



THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

Comrade P. Sundarayya

THE Centre of Indian Trade Unions deeply mourns the passing away of Comrade P. Sundarayya, the former General Secretary and a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and a former Working Committee member of CITU on May 19 at Madras at the age of 72. Com. Sundarayya was a founder member of the Communist Party of India and a leader of the Communist movement in the country. Irrespective of political differences, he was held in high esteem by all who came into contact with him because of his dedication and sincerity to the cause of the working class movement and the common people.

Com. Sundarayya joined the Communist Party of India in 1929 when it was illegal under the British colonial rule. He organised the Communist Party of India in Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Kerala. He joined the non-cooperation movement in 1930 and was jailed. After his release he began organising the agricultural workers in his village. He became a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India in 1936 when the various Communist groups in the country were united and the first all India centre of the party was set up. He also became one of the founding members of the All India Kishan Sabha the same year and served as its Joint Secretary for some time. Being haunted by the police he had to work underground from 1939 to 1942. Then again during the armed partisan struggle of the Telengana peasantry of which he was one of the main leaders, he had to work underground from 1948 to 1952.

At the special conference of the Party in 1951, he was again elected to the Central Committee and also to the Polit Bureau. In 1952 after the first general election he was elected to the Rajya Sabha from the Madras Assembly and became the leader of the group of the party in the parliament. He was elected to the Andhra Provincial Assembly in the mid-term election in 1955 and then after the formation of Andhra Pradesh, to its Assembly in all the elections till 1967. He was the leader of the CPI and later CPI(M) group in the Assembly.

He was elected to the Central Executive Committee in the Amritsar Conference of the party and also elected to the Central Secretariat in 1962. But he tendered his resignation from both the bodies in protest against the revisionist policies being pursued by the then dominant leadership of the party. He was arrested and detained during the India-China border conflict in November 1962. On the fundamental question of the strategy and tactics of Indian revolution, Com. Sundarayya was at the forefront of the struggle against right revisionism which began as early as during the Palghat Congress of the Party. He struggled unremittently both against right revisionism and left adventurism and tried to maintain the unity of the party on the basis of a correct line and under the banner of proletarian internationalism. He became the General Secretary of the CPI(M) when it was formed in 1964 at the Seventh Congress of the Party. He continued in this post till 1976. Immediately after the seventh Congress, Com. Sundarayya was arrested alongwith most of the leaders of CPI(M) by the Congress Government and was detained till May, 1966. He had to go underground again during the period of emergency from 1975 to 1977.

At the time of his death, Com. Sundarayya was a member of the Central Committee of the CPI(M) and Secretary of its Andhra Pradesh State Committee. He was ailing for quite some time because of kidney failure. His condition improved last year, but a few days before his death he had to be put on dialysis again. His condition became critical on the night of May 18 and the end came on the early morning of May 19 despite all efforts put up by the doctors.

Com. Sundarayya has left a rich communist legacy for all workers to carry forward with dedication. The Centre of Indian Trade Unions dips its red banner and pays revolutionary homage to Com. Sundarayya and pledges to carry forward the task for which he dedicated his entire life. It sends heartfelt condolences to his bereaved wife, Com. Leila Sundarayya and other members of his family.

Presidential Address

— B.T. Ranadive

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Comrades,

MANY events of international and national importance have taken place since we met last in September, 1984 in Jaipur.

Before I turn to the new changes that have taken place in the trade union movement I must refer to an important event which is directly connected with our CITU and its developing international contacts and relations. I am referring to the visit of the delegation sent by the All Union Central Council of Trade Unions, USSR at our request to discuss the international situation. On behalf of you I convey my warm thanks to the Soviet trade unions for acceding to our request. The visit of the delegation which consisted of Com. V.V. Kulik, Secretary of the Ukrainian Republican Council of Trade Unions and Com. Konstantin I. Tuzikov of the International Department of the AUCCTU was of great help to us to understand the depth of the war danger and the way in which Soviet trade unions and workers are meeting it. I convey my thanks to Comrades Kulik and Tuzikov for the warmth of their visit and their feelings of solidarity for us. I am confident that the relations between our two organisations will continue to develop as it should in our common interest.

Comrades, the last year, the year 1984, is recorded as a good year, as a year of economic recovery for the advanced capitalist countries. The U.S. gross national product grew last year at 6.9 per cent which is the biggest increase rate during the last 33 years. Britain, fighting hard for economic recovery, saw 3.5 per cent growth in real gross domestic product in 1983, the estimated growth rate for 1984 is 2½ per cent despite the effect of the miners' strike. The economy of the ten countries of the European Economic Community grew by an average of 2.2 per cent in 1984, following a fall of 0.8 per cent in 1983. According to the Japanese Economic Agency, Japan's economic growth rate for 1984 will reach 5.3 per cent.

As is quite clear this much praised recovery is restricted and unevenly spread though it comes as a great relief to the leaders of the capitalist society. It speaks to what dire straits the capitalist economy has been reduced. The most optimistic spokesmen of the capitalist world are unable to maintain that the world economic recovery will be able to maintain the tempo of the last year.

World Bank President Mr. Clausen said in an

interview with Xinhua in December last year that the world economic recovery will continue in 1985 but it is not expected to go on rising as in 1984. He expected that the growth rate of gross national product (GNP) of the United States will be less than in 1984 but those of the other countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) will be greater. Already the U.S. growth rate has come down to 1.3 per cent in the first quarter of 1985.

Economic recovery in capitalist pharaseology does not mean any relief to the workers and the people. In fact it means capitalist production increasing at the expense of the people and imposing misery on them. It denotes a sustained attack on the peoples' living standard and a steady rise in the profit of the monopolists.

Notwithstanding this recovery the unemployment rate in the USA did not decline. The rate at the beginning of the last quarter of the year was 7.4 per cent which meant that 8.5 millions of Americans had no work. Unemployment in EEC countries excluding Greece topped the 13 million mark during December according to the figures released by the EEC statistical office in January 1985. The December figure was the highest on record and represented an unemployment rate of 11.6 per cent compared with 11.1 per cent a year earlier. The average unemployment figure for 1984 was 12.6 million or 5.7 per cent above 1983. Recovery indeed!

In January this year British unemployment rose sharply by more than 1 lakh 21 thousands to a new record height of 33 lakhs 40 thousands according to figures of the employment department. The jobless figure is equivalent to 13.9 per cent of the workforce in the country. Britain's unemployment rate is above the EEC average of 10.7 per cent and the average of the Western countries as a whole is 8.1 per cent.

In Japan the total figure of the jobless reached 1.61 million or 2.7 per cent of the labour force in 1984, the highest since the Government began compiling statistics in 1953. Both the unemployment rate and the total number of unemployed appeared to be small in Japan because people who work for 1 hour in any given week are considered as employed.

In India also we find claims of economic advance and recovery accompanied by rising unemployment and closure of factories. The economic survey

(1984-85) of the Government of India makes the following claims "To summarise, the sixth plan period is closing with highly satisfactory performance of the economy. The agricultural sector has performed well and has encouraged expectations of steady growth in the coming years.

Industrial performance has improved though the scope for further improvement is considerable. The annual growth rate of the GDP over the sixth plan period is likely to equal the planned target of 5.2%. At the same time inflationary pressure have been contained and significant adjustments have been attained in the country's external account. These very considerable achievements have been secured in the face of unfavourable developments in world trade and payments".

The success of the sixth plan however reveals the same story that is revealed during the recovery year of the Western countries. In each year of the sixth plan registered unemployment increased by 10 per cent.

Year	Live register	Percentage
1980	162 lakhs	13.0%
1981	178 lakhs	10.1%
1982	187 lakhs	10.7%
1983	219 lakhs	11.1%
1984	235 lakhs	7.3%

This is how Indian recovery and the successes of the planned years have been achieved. No wonder the economic survey is shy of giving year to year figures of growing unemployment.

The successful year of the sixth plan witnessed increase in the number of sick units, increased number of closures and thousands of workers rendered jobless because of sickness and closures. Closures due to causes other than industrial disputes numbered 349 in 1981, 206 in 1982, 226 in 1983 and 188 in 1984. The decreasing number of closures did not mean decrease in the number of those thrown out of jobs. Their number was 37,000 in 1981, 26,000 in 1982, 43,000 in 1983 and 71,000 in 1984. Every year of the sixth plan saw increase in number of sick units. Since December, 1979 the percentage of sick units increased as follows:

Year	Percentage increase in all sick units.
December 1980	9.0%
December 1981	9.0%
December 1982	111.6%
December 1983	33.2%

In this period the large sick units increased from 409 to 491 while the small sick units increased from 28,000 to 78,000. The havoc done to the smaller units is in consonance with the law of capitalism. The workers' job and the small industry both must perish to restore the health of big capital.

Sickness has affected all major industries. Among the large industries the number of sick mill was 119 in cotton textile; 101 in engineering and electricals, 44 in sugar and 37 in jute. Uttar Pradesh is among the major states affected by sickness mainly because of the sickness in sugar industry.

The main brunt of sickness is borne by five states which account for 383 out of 491 sick concerns. Among them West Bengal tops the list with 112 sick units followed by Maharashtra with 100 units, UP with 54, Gujarat with 55 and Karnataka 29.

Sickness in jute industry in West Bengal continues unabated. In May this year 18 mills were locked out throwing out of work 70,000 workers. The closed mills further added to the number of jobless taking the total to 72,000.

The crisis extends to industries like coir, cashew-nuts, handlooms, and others. Here again tens of thousands are out of job without any possibility of alternative employment. According to the latest reports of the labour ministry out of 80,110 sick industrial units (large, medium and small) 7,409 units were considered by the financing banks as potentially viable while as many as 63,135 were considered as non-viable. Banks have yet to decide about the viability of the remaining 9,566 sick industrial units.

Non-viability means these thousands of small concerns cannot be revived, so much production capacity must perish and so many thousands of workers must join the ranks of permanently unemployed.

This is the havoc done by private capital to the economy. It has shown itself incapable of using the existing productive capacity. The mismanagement by both the Jute and Textile industries owners was long ago exposed and the trade union movement demanded their nationalisation and reorganisation. In West Bengal all trade union centres, all political parties including the Cong(I) joined in demanding nationalisation of the jute industry.

The Government not only turned down the demand, it has chosen this situation to give fresh encouragement to private capital and open new avenues for their exploitation and manipulation of the economy as we will see later.

Has the Government any policy to fight sickness, closures and lockout in the interests of the people and the workers? It is abandoning whatever steps it took earlier to hold sickness in check and keep the wheel of industry running. It now has left the field open to the law of market and pleads its inability to intervene under the excuse of non-viability of concerns. The days of takeover and nationalisation to save productive capacity and workers jobs seem to be over and government intervention in favour of workers is to be more and more restricted.

The running of a number of textiles units, the taking over of some other concerns are now considered as errors and burdens. It has to be noted that inspite of this change of outlook the government recently passed a bill to nationalise four tea gardens in West Bengal. But the shift of the policy is in the contrary direction. This was bound to be so because apart from running the concerns the Government did not change anything. It accepted the liabilities held by the management. It did not change the methods of management. It did not create interest among the workers for efficient running of the concern. And it did not seek workers' participation to fight a common social evil arising out of private production. Replacing private capitalist management by bureaucratic management was not going to lead to any change. In fact in some instances official intervention was meant as a rescue operation for the owning capitalists rather than for the workers.

Last two years which witnessed growing sickness and closures saw less and less government intervention and now with the formally declared new economic policy in the budget the dissosiation of the Govt. from its responsibility to check sickness has become clear.

It seems that now the government is leaving the question of sickness to be decided by the financial institutions which means that the major part of sick industry will be written off as bad debt. At the same time the Labour Ministry professes concern for the jobs of the workers and talks of alternative employment. But that it is not serious in this respect, is clear from the proposal it makes in regard to textile workers. "One way of doing this would be through issuing powerloom permits to small groups of re-trenched workers who could be organised in their areas of origin into powerloom cooperatives. Where mill faces closure powerlooms could be shifted to the proposed cooperatives of powerloom workers and the cost of the powerlooms adjusted against terminal benefits payable to the workers consequent on closure." This is nothing but a cheating proposal to deprive the workers of their provident fund and other dues in exchange for the company's looms. It is a method of passing on the crisis of the mill to the workers and in the bargain cheating them of their provident and ESI funds. How will the crisis of the market be reduced by passing on the looms to the workers. With the market already over saturated how will the workers get any scope to dispose off their production if steps are not taken to widen the demand. All trade unions must oppose these fake measures of alternative employments.

The situation therefore is that in the current year the workers will face the full effect of closure and sickness because of the new official policy. Trade Union unity is urgently required to meet this offensive and make united proposals for saving industries reorganising and restructuring them in the interest of the people and the workers. The CITU has repeatedly expressed its readiness to participate

in management on equal terms so that the full productive potential of every concern is exploited. It has already given an assurance that its workers will fulfil agreed norms of production and will not fail the people but there has been no response either from the Government or the management.

It is quite clear that the unity of our movement already achieved is not sufficient to meet this offensive. The National Campaign Committee of Central Trade Unions did give a call to fight closure, but its intervention throughout this period has not been effective. This is also because the CITU and its unions which would bear the main responsibility for fighting this evil and also for forging more effective unity perhaps showed some slackness in their efforts. The current year will not only see the growing offensive of closures and sickness, it will see the beginning of a wider offensive of computerisation of jobs which must follow in the wake of the new policy for introducing advanced technology.

It is necessary therefore to make proper preparations to meet this new offensive, if we are to render effective service to the cause of the working class.

The trade union movement and the CITU cannot ignore the challenges of the new economic policy which government of India has adopted. It is disclosed through the various measures adopted in this year's budget. In the first place, in the most blatant manner the authorities imposed taxes worth 1400 crore rupees on the common people while they announced a relief worth one thousands crores of rupees to the capitalists. There is no excuse, no concealment here. It is openly announced that the common man must bear the burden of the economic crisis to give incentives to the capitalists. But the burden on the common man does not end with additional taxations. The huge deficit financing is intended to ensure that he is fleeced through rising prices. Already prices of necessities of the life have started climbing and even the Government cannot deny it. By the end of the year people will be facing exclusive rise in the prices reducing their purchasing power further.

Atrocious as these measures are they cannot be described as a departure from previous policies. The departure comes in the shape of open and avowed preference to private sector, denigration of the public sector and invitation to foreign multinationals in the name of importing advanced technology. No less a person than the Prime Minister himself publicly stated that the public sector had overspread itself and that new priority areas should be open to the private sector. To encourage the private sector, controls and licencing are being removed in a number of cases which really means end to all planning and planned use of capital resources. The denigration of the public sector, encouragement to private sector and removal of government control have been the demands of World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund on the Government of India. These are necessary for creating a favourable climate for the multinationals to enter our country.

Import liberalisation is yet another instrument of appeasing foreign capital. But it is going to ruin a number of Indian industries.

Unless working class and the people of the country are able to check this trend they will soon find public sector and planning completely scuttled. Already in the name of promoting efficiency in the public sector more autonomy is demanded for the management of this sector. The end result of this process will be an autonomous public sector free from parliamentary control, a step towards privatisation. As a first step more powers for management and raising of capital through private sources by selling bonds is being adopted. This is a plan to reduce the public sector to the level of joint sector. All this is advocated in the name of efficiency and efficient production. Neither the Government nor the ruling party considers that for the efficient functioning of the sector, workers participation in management on equal terms is necessary. In reality the only way to fight the lethargy, inefficiency, corruption, and bureaucracy in public sector management is to secure workers' participation in every aspect of management. But of course, the government is moving in a contrary direction to debase the public sector to the level of joint sector.

