

# RED STAR

PLATFORM FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTIONARIES

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## Narasimha Rao Goes

Atlast Narasimha Rao has resigned the Congress presidentship as he may be charge-sheeted soon on charges of 420 in Lakhubhai Pathak cheating case. He may be chargesheeted on bribing of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha MPs, on the urea scam, on St. Kitts case, or on the other numerous scam cases also. It is estimated that 17 ministers in Rao government are involved in corruption cases involving more than Rs. 50,000 crores. 15 of them had to resign. Only Sukh Ram and Rao could survive. Now Sukh Ram is in custody of CBI, and Rao may join Chandraswami unless the judiciary, CBI and Gowda government decide to save him.

It all started with the cover-up of Bofors case. Then came the Rs 10,000 crore bank scam. The disinvestment of public sector undertakings in questionable means led to a loss of Rs. 15,000 crores. Then came the railway scam. It was followed by sugar scam resulting in siphoning of thousands of crores through manipulations. Enron, Bailadilla like deals also involved huge scams. Then several thousand crores of rupees were involved in the Telecom scam. It was followed by urea deal. All these years through hawala very huge amounts of unaccounted money was converted into foreign currency and used for pay offs and other illegal deals. In short, Narasimha Rao was the most unscrupulously corrupt prime minister even by international standards. It is doubtful whether the old president Marcos of Philippines can be compared with him.

But these numerous scams, cheating and bribing the MPs is only an insignificant part of these crimes against the people and the country. The attempt by media, non-Congress parties and dissidents within Congress to focus only on these scams is nothing but a conspiracy to hide the other most serious crime of selling the vital interests of the country to imperialists. In the name of saving the country from the foreign exchange crisis of 1991, utilising the international and Indian media and comprador economists and intellectuals necessary atmosphere was created to surrender the country to IMF-World Bank dictated SAPs. It was under the privatisation - liberalisation - globalisation regime which followed necessary conditions for these numerous scams were created.

So the huge scams cannot be separated from the economic reforms imposed surrendering the country to MNCs and imperialist capital. Since there is a consensus among the Congress, BJP, UF parties as well as the media they are trying hard to separate them and accuse Rao only for corruption. But history will never absolve neither Rao nor the Congress leadership nor the opposition who helped the survival of his minority government for the NEP which has enslaved the country to unprecedented neocolonisation. As far as the people of this country are concerned Rao stands exposed as the most traitorous and corrupt prime-minister who has surpassed a thousand time the crimes of the rajas and nawabs who bowed down to



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British colonialists and imposed slavery over this country.

Even then Rao was allowed to put his crony, Sitaram Kesari, as the acting president, as his benami by the Congress leaders. Even the dissidents who were wasting thousands of tons of newsprints with their numerous statements did not dare to question it. Further Rao shall continue as the Congress parliamentary party leader. The discredited and degenerated Congress leaders do not see anything inappropriate in doing so. It shows the depth to which Congress has sunk in corruption, treason and reaction.

Inspite of it newspapers like *Indian Express* are consoling us: "there is nothing wrong with the system". They caution against throwing the baby out with the bathwater. They repeat that the game should go on under Kesari or somebody else untill more scams surface and more villains are exposed. Again salvaging the system and the game goes on.

And it is these very same media who shout that elections may come and go, governments may change, but the policies should not change. NEP should continue.

It is this rotten system which produces arch-criminals like Rao and numerous others. Bigger villains and mafia leaders are in the making as the liberalisation advances. A greedy few will share the wealth of the nation with the foreign sharks and pocket a booty. So long as this system continues there can be no end to it. So what is required is to change this anti-people, reactionary system altogether. The forces of reaction very well know that sooner or later this truth shall be realised by the people and they shall advance forward to achieve it. That is why this alarm. That is why UF prime minister Gowda goes daily to consult the criminal who still leads Congress parliamentary party.

We should not allow the enemies to create the impression that with the resignation of Rao from Congress presidentship everything is once again in order. Nothing will be in order until this rotten ruling system which fosters these scoundrels is thrown out lock-stock-and-barrel.



## Joint Statement

The economic policies in the Common Minimum Programme, approval to Cogentrix like deals, huge hike in petroleum prices, and the railway-general budgets have already proved that the 13 party UF government led by Dewagowda is nothing but basically and essentially a continuation of Narasimha Rao government. If Rao government had surrendered the country to IMF-World Bank-WTO dictated policies, allowed domination of MNCs in all sectors, and led to amassing of foreign debts to the tune of Rs. 3.5 lakh crores, Gowda government is further expanding these policies of allowing foreign capital and MNCs to other areas like insurance etc.

At the same time imperialist exploitation of agrarian and other sectors has further intensified. There are no efforts to implement even existing land reform acts. In all states, land-ceiling laws are by passed and land accumulation is permitted. It has rendered tens of millions of agricultural labourers and landless and poor peasants unemployed.

In spite of tall promises in the CMP, under privatisation-liberalisation-globalisation regime all welfare measures are further cut. Prices of all essential commodities are rising fast. Unemployment is increasing. Education and healthcare are increasingly privatised. As a result while the imperialists are syphoning off hundreds of billions of dollars every year and the native rich are becoming richer, vast masses of people are getting pauperised more and more.

In this situation, the threat of BJP coming to power, and fascicisation of the state under Hindutva slogans is looming large. Oppression of dalits and other backward sections are increasing. The state terror is intensifying putting down all peoples struggles with brute force. At the same time, Gowda government has no hesitation to cover-up the accused in the numerous scams. Even then the CPI through direct, and CPI (M) through indirect participation in the UF government have betrayed the people and the interests of the left movement.

This extremely grave situation calls for a countrywide people's movement against the reactionary central and state governments mo-

bilising all toiling masses and the genuine left, democratic, patriotic and secular forces as a whole focussing on the following slogans:

1. Quit WTO, Kick out IMF-WB-MNCs.
2. Stop repayment of imperialist debts.
3. Scrap privatisation-liberalisation globalisation policies.
4. Implement land reforms.
5. Bring down prices of essential commodities.
6. Enact right to employment as fundamental right.
7. Stop suppression of dalits, women and other oppressed sections.
8. Stop state repression, implement basic democratic rights.
9. Expedite punishment of all scamsters.
10. Speed up punishment of those responsible for demolition of Babri Masjid and communal riots.

We call upon the working class, peasantry and all other toiling sections, the genuine patriotic, democratic and left forces as a whole, to come together for decisive and broad-based country wide movement against the policies being pursued by the UF government led by Dewagowda and supported by Congress, and against the fascist threat posed by the Hindutva forces.

Signed by:

1. C. P. I (M. L) Red Flag
2. C. P. I (M. L) New Democracy
3. C. P. I (M. L) Liberation
4. M. C. P. I.





# The Question of Development Path

The question of approach towards *development*, development for whom and how, was always in the centre - stage of discussions in human history during the last few centuries; especially in the post - World War II decades it has achieved special significance.

For the dominating capitalist imperialist system, its developmental agenda was very clear during the colonial days. It was re-creating the world under its own image through transforming the vast regions of Afro-Asian-Latin American countries suited for plunder. The capital for the industrial *revolution* in the capitalist countries was amassed through it. The plunder of the natural and human resources of these regions under colonisation including slave - trade was justified as measures to *civilize* these countries and peoples. Any other alternatives to capitalist system was pook - pooked and if necessary barbarously suppressed.

But the emergence of Soviet Union through October Revolution and its bold efforts to build socialism changed the world scene decisively. For the first time, challenging the earlier exploitative slave system and feudal system, and the world hegemony imposed by capitalist imperialist system in all fields, socialist path came up as a positive people's alternative against all exploitative ruling systems. With the *great depression* confronting the imperialist countries in the 1930s, the debate on developmental questions came up sharply to the foreground. Confronted by the challenges posed by the successfully advancing socialist path in Soviet Union without plund-

ering any other country, entirely depending on the efforts of its own people and progressively diminishing the role of market and commodity production, the capitalist economists were compelled to seek methods to *reform* the hitherto capitalist path. As suggested by Keynes and others like him *state's* role in economic activity was recognised. Policies like *new deal* were initiated. These measures were necessary compromises by the imperialists to overcome the general crisis faced by them and to combat the challenge from the Soviet system.

