

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

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28th May, 1974

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PRESS STATEMENT :

PRESS RELEASE:

P. Ramamurti, General Secretary,
C.I.T.U. has issued the follow-
ing Statement to the press

I did not join issue with the AITUC over their statement of 25th May, 1974, because maintaining the unity of the railway workers who were fighting a grim battle was my paramount consideration. Because of the same consideration I expressed my opinion to certain members of the NCCRS that it would not be advisable to state that the AITUC had virtually withdrawn from the strike, in their statement of 26th May.

The stand attributed to the CITU in the meeting of the representatives of Central Trade Union Organisations on 24th May by the AITUC and again referred by Shri S. A. Dange yesterday is utterly false. Com. S. M. Joshi of the Defence Employees' Federation who opened the discussions reported his interview with the Prime Minister and in view of the adamant attitude of the Government suggested work to rule movement by the Central Government employees and in other industries to bring pressure on Government to change its attitude. After some others spoke on the same lines, I was called upon to give my views by Shri S.A. Dange who presided over the meeting. I stated that because of the split in the Confederation of Central Government Employees' organisation and National Federation of Post and Telegraph Employees, there are difficulties. However if the Central Trade Unions organisations particularly the CITU and AITUC, make sincere efforts and appeal to them to keep side their differences and give a call for such action either jointly or separately, effective solidarity action would be possible. I particularly appealed to Shri S.A. Dange to rise to the occasion.

But Shri Dange refused to do it, not on the ground that it was wrong, but that would not move the Government and put forward a different line of calling off the strike on getting assurances of no victimisation. Since this was not accepted by others, I said it is useless to continue the discussion of solidarity action as suggested by Com. Joshi. I proposed the minimum solidarity action. It was accepted and I myself drafted the Resolution. That was unanimously accepted by the meeting. No one in the meeting proposed strike by the Central Government employees or in coal and steel units.

I must also mention that Shri Dange at the end of the meeting stated that the AITUC, on its own, will strive to secure assurances of no victimisation for withdrawal of the strike.

In such joint meetings different proposals are made and in the end the decisions are taken on the lines of what is acceptable to all and it is expected that all would carry out the unanimous decision.

But that the AITUC, having accepted the unanimous Resolution of the 24th May, should come out with its own line, the very next day speaks volumes of its real intention. Even without getting that assurance of no victimisation which Dange said he would try to secure, it has called on the workers to decide call off or not to call off the strike statewide or zonal wise and it would support both the decisions, i.e. it would support those who withdraw and those who do not withdraw ! It only means bypass the NCCRS and somehow get the strike withdrawn. It must be also noted that Dange wrote on his own to the Prime Minister making certain proposals which were not those of the NCCRS.

The pitiable predicament in which the AITUC is placed because the CPI's coalition in the Kerala Government, and its alliance with the Congress party in West Bengal and many other states, is crystal clear.

I leave it to the working class from all the attendant circumstances to draw their own conclusions and decide at whose bidding the AITUC leaders had at last resorted to this line of naked disruption.

(Sd/- P. RAMAMURTY)

To

The Spl. Correspondent/
News Editor.

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New Delhi.

/ For favour of publication /