The denigrating of the public sector is not intended to help only indigenous private sector, it is intended to attract foreign multinationals also. Otherwise how can you explain the handing over of the gas pipe line contract to a foreign multinational after withdrawing it from public sector firm Engineering India Ltd. and Gas Authority of India Ltd? How can you explain handing over of another contract for a fertiliser factory to another foreign firm? The policy of downgrading the public sector is undertaken under the pressure of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Apart from creating a danger to the freedom of our country it immediately diverts orders from public sector concerns to foreign concerns and leave the public sector's productive capacity unutilised.

The trade union movement and the working class must realise that entry of foreign multinationals in the economy of our country spells danger to our freedom and independence. These powerful agencies subvert the economy of the country they operate in, they finance reactionary forces which are prepared to do the bidding of imperialism and they create internal divisions before completely establishing their domination. The cruelty of these concerns and their disregard for the lives of the peoples is experienced by our country in the hundreds of deaths in Bhopal where the Union Carbide refused to take elementary precautions to save the citizens from a dangerous gas leak. To inflict thousands of deaths on the people of underdeveloped countries is normal routine for these powerful economic organisations. The Government of India is endangering the freedom of our country by creating favourable conditions for the entry of the multinationals. This policy must be denounced by the entire trade union movement as anti-national, anti-people and anti-

working class and a movement must be launched to reverse this policy. The CITU must undertake immediate and constant propaganda to warn the workers that the multinationals are the most brutal exploiters and avowed enemies of the freedom of developing countries.

Comrades, the results of the new economic policy of high taxation and freedom for private sector will be soon felt by the ordinary people, the middle classes, and the agrarian masses and the working class itself. It is the duty of the trade union movement to centralise the protests of the people and direct them into proper democratic channels raising the demands of the peasantry, the demand for lowering prices, for an effective public distribution system for immediate nationalisation of jute and textile industries, for effective intervention against sickness and closures, for primary role of the public sector in the economy and scrapping the new economic policy which encourages the entry of multinationals.

Comrades, why we are taking steps to strengthen trade union unity! New attacks are being organised against the solidarity and unity of our class. The conflict between the reservationists and anti-reservationists in Gujarat, betokens to the success of the government and the capitalists and dividing the working class. For months now arson, stabbing curfew, and firing are continuing in the capital of Gujarat which sections of workers ranged on the opposite sides. There is no doubt that in the conditions obtaining in India and the rigorous operation of the caste system, reservation of jobs for socially discriminated sections becomes necessary as is now provided for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Similar demands are coming from some other sections. And those who raise this demand often believe that reservation of jobs and seats in educational establishments will solve all their problems. While admitting the necessity of reservation in the cases mentioned above the trade union movement must simultaneously educate all the sections that reservations cannot solve the basic problems of social oppression, rooted in feudal customs and feudal property relations. Thirty years' experience of reservation under the Constitution shows that while some people are provided with jobs, the mass-acre of Adivasis and Harijans continues as before. Today the ruling party which has lost its influence over the large sections of the people bolsters its prestige by raising the reservation issue for electoral purposes. The aim is to polarise the votes and in the name of reservation monopolise the votes of certain sections, who normally would have voted for democratic and radical parties. This is what was done both in Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. Both the Governments suddenly announced new quota of reservation which led to a social turmoil. The Gujarat Government entered upon a policy of wholesale repression against the protesters and unleashed police terror on the people and the press.

It is legitimate to demand the resignation of the

Cong(I) Ministry in Gujarat which has brought the state to this state of affairs in which toiler is pitted against toiler and repression reigns supreme. This does not mean that the trade union movement supports the anti-reservationist campaign and its demand for total abolition of reservation. While taking a sober and realistic stand on the question of reservation, taking consideration the concrete situation in our country, the CITU and its trade unions must do everything to protect the unity of the workers and emerge as the champion of all sections of workers. Their isolation in some states from the discriminated sections like the Harijans and the Adivasis or Muslims must be rapidly overcome. This can be done only if the trade union movement and our CITU unions remember that these sections have problems of social discrimination against which our unions hardly fight. The way to unity lies through the trade unions championing the demands of these sections alongwith the demands of all other workers and drawing these sections in the common democratic struggles. Unity at the level of Central Trade Union organisation will look more and more hollow if at the base the main mass of workers is divided on issue like reservation. I wish to warn you that this type of attack against our unity is going to intensify in the near future and we must be fully armed to meet it.

Comrades, very few know that the murder of Smt. Gandhi was organised by imperialist agencies to create conditions for destabilisation of the country. That dastardly action is a warning that the imperialist agencies have now the courage to openly intervene in our country. The discovery of spies in the Prime Minister's office and the bribing of high officials further point to the undermining done by the imperialists. The US and British imperialists besides openly support the Khalistan elements operating in their countries. If the working class does not fight against these conspiracies it will be a betraying of our country. It is the bounden duty of all our unions to rouse the people against the danger to our freedom and actively fight against it.

Comrades, our comrades in Tamilnadu are waging a courageous struggle to unify the people to fight the injustices done to Tamils in Sri Lanka. It is the task of all our unions to place the issue before the working class and people in all States.

Comrades, our comrades in Punjab, our workers, our CITU leaders and organisations have done a good job in maintaining the working class unity and fighting the forces of communalism and secessionism. The problem is much bigger. It relates to the dismemberment conspiracy of US imperialism already revealed in connection with Assam. You know that some US agencies had prepared a report on what would happen to India after Indira Gandhi. The report was prepared just a few months before her assassination organised by under cover agencies. The fruits of that report are now appearing. The treacherous secessionist elements encouraged from abroad and further encouraged by the failure of the

Akali leadership to denounce and isolate them, are now active, killing people in Delhi, Haryana and other states. The battle for keeping India together has to be carried on by the trade union movement and the people. It is no longer a question of law and order only to be tackled by the administration. The Trade Union movement must rise to the occasion and discharge its duty.

It will be a fatal blunder to identify the terrorists and the secessionists with the Sikh community. The secessionist elements themselves hope that their activities will lead to anti-Sikh riots and create further breach between the two communities. All our trade unions must guard against the communal trap set up by mischievous elements and intervene in time to prevent communal outburst. Our intervention last time in the riots following the assassination of Smt. Indira Gandhi came a little late and we were often reduced to mere spectators of a crime against national unity.

The entire trade union movement must be politically active this time to explain to the people the political meaning of the attacks of the secessionists and rouse national feeling to fight them. There can be no compromise and no conciliation towards the treacherous elements and those who dare not denounce them. A full fledged campaign for national unity launched by the trade unions, a complete assurance to the mass of Sikh peasantry from the entire working class will enable us to create conditions for settling the Punjab problem and saving national unity.

Comrades, the experience of the Parliamentary and Assembly elections constitutes a very adverse comment on the way in which the trade unions in our country is conducted. It shows an adverse balance sheet for our activities during the last five years since the return of Congress(I) to power. Both in the Parliamentary and Assembly elections major sections of the working class voted for the ruling Cong(I) party and in some cases for the opposition bourgeois parties. Only in West Bengal and Kerala a major section voted for the left, mainly the CPI(M). But in these two states also the left met with some reverses.

Industrial cities like Bombay, Steel city Jamshedpur and Rourkela, big textiles centres like Ahmedabad all voted for the Cong(I). In West Bengal also in Calcutta, Howrah and Hoogli areas which are large industrial centres the Cong(I) won some parliamentary seats from the left front.

This is all the more suprising in the background of what was happening to the working class in the last five years under the Cong(I) rule. Never before our country had seen so many lock-outs and closures, thousands of small concerns completely closed and tens of thousands summarily thrown on the streets. Added to this were the rising cost of living and continuing high prices. But all this seemed to have had very little effect on the voting choice of the working class which by and large rallied round the

Cong(I) in the parliamentary elections believing that the ruling party can protect national unity. It is necessary to remove the weaknesses in our functioning and make all out efforts to raise the consciousness of the workers.

I must refer to recent international developments. An event which took place only a few weeks back was the worldwide celebration of the 40th anniversary of the anti-fascist victory. The CITU called upon all its unions to observe the anniversary to this world shaking event in a befitting manner. You all know that the victory was attained through immense sacrifices of the Soviet people and the heroes of the red army. Not less than 20 million Soviet people sacrificed their lives in this gignatic battle to save freedom, democracy and socialism. The victory led to a complete change in the world situation. It led one third of the world going over Socialism, it saw a number of East European countries establish socialist regimes. It ensured the victory of the Chinese revolution and saw the emergence of Socialist China, Korea and Vietnam. It facilitated the victory of Indian freedom struggle and led to the collapse of the British empire and the old colonial system. Very truthfully it has been described as the second great turning point in the history of the world after the October Socialist revolution.

For the last four decades US imperialism with its ambition of world domination has been working to undermine the gains of this victory. It conspires against the freedom of newly liberated countries, supports reactionary regimes and tries to organise subversion in socialist countries.

In our sub-continent it does everything to support reactionary regimes, and help them suppress the right of the people as in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal. It does everything to encircle India with reactionary regimes. It pours sophisticated arms into Pakistan and creates a danger to our freedom and integrity. The reactionary rulers of Pakistan are helping the Khalistani elements to undermine the unity of our country. The USA and other imperialists are openly encouraging these treacherous elements. The establishment of a naval base at Diago Garcia, the refusal to agree to turn Indian Ocean into a zone of peace, the encouragement given to Pakistan to manufacture atom bomb and the incitement to the ruling circle of Sri Lanka to wreck vengeance on the Tamils are all part of US imperialist game to intimidate India and advance its plans of global domination.

However it finds that the strength of the Soviet Union and the Socialist countries constitute an obstacle in the way of its domination. It is therefore preparing for a nuclear war against the Soviet Union, a war which not only threatens the freedom of all countries but the very existence of the world. Reagan and the USA are playing the same role as Hitler and Nazi Germany did during the Second

World War with only one difference that the nuclear war threatens the very existence of the human race on the planet.

It is the duty of the working class and the people who love freedom and humanity to fight this drive towards war. The USSR as behoves a Socialist country has made repeated proposals to save the world from the holocaust of a nuclear war. But the US imperialists have rejected them and they are busy preparing their Star War project to carry nuclear war into outer space. The Working class and the people must support the USSR's proposals for peace, must join their voice with the working class and people of other lands to fight the menace of war. We must accept frankly that our trade union movement and the CITU have done very little to rouse the working class and the people to the war danger. If this continues it will be nothing short of a betrayal of the international movement. We must determinedly build a powerful anti-war movement based on the strength of our trade unions, a movement worthy of our class and people.

— May 16, 1985

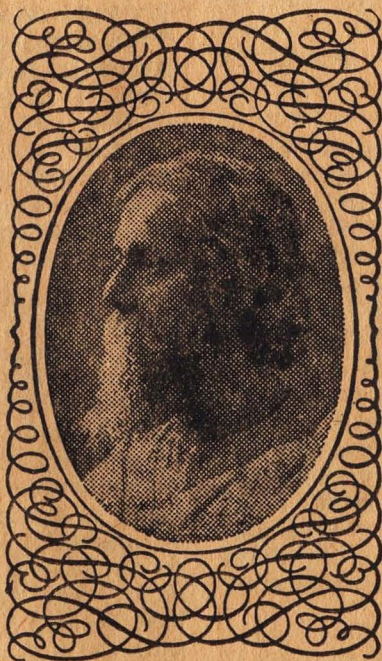
Protest by Central Govt. Employees

DIPEN GHOSH of National Fed. of Printing & Stationary Emp., Warriar of A.I. Audit & Accounts Assn; Adinaryana of A.I. Postal Emp. Union-IV & EDA, Kutty of Income Tax Emp. Fed., Banerjee of A.I. RMS & MMS Emp. Union-III, Tyagi of A.I. Civil Accounts Emp. Assn., Mihir Bose of GSI Emp. Assn. and Dhaktod of A.I. Postal Accounts Emp. Assn. issued the following statement on April 27:

The recommendation of a meagre Interim relief by the Pay Commission and the acceptance of it by Government, at the rate of Rs. 50/- at the minimum etc., as against the joint demand of Central Government employees of Rs. 265 on the basis of parity with minimum wage in Public Sector undertakings, reveals beyond all shadow of doubt the real conspiracy between Pay Commission and the Government, to continue the most unjustified discrimination of maintaining two vastly different levels of wages for the same type of work under the same Government. The arbitrariness with which Government have decided it without even the semblance of a consultation with organisations of Central Government employees in or outside of JCM, amply shows the utter disregard of the Government for democratic norms and forms. The Central Government employees are called upon to record their emphatic protest against this meagre amount of relief and demand immediate payment of the balance amount of Rs. 215/- at the minimum and the corresponding amount at other levels.

“ *in America I saw many vast educational institutions run by the state, where the pupils had to pay next to nothing in the way of fees. In Europe, also, there is no lack of cheap educational facilities for poor students. Is it then because of the greater poverty of our country that our education must be made more costly? And yet in India there was a time when education was not bought and sold.* ”

Rabindranath Tagore



In a poor developing country like ours, mass oriented educational policy of the Left Front Government opened up a new horizon for the teeming masses steeped into darkness of illiteracy.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

UPCO/A/85

Second Conference of SWFI

THE second Conference of the Steel Workers Federation of India was held at Shahid Zuber Nagar (Community Centre), Rourkela on 18-20 May, 1985. Two hundred and sixty delegates and observers from all the steel plants in the country participated in the Conference. The Conference created a wave of enthusiasm among steel workers in Rourkela and within a short time they collected over Rs. 40,000 to meet the expenses of the Conference. A good volunteer corps was organised by the Reception Committee to look after the arrangements of the Conference. The CITU unions in the surrounding areas gave a helping hand to the Reception Committee and the township was covered with SWFI chain flags and wall writings. Several arches were erected on the main roads in the city. Samar Mukherjee, President, SWFI hoisted the red flag and the delegates offered flowers to the martyrs column.

The conference elected a presidium consisting of Samar Mukherjee, M K Pandhe, Dilip Muzumdar, K K Tripathi and P K Mukherjee to conduct the deliberations of the Conference.

While welcoming the delegates S. Mudali, Chairman, Reception Committee traced the role played by the people of Orissa during the freedom struggle conducted by the Rourkela steel workers under the banner of Steel Employees Trade Unions, Rourkela.

B. T. Ranadive, President, CITU then inaugurated the conference. While welcoming the growing unity among the steel workers BTR emphasised the need for strengthening the unity. He however pointed out that the membership of the unions did not show any increase or in some cases it showed even a decline. Elaborating the point he said, "The reason for this organisational set back or stagnation has to be ascertained. One reason may be that the unions

failed to develop rapport with newly recruited and younger elements who in the course of three or four years formed a considerable part of the work force. Besides, our unions in my opinion do not go beyond the routinised and traditional methods of union work as agitation and do not find new ways of approach, do not keep live contacts with the workers at his place of residence or cater to various other activities and demands of the workers which are not necessarily connected with the management. In any case this lag is creating a serious danger to our movement and upstart leaders take possession of workers in weaker states exploiting some immediate grievances" He criticised the government's policy towards running the public sector which was inefficient and corrupt and called for more positive role for the workers. He further condemned the role of the IMF and the World Bank for pressurising the Govt. of India to strengthen the private sector. BTR reviewed the national and international situation and criticised the new economic policies of Rajiv Gandhi government. He also highlighted the growing US conspiracies in the world against mankind and for instigating a nuclear world war. He praised the role played by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries in defending world peace. Pointing out the imperialist help to the divisive forces in the country he called upon the steel workers to fight against these conspiracies so that the unity of the country can be preserved.