The post-World War II years posed greater challenges before the capitalist imperialist world system. The balance of forces

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## K. N. Ramachandran

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between capitalist and socialist forces had started changing. The historic role played by Soviet Union in defeating the fascist challenge braving great sacrifices and the gigantic post-war reconstruction works it had taken up and the unrelenting support it was giving to the national liberation movements all over the world had greatly enhanced the prestige of socialist path. Soon countries with one third of world population was on socialist path. National liberation movements challenged the colonial system compelling decolonisation and the grant of at least formal independence to the colonial and semi-colonial countries. And, to face the growing challenge from the socialist forces, the imperialist camp led by US imperialism adopted Keynesian devices on

a wider scale; it initiated many welfare state measures announcing that egalitarian solutions can be achieved under its 'democratic' system even without going through *violent* revolutions. To combat the path of scientific socialism and class struggle, pseudo or utopian or petty bourgeois socialist ideas and class collaboration was promoted at all levels to hoodwink the masses and the progressives.

Reflecting this mood, like the Hitlerites earlier, even the most reactionary parties all over the world started calling themselves some of socialists. That the socialist forces could not correctly evaluate these development and take uncompromising stand on scientific socialism and class struggle became evident soon with the degeneration of the socialist countries and most of the Communist parties to capitalist path. Utilising this weakness of the socialist camp, atleast for the time being the imperialist camp has scored total domination of the world once again. But it has not helped the imperialists to escape from the inherent general crises faced by the imperialist system. Once again the imperialists are caught in the vortex of another general crisis.

This has led the imperialists to adopt reform measures once again to readjust their system. They have started rejecting Keynesian policies one after another and have resurrected monetarism in new forms. All the welfare measures are cut. The state is increasingly withdrawn from economic activities. As the imperialist countries cannot get out the crisis by increasing the plunder, bullying and wh-



ever necessary open aggression of the neocolonies alone, they have intensified the exploitation of the proletariat and oppressed masses of their own countries also. That is, shedding its welfare and reformist facades, the capitalist imperialist system is coming out in its most barbarous forms for asserting its world hegemony. As Mao once stressed imperialism is not a *Budha*; it will never abandon its reactionary character till its doom.

With this transformation to monetarism, imperialism led by US imperialism through its agencies have dictated *Structural Adjustment Policies* to dismantle the public sector undertaking (PSUs) and all other welfare state establishments built up during this period. Process of bringing everything under market system through privatisation, liberalisation, globalisation under SAPs is started in all the neocolonies. Today, developmental policies means integrating to international market system as far as these neocolonial countries are concerned. That is, the imperialist camp is imposing its own approach towards *development* ruthlessly in order to intensify the plunder of the natural and human resources in these countries. Imperialism means plunder and wars for plunder, its strategic goals have not changed, only the forms have changed.

## II

The development policies pursued by the Indian state in the post - 1947 period should be evaluated in this context. They have undergone a change during these decades. Earlier, echoing the promises made by Congress leadership during the independence struggle, through *Avadi* socialism and five year

plans an impression was created that through non-capitalist path of development India was advancing towards socialism peacefully. Even the constitution was changed to call India as a *socialist sovereign republic*. But all the while Indian state protected the interests of bourgeois-landlord classes and served imperialism. This split personality of Indian state could be maintained so long as Soviet Union existed with its socialist jargons co-existing with its imperialist actions. With the disintegration of Soviet Union this dichotomy could not be continued any further. Under IMF - World Bank dictates, Rao government openly abandoned earlier policies and started implementing economic reforms of privatisation, liberalisation and globalisation. Soon a consensus was arrived at among all ruling classes and the political parties serving them over these policies. India's *socialist past* is blamed for all evils. Liberalisation has become the most cherished word. Irrespective of the changes from Rao government to Vajpayee government to Gowda government, this consensus is effectively functioning.

So today the developmental policies of the ruling system means removing the PSUs from commanding heights through privatisation and disinvestment. Allows entry of MNCs and imperialist direct investment in all areas through liberalisation. Globalise everything including the agrarian sector so that they serve international market system. Simultaneously, dismantle all previous welfare state establishments. Put an end to all subsidies, and non-productive expenditures. So cut down and later stop all expenditures for universal education, healthcare, housing for the dispossessed. Step by step re-

move the public distribution system of the food items and other essential commodities. Privatise and bring everything under globalisation and market system. Ofcourse, as *vote-bank* politics is to be played, have literacy campaigns and selected charities especially at times of elections to dupe the masses

As far as the Indian state led by bougeois-land lord classes serving imperialism is concerned there are no ambiguities about its policies of development. They are for a market friendly economy under the hegemony of MNCs and global capital. Within the parameters of the state structure, allowing necessary concessions to the requirements of the 'parliamentary democracy' existing here, and based on the consensus arrived at among the ruling classes on the one hand and the political parties ranging from Congress, BJP to the UP parties on other the IMF - WB - WTO development package is implemented faithfully. The way the imperialist camp led by US imperialism has succeeded, atleast for the time being, in imposing its 'New World Order' is well manifested in the functioning of the Indian government.

## III

We had to briefly present this developmental approach pursued by the global imperialist system and as a part of it by the neocolonial states like the one in India, as even many 'left', 'progressive' or 'non-governmental' parties and agencies are now working hard in our country as elsewhere to confuse the 'development dialogue' as a whole.

Starting with the argument that with the global changes there are no alternatives to the development path prescribed by the imperialist camp, with



cosmetic changes Congress and BJP have accepted the economic reform policies with their own interpretations. The various regional parties like DMK, ADMK, TD etc, various parties emanating from Congress fold like Congress (T), Haryana Vikas Manch, Kerala Congresses etc, the so-called 'social justice' parties like SP, JD, BSP etc, in short almost all the big and small parties belonging to the rightist, centrist or left of centre spectrum of bourgeois—landlord class politics have also reconciled to these policies as the policies suited for rapid development with their own interpretations. At the all India level, becoming part of the ruling UF steering committee and promoters of the CMP, the left front parties—CPI (M), CPI, FB and RSP—also have become part of the consensus for the above policies. In the debates in the parliament also except for demanding to reduce the stress on certain aspects of these policies like CPI demanding to keep insurance sector free from privatisation or CPI (M) opposing the new pension scheme knowing fully well that in spite of their objections these will be carried through, the question of a socialist alternative is never raised. That is, like the consensus about the imperialist dictated reform policies among these parties, all of them are overtly or covertly arrived also at the consensus that socialist path in not practicable any longer.

But at the state level things are different. As most of these parties are having their main influence limited to few or one state, they will be taking radical postures to exhibit their progressive or even revolutionary character there. And at the same time will be faithfully implementing the central policies with their own interpretations

and justifications.

The CPI (M)'s case is the best example for this. As far as its other left partners—CPI, FB and RSP—are concerned except for their left labels, no left ideology is left in them. They are opportunist petty bourgeois parties serving the ruling classes in India and the imperialists well for crumbs of power. This is very much the criticism of even CPI (M) against them. But is CPI (M), the leader of the LF any better?

Take the case of W. Bengal for example? The LF led by it, alone enjoying clear majority in state assembly is ruling there continuously for more than 20 years. Its achievement there in these two decades is that it has reduced Marxism-Leninism and socialist path to a better form of Congress in the realms of ideology, politics, organisation and administration. It is these marginal differences with Congress, the dissunity prevailing within Congress, and pseudo socialist jargons which are still keeping in power. Like the Krushchevites in Soviet Union, and the Dengists in China, CPI (M) leadership has discredited socialism to great extent in Bengal. The condition in Tripura is almost similar.

But in the concrete conditions in Kerala, the CPI (M) led LDF could come to power only alternatively so far. Now, the newly formed LDF government under the guidance of CPI (M) theoretician E.M.S. Namboodiripad has launched a 'programme for people's planning' in the state with lot of fanfare mobilising a large number of intellectuals also. EMS asserts that basic changes can be brought about in Kerala through taking planning to people and involving them in developmental activities. EMS knows well that it will be a catchy slogan for a good number

of the predominant petty bourgeois class in the state. He is cleverly creating socialist illusions by parading socialist forms with manipulative interpretations without any socialist content at all.

