour day. At Chicago, the city's Mayor, H. Washington signed a declaration proclaiming May, as the "Month of History of Chicago Unions", reminding the workers of the Hay Market events which became the origin of the international day of workers' solidarity and pledge. A massive rally was held at Union Square, New York where the demonstrators assailed the Reagan administration for its adventurist policy. The rally stressed the urgency of unifying all peace forces to struggle to avert a nuclear war and for nuclear disarmament.

Great Britain

Thousands of workers assembled near Tower Hill at London and marched through the streets demanding right to work for the nearly 4 million unemployed people in Britain. They demanded immediate reinstatement of about 6000 workers sacked by a press baron. The demonstrators also called for disarmament and disbandment of the US nuclear bases in Britain. Similar demonstrations took place in several other cities and continued till May 3.

W. Germany

In several W. German cities workers organised massive rallies calling upon the working class to unite and struggle against the danger of a nuclear war. They demanded right to work for everyone and denounced all attacks on trade union rights and social achievements. In the industrial centres of the Ruhr valley like Dortmund, Essen, Dusseldorf and other places the workers brandished banners depicting the number of jobs which were cut down in recent years. The rallies warned the FRG government not to become a party to the US star war programme and not to place the FRG territory at the disposal of the USA's first-strike nuclear weapons.

France

At the call of CGT, a massive demonstration was held at Place de la Bastille, Paris which is symbolic of the social struggles of workers in France. The workers marched through the large Paris boulevards. The rally expressed the determination of the workers to fight against the danger of war and for peace, and to uphold the trade union rights. The CGT General Secretary, Henri Krasucki addressed the rally.

Middle East

Thousands of people observed the day in all parts of Syria. In a massive central rally at Luttakija, a large port in the country, the Vice President of

Syria, Mohammad Zuahir Macharka severely assailed the US armed aggression against Libya and denounced it as state terrorism.

In West Beirut an impressive demonstration was held which continued for the whole day. The demonstration was addressed by Elias El Habre, President of FENASOL and Vice President of WFTU.

Despite a ban imposed by the Israeli authorities on all demonstrations and marches, a number of rallies were held at Tev Aviv, Haifa and other Israeli cities in pursuance of an appeal issued by Jewish and Arab progressive organisations. Demonstrations were also held in the eastern part of Jerusalem and in the occupied territories. Palestinian trade unions organised several meetings in their offices.

Chile

May Day demonstrations in Santiago were marked by brutal repression by the Pinochet police who arrested over 1000 people. Many workers and students demonstrating outside the Presidential palace were injured. Police also raided the workers' quarters and terrorised the family members.

Belgium

Impressive demonstrations were held at Brussels and other Belgian cities calling for world peace and against the policy of the right wing government which over the last five years had "saved" 1000 billion France (20 billion dollars) at the expense of the workers. The most massive demonstration was held at Hasselt where the miners in the Nimburg region have been on strike since several weeks in protest against the government's plan to close down the last coal mines.

Japan

Over four million workers participated in the May Day celebrations in a number of Japanese cities. At Tokyo the demonstrators marched with banners demanding a ban on nuclear tests and condemning the adventurist policy of the Reagan administration.

South Africa

Despite wide spread repression to restore "order" by the armed police and soldiers of the racist regime which does not recognise the May Day, four million African workers struck work on May 1. They observed the May Day through a general strike. Winnie Mandela addressed a rally at Durban, which was attended by over 20,000 people. Brutal police actions on the strikers caused more than five deaths in the night of the

May Day. The racist police hounded the Africans in the township of Balfour and Germiston near Johannesburg and in Mauking in the Orange Province. The police opened fire on street demonstrators. Rallies were held in 23 different places throughout the country.

Philippines

Demonstrations in the Philippines were held despite provocations by the followers of the former dictator, Marcos. During a huge demonstration at Manila, which was addressed by the President Corason Aquino, the police intervened brutally. One person was killed and several others injured.

Uruguay

Over 150,000 people gathered at Montivideo to celebrate May Day which was organised by the PIT-CNT Trade Union Centre. The rally severely criticised the government's policy which brought a difficult economic situation in the country and demanded negotiation with the trade unions by the government.

Paraguay

Restoration of democracy was the main demand of the workers in a May Day rally at Asuncion. Despite brutal intervention by the dictatorial government's police, several thousand people marched throughout the streets of the Paraguayan capital.

Nigeria

In several places at Lagos and other parts of the country the Nigerian workers held demonstrations, marches and rallies. They called for peace, for the right to work and for social justice.

Angola

The huge May Day rally held at Luanda was attended by workers, soldiers of the Peoples' Army and representatives of all sections of the Angolan society. The rally designated 1986 as the year of defence of the people's revolution and demanded of the USA to stop interfering in the internal affairs of Angola.

Zimbabwe

In the rally organised at the capital, Harare, people raised the slogan, "Accelerate economic and social progress, strengthen national unity and create a solid basis for the transition to socialist edification". The rally was addressed by the Prime Minister, Robert Mugabe, who stressed that the government will consistently make efforts to build a new society on the principles of scientific socialism.

Ethiopia

Thousands of workers and people participated in a rally at Addis Ababa. Addressing the rally, Mengistu Haile Mariam, General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia stressed to make Ethiopia a country where all powers will belong to the workers and the Peoples' Democratic Republic

of Ethiopia will be proclaimed following the broadest possible discussions on the draft constitution and after the general elections.

Vietnam

A big worker's rally was held in Hanoi to mark the centenary of the Chicago blood bath. Speaking on the occasion, Vice Premier Toy Huu recalled the great revolutionary transformations which characterised the world situation over the last hundred years.