The conference adopted a condolence resolution of the departed leaders in the national and international sphere and delegates observed one minutes silence to pay homage to their memory.

Samar Mukherjee in his Presidential address pointed out the stagnant character of the steel indus-



BTR inaugurating SWFI Conference



Samar Mukherjee addressing

try in India and how it led to the general stagnation in the economy itself. He criticised the planning commission for not providing sufficient funds for the expansion of steel industry in the 7th Five Year Plan. Condemning the SAIL management for not implementing the wage agreement in full he called upon the steel workers to fight for full implementation of the agreement. Referring to the growing price rise in the country he blamed the inflationary policies of the govt. of India. Growing unemployment and poverty will ultimately bring all sections of the toiling masses together, he observed.

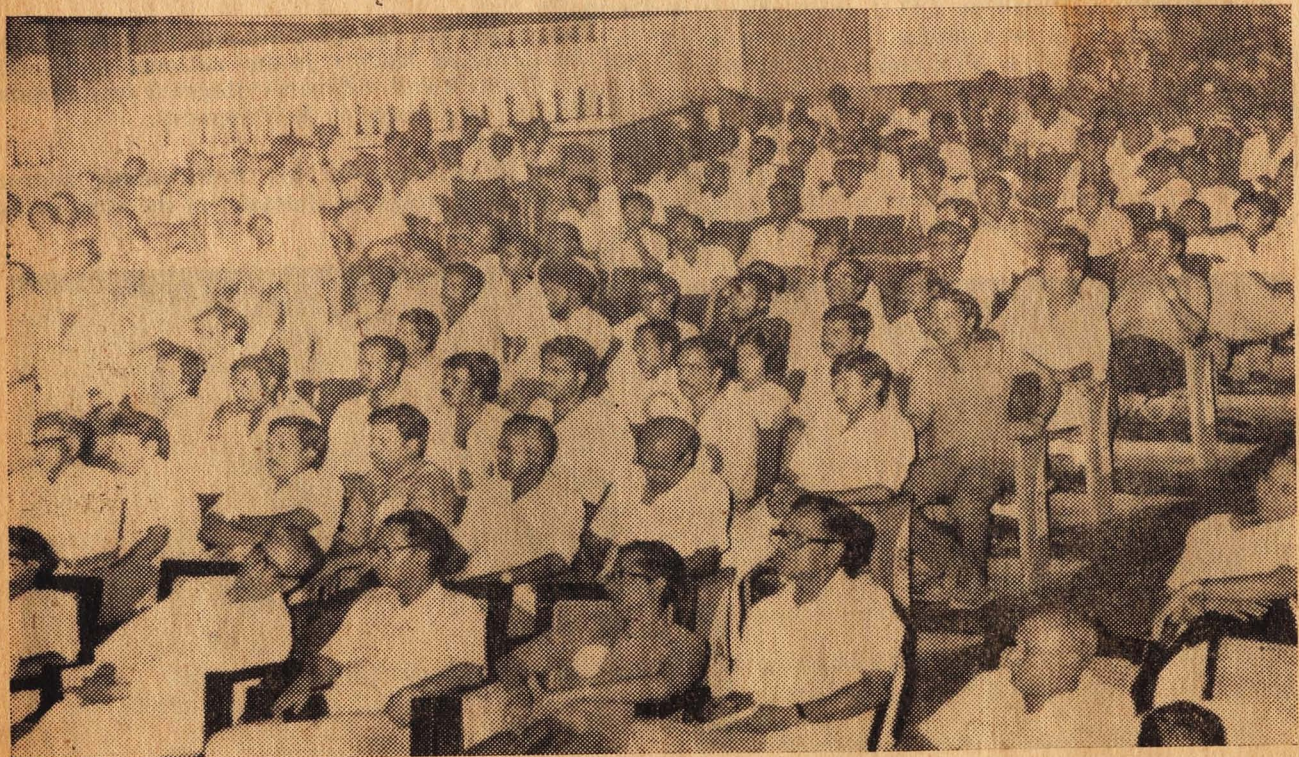
Jibon Roy, General Secretary SWFI submitted a General Report reviewing the conditions in steel industry and pointed out how the deepening of the economic crisis led to growing attacks on the workers. He reviewed the activities of the SWFI during the last 3 years and elaborated how the federation was consistently advocating the line of unity and struggle in defence of the steel workers. He referred to some of the organisational issues and observed that they can be overcome with the co-operation of all the activists. He pointed out the need for better co-ordination of the activities of higher committees.

Mrinal Banerjee Treasurer SWFI submitted audited statement of accounts of the last 3 years which was passed unanimously.

M.K. Pandhe, Vice-President of the SWFI criti-

cised the anti-labour policies of the SAIL management and underlined how they were responsible for low production and losses in steel industry. Criticising the Govt. scheme of workers' participation in management Pandhe noted that they do not give real powers to the workers. He asserted that there should be participation on the basis of equality and workers' representatives should not be nominated by the management but elected by the workers. He called upon the delegates to prepare for the next round of negotiations in steel industry so that attempts to clinch the pending issues can be made. 41 speakers participated in the debate on the General Secretary's report. They explained their experiences during the last 3 years in building united front activities. Several speakers emphasised the need for organising educational classes for the cadres and the workers. Women delegates and contract workers spoke about giving more importance to the activities in these two sections of employees. After reply from the General Secretary the Report was adopted unanimously. Shivaji Patnaik President, Orissa State Committee of CITU, B.C. Mahapatra, Rourkela Mazdoor Sabha (HMS) conveyed their greetings to the conference.

While the deliberations of the conference were going on the shocking news of passing away of Com. P Sundarayya was received. The federation flag was half mast by Samar Mukherjee. He also read out the telegram to be despatched to Vijayawada paying homage to the memory of the departed



SWFI Conference — A section of the delegate

leader. All the delegates stood in silence for one minute to express their heartfelt condolences.

The conference adopted a number of resolutions on war danger and struggle for peace, on 40th anniversary of victory over fascism, on govt. of India's new pro-monopoly capital and multinational policies, on ban on recruitment in public sector undertakings, on payment of bonus, on revised steel import canalisation policy, on environmental pollution and safety, on job reservation, on closed and sick units, on expansion of Durgapur, Alloy, Rourkela, Salem, IISCO and Vizag Steel Plants, on working women, on contract workers' problems, on organisation of workers in mini steel plants and employees of co-operatives in the steel industry, on demanding nationalisation of TISCO and other issues. All the resolutions were adopted unanimously.

Jyoti Basu, Vice President CITU and Chief Minister, West Bengal conveyed his greetings to the Conference on the concluding day. He dealt at length on the national situation and emphasised the need for the steel workers to play more important role in fighting the govt. of India's anti-people policies.



Jyoti Basu addressing the conference

The conference elected a new 50 member working Committee including the following office bearers: President — M K Pandhe, Working President — Dilip Muzumdar, Vice — Presidents — Bamapada Mukherjee, Ajit Mukherjee, T N Singh, P K Mukherjee and C N Narisingha Rao, General Secretary — J B Roy, Jt. General Secretary — A Dakshi, Secretaries — Mrinal Banerjee, Tapan Sen, N K Mohanty, D Bhattacharya, Nandiji Pandey and Jadav Prasad, Treasurer — Pranab Chakraborty.

A massive rally was held on 20th May evening

which was addressed by Jyoti Basu, Samar Mukherjee, M K Pandhe, Shivaji Patnaik, Jibon Roy and S Mudali.

Bokaro Solidarity Day

JIBON ROY, General Secretary, SWFI issued the following statement on April 22:

SWFI expresses its anguish and grave concern at the prolongation of strike at Bokaro Blast Furnace, which is continuing from 5th. April, as those in authority are showing little interest to come to an honourable and equitable settlement. On the contrary the management is trying to bulldodge the workers into submission by dismissing six workers.

The main demand of the workers are updating of incentive scheme and reorientation of manpower. Anybody even remotely connected with Steel Industry knows the laborious nature of jobs in the Blast Furnace area. In Bokaro technology the twin Cast House makes the task more arduous and leaves little scope for relief. There is a small detachment of 17 member crew with negligible member of higher grade workers. Naturally workers of Blast Furnace have been demanding for a longtime an equitable manpower deployment with adequate relief. Regarding incentive schemes the Steel Authority of India Ltd. committed itself in the last NJCS agreement to upgrade the incentive scheme by updating the prevalent 1974 pay scale linked money table to the up-to-date pay scale linked money table. But this commitment has not been honoured. As a result the Blast Furnace Workers have the frequent misfortune of earning no incentive at all.

The workers were agitating peacefully for a long-time. They were hoping against hope to come to a negotiated settlement. But all their arguments having fallen on a deaf ear, they had no other alternative but to strike. Already the entire Bokaro Steel Plant has observed one day's token strike on 17th. April, in support of these striking workers.

The SWFI is calling upon all sections of steel workers of our country to express the unequivocal support to the striking comrades of Bokaro Blast Furnace and observe 29th. April, 1985 as a Solidarity Day through demonstration. convention, leaflet distribution and protest telegrammes to Chairman, SAIL.

Revoke Illegal Break in Service : LRSA

SINCE the Supreme Court quashed the break-in-service order in one case, on the ground of natural justice, all the orders of break-in-service stood invalidated on the same ground. If the Government had least respect for law, it would have immediately cancelled all orders of break-in-service. According to the Railway Ministry the number of Loco Running staff on whom break in service has been inflicted is approximately 8000. They are facing serious hardships in consequence of break in service. As the Railway authorities were adamant not to condone it in any case, the affected staff took the shelter of law. More than one High Court ruled against Break-in-Service and finally came the Supreme Court decision.

But the authorities here are known for their scant respect for law. Vindictive Railway Administration, instead of accepting the principle upheld by the Supreme Court, taking advantage of technical-procedural position has filed special Leave Petition for appeal against High Court decision quashing break in service. One of LRSA's main campaigns is on the demand for revocation of the illegal break in service.

N.E. Rly.

On NE Rly., large number of Loco Running Staff is affected by break in service. According to a decision of the Zonal Working Committee the NE Rly. unit of LRSA had recently staged Dharna before Divisional Head Quarters of the Railway at Izatnagar, Samastipur, Sonapur, Varanasi and Lucknow. About 250 workers participated in Dharna.

S.E. Rly.

10th Annual General Meeting of the LRSA, Chakradhapur Division has been recently concluded. 76 delegates from different sheds in the division attended. The open session was addressed among others by T. Hanumaiah, Joint General Secretary, AILRSA. In this meeting revocation of break-in-service figured as a major demand.

E. Rly.

May Day was observed at Barkakana in Dhanbad Division unitedly by all trade union organisations belonging to different public and private sector industries in the area as well as the peasant organisations and women's organisations.

The May Day celebration programme was sponsored by P.C. Mitra memorial committee with the cooperation of Eastern Railwaymen's union Barkakana. The unprecedented unity reflected in the celebration roused enthusiasm among workers who assembled in large number to renew their pledge for emancipation.

DREU: ON TO 25th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Dakshin Railway Employees Union which inherits the tradition of glorious struggle and immense sacri-

fice the SIR Labour union once symbolised, is preparing for its 25th Annual conference, which will be held at Golden Rock on 3rd and 4th Aug. '85 a reception committee has been formed with T.K. Rangaranjan, Secretary, Tamilnadu State CITU, as Chairman.

K. Ananda Nambiar, President of the union expressed his confidence that the 25th conference will turn into a "mela" a great congregation of Railway workers and their families "in the martyrs place" "We must establish our old tradition" he said.

While massive fund collection issue for the success of the conference is on alongside, other preparatory works, the leaders of the union assert that sustained campaign and agitation in different from that is being carried on vital issues affecting the life of railwaymen as well as the national life are the real preparatory process to culminate in a successful conference. For example, Dharna was staged in March in all branches of the union in which several hundred railwaymen participated. Thousands of leaflets in Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam were distributed. The Working Committee of the union has decided in a recent meeting to carry forward the campaign on the burning issues of railwaymen. K.A. Nambiar, the President of the union has expressed his desire to "give a new look" to the office building owned by the union on the eve of this 25th Annual Conference.

Leader Valve Workers Struggle

A well attended rally was organised by the CITU unions at Jullundur on 7th May to express solidarity with the workers of Leader Valves Co. who have been relentlessly fighting against the gangster tactics adopted by the management. When the workers formed a CITU union in the last week of April and hoisted the red flag at the gate, the management with the help of hirelings removed the flag in the night. The workers therefore rehoisted the flag of the CITU and guarded it. The management again tried to attack the workers at the gate. The CITU workers were arrested under special Courts Act under non-bailable sections. However the workers observed May Day by holding a rally despite provocative steps by the management. The factory had AITUC union for the last 11 years, but this union did not raise any demand nor launched a struggle against the management. When the CITU formed a union and launched movement the AITUC issued a leaflet against CITU. Instead of condemning police repression the AITUC leaflet condemned the CITU.

The meeting was held under this atmosphere. It was addressed among others by M.K. Pandhe, Mangat Ram Pasla and G.S. Randhawa. The speakers called upon the workers to remain united and fight the repressive and gangster measures.

Seminar on Bhopal Gas Tragedy

IN an All-India Seminar on the Bhopal gas tragedy organised by Central Trade Unions, national federations and scientists' organisations on May 24 in New Delhi, various speakers, on the basis of irrefutable facts and data, pointed out how the multinational Union Carbide's profit motive and the criminal indifference to safety measures on the part of the Central and the State Governments have been responsible for this worst ever industrial tragedy in the world. The Seminar, through a unanimously adopted resolution, called upon the people to observe December 3 every year as Bhopal Day, on a countrywide scale, with the aim of rousing public opinion on various issues pertaining to industrial safety, health and environment. The Seminar also suggested to constitute a committee with the participating trade unions, employees' federations scientific and technological organisations represented on it. It was also suggested that a delegation consisting of representatives of these organisations be sent to Bhopal to assess the situation there as well as to evaluate the effectivity of relief and rehabilitation programmes being carried out. The resolution also pointed to the suspicious research activities in the R&D of the Union Carbide at Bhopal with the dangerous postulation of evaluation of MIC in chemical warfare.

The Seminar highlighted various political, industrial-technological, environmental and other questions which the Bhopal tragedy has raised to the people of the Third World countries. One speaker after another drew pointed attention to the perfidious activities of the multinational corporations in these countries which not only endanger public health and safety there but also undermine their political and economic independence and try to draw, them into the neo-colonial designs of the imperialist powers. The Seminar condemned in one voice the multinationals' calculated policy of keeping vital information out of the reach of the people, and asserted that it is the right of the people to have access to such information which is of crucial importance to their very lives. The Seminar called upon the people to unleash a strong movement against the nefarious games of the multinational corporations and their imperialist promoters.

Inaugurating the Seminar, P.N. Haksar described the Bhopal tragedy as an eyeopener which is not an isolated, nor a lone event. He also warned the people against taking the multinationals as synonymous with advanced technology and against the ongoing attempts to project them as a solution to the nation's problems of industrialisation and modernisation. He urged upon the people to ask themselves if technological collaboration strengthens our independence or weakens it and called upon individuals and organisations to powerfully intervene in the situation and keep themselves prepared to avert any such occurrences in the future.