For example, he talks about decentralisation of power. When the whole power is concentrated with the central government, and when even in a panchayat is real power is vested with the executive officer, where is the power to be decentralised to the people? When the whole planning strategy is dictated from above by the state structure, and it is altogether guided by imperialists' neo-colonisation, can it be changed in any way by merely propagating people's participation in them, even by forming people's committees? Like Krushchev and Deng, EMS knows well what he says. When Krushchev announced peaceful transition to socialism and non-capitalist path of development he was consciously working for transforming Soviet Union to capitalist path. When Deng talked about socialism with Chinese characteristics, he know well that he was taking China to capitalist path. Similarly, EMS under people's participation wants to implement the IMF-WB reform policies efficiently. He wants to hand over all welfare measures like free education, healthcare, housing, PDS etc to local bodies to be run through collections from people! There by he teaches how well the reform package can be implemented keeping a socialist or left image! Thus EMS is once again proving that in theory atleast he is many steps ahead of Jyothi Basu. He is performing the great magic of having socialism in words and forms on the one hand, and finishing its content for ever on the other. What great revisionism? No



doubt, why the opportunist intellectuals are enamoured by his marvels!

The great NGO ideologues who propagate environmentalism, feminism, 'dalitism', national self-determination, social justice etc etc are also performing the reformist tactics well in confusing the 'development dialogue'. They vehemently and passionately argue that on these or any other issues under heaven they are the most ardent, even revolutionary advocates. Even if they have any weaknesses in repeatedly asserting it and capturing the leadership of all people's movements on these issues, the media and funding support generously provided to them help them to overcome it. But they will never take you to the reasons for increasing environmental degradation, women's suppression, national oppression, pauperisation of dalits and adivasis etc. That is, they consciously keep off the debate from Indian state, the ruling classes and imperialism. They present these issues are unrelated, accidental, to be fought against from grass root level, seperately, unconnected from the anti—state, anti—imperialist struggle.

Thus the revisionist and VO/NGO intellectuals and ideologues have fund a lot in common among them. They serve the system by hijacking popular resistance to the consequences of neocolonisation to harmless paths of accomodating to people's involvement planning, development with people's participation, by taking up issues unrelated to each other. The fundamental aspects of approaches towards development are there by confused.

#### IV

These developments have posed a serious challenge before

the Marxist-Leninists. By projecting the developmental policy put forward by the capitalist imperialist system as the one and only alternative before the people, imperialism and reaction are attacking the socialist forces on all fundamental issues. They are disarming the world proletariat ideologically. They are erasing the socialist path from the agenda of the world people. In this from Clinton to EMS to the NGOs, all are united ideologically.

This disarming of the proletarian forces are performed through an over dose of pragmatism. The pet theme among the petty bourgeois intellectuals today is 'atleast let us do something'. If they are questioned, they will impatiently coach you about the non-performance of socialism, and the marvels of capitalism, in the true tradition of Gorbachov. As Gorbachov was in a hurry, they are also in a hurry to fulfill their 'historical' task of helping imperialism to wipe out socialism from this earth.

This bourgeois, petty bourgeois pragmatism cannot be combatted by pragmatism of a new variety, even by a self-proclaimed revolutionary variety performed by

sectarian groups. As Mao asserted imperialism and reaction, and their capitalist developmental path, can be combatted only by putting 'revolution in command', socialist path in the forefront, and taking 'class struggle as key link'.

History has repeatedly proved that imperialism is beset with crisis after crisis, and it is the most barbaric system of a handful of exploiters and oppressors against the vast masses of people. From the mercantile days to today its developmental policy is for plundering the natural and human resources at global level. Indian state is a part of this barbaric global system serving its interests. Only when it is replaced by a New Democratic state all powers shall go to people; Only then developmental policy which is socialist both in content and form can be pursued as the real people's alternative to various imperialist alternatives projected by the ruling system today.

The task before the Marxist-Leninists is to unite the broad masses for the struggle for democracy and socialism; fighting imperialism and reaction, and exposing their apologists unpromisingly.

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P. J. James

# Imperialist Crisis and Transition from Keynesianism to Monetarism

The imperialist and comprador ideologues the world over are working hard to conceal the intensifying general crisis through which the capitalist imperialist system is passing through presently. At the same time they are still propagating that it is socialism which is in crisis. Even the degeneration in former socialist countries including Soviet Union which had already deviated to capitalist path under revisionist rule were depicted as crisis of socialism to hoodwink world people.

But however hard they try, the crisis in the imperialist countries are snow-balling now. The French workers and masses strike few month's back appeared with the caption "a nation on strike". One after another workers protest movements in different imperialist countries are attracting headlines. In this situation, the shift in the economic policies in these countries during last two decades compared to those of immediate post-World War II years, and their consequences at global level itself calls for serious studies and evaluations. This task has become all the more important because, in spite of it the social democrats, new-left intellectuals and revisionists are propagating that capitalist system has resolved its fundamental problems

The evolution of Keynesianism as the internationally accepted bourgeois ideology and practice during the quarter century immediately following the second World War, its 'sudden' demise in the early seventies in the context of the onset of global 'stagflation', the consequent reversion to an already discredited monetarism as manifested through the beginnings of Thatcherism and Reaganomics in imperialist countries and their gradual spread to neocolonies in the form of the so called structural adjustment programme at the behest of Fund - Bank combine ultimately leading to the final denouement in the form of the WTO-led globalisation strategy, are all issues having serious political undertones. However, both academics and freelance theorists on account of their ahistorical and apolitical approach have thrown much confusion and misunderstanding over these issues. For instance, even while

in the economic sphere. These degenerates to capitalist path even propagate that capitalist system can resolve through appropriate state action even the cyclical crises gripping it. They are enamoured by the arguments of Keynesians like Galbraith

Now under intensifying general crisis when imperialist camp is implementing and propagating monetarism, these pseudo left forces have started lamenting about the virtues of Keynesianism as if it is something which can bring about social change without a revolution.

In this situation serious studies on imperialist system in the post WW II period are called for.

It is in this context we are publishing a series of articles on the transition from Keynesianism to monetarism. We hope these articles by P. J. James shall evoke many responses.

In this imperialist epoch, the proletarian revolution can overcome present setbacks and advance only when the laws of motion of imperialist system in its neocolonial phase is scientifically analysed from proletarian class positions, and appropriate development in the theory and practice of revolutionary movements is continuously achieved—RS.

imperialist states were attempting to combine the Keynesian budgetary methods with monetarist methods involving financial and monetary influence on the market or to fuse together free enterprise policies with state regulation of the economy, academic economists on their part had of ten been attempting to place monetarism and Keynesianism in water-tight compartments after characterising them mutually exclusive or the one as the anti-thesis of the other. In fact this was the case at a time when even the diehard monetarists themselves had recognised the need for state intervention under capitalism. Naturally, over the last fifty years imperialist policy making had often swung between various positions ranging from Keynesianism to monetarism and the most visible trend had been a convergence between the two, though at the academic and ideological level Keynesianism occupied the



dominant role. Nevertheless our approach to these problems is a quite different one. Fully understanding the capitalist-imperialist system as a historically limited and inherently contradictory one, our task would be an enquiry into the laws of motion of capital which is defined as the specific global relations of production suited to the neocolonial phase of imperialism in the post Second World War period. Such an enquiry in the following pages will reveal that the much discussed difference between imperialism's two sets of policies, viz; Keynesianism and monetarism has been only one of relative priorities accorded to the realisation or profitability objectives to be achieved through a policy of state-controlled inflation or unemployment respectively as the crisis-ridden imperialist system has been forced to select between either of these two evils. Recent reports on the stress towards some kind of a 'jobless growth' coming from G-7 summits and other imperialists centres clearly reveal that of late monetarism has full established its hegemonic role in imperialist policy making. However, this shall not be construed as an overnight development. In fact, as our analysis indicates, this ascendance of monetarism at a global level has been the logical continuation of the Keynesian policies pursued by imperialists during what is called the 'golden age' of capitalism that ended with late sixties and early seventies. Nevertheless apparent differences still exist between ideologists of Keynesianism and monetarism that provides ample scope for social democrats and degenerated communists to espouse the former as the only alternative in political economy. That is, while Keynesians like Galbraith use more subtle and camouflaged methods of defending the interests of capital, monetarists led by Friedman and other Chicago theorists are the most diehard champions of 'laissez-faire' capitalism. In this context, it is the solemn duty of genuine Marxist-Leninists to expose the true essence of these two sets of imperialist policies including their apparent differences. This task that engages them in systematic confrontation with capital not only enriches their theoretical understanding but also enables them to wean away humankind from the orbit of capital which having already reached the end of its social usefulness is now leading the world to allround stagnation and decay.