Laos

In Vientiane, the May Day rally was addressed by Prime Minister Kavasone Phomvihane. He recalled the struggle of the people of the country in keeping with the revolutionary traditions of May Day and their resolve to achieve significant results in the economic and social sphere.

Kampuchea

A large May Day rally was held at Phnom Penh. Chea Sim, President of the National Assembly stressed that the revolutionary power in the Republic of Kampuchea was being consolidated and the working class, although still young, was taking increasingly important part in the national economy.

Cuba

Nearly 600,000 workers took part in the May Day celebrations at Cuba. The General Secretary of the Cuban Worker's Centre, Roberto Veiga drew attention of the workers that Cuba was one of the first countries in the American continent to celebrate May Day. He stressed that the active involvement of the workers in achieving the country's economic plans was the sign of the continuity of the Cuban revolution. May Day celebrations this year were held both in towns and in the countryside of Cuba.

Hungary

Addressing a huge rally at Budapest, the General Secretary of the Hungarian Workers' Socialist Party, Janos Kadar called for uniting all peace loving and democratic forces to safeguard peace against war. He called upon the workers to build a developed Socialist Society. He greeted all progressive forces in the world struggling for independence, freedom and for social progress.

G.D.R.

Berlin was the scene of a huge rally on May Day, which was participated by hundreds of thousands of workers. The rally was also attended by leaders of the Party and the State and many foreign guests. Addressing the rally, the FDGB President, Harry Tisch appreciated the tremendous efforts made by the workers to strengthen the nation and the socialist community. He reaffirmed the need to consolidate peace and promote a world without war. He appreciated the initiatives taken by the Soviet Union in this respect.

Poland

The main May Day rally was held at Grybowski Square, Warsaw which was attended by tens of thousands of people. Addressing the rally, the President of the Council of State and First Secretary of the United Workers' Party, Jarzelski said that the bourgeoisie today were using the same practices as they did a hundred years ago during the tragic Chicago events. The USA and its allies were replying to the peace initiatives of the Soviet Union by spiralling the arms race. He pointed out that despite the past difficult years and certain negative consequences, the country had the strength and determination to go forward and overcome them. He declared that the heated appeals of the enemy radios such as "Free Europe", calling for organising marches and rallies against the Socialist State, had failed once again. The May Day celebrations in Poland bore witness to the workers' determination to take active part in the developing world wide struggle for peace and also to take responsible part in advancing the socialist Government of the country.

Czechoslovakia

Hundreds of thousands of people participated in the May Day rallies all over the country. The President of the Republic alongwith other leaders attended the rally at Prague. The rallies reaffirmed the workers resolve to carry forward the struggle for peace and the tremendous development already achieved in industry, agriculture and other spheres of social life. The workers stressed their solidarity with the workers of other countries who were struggling against imperialism, for peace and social progress. Representatives of over fifty foreign trade unions were also present in the rally.

Soviet Union

Millions of workers participated in impressive rallies throughout the Soviet Union. The largest march was in Red Square at Moscow which was attended by the top leaders of the party and the state. It was also watched by foreign trade union delegations from 118 countries. The workers in the rally reaffirmed their determination to carry forward the struggle to safeguard peace and for peaceful cooperation with all peoples in the world. They also reaffirmed their determination to accomplish the important tasks in the economic and social field in the country's development, despite being compelled to divert substantial sums to military defence to safeguard the achievements of socialism from the war challenges by the imperialists led by the USA. The May Day celebrations were followed by an international trade union conference on peace on May 3 and 4. Addressing the conference, Stephen Shalayev, the President of the All Union Central Council of Trade Unions (AUCCTU), USSR appealed to the trade unions in all countries to mobilise and unite their efforts to further step up

the international struggle for peace and development. The year 1986 which has been designated as the International Year of Peace, should be devoted to unite all workers of the world in both the socialist and capitalist countries, and prove to be a turning point in the struggle against the looming danger of a nuclear war. Shalayev said that the persistence of the senseless arms race aggravated the problem of unemployment and led to price increases, higher taxes and restrictions on social spending. It also aggravated the already complex problems of the developing countries where over 500 million people were out of work currently. He condemned the policy and actions of the United States, which was going ahead to further aggravate the international situation pushing the mankind into a climate of mutual mistrust, terror and fear and threatening the world with a nuclear devastation.

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tion, payment of wages in terms of Court order to a large section of staff which has been arbitrarily stopped for nearly one year. The Secretariat Condemned the Govt. of India for not settling these demands which has forced them to resort to hunger strike and demanded immediate settlement of the just demands.

In respect of the strike in Delhi Textile Mills, the Secretariat condemned the intransigent attitude of the Mill owners, which has brought about the strike and demanded that the Mills be nationalised and the workers demands be settled through negotiation.

The Secretariat extended support to the strike by the cabin-crew of Indian Air lines and demanded that the Govt of India should intervene for a negotiated settlement of the issues.

The Secretariat denounced the action of the Racist South African Govt who besides mounting repression in the country had attacked the front line States on the specious plea that they have been helping the struggling people of South Africa. The reactionary Reagan Administration of U.S.A. and Margaret Thatcher Govt of Great Britain have shamelessly supported this act of terrorism by the state. The Secretariat called upon the entire working class of the country to raise their voice of protest by observing Anti-Apartheid Day on June 16, unitedly and make the programme adopted by 10 Central Trade Union Organisations a success.

The Secretariat responding to the appeal of WFTU extended support to the struggle of workers of BATA in South Africa.

The Secretariat also discussed various organisational matters and nominations. It heard the report about the meeting called by CLC (c) on verification on May 22 last which had again postponed taking a decision till the next meeting to be held in July '86. The Secretariat felt that a decision should be expedited.