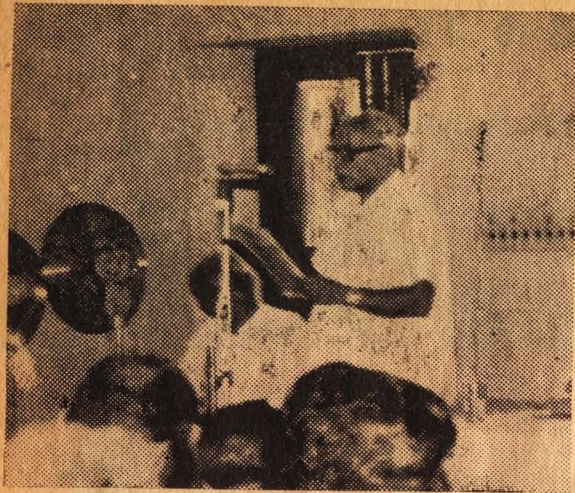


P.N. Haksar inaugurating the Seminar.

Dr. N.P. Gupta formerly of the ICMR, presided over the inaugural session which was addressed by Homi Daji (AITUC), Manohar Mehta (BMS), K.A. Khan (HMS), Amar Chakravarti (TUCC) Pratul Chowdhury (UTUC) Jaya Mala Devi (ITUC) and Samar Mukherjee (CITU). The technical sessions were conducted by a presidium consisting of Narsingha Chakrabarty (CITU); A.A. Siddiqui (HMS), Amal Dar Singh (BMS), J.S. Dara (ITUC), T.N. Siddhanta (AITUC), D.D. Shastri (TUCC) and Piyus Tirkey (UTUC).



N.P. Gupta addressing the Seminar



Samar Mukherjee delivering his speech.

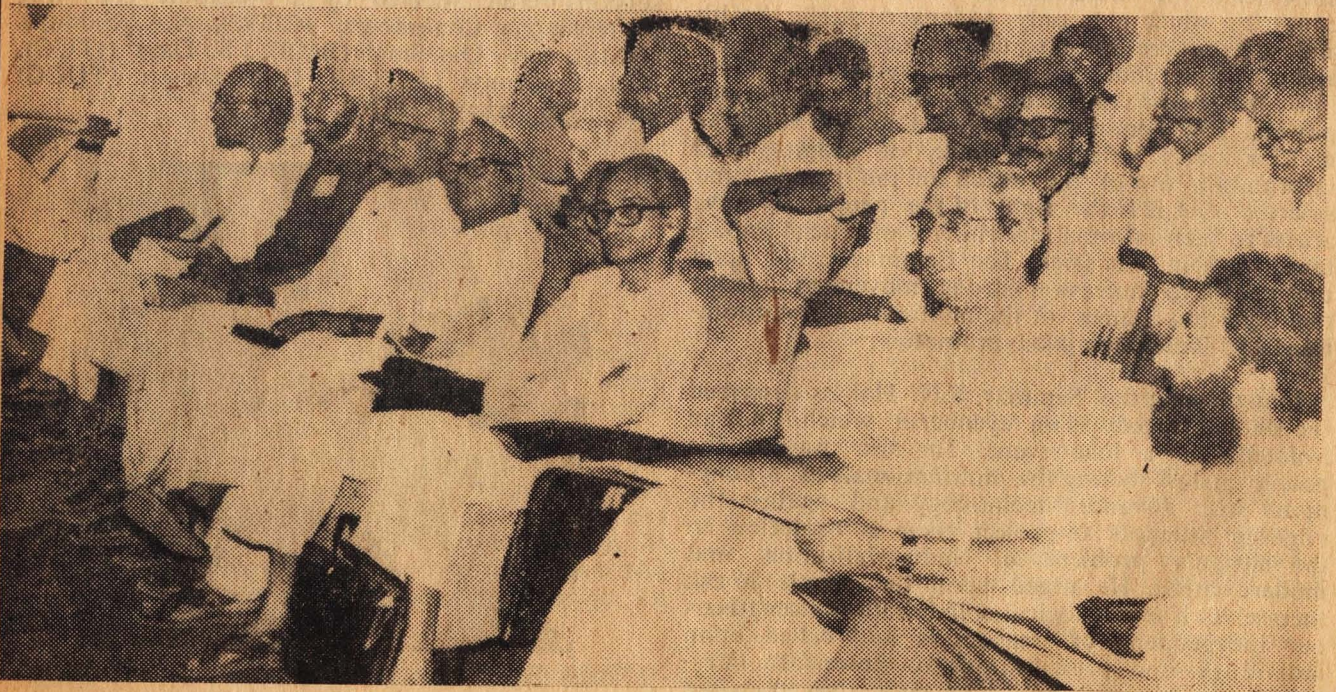
Calling upon the participants to make Delhi Seminar the beginning of a countrywide discussion on the subject Samar Mukherjee citing the Bhopal tragedy as a proof of the inevitable consequences of the multinational operations in the third world countries, pointed out that these monopolists have turned these countries into huge laboratories where they can make experiments with impunity about the effects of the chemicals, fertilizers and drugs which are harmful and banned in the West. The bourgeois landlord governments of most of these countries encourage them instead of restraining them, under imperialist pressure. ILO figures show that while in the developed capitalist countries there has been a 30 to 50 per cent decrease in the fatal

industrial accidents during the last two decades, there has been a manifold increase in such accidents in the third world countries over the same period, with 33,000 dying and 80 lakh getting serious injuries every year.

Further the multinationals have developed more than a thousand new chemicals every year in the Third World, in India more than 10,000 chemicals banned in the West are being dumped. Similar is the position with drugs where the multinationals monopolise 78 per cent of drug production in India.

The technical session of the Seminar discussed a paper on "Bhopal Tragedy and its lessons" presented by Dinesh Abrol of Delhi Science Forum. Immediately after the gas tragedy took place in Bhopal, the Delhi Science Forum had sent an investigating team of its scientist members which had conducted a detailed investigation into the accident and produced a comprehensive report on various aspects of the tragedy which were widely disseminated among the public. Abrol highlighted various economic, political, scientific, technological and administrative aspects of the operation of Union Carbide's Bhopal Plant and compared it with that of its parent corporation in West Virginia, pointing out the double standards being followed in the USA and India.

Dr. Meera Seva of the Voluntary Health Association detailed the various health problems which have arisen in the aftermath of the Bhopal tragedy. She pointed out how the Union Carbide management had tried to conceal the fact that the gas contained the fatal MIC thus contributing to the loss



A Section of the delegates

of so many valuable lives which could have been saved by using Sodium Thiosulphate. Even today the gas victims are again and again falling prey to various diseases while at the same time the long-term effects of the gas have started manifesting themselves. The governmental relief and assistance were, Dr. Meera stated, quite inadequate to face this massive challenge.

Dr. Harendra Agrawal of Madhya Pradesh Vigyan Sabha who has been active in relief work as a doctor and a social worker, pointed out that some of the effects of the tragedy still coming to light are going to be permanent. Yet, the Government by and large is scuttling whatever relief, free rations and ad hoc assistance it had announced for the victims and their families. He also raised the question of rehabilitation and re-employment of these victims to save them from starvation.

D.N. Sharma, on behalf of the ILO reported on the endeavours being made by the organisation towards industrial and environmental safety.

Vivek Montiero of the Mumbai Shramik Sangh (CITU) exposed the pro-management bias of the existing safety rules and regulations, and narrated the health problems of the workers from other industries. He also demanded that safety rules and regulations be given a pro-working class orientation, and that health inspectors deputed in the factories be invested with more powers to overcome the indifference and resistance of the owners.

Amitabha Guha of the Federation of Medical Representatives Association of India dealt with the 1968 Act related to pesticides (amended twice in 1972 and 1977) and its loopholes, defects and the scope it provides to multinationals for manipulations. Despite the Government's knowledge that some of the pesticides have been banned, the new EXIM policy has included them in the Open General License list.

Hardev Singh of the All-India Lawyers' Union discussed the legal aspects of the Bhopal tragedy. He condemned the Government for monopolising the right of petitioning writs on behalf of the victims and told that the way the appeal for compensation was submitted in the Manhattan Court is simply ridiculous. As the tragedy occurred within the national boundaries of India and in a plant set up in India, and since the victims are all Indians, submitting an appeal in a foreign court is tantamount to relinquishing India's sovereignty. Before this, P.K. Ganguly read out a published paper sent by Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer.

Dr. Iqbal of the Kerala Shastra Sahitya Parishad gave a slide show in the mass mobilisation campaign going on in Kerala against the Bhopal accident and the multinationals exploitations.

C.P. Jeevan of the Delhi Science Forum lauded the role of trade unions and public opinion in the

West in forcing the multinationals to undertake effective safety measures, and called upon the people of the Third World countries to emulate the example.

Sanjay Baru, of the Economic Centre at JNU highlighted the role of multinational corporations and their subsidiaries as instruments of imperialists in their bid to establish neo-colonial domination in the world. He asked the people to remain vigilant against the international division of labour which the imperialist powers are striving to achieve, as their motive is to catch the under developed countries in the imperialist net of independence.

J.S. Majumdar of FMRAI criticised the Government's policy of promoting the 'Green Revolution' through dependence on multinational corporations which is leading to disasters like Bhopal. He demanded radical, pro-peasant, pro-consumer changes in the agrarian policy of the Government and also cautioned against imperialist interventions and black-mailing tactics.

Bidyut Ganguli of All-India Chemical and Pharmaceutical Employees' Federation spoke on multinationals and chemical warfare. A.A. Siddiqui of HMS, Delhi, and H. Bishwas of BMS' also spoke on industrial and public safety in the Seminar. Sukomal Sen, M.P. also submitted a paper on multinationals, but could not attend the seminar because of illness.

On the basis of various papers read in the Seminar and the discussions that followed, a resolution was placed by P.K. Ganguly and seconded by R.K. Bhakt which demanded adequate relief to and rehabilitation along with re-employment of the victims, confiscation of all assets of the Union Carbide, proper and pro-people changes in the existing legislation pertaining to factory, safety, environmental and compensation, etc., and a machinery to widely disseminate relevant informations to the public along with recognition of the people's right to know.



P.K. Ganguly placing the resolution

All India Day Against Lockout, Closure, Retrenchment and Denotification

IN terms of the decision of the NCC held on April 4, 15th May was observed throughout the country as an All India Day Against Lock-out, Closure, Retrenchment and Denotification.

In Delhi as Section 144 was imposed in the wake of the bomb blasts it was decided that a delegation should wait on the Union Labour Minister and hand over a memorandum. Accordingly a delegation consisting of Indrajit Gupta, T.N. Siddhanta (AITUC), Samar Mukherjee, Narsingha Chakraborty (CITU), Thankan Thomas (HMS), R.K. Mazumdar (TUCC) and Pratul Coowdhury (UTUC) met the Union Labour Minister on May 15 and handed over a memorandum. The delegation discussed the problems and called for stern action against the industrialists who render the undertakings sick. They also demanded that a Conference be called to discuss the problem. T. Anjaiah assured the delegation that appropriate steps would be taken by the Government.

The memorandum handed over to the Labour Minister is reproduced below.

"We, the undersigned representatives of Central Trade Union organisations, reiterate the grave concern of the workers and employees at the increasing incidence of so-called industrial sickness, lockouts and closures and tendency for denotification resulting in tens of thousands of workers thrown out of jobs.

According to official statistics, more than 80,000 industrial units, big and small, are closed on account of "sickness", besides lockouts and closures. The number is increasing every year by leaps and bounds. The number was only a little over 22,000 in December 1979.

We are enclosing herewith a copy of the resolution adopted at the All India Convention of workers and employees held in New Delhi on January 20, 1984 against closures, lockouts, industrial "sickness" and denotification. Since then, on the one hand, the situation has further aggravated and job security has been further endangered, and on the other no effective steps have been taken by the Government either for prevention, or for reopening of closed industrial units and establishments or for deterrent action against employers for malafide diversion of funds. For the last few years there has hardly been any case of takeover or nationalisation of closed industrial units. As a result, and also due to lack of any deterrent measures on the part of the Government as demanded by the workers, the employers feel emboldened to close industrial units at their sweet will.

We under the circumstances, reiterate our demand

for reopening of all closed mills and establishments, if necessary nationalisation, and ensure protection of jobs of those employed. We are totally opposed to any idea of denotification which amounts to object surrender to the whims and malpractices of the employers.

We have also been demanding that certain traditional industries with high level of employment like cotton textiles, and jute should be nationalised in the interest of growth of these industries as well as in the interest of the workers and consumers.

The National Campaign Committee of Central Trade Unions gave a call to observe 15th May 1985 as an all-India day of protest against lock-outs, closures "sickness" etc. Accordingly the Day is being observed all over the country, in state capitals and industrial centres. In this context we are submitting this memorandum to you for necessary action.

We hope the Government will appreciate the gravity of the situation and effective steps will be taken to meet it."

The NCC met again on May 22 along with the national federations and decided to mobilise broad sections of workers through state level conventions to be completed by August. Thereafter another All India convention may be called to chalk out further action programmes.

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Conference of Insurance Employees

THE XII General Conference of the All India Insurance Employees' Association concluded its session on April 19 at Indore with an Open Session preceded by a mammoth procession.

The Conference attended by around 1000 delegates and observers representing LIC and GIC, from different parts of the country, took several decisions concerning not only LIC and GIC employees in the country, but also the general masses of the toiling people. The Conference while hailing the conclusion of the settlement on wages in LIC as a great achievement, considering the quantum of 21 per cent increase achieved as also considering the fact that this could be attained with the employees being deprived of their collective bargaining rights under law, cautioned the employees that following the recent Budget proposals of the Central Government, prices are bound to spurt up in an unprecedented manner and whatever advance could be secured through wage revision already stand eroded.

The Conference took satisfaction in the fact of the proposal to split the LIC being shelved by the Government and considered this as the successful culmination of three-year long campaign and struggle of the LIC employees which helped to galvanise public opinion against the ill-conceived measure.

The Conference called upon the management of the LIC to refrain from introducing micro-processors in the branch offices of LIC and demanded that no jobs other than those already mechanised should be transferred to the micro-processors. In GIC also, the Conference deplored the attempt of the management to combine the question of micro-processors with the question of wage rise and expressed its opposition to introduction of these machines.

The Conference noted that the question of wage revision has remained pending for an unduly long period in the GIC and demanded immediate negotiations on the Charter of Demands and settlement across the table.

The Conference appealed to the LIC and GIC employees to further improve the image of the nationalised industries by devoting themselves to the task of policyholders' servicing so that they are helped in all possible ways and a better image of the nationalised industries is projected. The Conference was well aware of the impediments in this regard created by the management through administrative bottlenecks and unimaginative policies which hampered the efforts of the employees in this direction. The Conference demanded of the Government that the policyholders' savings which are invested as per the Government's policy should earn more interest commensurate with the rate of earnings of other public sector and socially oriented financial

institutions. In the matter of valuation, the Conference noted that the actual experience in regard to mortality and interest earned and were not being taken into account by the management, who persist in artificially depressing the positive trends on these counts so as to deprive the policyholders of increased bonus. The Conference cautioned the LIC management and the Government that unless insurance is made more attractive providing for sufficient cushion against inflation and made competitive in relation to other savings media, public sector Life insurance would ultimately suffer. The policy of the Government and the management were proving to be counter-productive and has caused resentment among the public. While calling upon the Government and the management to set right the lacunae in this regard for providing improvements in benefits to policyholders, the Conference called upon the employees to organise a campaign on behalf of the policyholders so that their legitimate grievances are remedied.