### Keynesianism: Its Background

Keynesian economics that for a time had

been the guide to governmental action among imperialists, social democrats and even fascists is often termed as a 'revolution' in economic thinking by bourgeois ideologues. While imperialist think-tanks qualified the age of Keynes as that of 'welfare capitalism', 'post-industrial society', 'technocratic society', the 'golden age of capitalism' etc, social democrats and new-left intellectuals who were reluctant to confront capital have argued that capitalism had at last resolved its fundamental problems in the economic sphere so that Marxists should turn their attention to the 'residual' cultural problems afflicting capitalism. Being themselves a part of this mainstream global trend even several self-professed Marxists began to propagate the illusion that appropriate state action could remove capitalism's cyclical fluctuations too. Probably, this was the context that prompted Galbraith, a leading Keynesian economist to comment: "By common, if not yet quite universal agreement, the Keynesian revolution was one of the great modern accomplishments in social design. It brought Marxism in the advanced countries to a total halt". (A Contemporary Guide to Economics, Peace and Laughter, 1971, P. 43)

As if to substantiate these ideological claims, the period between the end of second world war and early seventies witnessed an apparent boom in global capitalist economy. For instance, between 1950 and 1973, the per capita GDP of 16 'industrialised market economies' grew at an annual compound rate of 4.9 percent (World Bank, Annual Report 1992) while unemployment rate remained at an average of 3.2 percent of the labour force (UNCTAD, 1995). These rates are spectacularly high compared with the long and arduous journey of capitalism throughout the entire period covering twentieth century. As a rejoinder to those who do not hold the Keynesian era in high esteem, in a recent report, the UNCTAD said: "Despite a tendency in some quarters to disregard the economic experience of the early post-war period, this period still stands out as a standard of economic performance. Upto the 1970s unemployment rates remained low and stable in all the leading industrial economies. Along with the strengthening of the Welfare State, the deep insecurity that had marked the condition of workers in the inter-war years had, by the late 1960s, been relegated to a distant memory. None of this inhibited economic growth. In the period 1950-1973, output expanded by nearly 5 percent per year and all the major industrial economies



grew faster than they had ever done before. Output growth was accompanied by a considerable expansion of trade, particularly in manufactures. The period has, accordingly, been dubbed a "Golden Age". (UNCTAD, Trade and Development Report, 1995, p. 124). But as UNCTAD itself has pointed out, "This Golden Age ended around 1973" (Ibid). Now our task is to unravel the political economy behind this apparent boom.

As a matter of fact, rather than being a reflection of capitalism's vitality, Keynesianism had been the logical outcome of its inherent weakness. Its immediate background was the global economic crisis of the inter-war period culminating in the world wide great economic depression of the thirties. No doubt periodic business cycles had been a concomitant of capitalism since its inception. However, under competitive capitalism each cycle had been the prelude that set a new stage for the development of productive forces. Regarding the nature of crisis under competitive capitalism Marx said: "A crisis always forms the starting point of large new investments. Therefore, from the point of view of society as a whole, more or less, a new material basis for the next turnover cycle". (Capital Vol. II, P. 189). Thus implicit in this statement of Marx is the recovery and boom phases of capitalist cycle pushing real capital investment and production to a level far exceeding the pre-crisis situation. Economic history shows that such crisis occurred every ten or eleven years in individual capitalist countries at first, and beginning with the world capitalist crisis of 1857 they took on the character of global crisis repeating themselves every seven to nine years. However, in the epoch of imperialism and in the era of proletarian revolution since 1917 cyclical fluctuations and crisis underwent a fundamental transformation. Most notably, during this period capitalist crisis became more prolonged and severe. Its real causes are to be located in the specific character of imperialist production relations. Unlike competitive capitalism where it was relatively progressive as the working class movement had not yet become a threat to its existence, under imperialism, the character of capital itself has undergone fundamental changes so that as a mode of existence capitalism became highly unsuitable for the majority of humankind. The possibility of obtaining super profit simply by force of their monopolistic position has weakened the stimulus on the part of capitalists to introduce new product technologies there by

putting a brake on scientific and technical progress. By restricting production and employment which was essential for reducing wage rate, international capital initiated an 'economic sabotage' thereby restricting the economic well-being of humanity as a whole in order to enrich itself. That is, though scientific and technical progress offer humankind unprecedented scope to remake nature, to produce immense material wealth, to multiply people's creative capabilities and to increase allround general welfare, global capitalists are bent on using the scientific advancement to increase their profits by restricting the flow of output. To be precise, though the possibility of reducing cost of production and thereby increasing profits continues to be there, the development of productive forces is increasingly falling behind the vast opportunities provided by science and technology thereby resulting in the tendency for decay and stagnation in the global economy. Another trend, as Lenin had pointed out, associated with capitalist decay was the rapid growth of a 'rentier capitalist class' who live idly on speculative gains from highly money spinning businesses. Rather than earning profit by engaging in real production, a major section of the big bourgeoisie at a global level began to accumulate immense money capital simply by 'clipping coupons'. As pointed out by Hobson in his book 'Imperialism A Study', the income earned by this parasitic class or rentiers by the turn of this century itself was five times greater than the income obtained from foreign trade of the biggest trading country in the world. In brief, every moment of the existence of imperialist system has been continually producing and reproducing all these negative trends on an ever higher level and on a wider basis. The worldwide economic stagnation that swept through the entire world imperialist system in the thirties was a clear manifestation of the extreme rottenness of capitalist production relations. Quite logically, the country worst affected by this crisis had been USA, the biggest imperialist power in the world. For instance, there the unemployment rate rose from 3.2 percent in 1929 to 24.9 percent in 1933. During the same period GNP of USA fell from \$ 315.7 billion to 222.1 billion—a decline of approximately 30 percent within a span of four years! While this 'great economic depression' devastated the entire capitalist world where unemployment reached the staggering figure of 100 million, quite unheard in the entire history of capitalism, socialist Soviet Union which was totally cut off from imperialist production relations



had been the only country that remained completely insulated from this global crisis. Confronted with this unprecedented crisis including the threat from an organised revolutionary working class movement, this was the context that brought forward Keynesianism as an 'alternative economic strategy' in the form of the so called 'New Deal' in USA to begin with and later in other countries. Compared with the achievements made by capitalism in the nineteenth century in establishing a global market and an international division of labour, Keynesianism with its dependence on the bourgeois state machinery and emphasis on narrow and reactionary economic nationalism is to be viewed as a retreat from the bourgeoisie's own point of view.

To be precise, Keynesianism had been a delicate balancing act between the realisation and profitability problems in capitalism with its emphasis on the former. On the basis of an apparent understanding on the depression and recessionary trends, Keynes came to the conclusion that the principal problem in capitalism has been that of the tendency for consumption or demand to fall below the level required to sustain investment and employment. In his book 'The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money, published in 1936 though Keynes recognises several defects such as unemployment and crisis in capitalism, rather than locating them in capitalist property relations, he seeks to find their causes in the psychology of human beings. It is common knowledge that the cause of unemployment and poverty in a capitalist society is rooted in private property. But Keynes' explanation is quite different. Being a staunch defender of capitalism who feared a social revolution, he said that people's psychology is such that a growth in incomes leads to an increase in savings and to a relative lowering in consumption. This lack of demand adversely affects the scale of production and reduces the level of employment. Therefore he poses increase in private and government investments as the decisive means of increasing the general level of employment. Appropriate state action involving governmental deficits and debt and public expenditures on social security and welfare measures with a view to overcome what is called 'deficiency in effective demand' has been the standard Keynesian medicine to tide over capitalist recession. At the same time Keynes had arms production also in mind while propounding his thesis on increased state expenditures. Similarly he envisaged investments

that do not raise the output of mass consumption goods. This is to avoid a glut in the market in view of reduced purchasing power of the masses.

This does not however mean that Keynes' sole concern was with the realisation problem in capitalism. Being an ardent protagonist of the capitalist-imperialist system he was very well aware of the required profit rate essential for capitalist production. For ensuring capitalists' profit, Keynes thought out an ingenious way of covert wage cuts through a process of 'controlled inflation'. According to him since the workers are under the grip of a 'money illusion' (inability to understand that real wages are falling), it is easy for the state to keep real wages under 'safe' levels acceptable to capitalists through a policy of state regulated inflation involving printing of paper money and growth of public debt. In the same vein Keynes was against the complete elimination of unemployment since capitalist profitability always needed a 'reserve army' of workers enabling employers to enforce wage cuts. No doubt, throughout the 'golden age' of capitalism, money wages continued to rise in USA and Europe; but they were more than offset by the rapidly rising state controlled inflation. Thus, more precisely, Keynesianism had been a 'tight rope walk' which attempted on the one hand to keep wages high enough to ensure 'effective' demand for produced goods and, on the other, to keep wages under control to maintain profits high enough for accumulation. However, the inherent contradictions in the accumulation process in the capitalist-imperialist system especially in the neocolonial phase would not have allowed this Keynesian acrobatics to proceed smoothly. In fact, the Keynesian balancing act was upset by the end of the sixties and the accumulation process was also coming to a halt. A return to monetarism was imperialists' answer to this unprecedented crisis. However, the political economy behind this process is not so simple as it appears to be. It has been a complex process interwoven with the whole course of international capital's movement in the neocolonial phase.

(In the next issue: The True Essence of Capitalism's Golden Age)



# A Fate Created by Imperialism

(Book review: Susan George; A FATE WORSE THAN DEBT-The world financial crisis and the poor 1988. reprinted in India by Public Interest Research Group, New Delhi)

Thanks to the explosion of the media and independent research there is large amount of data available on the state of the nations of the world. This makes it extremely difficult for the IMF/WB and other agencies with vested interests to convincingly put forward their tailored data to rationalise their policies. Susan George's book 'A Fate worse than Debt, therefore must be a challenge for the WB/IMF and their agencies. The author has very effectively put forward data collected from different parts of the world where the IMF/WB have been imposing their version of structural adjustment programme to show these have devastated those countries. The book is published in 1988, I'm sure the writer could get easily more data to prove her point if she were to write it now. But in spite of her vehement attack on IMF/WB they are likely to welcome this book, for after all who doesn't like few suggestions to improve it's image.

In the introduction itself she claims, in the policies of the IMF/WB there is no plan. "Before going any further, let me state in italic caps; I DON'T BELIEVE IN THE CONSPIRACY THEORY OF HISTORY," (page 5), Then what is it all, a mere accident? Since she believes there is no plan involved in it all, she hopes the IMF can be reformed. "Should the South seek to replace or abolish the IMF? Even if such a Herculean feat were possible, it strikes me as the wrong goal, precisely because it is an instrument. If enough pressure and political skill were applied, it could become an instrument for governments more enlightened than that of the US under Reagan." (P. 226)

It is this refusal to see the conspiracy where it actually exists that will gladden the IMF/WB. She agrees the debt has been an instrument. Instrument do not exist without a purpose. They are created for a purpose. The purpose of the debt is to continue the subjugation of the third world. This is a point she herself admits. For example, "It (the third world debt) is a

mechanism by which the poor in the poor countries can be forced to finance the rich in the rich countries. Because debt allows the rich to maintain and reinforce their control over the poor, it will not be readily relinquished." (P. 261).

The creation of IMF/WB itself was a well planned move first outlined in the Atlantic Treaty of 1941 between the president of the US and the prime minister of the UK. It arose out of the need of the imperialist nations to separate imperialist politics and imperialist economics to maintain their hold over the resources and the market of the third world. One can ignore these facts and claim no conspiracy only if one sees IMF/WB as neutral institutions following an independent agenda. They are not. They take orders from their mentors-the imperialist countries. The conspiracy is to maintain the imperialist system. Imperialism since it is a contradictory and exploitative system is faced with crises from time to time. The agenda of the IMF/WB is to identify these crises and suggest measures to solve them.

It is conscious denial of reality to refuse to see the plan behind the debt crisis. The author's description of the origin of the debt crisis betrays her claim that there is no conspiracy. In part one of the book the author traces the origin of the debt crisis. In the 1950s a new breed of economists sponsored by World Bank, IMF and financial institutions put forward a development model for the newly independent countries to follow. The central point of this model was industrialisation with large injection of foreign capital. The underlying theory is that though this model will help the dite initially, through 'trickling down' benefit will reach all the people. It was argued that it is the selfishness and corruption of the rulers which made sure this model did not operate. The banks followed the MNCs as they expanded to the neo-colonies. In other words the banks were simply financing the US and European corporations to



sell their products in the third world. Therefore these financial institutions were least bothered about what happened inside these countries. After all they were not financing Philippines or Brazil but Boeing and Washington.

The IMF is not responsible for the debt crisis but it is argued, but came in when the banks found it was unmanageable. The IMF intervention is meant to not only to maintain the third world as participants and also force them to increase their participation. This it does by enforcing its orthodoxy on the third world countries. The foundations of this orthodoxy are the doctrine of free trade and comparative (natural) advantage.

Though IMF claims to be a non-political organisation its policies and views are identical with that of its most powerful member participant, the US. The creditor countries pretend that they want the neo-colonialism can continue. Hence they have introduced rescheduling, which is a new name for borrowings. Cut-throat competition among the developing countries for exports and the inventions of substitutes by the developed countries made sure that the debtor countries will never be able to raise enough foreign exchange to pay back the debt.

Can't one see a well laid out plan here. Well, the problem with the author as with many others like her is that they cannot visualise a world order outside the imperialist framework. They close their eyes to the fact that such a world existed for a time in the past.

The effect of the operation of the imperialism in the mask of solving the debt crisis have been disastrous. Part 2 of the book describes this with the help of data from African and Latin American countries.

In Kenya when IMF arrived in 1975, the real minimum wage, the best the poor could count on, was 42% higher than it was in 1984. The Brazilian Institute for Social and Economic Analysis (IBASE) claims that the average income of the wealthiest class was 225 times, that of the poorest classes in 1978, whereas it was only 178 times greater in 1970. A mere third of the Brazilian population is able to afford the recommended dietary intake. Peruvian Infant Mortality Rates were at 70 per thousand in the 1970s but over 80 per 1000 in the 1980s. Some other estimates say in the worst shanty towns half the new-borns were dying before the age of one.

Many of the mega projects financed by the debt did not care for its effect on the environment. However the author is happy that the WB has taken note of this fact.

Since the author cannot visualise a world without imperialism she is in the look out for good samaritans who could help the people of third world to cope up with the suffering. She finds them in Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). No distinction is made between the NGOs of the debtor and creditor countries. She has found them already very successful in some countries. In part three of the book the author takes a critical look at the solutions suggested for the debt crisis and puts forward her own solution.

The Baker plan proposed when it was seen that US agricultural exports to the South was declining, wanted extension of more loans under the condition that the debtor countries follow the monetarist policies. It called upon the IMF/WB to jointly enforce these policies.

The Brady plan was also in the same line. It wanted to give relief on the interest rates and forgiveness of principal on all outstanding loans. Brady also wanted the debtor countries to follow free market policies.

As the restructuring of the economy is going on full scale, lowering the living standard of the people and pushing them into misery, the people are looking for creative Survivals. In Peru they have formed large number of organisations called 'People's Economic Organisations' (PEO). These are organisations of bakers, carpenters, tailors, weavers, etc. who try to reach the consumers directly circumventing the market. According to the author this is an alternative to the devastating competitive capitalism.

In the final chapter of part three the author puts forward her own solutions for the debt crisis which she calls the 3-D solution—(Debt, Development, Democracy). The essence of this solution is to allow the debtor countries to make payment in local currencies. This payment should be credited to national development fund. The use of fund will be determined by authentic people namely NGOs. NGOs from the debtor and creditor countries will be allowed to use this fund to manage projects.

According to the author this suggestion should be acceptable to both sides. For the debtors the reason is obvious. The creditors



## On Ultra-'Left' Deviation in Nepalese Communist Movement

There is no doubt that the so-called 'people's war line' of NCP (Maoist) is nothing but an ultra-'left' deviation. But another more

will accept it also because that is the only way to keep the African countries in the world system as palsy.

The support for the NGO by Susan George and others like her arise from the fact they have taken for granted the imperialist system. They refuse to take note of the precarious nature of imperialism in the face of mounting protest by the peoples of the third world against the MNCs and the local elite who support them. The solution that the local elite offer under direction from the imperialist masters is the 'carrot and stick' policy. On the one hand they sponsor and finance NGOs who dangle the carrot of 'projects' to divert attention of the people away from the revolutionary alternative with 'write off the imperialist debt' as part of it. On the other hand the law enforcing authorities wield the stick to suppress the people who protest by declaring them as terrorists and kill them in 'encounter deaths' as in India.