The Conference noted with serious concern the fissiparous tendencies that are raising their heads in different parts of the country in the name of regional, communal and caste sentiments. The Conference pinpointed the happenings in Punjab, Assam and Gujarat and emphasised the need for the trade union and democratic movement to unite and fight these tendencies which are but the handiwork of the ruling classes in the country, as well as the imperialists abroad.

The Conference elected Chandrasekhar Bose as President and Saroj Chaudhuri as General Secretary.

The Open Session was addressed by Sunil Maitra, Vice-President and N M Sundaram, R Santhanam, R P Manchanda and Shanti Bhattacharya, Joint Secretaries of the Association.

Meeting on Workers' Participation in Management

THE long due second tripartite meeting on workers' participation in management was held at Shram Shakti Bhavan, New Delhi on May 21. P.K. Ganguly, Secretary represented CITU in the meeting. For the first time since introduction of the scheme in December 1983, the Labour Minister presided over the meeting. In his address, T. Anjaiah, the Labour Minister claimed success of the scheme since its introduction and emphasised its importance to stop or minimise the incidence of closures, lock-outs and industrial sickness on one hand and increase in productivity on the other. He sought cooperation of the workers in this respect. The representatives of several ministries like Chemicals and Fertilisers, Steel, Heavy industries, Textiles and Power reported that the scheme was being successfully implemented in their ministries. However, they

(Contd. on page 20)

AROUND THE STATES

TAMIL NADU

Textile Workers to Strike

More than 1.5 lakhs of Textile workers in Tamilnadu have decided to go on strike in support of their charter of demands. This decision to go on indefinite strike was taken at the State level meeting of representatives of all Textile workers' unions in the State, on 4th May, at Coimbatore. The meeting was attended by unions affiliated to CITU, AITUC, INTUC, HMS, TNTUC (JANATHA), LDF (LMK), and ATP (AIADMK) and some independent unions in Madurai and Thirunelveli districts. Wage settlement of the Textile workers in the State had expired by 16th July 1984. Though the South Indian Mills Association (SIMA) called the unions for some discussions they were not coming forth with any suggestion for wage increase. On the other hand SIMA gave a counter charter to the unions on 28.1.85. In addition, SIMA started a campaign on 'Textile Crisis'.

Lockout in Ashok Leyland

Ashok Leyland's Hosur unit, has declared 'suspension of manufacturing' process from 31st March, throwing more than 1500 workers out of job. This illegal action of the management was aimed at pressuring the workers to accept increased production. Workers in this unit of Ashok Leyland have been struggling for the last four years on various demands. Though the CITU union was always the majority union, the management was refusing to hold negotiations with the CITU union. They had 'recognised' the union led by R. Kuchelar, which never had more than 150 members. After two weeks' successful strike in 1984, which the recognised union tried to break but failed miserably, the management had agreed to confirm casual workers and also to hold negotiations with the CITU union on wage demands. After prolonged discussions in the presence of Labour Department officials, the management had agreed to give an increase of Rs. 160 in wages and Rs. 100/- as incentive for what was agreed to as 50 per cent production increase. But when the settlement was being finalised, the management wanted the union to agree to give 75 per cent production within 3 months, which the union refused to accept. It was at this stage, the 'stoppage of manufacturing process' was announced to pressurise the workers to accept the increase in production. Workers are firmly conducting the struggle. Many processions and meetings have been conducted. Solidarity actions by other CITU unions in Hosur had been conducted. The union led by Kuchelar tried its best to disrupt the resistance of the workers with false propaganda against the leadership but the

young workers are prepared to show to the management and its agents that their unity can not be disrupted and they are firm under the banner of CITU.

KERALA

Conference of NGO Union

The 22nd Annual State Conference of the Kerala N.G.O. Union was held on 10th to 12th, May at Com. Arabinda Ghosh Nagar (Mohamedan High School), Alleppey. It was attended by 600 delegates including 100 women.

The Delegates session was inaugurated by E. Balanandan, Treasurer, CITU. In his inaugural address Balanandan explained the international and national situation which affected workers and common people and called upon the employees to expose the war mongering imperialists and step up the struggle for peace and against the danger of nuclear war. He also stressed for united fight against the anti-people and pro-monopolist policies of the new regime at the Centre. He criticised the new budgets of both the Central and State Governments which hit hard the working class and the common people and emphasised the need for forging broad unity of the entire employees and workers to put up stiff fight against the attacks of the ruling classes.

After the inaugural session T.K. Balan, General Secretary presented the General Secretary's Report which elaborated the international and national situations and the problems faced by Govt. employees and the tasks of the working class in defence of the interests of the employees, workers and the common people. The delegates actively participated in the discussion on this document.

On the 11th, E. Padmanabhan, MLA and former President of the Union and Zonal Secretary of AISGEF addressed the delegates. Besides other items, there was a symposium on the current topic of computerisation. V.K. Damodaran, Principal Scientific Officer of the State Institute of Science & Technology moved the paper on the subject 'Computerisation of Indian Situation' K.N. Ravindra Nath (General Secretary, CITU State Committee), J. Chitharanjan (General Secretary, State AITUC), K. Pankajakshan, MLA (UTUC) and S. Varadarajan Nair (President, INTUC-S) and R. Raghavan Pillai, General Secretary, LIC Employees Union participated in the symposium. All the participants vehemently criticised the policy of Government of India to implement new computerisation policy and mechanisation.

After the symposium was over, P. Anandan, Secretary moved the programme resolution on the following demands: To arrest price rise and strengthen public distribution system; To implement recommendations of pay commission assuring minimum benefit with effect from 1-7-'85; To sanction Dearness Allowance; To sanction minimum bonus;

To give up new computerisation policy and to withdraw anti-labour enactments and to stop victimisation.

On 12th morning, Sukomal Sen, M.P. General Secretary, AISGEF addressed the delegates. He criticized the pro-capitalist policy of the new Prime Minister giving more importance to private sector. He opposed the green signals given to multi-nationals on the context of Bhopal tragedy. He said most of the demands of the State Government Employees are yet to be achieved. The Government at the Centre was ignoring the demand for fiscal assistance to the State Governments. AISGEF have chalked out country wide agitations to pursue the pressing demands of the employees. He called upon the delegates to forge unity and rally with working class and the toiling masses to overcome the crisis. M.R. Appan, General Secretary, Tamilnadu Government Employees Association, Krishnamoorthy representing Karnataka State Govt. Employees, Suseela Gopalan, General Secretary, Working Women's Co-ordination Committee and K.R. Gowri (MLA) and Chairman, reception committee also greeted the delegates.

Strike by Motor Transport Workers

Motor transport workers other than employees of private bus transport went on a token strike on April 25. About 2 lakh workers in Kerala employed in 30,966 heavy trucks, 2,292 light vehicles including three wheelers, 11,735 stage carriers, 1912 tractors, 2006 tractor/trailors, 942 tillers, around 1000 tanker lorries and 17,724 auto-rickshaws struck work. The call for strike was given by CITU led Kerala State Motor Transport Workers Co-ordination Committee, which had raised demands for statutory provision to give effect to the revision of wages and other conditions of lorry transport workers as recommended by the tripartite committee appointed by the state Govt. Other demands included revision of wages and conditions of service of workers employed in taxis, auto-rickshaws, mini lorries, tempo vans, tractor carriers, station wagons, tanker lorries, trailers, etc., scientific and cost-based refixing of taxi-auto/rickshaw charge, financial help in the case of accident injury to workers and establishment of Welfare Fund for motor transport workers. In this CITU led strike, unions belonging to INTUC, AITUC, BMS and STU in Cannanore District and UTUC and AITUC in Quilon Dist. also participated. Other unions which co-operated were INTUC, BMS, AITUC, and STU in Kozhikode Dist., AITUC and STU in Malappuram District and INTUC and AITUC in Kottayam District. In the Districts of Pathanamthitta, Wynad, Ernakulam, Idukki and Alleppey, workers belonging to various trade unions fully co-operated in the strike.

The Convenor of the Kerala Motor Transport Workers' Co-ordination Committee (CITU), T.M. Mohamed greeted the workers who strived to make the strike a grand success.

KARNATAKA

State CITU Meeting

The CITU State Committee met at Hassan on May 11 and 12 under the presidentship of Suryanarayana Rao. The meeting decided to hold a state level convention of workers covered by the Minimum Wages Act at Bangalore on June 16. It decided to conduct statewide campaign on the demands contained in the memorandum submitted to the Labour Minister on April 30. The campaign would start from June 24 in preparation for a strike and picketing on July 10. The meeting also decided to hold State Council meeting at Hubli on July 2 and 3. It also adopted resolutions on war and peace, the central budget, on the problems of the workers in textile, sugar, tile, Kolar Goad Fields, Suri and Nayyar (S&A), Karnataka Implements Factory at Hassan, condemning repression at Bharathi, Coffee Curing Works at Hasan, against police atrocities at Kunigal, against computerisation, opposing handing over of VISIL (Bhadravati Steel Plant) to Tatas and demanding safety measures and devices in factories.

There was a procession of plantation and coffee curing workers and a public meeting at Jubilee Park Maidan on April 28 which was addressed by Suryanarayan Rao, D. Nanjundappa, N.K. Upadhyaya, V.J.K. Nair and Mohd. Dastagir.

ORISSA

State Council Meeting

The State Council of CITU met at Paradip on May 11 under the Presidentship of Shivaji Patnaik. M.K. Pandhe, Secretary, CITU guided the deliberations and spoke on the recent development in trade union movement and the National Campaign Committee. It was decided to observe May 15 against closures and lockouts, as per the call given by the N.C.C. A state Convention will be held in August, either at Cuttack or at Bhubaneswar. The meeting decided to hold two T.U. classes and another for comrades working in electricity at Gopalpur on July 13 and 14. The meeting also discussed the various struggle and decided to hold a dharna and demonstration before the State Assembly on the struggle of BTM workers. It also decided to step up struggle against the retrenchment in Purnapani. The next meeting of the office bearers will be held at Bhubaneswar on June 9.

DELHI

Murderous Attack on CITU Leader

The President of the CITU affiliated Textile Mill Mazdoor Singh, Modi Nagar, Inder Pal was attacked with knives, daggers etc. on May 12 in his house by the goondas of the Modis. His wife was murdered by these goondas when she tried to save the life of her husband. Inder Pal has been admitted in Mohan Nagar Hospital in a critical condition. These goondas of Modis acted in collusion with the Police. The CITU union alongwith HMS and some other organisations gave a call for indefinite strike in

Textile Mills from May 13 and also for Modi Nagar Bandh on the day. The CITU Ghaziabad District Committee has called upon the workers of Ghaziabad to observe general strike on the day in support of the textile workers of Modi Nagar. The Police and the administration have let loose a reign of terror in Modi Nagar for some time by converting the entire city into a police camp in order to demoralise the workers and keep them away from the strike. The Police arrested Inder Pal on May 11 and released him later. The police raided the quarters of many workers in the night in Davendra Puri, a workers' colony. The Police also lathi charged the workers in their quarters after 11 P.M. In search of Inder Pal they also raided the house of Mam Chand Sharma, an employee of Modi Nagar Hydel power station.

The Delhi State Committee of CITU strongly condemned this cowardly act of the goondas of Modis. The CITU also condemned the Police collusion in this act of violence and demanded that the murderers should immediately be arrested and police officers guilty of collusion be suspended, and the police should be removed from the workers' colonies and mill gates.

MAHARASHTRA

CITU Assails State Labour Policy

The present labour situation was a matter of serious discussion in a meeting convened on 8th April by B.G. Deshmukh, Chief Secretary to the Government of Maharashtra, in the Mantralaya Conference Room. The CITU was represented by Prabhakar Sanzgiri, General Secretary, K.L. Bajaj and P.R. Krishnan, both Secretaries of the Maharashtra Committee. The CITU representatives assailed the labour policies of the Maharashtra Government and demanded immediate convening of the State Tripartite Industrial Relations Advisory Committee meeting. They demanded immediate scrapping of the Bombay Industrial Relations (BIR) Act and the Maharashtra Recognition of Trade Unions and Prevention of Unfair Labour Practices (MRTU & PULP) Act and called for the representative character of the trade unions to be decided through secret ballots. They voiced concern over the increasing industrial accidents in factories and mills in Bombay and other places in Maharashtra and demanded speedy measures to prevent them. They protested against the policy of employment of contract labour even in Government departments, against giving encouragement to industrial employers in engaging unorganised labour to do contract work in factories and establishment. They wanted industrial pollution to be prevented by taking appropriate action against the employers. They condemned the policy of the Government in utilising the police in labour matters. They cited the example of West Bengal and Tripura where the Left Front Governments have adopted a policy of no police interference in labour disputes. They cited several examples of indiscriminate closures, retrenchments, and lockouts by the employers, which rendered thousands of workmen

unemployed and the Government policy of giving all help to employers in continuing their business in clandestine manner. In this connection, they pointed out that during the last 3 years alone more than 300 units have been closed down in and around Bombay alone rendering 25,000 workmen unemployed. The case of Kanak Industries where more than 800 female workers have been thrown on the street from May 1983, needed special mention in this connection. They further pointed out that the minimum wages notified for different scheduled employments were not being revised since long and therefore demanded their revision after every 3 years. In this connection they stressed for proportionate representation in the committees.

The representatives of all the labour organisations who spoke in the meeting were unanimous that the policies of the State Government were anti-labour and that the labour machinery in the State was either ineffective or working to the detriment of labour interest.

(Contd. from page 17)

were experiencing difficulties in getting the cooperation of workers with respect to their representation. Many of them advocated for a statute in this respect.

Commenting on the implementation of the scheme, the INTUC representative while expressing satisfaction over the scheme wanted democratisation of the decision-making. He pleaded for a statute to authorise the recognised unions to nominate their representatives in the forum. Some other trade unions also supported his view. While welcoming the presence of the Labour Minister for the first time in the tripartite meeting, P.K. Ganguly agreed with his view that genuine implementation of the scheme would certainly stop or minimise the incidence of closures, lockouts and industrial sickness. He also supported the view of INTUC that there should be democratisation of decision-making. But before that, he emphasised, there should be democratisation of the mode of representation, that is through secret ballot, which was the basis on which genuine implementation of the scheme depended along with democratisation of decision making. He briefed the CITU's view which was being hammered in all the previous meetings that CITU workers were prepared to take the responsibility of management of industries based on the above line which only would ensure genuine participation of workers in the management. The fact that there was increasing incidence of closures, lockouts and sickness proved that there was no genuine participation of workers. The reports placed by the ministries were contradictory in nature and incorrect. He also stressed for representation of workers at the Board level too. His view was supported by AITUC. The meeting however could not arrive at any conclusive decision and it was decided that the discussions would continue in the next meeting which was tentatively fixed to be held in July.

Tamilnadu Co-ordination Committee Meets

TAMILNADU Working Women's Co-ordination Committee met on 14th March 1985 at Madras. All India W.W.C.C. Secretary Com. Vimal Ranadive and State CITU Secretariat members Com. Umanath and A.K. Padmanabhan attended the meeting. Committee members from 4 districts, namely from Madras, Trichi, North Arcot and Ramnad districts attended. Com. Papa from Ramnad district reported that in Virudhunagar 182 women working in Nutrition food scheme organised a conference to discuss and focus their problems in the scheme, which was managed by the Madras government. Com. Savithri on behalf of the W.W.C.C. greeted the conference. She was nominated as one of the committee members on the committee. Com. Papa posed a problem, as to how to organise the women workers in Match and crackers factories. There were many women who involved themselves in breaking of Thurdal. The working ladies are facing many problems. How to approach and organise is the question.