The main theme of this book is the same as that the imperialists preach, namely there is no alternatives to imperialism. That is also the reason why they will appreciate this book.

"The third world countries have fallen deep into debt because they have accepted, internalized and followed the developmental model promoted by the WB, the IMF and similar institutions. The debt crisis is a particularly ugly, accurate manifestation of a chronic condition, the predicable outcome of economic strategies concerned with the world market than with local needs." (p. 264).

The point here is that the author agrees the development model was the instrument that pushed the countries into debt. What is more it was predictable. If so, then was it not the result of a plan, a conspiracy?

It is easy to remove darkness by switching on the light. But if one creates darkness by closing the eyes it is not easily removed. Susan George's book belongs to the latter category. She closes her eyes before mounting evidence to create darkness and do not see the reality of imperialism.

important aspect of this line is that it is a disguised line heading towards rightist deviation. The Marxist-Leninists have the experience of the present NCP (UML) which went to the other extreme from the ultra-'left' line adopted by the Marxist-Leninist movement of the 1960s and 1970s. The ultra-'left' line put forward by the present NCP (Maoists) is only a means to pave its way for scoring success in rightist politics. In this sense the history of the earlier and present ultra-'left' lines are basically different in their character. Although the earlier line was also wrong and ultra-leftist the revolutionary spirit of those who followed it was beyond doubt. But the same cannot be said about the present 'Maoist' group. Its leadership is well known for their opportunist and careerist character for a long time.

History of the World Communist Movement has proved that ultra-'left' line even if it is carried out sincerely by true revolutionaries, it does not serve the revolution, but ultimately counter-revolution. But in Nepal, the 'Maoists' due to their opportunist character have been playing in the hands of reaction for a long time in one way or other. Beside this opportunist character, their inability to correctly evaluate the objective and subjective conditions in Nepal also led them to the ultra-'leftist' deviation. Their purely subjective approach to the revolution is not based on Marxist-Leninist understanding but is a product of anarchist, or to be more frank, Lin Piaoist way of thinking. The ultra-'left' line of 'Maoists' in Nepal resembles Lin Piaoism more due to their rightist in essence orientation.

For more than a decade the 'Maoists' in Nepal tried to cover their opportunist character under revolutionary phraseology. Now they are trying to play the same game under the cover of 'Maoism' and so-called people's war line. But this deception cannot last long. Illusions created by opportunists of all hues, whether they are from the right or 'left' are certain to get exposed. The Marxist-Leninist principles and the revolutionaries following these principles are certain to become victorious.

[An edited version of the political note published by NEPALI EKTA, a monthly publication of NCP (Mashal) supporters in India.]



# Against the Barbarism of Environmental Destruction

After the Conference for Environment and Development in 1992 in Rio now the "first follow-up conference" is celebrated in Berlin/FRG.

It is already clear: Like Rio, so in Berlin: a waste of time and effort.

The meaningless and above all not binding "Framework Convention on Climate Change" of Rio should-so it was planned-now get the "climate problem" with obligatory "timetables", fixed limits etc. under control in Berlin.

But wide of the mark! As in Rio, so is the summit in Berlin to be only a summit of prattle, letters of intent, assertions, a summit in the lowly spheres of imperialist politics.

## For all the Summits, the Climate Does Not Get Any Better!

In a true tide of magazine articles, press statements, scientific expertises and books we are assured by all sides: It cannot go on the same way. Hardly a politician who still doubts that the greenhouse effect, the air-poisoning, the forest clears, the waste disposal, the CO<sub>2</sub> output are the causes of fundamental climate changes such as the increase in average temperature worldwide.

Hardly anybody dares still to contest that the consequences of climate change have already led to flood disasters as in Bangladesh, Italy etc., to hurricanes and whirlwinds as in California, to the desolation of wide rural areas.

What should be the Marxist-Leninist approach towards environmental issues? We are reproducing below a paper of Bolshevik Party North Kurdistan-Turkey published in BOLSHEVIK PARTISAN on this question  
—Red Star

The bourgeois scientists mutually exceed themselves in the depiction of thoroughly realistic horror scenarios for the future. Only as to the causes and the necessary changes, there go the opinions wide asunder. And that is no wonder!

The main cause of climate change is the world imperialist system, and nothing else. This is not production according to human needs in accordance with nature, but production for profit!

"Human needs" are aroused and served according to profit in imperialist countries. In dependent countries the basic necessities of food, housing etc. are hardly satisfied for the working persons.

One of the most blatant examples for this is the waste production in metropolitan states. For example millions of basic consumer items are stuck in most expensive packaging materials to move the consumers to purchase them—from shampoo to chocolate box—and to cut out the competition—only to wander into the waste-basket after being paid for, and to poison the air and the soil through

storage or incineration.

Or, the means of mobility. They are produced and developed according to the interests of monopolies. Instead of giving preference to "environmentally appropriate" public means of mass transport, instead of widely limiting private vehicles, cars and trucks and airplanes are produced always more abundantly, road construction is financed and expanded by the state, CO<sub>2</sub> outputs of cars get in spite of and with catalytic converters - always higher. And since cars and trucks as well as busses are absolute "export hits" of imperialist states to dependent countries, there railroad networks are not expanded at all, or immediately shut down. These countries are "developed" correctly right from the start! Everything is oriented to the maximum profit of car companies from Japan, FRG, USA, Italy, France etc.

We could set forth with these examples arbitrarily, for example in the entire energy field. Here, the largest environmental polluters are the coal power plants and large-scale industry complexes etc.

The decisive thing is that the climate change has advanced so far, that even bourgeois politicians cannot ignore it anymore. Scientific data and the consequences of expected disasters force them to take at least some measures to take the edge off these consequences at least partially, and also to calm down the people.

In many countries of the world political and reformist movements have established



themselves, struggling against the consequences of climate disaster, opposing environmental destruction and forcing the governments to take action. The mammoth conferences like Rio and Berlin serve just these purposes. But

### The Main Culprits of the Climate Change Shift the Blame on Others - as Always!

Ninety percent of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions emerging during the process of energy production are blown into the air in metropolitan states, 10% in the remainder of the world. The Federal Republic of Germany is in Europe the country which produces the most CO<sub>2</sub> emission, namely 31,3%. The USA contribute with 300000 tons of CFC gases to the destruction of the ozone layer (in comparison: India with four times so large a population produces 6000 tons). In Holland 688 kg of artificial fertilizers per acre and year are tipped out into the soil, in Bangladesh 77 kg. The amount of industrial waste "exported" by the FRG to dependent countries was 552000 tons in 1990. We could continue with this list arbitrarily for all areas.

Now, instead of "radically" going against the causes of climate change in imperialist states it is preferred to stage mock fights. A dispute is carried out about "reduction values", "limits" etc. The CO<sub>2</sub> emission, for example, should be reduced about 20% at the maximum by the year 2005, or rather should be led back to the level of 1990.

But de facto and fundamentally none of the problems should be tackled. They are pushed

off on to the shoulders of dependent countries. Mr. Spranger, Federal Minister for Economic Co-operation, for example, throws in the discussion: "Poverty and underdevelopment are in wide parts of our earth causes of an over-exploitation of resources, having consequences on all countries and people" or: "As the problem of deforestation shows, poverty and high population pressure can be a cause of environmental damage" (Climate Newspaper No:3). Fear is stoked before "take off countries like China" which, Heaven forbid, will produce in some years so many cars and refrigerators that then altogether no more chance exists for the climate.

Therefore action is needed, but not above all and mainly by metropolitan states, but by dependent countries. And the slogan of "sustainable development", this "formula of environmental and peace policy of tomorrow" (Mr. Topfer, ex-Federal Minister of Environment, Climate Newspaper No: 3) will have to do for it. This formula was the keyword of Rio resolution as well. It means nothing else but the imperialistic penetration and further dependence of undeveloped countries on metropolitan states. "We will further plunder their resources, in exchange for it however they should kindly hold the air clean through 'technology transfer', after all, we have polluted it enough already." Or just like the Holy Samaritans: "What wanders here into the garbage, is urgently needed in poorer countries" (Climate Newspaper No: 3).

It is always the same refrain.

### In the Climate and Environmental Question, too, the

### Boundaries Lie Between above and below!

A further popular maneuver in the environment question in the metropolises is: "It is the fault of all of us".

We are made believe that, no matter whether you are a worker or a bourgeois, an employee or a manager, a peasant or a landowner, we all destroy the environment and the climate. We all drive cars, fall prey to consumption terror, no one wants to do without his/her daily shower etc.

But first of all, workers must not only inhale the polluted air in the street and at home. In factories, in production areas air-pollution limits are - paradoxically! - often much higher than those for the man in the street. In the chemicals giants like BASF and Hoechst or in asbestos production, workers are poisoned consciously and knowingly yes, as simple as that. And by whom?! By the companies, which are likewise responsible for the air pollution to a great extent. In the entire discussion, this air pollution, this health threat in production is usually simply swept under the table.

Naturally the situation is much worse still in countries like India, North Kurdistan/Turkey, Peru etc. The same industrial giants (Hoechst, BASF etc.) namely produce in these countries under much worse conditions, i.e. without any health protection at all. The life expectancy of workers in these plants life between 30 and 40 years.

Employees who return broken and groggy from work, toment themselves then still through traffic-jams - allegedly because they themselves want it so. Which scorn! Mostly, local tr-



ansport means are so bad that long waiting periods and expensive tickets rob the commuters of every motivation to use public transportation facilities.

Alternatives to "normal" consumption, i.e. ecologically grown vegetables, stable, durable furniture, non-poisonous housing etc. are only to have with a great deal of money, and most employees do not have this sum of money in abundance even in imperialist countries. It is only enough to get by.

"We are all in the same boat". You must be kidding! But this is a popular argument of the "Greens Movement". Everyone must begin by himself, then will everything change allegedly. Well, yes, as green representatives with their corresponding diets and salaries, an "environmentally conscious" living and housing is surely affordable, whereby they do not surely dispense with their airplanes and official cars...

We Communists also think that everyone must begin by himself, but this means for us that the exploited and oppressed must see that they must take the struggle against environmental destruction in their own hands, that this is a part of the struggle against this system. We can change our individual conduct as much as we like, but it does not harm the established structures fundamentally. We are so far "co-responsible" for the climate disaster as we do not wage these struggles effectively and massively.

### **The Solution Model of the Reformists - Overtly or Covertly Chauvinistic!**

Under the label of "S. O. S. Earth" an appeal is circulated

to the climate summit by an initiative embracing all parties and countries (above all supported by the Greens) for a drive: "Ecological Marshall Plan". (Already this drive name is "programmatically". The Marshall Plan was nothing but the economic rearmament of German finance capital against the "danger of Communism" by American imperialism after 1945). We grasp one of the points out: "3. By the Ecological Marshall Plan: Population stabilization. If and so far as these states (Third World) develop and realize population stabilization. If and so far as these states (Third World) develop and realize population stabilization plans, the international state community should grant them effective help in this field". Well, here you are, please finance the program of the Chinese state also, which foresees compulsory sterilization after one child-birth, compulsory abortion in case of a handicapped fetus etc!

The earth has enough food and room for all persons, if they are not exploited and oppressed—but this understanding is indeed alien to imperialist population strategists! The problem is that the ones have too much and the others too little, and not that too many persons live on earth!

The programs of the NGOs (Non Governmental Organisations) have essentially all the same kernel, even if they furiously denounce certain partial consequences of imperialist climate politics. They always look for a solution only as part of the existing system. De facto they have mutated to partially "innovative" "acknowledged" critics, but always only in mind with capital. They take—partly unintentionally—an outrider role

in reinforcing international control mechanisms of the UNO, which are nothing but means of maintaining the "New World Order".

German NGOs, for example, put the following demands to the Berlin climate summit: To lay down "climate protection as a requirement for each nation at home" and "orientation of loan disbursement by international development banks to goals of the climate convention". Well, here you are, still another means of subjugation for dependent countries, for such a loan disbursement means nothing else. The metropolitan states want only to secure their markets for new technologies with it.

Earnestly a campaign is started during the climate summit in Berlin, the "Climate Tribunal", to convene an "International Environmental Court of Law". Here the guilty are also long since found. How could dependent countries compete with the standards of metropolitan states? It would be best to debate the deployment of an environment army as well, which should "take drastic measures".

The main problem of all these suggestions is that, so "well-meant" they may also be, they do not attack the boundaries of the system, its economic structures oriented on profit, which rest on the exploitation of man by man. They direct their appeals to the governments and politicians of these economic systems, who however only carry through their interests in the political plane, and do not set on the changing force of the popular masses.

The oppressed and the exploited must get on the move. They must recognize that they must tackle the climate and environ-



# No End to Mexican Crisis

Since the US Treasury and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) began their disbursement of some US \$37 billion in credits to the Mexican government in February 1995 to bail out the holders of Mexican bonds in the midst of the precipitous devaluation of the peso, Mexico's economy has contracted sharply. All the official assurances of an around-the-corner recovery notwithstanding, the economy remains in a dismal and deteriorating state.

During 1995, Mexico's gross domestic product (GDP) fell by almost 7%, and the first quarter of 1996 saw a continued decline. Less than a year since it received a total of \$1.75 billion from the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank to help restore solvency to the tottering banking system, the Zedillo Administration is now seeking as much as another \$1 billion from the multilateral development banks in financial sector lending.

Faced with interest rates that have ranged from 40 to over 100%, close to one half of Mexico's businesses have gone belly up in the past year. With two million Mexicans having lost their jobs, two-thirds of the country's economically active population of 34 million are now without sufficient work and earn incomes that are below the poverty line.

Contributing to this severe depression is a substantial decline in wages. Since the current crisis began in December 1994, the minimum wage has lost 30% of its purchasing power. It now buys only a quarter of what it did 20 years ago. Contractual wages during the present period have fared even worse.

ment question as a question of survival of all enslaved people worldwide.

It must be the task of Communist propaganda and action to clarify the people in this sense, to agitate them, to make them conscious of the connections. It is essential to take the imperialist world system as our target. It is essential to take up

the struggle for a fundamental change in the ruling systems.

We Communists from North Kurdistan/Turkey wage an embittered struggle precisely in these questions, too, against the ruling classes in our country who, like in all social areas, "march forward with giant steps" also by the destruction of life bases of humanity, nature

The unravelling of the Mexican economy has been devastating for virtually everyone who does not have financial ties with the corrupt ruling party or the international community. Poor urban neighbourhoods have been particularly hard hit, especially by the collapse of the construction trade. In rural areas, thousands of small farmers are selling their land—often to foreign companies supplying a foreign market—in order to survive.

Those farmers who are defaulting on their bank loans have been joined by large segments of the urban middle class that are unable to make payments on their homes, cars and businesses to form a potent, million-strong debtor's movement. By US accounting measures, nearly a third of all outstanding loans are overdue, and this debt is continuing to mount. Were it not for the \$26 billion already pumped in by the Mexican government—an amount equivalent to 10% of Mexico's GDP and twice what the government received when it privatised the banks in 1991—the country's banking system would have already collapsed.

For 14 years, Mexico, with the encouragement of the World Bank, IMF and US Treasury under three US presidents, has placed its fortunes increasingly in the hands of outsiders. Instead of building its economy from the bottom up, it adopted structural adjustment policies—wage suppression, high interest rates, deregulation, privatisation, export promotion and austerity—designed to attract the capital and technology of foreign corporations. Along with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)'s removal of trade barriers, these

ure and the environment. We fight here in the FRG against the imperialist environmental policy of German imperialism. This struggle must be an inseparable part of the struggle for proletarian socialist revolution in Germany.

Let's save the earth and blow the imperialist chain to pieces!



## INTERNATIONAL SCENE

### Australian worker's revolt

A rally of 15,000 workers protesting against new labour laws and budget cuts taking their democratic rights, hard-earned benefits away stormed the parliament house in Canberra in August. They swarmed over the top of building raising the banner of protest. Workers injured in police attack smeared the parliament walls with their blood. Later workers ransacked the parliament rooms and smashed glass doors. Unions shut down ports, coal mines, building sites and manufacturing plants across the country to help the workers to take part in the rally. Workers were joined by aboriginals,

students, academics and others sections in the struggle.

Thousands of workers demonstrated in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and other cities also. In Darwin protestors briefly occupied parliament house. As the govt is bent upon crushing the workers protest, more struggles opposing it are expected in near future.

### Japan in the Red

The days of economic boom when for years the budget showed surplus in Japan are gone. This year's budget showed a public sector deficit of 4.2% of the GDP. The deficits have pushed up public debt. In 1991 it was equivalent of 67% of the GDP. This year it is expected to reach 95% according to 10 OECD sources. Only the postal savings and pension amount of public sector employees are coming to the rescue. Even then this year's net deficit is expected to reach 18% of the GDP.