Com. Hema, Chandra and Vasugi reported about the conferences at 7 places in Tiruchi. They conducted the launch hour meeting at E.B. and other places and reported about the conference. At BHEL the women employees' demand is for creche facility. But at the same time it is difficult to organise them. The demand for working women's hostel some how mooted up and they are in the way to establish one such hostel. But the demand for the creche has not been taken shape. The union of the BHEL should be firm in putting forth this demand before management where there are 500 ladies employed. The demand is just and the union should actively take up the matter. Com. Vimal also gave her suggestion that if the demand comes through union to All India Coordination Committee, they will take up the matter from the centre. In BHEL widows employees were given jobs at the Welfare Centre. In that centre they faced many problems. In handloom and Beedi, many women were working, and they were facing lot of problems.

Com. Savithri from North Arcot reported about the activities on women. Regarding the working women's hostel and creche the correspondence is going on with Social Welfare Board.

She reported about the event in connection with the Vellore Telephone Exchange. A group of people with a view to spoil the name of the working women, put their names in the notice board pairing with men employees. WWCC intervened and a petition was given to A.E. to take serious note of the matter and conduct the enquiries. The Telephone women observed one day Dharna also. Management after conducting the enquiry transferred the

6 operators and 2 Ayas. In postal department union women are in the office bearers post.

Gowri reported about the activities at many places in Madras and about the state conference. When en-mass transfer took place at E.B. affecting the working women, W.W.C.C. presented a petition to the Chief Secretary. In connection with the Nutrition food scheme, Co-ordination Committee is associated with one forum or the other. She also reported that there are bright chances to form coordination committees at Guindy, Pallavaram and Leather company and at Ambattur, where many factories are located. CITU has to help to form such committees.

To conduct Committee meeting the working timings of labour class and middle class is not suitable. In connection with Sindhanai, only Madras district has got large subscription for about 1000 copies. Com. Saraswathi spoke about the functioning of WWCC. Com. Savithri of North Arcot also participated in the discussion. Com. Mythily gave the suggestion that, they can have W.W.C.C. in each industrial belt like Guindy and Ambattur, where there are no unions, by convincing the ladies that only CITU union can help to solve the women's problems. She also suggested that by way of concentrating in one area we can start functioning.

Com. Vimal Ranadive narrated various examples of the struggle launched by working women. Com. Umanath while summing up the discussion said working women come under working class. No history of trade union passes without participation of working women. So in the Working Class movement, involve the working women to make understand that they are part and parcel of the working class. So here comes the class consciousness. This is the central point. They belong to same working class with different sectors — organised as well as unorganised etc. and the approach is also different, according to the problem and the type of Industry. In unorganised sector of Industry where T.U. is not there, how can we build up working class unity. So first and foremost duty before us is to form trade unions.

CITU stands for Socialism. For this, we have to build up a class consciousness by uniting the working class with peasantry. Such a kind of unity could be possible on the basis of economic demands. To achieve this great task before us we have to organise the working women. First we have to unionise them.

In an industry many unions may be there but many are not members of any union. Even where CITU Union exists, there also CITU may not be in

a position to unionise women. In middle class employees such as central Government and State Govt. where other unions are there W.W.C.C. has its purpose to function. Following are the tasks before us:

1. To bring working women in the T.U movement. In an unorganised sector CITU should directly involve the workers and coordination committee has its own responsibilities.

2. At the time of forming TU policies, working women also should participate;

3. Women should be promoted to TU leadership.

4. As women, they are facing some special problems, those should be taken up and fought for.

5. At the time of retrenchment, the burden falls on women only. So women have to pressurise the TU to take up such problems.

6. Apart from other demands like creche, for rest room facilities also WWCC should represent.

In an unorganised sector, once you form a union, victimisation is more, but we have no other alternative. Without unionising such a sector we cannot achieve the working class unity. With this broad perspective WWCC has to function.

Com. Umanath replied to the queries by saying that WWCC could be activated by activating CITU in that area. If CITU is not active then WWCC has to take the initiative to organise the women's meetings. He told that rather men talking about the women's problem if women talk about their problems at the gate meetings, that will have its own way of appealing the women.

Following are the Committee's Decisions :

1. District Committees should organise the meetings and activate the District units. Presently, the existing DC's could be activated before 30th April.

2. It was decided to conduct a convention for the women in organised sector in August '85 at Com-batore and Madurai.

3. To increase the sale of Sindanai and 'Voice of The Working Women', the DCs has to decide the quota.

4. June 1st International Children Day should be observed with DWA and CITU. The way of observance should be decided by the DC.

5. District Committee should send periodical report to the Centre, about the Working Women's movement. And the same should be consolidated and reported to all over India.

Consumer Price Index Numbers

(Base 1960)

State/Centre	Dec. 1984	Jan. 1985	Feb. 1985								
				Bangalore	648	648	653	Coonoor	664	670	664
				Chikamagalur	590	595	599	Madurai	638	631	630
				Kolar G.F.	694	593	589	U.P.			
Andhra Pradesh				Kerala				Kanpur	558	563	558
Gudur	530	531	533	Alleppey	659	672	664	Saharanpur	582	585	558
Guntur	635	638	630	Alwaye	637	643	638	Varanasi	661	657	653
Hyderabad	603	595	589	Mundakayam	588	606	584	West Bengal			
Assam				Madhya Pradesh				Asansol	576	581	579
Digboi	583	578	579	Balaghat	607	592	588	Calcutta	577	574	566
Doom Dooma	473	468	457	Bhopal	625	623	619	Darjeeling	489	482	481
Labac	465	478	480	Gwalior	584	582	573	Howrah	538	529	524
Mariani	512	513	512	Indore	606	608	600	Jalpaiguri	485	481	483
Rangapara	510	497	494	Maharashtra				Raniganj	511	504	598
Bihar				Bombay	612	613	614	Delhi Territory	598	600	600
Jamshedpur	529	525	525	Nagpur	614	610	608	Other Centres			
Jharia	521	515	513	Sholapur	625	623	615	Berhampur ('49)	861	847	812
Kodarma	584	581	581	Orissa				Cuttack ('49)	792	786	790
Monghyr	581	587	593	Barbil	552	552	545	Jabalpur ('49)	772	774	773
Noamundi	523	518	517	Sambalpur	598	593	513	Beawar ('51-52)	681	689	679
Gujarat				Punjab				Tripura ('61)	527	541	540
Ahmedabad	573	572	567	Amritsar	580	586	591	H.P. ('65)	425	427	425
Bhavanagar	593	588	588	Rajasthan				Goa ('66)	438	441	444
Haryana				Ajmer	581	580	583	Bhilai ('66)	394	397	397
Yamunanagar	578	581	572	Jaipur	601	609	603	Bhilwara ('66)	343	346	346
J. & K.				Tamil Nadu				Chhindwara ('66)	310	309	308
Srinagar	611	613	617	Madras	593	595	594	Kothagudem ('66)	392	394	387
Karnataka				Coimbatore	639	641	643	Rourkela ('66)	390	386	385
Ammathi	612	607	604					All India ('60)	588	588	585

(Figures in bracket indicate base year)

Celebration of the 40th Anniversary in India

AT the call of CPI(M) and the CITU, the 40th Anniversary of the Victory of Hitlerite Fascism and Japanese Militarism was celebrated all over the country by demonstrations, rallies, meetings, conventions, etc. in a befitting manner. As per the programme, the celebration started from the May Day and continued on May 9, the Victory Day over fascism. The celebration acquired further importance by the presence of the five member delegation from the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, headed by A.S. Kapto, Alternate Member of the Central Committee of the CPSU, who arrived at New Delhi on May 1, at the invitation of CPI(M) to participate in the celebrations. The other members of the delegation were P.P. Tarutta who participated in the anti-fascist war, O.P. Plashev, A.I. Chicherov and A.N. Gulyaev. The CPSU delegation participated in the programmes in West Bengal from May 2 to 4, Madras on May 6, Coimbatore on May 7, Cochin on May 8 and at New Delhi on May 9. The following are the reports received so far:—

Delhi: The Delhi State Committee organised a big public meeting at Gandhi Memorial Hall on May 9. The hall overflowed its capacity by people from all walks of life. A photo exhibition of the anti-fascist war in Soviet Union, Poland, Yugoslavia and other countries was put up in the lobby of the hall. A guard of honour was given to the CPSU delegation and B.T. Ranadive by uniformed men and women volunteers. The "Parcham" demonstrated songs on peace against imperialist war threat. The meeting was presided over by B.T. Ranadive. Two minutes silence was observed at outset in the memory of those who laid down their lives in the war against fascism. Paying homage to the millions who lost their lives, BTR highlighted the unparalleled heroism and political skill of the CPSU leadership headed by Stalin and the red army who turned the tide in favour of freedom and socialism against heavy odds. He pointed out the dubious role played by USA and UK from the beginning of the rise of Hitlerite fascism till the end of the war trying to isolate the Soviet Union, even though they were in the allied powers against Hitler.

Analysing the role of the imperialists headed by USA since the end of the war to the present day, he warned against their policies which are aggravating tension and leading the world to the brink of a nuclear holocaust. Concluding his speech, BTR said "The experience of the Second World War, the agony and sufferings it entailed, the massacre of millions and the immense destruction it resulted in—all warn us to carry on a determined fight against the US imperialists, the present day war mongers, the successors of Hitler".

A.S. Kapto of CPSU in his speech appreciated the programmes taken in the country. He explained the danger of the war preparations by the USA and the peace initiatives taken by the Soviet Union. He reiterated the firm commitment of the Soviet Union and its people to defend peace and rally all democratic forces to achieve this goal. After the meeting BTR and Delhi State Committee presented mementos to the Soviet delegation. The function concluded with the screening of a film "Lessons of History" which depicted the heroic role of the red army and the people of the Soviet Union in the fight against Nazism and its complete rout. The function was attended by the diplomatic personnel from the embassies of Soviet Union, Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ambassadors of China, Vietnam and DPRK.

In the Rajya Sabha the same day, K. Mohanan, MP (CPI-M), paying homage to the martyrs of the war, said that the great victory over fascism will remain a most momentous event in history. It was the communists who led the battle to the rout of the fascist forces for the victory of the democratic forces, socialism and national liberation movement. The Indian bourgeois leaders and their spokesmen have been branding the communists as anti-national, but history has proved that the communists were correct and they paved the way for Indian independence also.

Kerala: The anniversary was observed throughout the state by meetings, rallies, seminars etc. The CPSU delegation visited Cochin on May 8 and participated in a Seminar witnessed a demonstration and also addressed a mass meeting at Rajendra Maidan in the evening. About 25,000 people consisting of industrial and agricultural workers, peasants and middle class employees assembled at the meeting. The delegation also visited the office of Deshabhamani and Chintha and addressed the comrades working there. The Seminars organised at the A.K. Gopalan Memorial Education and Research Centre at Cochin, Calicut and Trivandrum were participated by a number of intellectuals.

West Bengal: On May 2, a mass meeting was held at Baker Hall which was presided over by Manoranjan Roy, General Secretary of the W. Bengal State Committee of CITU. A guard of honour was presented to the CPSU delegates who attended the meeting. They were received by Saroj Mukherjee, Manoranjan Roy and Shyamal Chakraborty and 40 volunteers with 40 red flags standing on the both sides greeting the Soviet delegates. Greeting the delegates, Jyoti Basu, drew attention of the people to the conspiracies hatched by the US imperialists for a third world war and

called upon the working class to wage a determined struggle for peace to frustrate the imperialist conspiracies. Addressing the people, A.S. Kopto also appealed to build up united struggle for peace. On May 3, a mass meeting was held at Jadavpur organised by CITU, AIDWA, SFI, DYFI and other mass organisations. The meeting was addressed among others by P.P. Tarutta, Gopal Basu and Khudiram Bhattacharya. Two meetings were arranged on May 4 to greet the Soviet delegates at Netaji Nagar and at Rabindra Sadan. The speakers were A.S. Kopto, Jyoti Basu and Laksmi Sen among others. The celebrations continued in West Bengal and culminated at a public rally at Saheed Minar on May 8 and another public meeting at Gorki Sadan on May 9, the victory day. Jyoti Basu was the main speaker in the meetings.

Tripura: A huge mass meeting was held at Sishu Udyan, Agartala on May 5. Addressing the meeting Nripen Chakrabarty, Chief Minister of Tripura hailed the victory as a great victory for the forces of peace. He said that the myth of invincibility of the Hitler-Mussolini-Tozo axis was blown up and it was proved that the forces of peace and democracy were stronger than that of war. He extolled the great diplomatic and tactical role played by the CPSU led by Stalin and the patriotism and gallantry of the soviet people and the red army. He pointed to the bellicose role played by the US imperialists ever since the rout of the fascist forces and branded them as the enemy No. 1 of mankind. He urged upon the people to wage an unremitting struggle for peace and frustrate the war plans of the USA in defence of freedom, peace and socialism.

Maharashtra: Maharashtra observed the anniversary in various districts and from May 1 to 9. A public meeting was held on May 9 at Maharashtra High School Maidan in the working class area of Central Bombay. The meeting was presided over by T. Godiwala and addressed among other by Godavari Parulekar (CPI-M) L.S. Karkhanis (CPI), Ramnath Pandey (Cong-S), K.K. Thakadath (AIFUCTO), etc. The Cong-(I), though invited, was conspicuous by its absence. The speakers hailed the courage and sacrifice by the Soviet people and the red army led by CPSU headed by Stalin in achieving the momentous victory which completely changed the correlation of world forces and opened the way for socialist and national liberation revolutions in a large number of countries. They also nailed down the treacherous role played by the western imperialist countries like USA and Britain in the appeasement of Hitler and for deliberately delaying the opening of the second front with the intention of letting the Soviet Union bleed white. They also condemned US imperialism and a logical heir to Hitler for spiralling the nuclear arms race and spreading it to the outer space. They further denounced Ronald Reagan for his recent visit to Bitburg in West Germany to place wreaths at the graves of the NAZI SS criminals. Meetings, rallies

and poster exhibitions were also organised by (CPI)M and CITU at various other centres of Bombay and the state. Apart from these, thousands of Leaflets in Marathi and Hindi were distributed in the meeting places.

Haryana: From May 1 to 9 a large number of meetings and rallies were held at different centres organised by the State and District Committees and various union. Most prominent of them were at Sonapat, Rohtak, Panipat, Hisar, Sirsa and other places. The meetings were addressed by the various CITU and other leaders. The celebrations had a great impact on the working people and boosted their urge to step up the peace struggles against the danger of war created by the US imperialists and their NATO allies. It was also decided to organise seminars at different places and mobilise people from different aspects of life.

Karnataka: Starting from the May Day the celebrations continued till May 9. A number of meetings, rallies and processions were held at Bangalore, in the Kolar Goad Fields, Dakshin Kanada, Mysore, Bijapur, Chikmagalur, Baglakot, Harihar and other places. Lakhs of hand bills were distributed. The rallies were joined by not only the industrial workers, but also peasants and agricultural workers. At Goolur a village in Kolar district, almost the entire 5000 people of the village joined the procession and the rally. Similar huge rallies were held at Bangalore and Mangalore which were addressed by Surya Narayan Rao, Ramachandra Rao, Shriyan and V.J.K. Nair.

Goa: The celebration started with the May Day. Over one thousand workers marched through the streets of the main town of Sanquelim which culminated in a public meeting. The meeting was presided over by Mahadev Desai, the leader of the Mine workers. Luisa Pereira in her inaugural speech outlined the importance of the great victory of the democratic forces over fascism which brought one-third of the world under socialism and liberated a number of nations from fascist yoke. She urged upon the workers to step up the struggles for peace against the present day war mongers, the US imperialists. M.K. Pandhe, Secretary, CITU appealed to the workers to take lessons from the second world war and unite and lead the democratic forces against war and for peace.

The 40th anniversary was observed in like manner in various other states like Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, M.P., Orissa, Meghalaya, etc commencing with the May Day observations. A large number of unions also observed the anniversary through meetings, processions and rallies.

On 40th Anniversary of Victory Over Fascism

— P.K. Ganguly

ON the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the victory over Hitlerite fascism, the All Union Central Council of Trade Unions (AUCCTU), USSR organised an international trade union conference at Moscow on May 3 and 4. The conference was titled: "The 40th Anniversary of the Victory over Fascism and Trade Unions." Over 300 delegates representing various trade unions from about 115 countries attended the conference. The countries represented included the advanced capitalist countries, socialist countries and the third world countries. On invitation from AUCCTU, the CITU Secretariat nominated P.K. Ganguly, Secretary, to attend the Conference. There were six more delegates from India: 3 from AITUC and one each from INTUC, HMS and UTUC (LS). As per the invitation of AUCCTU, the delegates reached Moscow on April, 30 to attend the May Day rally at Red Square and then after the conference, attended the grandiose celebration of the 40th anniversary of the victory on May 8 and 9.

May Day Rally

The May Day rally in Red Square was unique. The entire city was bedecked with red banners and flags. The rally started exactly at 10 A.M. when the leadership of the CPSU arrived at the rostrum. Com. Gorbachev, the General Secretary of the CPSU greeted the people and then the rally started. After the march past by the military personnel, the procession of the workers, the war veterans and the people from all aspects of life started. They shouted slogans hailing the anti-fascist victory and calling for unity of the international working class, holding high the banner of proletarian internationalism to down the present day nuclear war threats by imperialism, to ensure the victory of peace on the globe. They carried huge red banners, flags, flowers and photographs of Marx, Engels and Lenin in trucks. Countless gas balloons overcast the sky. The procession seemed endless even at 12.30 when the foreign delegates left the place to be in time at the official reception given by the AUCCTU at Hotel Arbat. In the evening the delegates were taken to a cultural programme — a concert cum film show in Hotel Russia, the biggest hotel in Europe. It was on the Great Patriotic War from 1941 to 1945.

On May 2, the delegates were taken to Lenin's memorial house at Gorki. In the evening an anti-war meeting was organised for the delegates by the Moscow working people at the Hall of Columns, AUCCTU House of Unions. This was followed by a concert on peace struggle.

The Conference

The Conference was held on May 3 and 4 at the Assembly Hall of the N.M. Shvernik Higher Trade Union School, AUCCTU. The first plenary session was chaired by Com. Shalayev, President of AUCCTU. Addressing the conference, A.M. Subbotin, Secretary of AUCCTU said that the Second World War unleashed by Hitler's fascism was the biggest armed action by the shock forces of world imperialist reaction set with the aim of destroying the Soviet State, the socialist system and establishing world domination. The Soviet Union, its people and army, bearing the major brunt of the attack lost 20 million lives out of 50 millions in the war. It paid this heavy price, but exerted the decisive influence on the course and results of the war. It decided the destiny of not only the first country of victorious socialism but also of the destiny of social progress, democracy and international working class movement. Favourable conditions for the unity of the international trade union movement objectively took the form with the formation of the World Federation of Trade Unions in October, 1945. However, imperialism headed by USA lost no time in counteracting the gains of the unity of working class. The main objective was to oppose the so-called "Communist infiltration" in the trade unions. He severely criticised the reformist leaders of a number of Western trade union centres who fell prey to such communist slanders and spilt the trade union unity by forming the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) and World Confederation of Labour (WCL). However, it was impossible to ignore the growing prestige of the trade unions in the socialist countries and also the growing role of the trade unions in the capitalist countries in class struggle. After the Second World War the American imperialism has become the main force of international reaction and militarism. They now possess such weapons, that is, nuclear weapons, which, threaten the very existence of life on earth. Far reaching aims are being pursued by American imperialism by militarising outer space to fulfil their global ambitions. Subbotin emphasised that arms race is alien to the very nature of socialism, because socialism is based on the class interests of the working people. That is why socialism has appeared in the arena of history with the banner of peace and continues to carry it high through the decades — from Lenin's decree of peace to the Soviet peace programme of the 1980s. Taking bitter lessons from the last war, when absence of unity of the working class made the road to Hitler's fascism easier and brought the worst tragedy to mankind so far, he said, the attain-

ment of unity of the international, trade union movement remains the key task of the trade unions in the present context, to avert war and ensure peace on earth. Among others who spoke were Pierre Amendola, General Secretary of CGT, France and Johana Topfer, Vice President of FDGB, GDR.

The conference was then divided in three sections. A total number of 111 delegates representing 98 countries delivered their speeches. CITU which opted for section 1, was given the chance on the first day itself.

Hailing the anti-fascist victory as the second turning point in world history after the Great October Revolution, P.K. Ganguly said that the 40th anniversary of the victory over Hitler's fascism and Japanese militarism came as a great source of inspiration to the working class and the peace loving people of all countries and determination to fight the new menace of a nuclear holocaust posed by imperialism headed by USA, the successors of Hitler. 40 years ago the vile ambition of Hitler to reverse the course of history and establish a fascist "new order" and dominate the world was smashed by the mighty force of the Red Army. The Soviet Union had to bear the major brunt of the act of Nazi barbarity. 20 million people lost their lives in Soviet Union alone out of 50 millions killed in the war. Thousands were tortured to death in concentration camps, in gas chambers by the beasts of Hitlerite fascism. Hundreds of thousands of children were orphaned by the Nazi butchers. Thousands of cities, towns and villages were destroyed. Millions of buildings and industrial plants were brought down to dust. Tens of thousands of hospitals, schools and other institutions were demolished and colossal damage was caused to agriculture. The people of Soviet Union passed this severe test and turned the tide in favour of mankind's freedom. The progress of world civilisation, democracy and achievements of socialism were saved from the plague of fascism. This titanic battle, the first military confrontation between the two social systems was successfully led by the CPSU headed by Com. J.V. Stalin who was also the commander-in-chief of the Soviet Armed forces. The Hitlerite Nazis could not stand this invincible combination of patriotism and socialism. The mighty victory released a wave of liberation struggles. The old colonial system collapsed and the balance of class forces tilted in favour of the working class and the people. One third of the world became socialist.

However, he continued, imperialism has not changed its character, it needs war. On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the victory it has to be put into records again that the historic decisions relating to post war settlements for peace taken in the Yalta Conference of Feb. 4 to 11, 1945 are being challenged by imperialism and attempts are being made to reverse them. Having spurned all the peace proposals of the USSR, USA the gendarme of world imperialism is bent upon to bring the world to the brink of a nuclear holocaust. Far reaching aims are being pursued by militarising the outer space in its craze to destroy the achievements of socialism

and dominate the world. But in nuclear holocaust the entire humanity will be wiped out. There will be no victor or vanquished. This prognosis has made it possible for the trade unions to rally the working class and champion the cause of peace. The mighty peace struggles initiated by the Soviet Union is gaining momentum all over the world and sweeping the United States also. The forces of peace are much stronger now. The significant role played by the Non-Aligned Movement has made it possible to stay the hands of the US imperialists and make them sit at the Geneva talks. He emphasised however, that the forces of peace have to be vigilant and step up the peace struggles so that the talks must lead to effective agreements and implementations to stop the arms race and ban nuclear weapons on earth and in space.

Ganguly also referred to the conspiratorial activities of the US imperialists in the Asian region creating tension among the countries and bringing the danger of war at the door steps of India also. He briefed the peace struggles initiated by CITU and mentioned about the massive rallies organised in West Bengal, Kerala, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and other states. The CITU directed its unions to observe the 40th anniversary all over the country from May 1 to 9. He mentioned however, that CITU is of the opinion that the peace struggles in India will have to be intensified to meet the requirement of the present alarming situation. A large number of delegates could not speak because of shortage of time. No delegate from AITUC delivered any speech.

Concluding Session

The Chairman of the respective sessions concluded the deliberations in the final plenary session. The significant feature of the deliberations was that the delegates in one voice hailed the anti-fascist victory as the second turning point in world history after the foundation of the first Socialist state in 1917, which caused further frontal breaching of the chain of imperialism. They briefed the struggles against the imperialist conspiracies in their respective countries and expressed their determination to carry forward the revolutionary process that developed during and after the Second World War. The delegates from the advanced capitalists countries, the Latin American countries and the African countries were particularly eloquent in this respect. They denounced the US imperialists for spiralling the arms race and spreading it to outer space, for supporting the fascist cliques against the national liberation movements and supporting the Israeli Zionists and the South African apartheid regime. They denounced the role of multinationals, the IMF and World Bank and the growing attack on the trade union and democratic rights of the workers and the people. The delegates from the Socialist countries explained the role of their trade unions and the working class which projected themselves as the biggest anti-war force and took up the cause of peace, as the vital rights and interests of the working people—first of all, the right to life, to

creative work and to social guarantees manifest themselves fully only in conditions of peace and not war. The military preparations by the imperialist forces had only brought growing unemployment, price rises in their respective countries and in the third world and made it easier for the monopolies to unteash their offensive on the vital rights and the social gains of the working people and on trade union freedoms. They explained the role of their workers in accelerating the socialist construction simultaneously, while contributing to build up the defence might of the socialist states for the safeguard of socialism against the imperialist conspiracies. The conference concluded with the unanimous adoption of the common points from the above deliberations and decided to further the struggle for peace in all countries holding high the banner of proletarian internationalism.

Visit to Smoloyensk

After the conference the delegates were taken to Lenin Mausoleum where the body of Lenin has been kept. They were also taken to the tomb of unknown soldiers by the Kremlin wall where they placed wreathes. On the night of May 4 the delegates were taken to different cities of the Soviet Union. The Asian group was taken to Smoloyensk which acted as a shield to Moscow both during the attack by Napoleon in 1812 and during the German fascist attack in 1941 to 1945. During the stay of the delegates the Supreme Soviet declared this city as a hero city, the 11th such in USSR. On this occasion a celebration was organised at the Lenin Monument which was participated by the delegates. Apart from this, the delegates were taken to a knitwear factory and to the Talashkino Agricultural Farm, where 80 per cent of the workers were women. Several meetings were arranged to receive the delegates by the Smoloyensk Regional Council of Trade Unions, the Regional Peace Committee, the Regional Soviet Council of Deputies, with the revolutionary writers and poets and with the war veterans who fought during the 1941 to 1945 Great Patriotic War. Apart from this, special programmes of films, concert were arranged which showed excerpts from the war pictures and the struggle for peace by the Soviet people.

The Victory Celebration

The delegates returned to Moscow on May 8 morning to attend the celebration programmes of the 40th anniversary of the victory. On May 8 the meeting was held in the 6,000 capacity Palace of Congress at the Kremlin. The main speaker in the meeting was Com. Mikhail S Gorbachov, the General Secretary of the CPSU. In this speech Com. Gorbachov drew the course of the war, the attack by the Hitlerite Nazi butchers and the rebuff given by the people, the working class and the army of the Soviet Union being guided by the CPSU led by the General Secretary Com. J.V. Stalin. He stressed that the victory in the Great Patriotic War was won by the Soviet people for the sake of peace

and life on earth. Mankind owes to a tremendous extent its deliverance from the threat of fascist enslavement and its freedom to the world's first socialist state, to its historic victory over the enemy. The victory fully revealed the advantage of socialism, its vast economic, social and political potentialities. It demonstrated the monolithic unity of the party and the people, the unbreakable alliance of the working class and the collective farmers and the friendship and brotherhood of the Soviet peoples.

The meeting was followed by a concert drama which was also witnessed by Com. Gorbachov, Tikhanov, Gromyko, and all other members of the Polit Bureau and the Central Committee of the CPSU.

The next day, that is the victory day on May 9, a military parade was held at the Red Square. The demonstration — the march past by the army, navy, air force, the partisan brigades, of the tanks that fought during the war and the modern equipments, the rockets and the ICBMs, in fact beggars description.

During the period of the entire programme in Soviet Union from the May Day, the conference, the various meetings to the victory celebrations, the one message that was conveyed to the delegates was that the people, the working class and the CPSU were determined to carry forward the decree of peace which was passed with the birth of the Soviet State. They are not only capable of defending the gains of socialism, but are also equally able to launch counter moves against the brigands of imperialism for safeguarding the camp of socialism. The peace struggles led by the Soviet Union have not only broadened their connection with the international working class and the countries and won their support but also have isolated the imperialist forces led by USA from the broad masses of the people and the countries, pinpointing the US imperialism as the enemy number one of freedom and mankind. The task of the Indian working class remains to come decisively under the vortex of the international peace struggles.

Comrade Saradish Roy

The Centre of Indian Trade Union deeply mourns the sad demise of Com. Saradish Roy, Leader of the CPI (M) Group in the Lok Sabha and Secretary of the Birbhym District Committee of the party, at Delhi on May 5 at the age of 67. Com. Saradish Roy was a firm adherent of Marxism-Leninism and a valiant fighter in the cause of communism. His selfless and dedicated work earned him the confidence of the people who elected him four times to the Lok Sabha. In his death the working class and the toiling people have lost an able organiser and leader. The CITU pays homage in the memory of Com. Roy and dips its red banner in his honour. It sends heartfelt condolences to the bereaved members of his family.

CITU Extends Support to Sao Paulo Metal Workers Strike

Having received an appeal from the Brazilian central trade Union, CITU extended support to the metal workers' strike at Sao Paulo. The appeal along with CITU's letter to the Union and to the Ambassador for Brazil in India are being published here under:

Letter from Sao Paulo

Dear friends,

The state of Sao Paulo (Brazil) has the largest industrial park of the country, of Latin America and even of the Third World. For this reason, in Sao Paulo we find the largest number of workers, especially those employed in the metallurgical industry. The largest plants are located in the cities of Sao Bernardo do Campo, Diadema, Santo Andre, Sao Caetano do sul, Sao Jose dos Campos, Campinas, Taubate and Sorocaba, among many others.

During the 21 years of military dictatorship these workers, although subjected to extremely high levels of exploitation, showed their power of organisation, of struggle and resistance. Especially after the mass strikes after 1978, the workers of Sao Paulo were able to achieve significant gains and to fulfil many of the most important demands in reference not only to wages and working conditions, but also in terms of trade union organisation and representation in the factories. Because of these gains, these workers began to be an example and a point of reference for the entire trade union movement and even for the working class movement as a whole. Their struggle gained special significance for millions of Brazilian workers.

Today, there are 200,000 metal workers again on strike. The strike began on April 11 of this year and has been organised with the help of the Central Unica dos Trabalhadores (CUT) the central trade union organization. This strike has been maintained in spite of very difficult circumstances and facing the coherent organisation of capital not only as represented by the corporations but also by the media and the new government which have taken a position against the strike movement and have applied extreme pressure to and the strike. Workers have been violently repressed by the military police, arrested, and summarily dismissed without any compensation. Already, at this date, 2,300 workers have been dismissed.

Among our current demands, the most important is perhaps the desire to programme a reduction of the working week from 48 hours per week to 40 hours per week. This reduction of the working week would enable the immediate employment of many thousands of workers who have been unemployed due, especially, to the economic recession that has hit the country over the last few years.

Because of the seriousness of the situation we have just described, and because we can count on the international solidarity of workers who have always

been present in our struggles, we ask our friends to actively support us in all ways possible. Politically through the sending of telegrams of support to us and to the government. Also financially for this crucial to the continuity of our movement.

We would also appreciate it if all actions taken could be immediately communicated to us so we can make it known and publicised in our country.

May 3, 1985 Sao Bernardo do Campo

Paulo Tarciso Okamoto, Secretario General

CITU's Reply

Brother Paulo Tarciso Okamoto
Secretary General

Associacao Beneficente e Cultural Dos,
Metalurgicos de sao Bernardo do campo e Diadema
Sao Paulo

Brazil

May 14, 1985

Dear Brother,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 3, 1985. We note that in order to fight back unemployment caused due to economic recession, the Metal workers have organised themselves and raised the demand of reduction of working week from 48 to 40 hours.

The CITU expresses firm solidarity with the 2,00,000 Metal workers who are on strike from April 11. The CITU denounces the Govt. of Brazil for violently repressing the strike by military police through arrest and summary dismissal of 2300 workers. A copy of our protest letter to the Ambassador of Brazil is enclosed.

We are trying to find out how monetary help could be extended to you.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,
Nrisingha Chakraborty, Secretary

Letter to Ambassador

The Ambassador for Brazil in India
8 Aurangzeb Road
New Delhi-110011

May 14, 1985

Dear Sir,

The CITU regrets to learn that over 2,00,000 metal workers of Sao Paulo had to organise themselves and go in for a strike from April 11 on the demand of reducing the working week from 48 hours to 40 hours in order to create employment of many thousands of workers who have become unemployed due to economic recession.

The International Labour Organisation had already adopted Convention No. 47 on forty hour week as far back as in 1935. It is most reprehensible if a country resorts to violent suppression of the strike by military police, mass scale arrest and summary dismissal of 2300 workers.

The CITU denounces these repressive measures and demands that the legitimate demands of the Metal workers of Sao Paulo should be conceded and the strike continuing from April 11 should be settled.

We shall be thankful if our views are conveyed to your Government. Thanking you,

Yours faithfully
Nrisingha Chakraborty, Secretary.

CITU's Response to Appeal by Bulgarian Trade Union

The Central Council of Bulgarian Trade Unions appealed to CITU to build up the struggle for peace in pursuance of the decisions of the international trade union conference held at Sofia, which was attended by Samar Mukherjee, General Secretary, CITU. The letter and Samar Mukherjee's reply are being published hereunder:

Central Council of the Bulgarian Trade Unions

Esteemed Comrade,

The International Trade Union Meeting—Dialogue on Peace and Trade Unions was held in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria from October 25 to 27, 1983. Trade union leaders from 108 trade union organisations of different international adherence — from 71 countries from Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America and 15 international organisations took part in the meeting.

All delegates who spoke at the meeting on behalf of the organizations they represented expressed their deep concern of the reckless arms race which is pushing mankind towards nuclear annihilation and the readiness of the workers of their countries for common and decisive action for the preservation of world peace. An Appeal to the Trade Unions and the Working people of the Whole World was adopted unanimously.

The Bulgarian Trade Unions as organisers and hosts of this important international forum have been asked to take the necessary steps for the broadest popularization of all the documents discussed at the meeting. In carrying out that request we are pleased, esteemed comrades, to enclose a Speech of Todor Zhivkov, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and President of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Speech by Peter Dyulgerov, Chairman of the Central Council of the Bulgarian Trade Unions at the 'Peace and Trade Unions' International Meeting and Dialogue and an Appeal to the Trade Unions and the Working people the World over.

We are convinced that you will take the necessary measures to bring the documents of the International Trade Union Meeting—Dialogue on Peace and Trade Unions to the knowledge of the members of your organization and that Centre of Indian Trade Unions will make its worthy contribution for the building of a united trade union front in the struggle for the prevention of nuclear war, for a lasting peace on our planet, for co-operation and understanding among the workers and the peoples of all countries of the world.

Please, accept, dear comrades our cordial greetings and wishes for future successes.

G. Borgov,
Secretary.

CITU's Reply

Com. G. Borgov
Secretary,
Central Council of the Bulgarian Trade Unions,
Sofia 1040

Dated: 9th May, 1985.

Dear Comrade,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your communication about the International Trade Union Meeting—Dialogue on Peace and Trade Unions which was held in Sofia from October 25 to 27, 1983. I thank you for sending copies of the speeches of Com. Todor Zhivkov, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and President of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and speech by Com. Peter Dyulgerov, Chairman of the Central Council of the Bulgarian Trade Unions delivered in the meeting.

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions considers that the struggle for peace is an important part of our trade union work and has therefore already published the appeal adopted in the meeting held in Sofia in our organ, 'The Working Class' in December 1983 issue a copy of which was already sent to your organisation.

We have also published articles and other relevant materials to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Victory over Fascism in the May 1985 issue of our journal, a copy of which has also been sent to you. The Centre of Indian Trade Unions is celebrating 40th Anniversary of Victory over Fascism from May 1, to May 9 this year. Your letter is being published in the next issue of our journal.

I take this opportunity to express our firm commitment to proletarian internationalism and the need for further strengthening the fraternal relations which exist between our 2 organizations.

With Warm Greetings,

Yours fraternally,
Samar Mukherjee
General Secretary.

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CITU's Solidarity to British Coalminers

As a mark of solidarity CITU raised struggle fund for the British coalminers' strike. The letter to Arthur Scargill and the permission sought from the Govt. of India to donate the sum are being published hereunder:

Mr. Arthur Scargill
President
National Union of Mine Workers
222, Buston Road
London—NW-1

Dated: 16th May, 1985

Dear Mr. Scargill,

We have been noting with keen interest the determined struggle which the miners of England under the leadership of your union have been waging.

When the strike had crossed eleven months, it was felt necessary that some financial help, though token, should be given. Accordingly our President gave a call for solidarity fund. But in the meanwhile as the strike was withdrawn, the fund collection was stopped.

Earlier efforts by some of our friendly organisations to send financial help was opposed by the Govt. of India as the strike was declared illegal. We have approached the Govt. of India to permit us to send you a sum of £ 200 Sterlings as will be seen from the copy of the letter enclosed. We hope that the Govt. would permit us to remit the money.

With best wishes and warm greetings,

Yours Sincerely,
 Samar Mukherjee

Letter to Government

Dated: 16th May, 1985

Dear Shri Singh,

You are aware that British Coal Miners had struck work for nearly one year in protest against closing down of the pits which would render the workmen jobless.

Towards the end of the struggle, when the harrowing tales of sufferings were known to us, the CITU

gave a call for solidarity fund. Shortly thereafter the strike was called off. Hence the collection was stopped. A sum of Rs. 3184.03 has been collected.

We wish to send the National Union of Mine Workers a sum of £ 200 Sterlings as token relief for those who have suffered from mal-nutrition and ailments during this period.

As our enquiries with the Reserve Bank of India revealed that prior permission of the Govt. is necessary I am requesting you to kindly accord and communicate the permission of the Govt. of India for remittance of the sum of £ 200 Sterlings.

With kind regards,

Yours Sincerely,
 Samar Makherjee

Shri Viswanath Pratap Singh
 Minister of Finance & Commerce
 Govt. of India,
 New Delhi

Contribution to British Coalminers' Struggle

Total Amount received upto 25.3 85 (Published in April '85 Issue) of 'The Working Class' was Rs. 2,808.03

Kanyaspin Thozhilalar Sangam K.K. Dt. (earlier it was erroneously typed Rs. 15/- instead of Rs. 25/-)	Rs. 10.00
T.N.E. Audit Employees Union, Madras	Rs. 10.00
Madurai District Committee, (T.N.)	Rs. 211.00
V. Antony, CITU VVR Fathima Nagar (A.P)	Rs. 25.00
Pathira Thozhilalar Sangam (CITU) Coimbatore.	Rs. 100.00
Central Orgn. of T.N.E.B Workers Union, Udmelpet, (T.N.)	Rs. 20.00

	Rs. 3,184.03

International Struggles

United States

For the first time in the history of AFL-CIO, its winter session in Bill Harbour, Florida has adopted, under mounting pressure from rank and file activists, a resolution calling upon the U.S. Government to immediately freeze military spending, due to the fact that social programmes have been frozen and even cut back. According to the participants, the main reason behind the growing federal budget deficit is Pentagon's growing military spending. According to Washington Post, the resolution of AFL-CIO heralded an end to the Union's blinkered support to the USA's military budget.

Great Britain

At the call of the National Union of Teachers (NUT) a widespread strike of teachers has entered its 5th week in England, Walse and Scotland. The call was given by NUT demanding pay rise in parity

impact" of the strike on the education of the children. Replying to this slanderous propaganda, the union has emphasised that the socalled crocodile tears shed by the Tory Government for children's education is nothing but hypocrisy. The Tory Government has in fact failed to provide the necessary resources to meet the needs of the educational system. In sharp contrast to the tax advantage being generously bequeathed to the private sector schools, the Government's austerity policy in the educational field was damaging the education in the state schools. The teachers have reiterated their determination to continue and extend their action if their legitimate demands are not met with.

Sudan

A continuous general strike by workers and employees, supported by the people ultimately brought down the pro-imperialist dictatorial regime of Numeiry in Sudan. Being hit hard by the conditions of IMF which was accepted by Numeiry and

Unemployment in EEC Countries

At the end of December, 1984, there were more than 13 million people registered as unemployed in the ten European Economic Community countries. The following table shows the number of unemployed in thousands at the end of December, 1984, the percentage of unemployment and the percentage of increase in unemployment as compared to November, 1984:

Countries	Dec. '84	% in Dec. '84	% increase from Nov. '84
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	—

other sections of employees. The union's ballot which gave 78 per cent vote for strike moved the widespread discontent in the community against Government's policy. rejected the meagre 4 per cent rise offer and resorted to strike. The strike schools in England and Walse. It support from 90 colleges where lectured the first phase of their strike action. half of the student population has been by the strike in Scotland. Since the beginning of the strike, 30,100 teachers in 92 of the 104 regional education authorities in the country have taken part in the actions. The arrogant Thatcher Government which had claimed defeatism of trade union activities after the coalminers' return to work have started a propaganda of the "devastating

unable to get the minimum daily necessities of life, the masses took to the streets. The demands were not only to bring down the prices of foodstuffs and for adequate supply, but to end the dictatorial regime itself which terrorised the people, starved them to death and turned the country into an appendage of USA. Despite the savage repression and mass scale arrests, and braving the bullets which killed a large number of demonstrators, the general strike went on till the regime with all its institutions was pulled down. This was a significant victory of the Sudanese workers and the people towards peace and democracy.

Canada

A major strike involving 1500 members of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union of

the six locations of Eaton, the giant Canadian retail industrial unit started on November 30, 1984. The workers demanded their first union agreement. The strike was launched when the Eaton management refused to incorporate wages and classifications in the agreement. From the very first day of the strike the staff workers from the United Steel Workers' Canadian office and from the Ontario Public Service Employees Union joined the picket lines.

The Ottawa Labour Council formed an Eaton's Strike Support Committee which organised informational picket lines around Eaton's outlets in that city and worked to reach all local unions and their national offices. By February the Federation programme of mobilising the labour councils began to be felt with an intensification of picketing and boycott activity throughout the province. On February 2, a major store of Eaton at Toronto was closed by a 1000-strong demonstration of strikers and the supporters shouting "Boycott Eaton" slogans. The demonstration was supported by the Ontario Federation of Labour, Metro Labour Council and the National Action Committee on the Status of Women which has 3 million members. Practically all the Eaton's strikers are women. Having called for a nation wide boycott of Eaton's products, the 2-million strong Canadian Labour Congress directed every member to contribute 55 Cents to the strike fund. The goal is to reach one million dollars. The strike was taking place in the back ground of an anti-people and anti-working class policy of the Government and a mounting attack on the trade unions by the employers, The CLC President declared that the movement will continue as long as it takes.

Italy

Ezio Tarantelli the President of the Italian Economic Studies Centre of the Italian Confederation of Workers' Unions (CSIL) was murdered by gangster elements on March 27 at Rome. This dastardly crime was perpetrated during a period marked by serious social tension and an unprecedented attack by the employers on the workers' gains and on the trade Unions' bargaining power. The trade union centres, viz, CGIL, CSIL and UIL unanimously condemn this cowardly murder. Millions of Italian workers demonstrated their indignation and paid homage to Tarantelli by resorting to a 2 hour general strike. This type of terrorism in Italy was the criminal expression of the hidden forces of reaction which are seeking to halt the democratic development of the society in which the workers are the most involved partisans.

South Amreica

The events in South America constitute a great victory of the democratic forces having international solidarity. After a decade riddled with fascist dictatorship and repression supported by the US imperialism, the road to democracy is opening in front of South America. After Bolivia and Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil have now pulled down

the fascist regime. The workers and the trade unions have played positive role in this process of change. These democratic changes have given encouragement to the democratic struggles which are now under way in other countries like Chile and Paraguay, where the workers are fighting the repressive regimes which are at service of the Reagan administration. March 28 was the day of huge protest launched by the People's Democratic Movement (MDP) at Santiago, the capital of Chile, demanding lifting of the state of seige ordered by the Pinochet regime on November 6, 1984. The Communist Party, the Revolutionary Left Movement and the Socialist groups joined this combined battle. The next day, the workers' Trade Union Coordination Organisation and other public organisations launched another joint protest action. Similar protest actions were launched in all other regions, provinces and villages around the country. With the mounting protest actions, despite the ruthless repression, the fascist regime of Pinochet is getting more and more isolated and its margin for manoeuvre is getting tighter with each passing day.

Sri Lanka

Twenty trade union centres and other trade unions in Sri Lanka in a joint statement condemned the Sri Lankan Government's attempt to use state terrorism and military force to suppress the Tamil speaking people in the northern and eastern provinces and in the plantations. The statement appealed to the people to unite and seek a political solution to the ethnic problem peacefully. It condemned the Government for suppressing the political opponents, the working class and other mass organisations. It charged the Government for putting into operation a subtle plan to destroy the trade union, leftist and democratic movement, making use of the ethnic problem, and for commencing a war against the unity of people backed by imperialist conspiracies to fan up racism in Sri Lanka. Rejecting the so-called "Defence Fund" floated by the Government, the organisations termed it as a fund for the contribution to the suppression of masses. The statement emphasised, "our trade unions declare that the ethnic problem cannot be solved through military actions which are responsible for the loss of human and unlimited economic burdens that heaped on the masses. Therefore, we demand that the military actions be stopped with and steps be taken to find a political solution by democratic means".

South Africa

March 21, the International Day for the nation of Racial Discrimination was spattered with more blood in South Africa. The apartheid regime of Pretoria banned the commemoration of the anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre of blacks which occurred 25 years ago. But defying the ban, the people and the workers went ahead with the commemoration. The Pretoria regime responded brutally killing a large number of people.