As fiscal measures to tide over this situation are taken, it is going to be the workers who will be squeezed. Like in other OECD countries, workers struggle in Japan can break out any time. The Japanese 'miracle' is getting exposed.

### Food riots in Jordan

Jordan which is held up as a paragon of stability and steadfastness in West Asia by the imperialist camp experienced food riots in August. Riots erupted against lifting of government subsidies on bread and animal feed under IMF directives. Price hikes created deep frustration among the Jordanian poor who are already facing increasing unemployment.

When prices were raised, the poor reacted saying "if even bread is not spared, what is there to look forward to?" Already the debt over each Jordanian amounts to \$ 2700. As King Hussein's government approached IMF for more credits, it has imposed new conditionalities including price rise.

Though Hussein government could put down the August riots, more disturbances are expected.

### Nuclear threat

When the US and its allies in the Security Council including Russia and China are making it appear that a test ban treaty is the only urgent need, a report in *The Observer* (London)

policies have facilitated the movement of US firms to Mexico and of their production back into the United States. Now, more than half of all trade between the two countries consists of intra-firm transactions that take place among the branches of US corporations.

As a result, Mexico's productive capacity is disintegrating and the country has become highly susceptible to sudden outflows of capital, as evidenced by the peso's collapse when US interest rates rose and political trauma hit Mexico in 1994. To sustain the economy, the Mexican government has mortgaged its future with an extraordinary round of foreign borrowing. In the past year, it has taken on \$ 45 billion in international obligations to public and private lenders, effectively converting short-term debts on which it had been on the verge of defaulting into a massive medium-term debt that must be paid over the next five years.

More specifically, the government has had to sell more bonds in private markets and offer unusually high returns and guarantees in order to make payments on the massive loans made by the US Treasury and the IMF. Even then, it has been able to meet these obligations only by rescheduling payment a number of times.

The result is that the Mexican government is now in the perilous position of having a foreign debt of some \$ 100 billion (and the private sector an additional 75 billion dollar), while holding 16 billion dollar in foreign reserves, 95% of which, according to the IMF, is borrowed money. With a declining capacity to generate new resources to pay off this debt and no change in economic policy in sight, Mexico is heading inexorably toward another serious run on the peso and an unmitigated economic and social disaster.



on August 11 about few occasions which came very close to reenacting Hiroshima by the countries having huge nuclear arms stockpile speak about the hollowness of the CTBT. Besides as US President Eisenhower once said the approach of nuclear powers see no reason why they "should not be used just exactly as you would use a bullet or anything else". At that very time deputy supreme allied commander of Europe, Montgomery put it this way: "We at SHAPE are basing our planning on using atomic and thermonuclear weapons in our defence. With us it is no longer they may be used. It is very definitely they will be used if we are attacked". When even a small troop movement in besieged Iraq is considered as an attack on US interests, according to Montgomery's prescription there are enough scope for using nuclear weapons. As the five nuclear powers, mainly US and Russia are having enough nuclear weapons in stock enough to destroy planet earth several times over, any discussion on test ban without linking with dismantling nuclear stockpile is meaningless.

It is estimated that US Energy Department will be spending \$ 20 billions for maintaining the nuclear stockpile in coming five years. This amount is more than it was incurring on research, development, testing and production programmes even during the pre-1990 period.

Meanwhile there are very little efforts to dismantle the stockpile. The 10,000 nuclear weapons US may have by 2003 consists of operational warheads, inactive warheads and retired warheads. Only the last category is defused at Pantex in Texas. Though the rate of dismantling rose from 1544 in 1990 to 1856 in 1992, it dropped to 1393 in 1995, projected at 1196 in 1996, and would drop steeply to 415 in 1999 and thereafter Pantex is going to be closed down. That is, neither US, nor Russia, nor other nuclear powers are having any plans to defuse the stockpile to any significant level. Thus, with such huge stockpile with monstrous destructive capability, nuclear doomsday is hovering over earth all times. Added with the hundreds of unsafe nuclear power plants, the huge amount of weapon-grade plutonium they produce, the CTBT do not even touch the fringe of this most serious subject. It is only yet another move, in which Security Council members have colluded, to maintain their nuclear hegemony over the rest of the world and world people as a whole while the nuclear threat continues to pose grave threat to people everywhere.

## UN adopts CTBT

Finally the imperialists and China toeing their line have succeeded in steam-rolling the CTBT through the UN. It is 'overwhelmingly' passed by UN without answering even the questions raised at the time of SALT (strategic arms limitations treaty) talks between us and erstwhile Soviet Union once. According to vast majority of the non-nuclear countries who voted for the CTBT, they preferred to vote for it as some treaty on banning nuclear tests was better than no treaty at all. Thus only India, Bhutan and Libya voted against, and only 5 abstained, while 158 countries voted for this treaty even when it does not address the basic question about nuclear disarmament including defusing existing stockpile. The voting pattern marks the end of the so-called 'Nonalignment bloc' and 'group of 77' and shows how imperialists can use UN as their rubber stamp to impose their will on any issue like sanctions against Iraq or CTBT.

At the same time, the voting also exhibited the weakness of the Indian government's argument. Its position was overloaded with its concern about CTBT restricting its own options for making and stockpiling nuclear weapons at appropriate time, rather than an effort to mobilise the Afro-Asian-Latin American countries for total nuclear disarmament. That is, Indian government's arguments emanated not from an anti-imperialist standpoint, but from an opportunist comprador stand under which it only wanted to keep its options open. With this approach, if the threatened sanctions are imposed how for Indian government can go even with this stand is really doubtful.

What is required is an anti-imperialist move at international level focussing on world peace uniting all the forces that can be united against imperialism and reaction at global level.

## Refugee status denied to Jose Maria Sison

Com. Jose Maria Sison who is residing in Netherlands from 1988 and had applied for refugee status is denied the request for admission as a refugee in the Netherlands. He is ordered to leave this country.

This order is a clear violation of Article 3.



of the *European Convention on Human rights and fundamental freedoms*. When Dutch Justice Ministry admits that com. Sison have well-grounded fear of persecution in Philippines, and that he is a political refugee under the Refugee Treaty, sending him back to Philippines amounts to violation of the very same Article.

To substantiate its order Dutch ministry has falsely claimed that com. Sison is terrorist and that he was criminal relations with terrorist. It is afraid to say that he is deported because he is a Communist. In this way the Dutch ministry has violated com. Sison's right to asylum under false accusations.

This incident expose the real character of the bourgeois democracy in the imperialist countries, big or small. Democratic forces should expose the Dutch ministry's order and call for political asylum for com. Sison.

## Spanish Civil war remembered

60th anniversary of Spanish Civil War was observed in London's Grand Auditorium of the Convey Hall in Red Lion Square where Communists, anti-imperialists, anti-fascists and progressive forces from a number of countries assembled on July 14 and heard veterans giving once again stirring calls for raising high the banner of democracy and socialism. The meeting honoured the British Battalion of the International Brigade.

Veteran comrades who had the privilege to be in the forefront of one of the most important popular struggles of this century declared their faith in the socialist future of the mankind, and their unshakable loyalty to the cause of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao.

They sang the battlesong of the British Battalion, the famous hymn of JARAMA:

"There is a valley in Spain called Jarama.  
It is a place that we all know so well.  
It was there that we gave of our manhood,  
And most of our brave comrades fell.  
"We are proud of our British Battalion.  
In the stand for Madrid that they made,  
For they fought like the sons of the soil,  
As part of the Fifteenth Brigade.  
"With the rest of the International Column  
In the fight for the freedom of Spain  
They swore in the valley of Jarama  
That fascism never should reign.  
"we have left that dark valley  
forever but it is memory,

we ne'er shall forget'

So, before we continue this meeting Let us stand to our glorious dead''.

Then they sang a song popularised by the Communist International, "The Song of the United Front" composed by Hanns Eisler and with lyrics adopted from the German original by Bertold Brecht:

"As people are but human  
They must eat before they can think  
Fine words are only empty air  
And not their meat and drink.

Chorus: Then Left! Right! Left! Then,  
Left! Right! Left!

There is a place, Comrade, for you  
March with us in the Workers United Front!  
For you are a worker too.  
As people are but human  
They rather not have boots in their face  
They want no slaves at their beck and call  
Nor life by a master's grace

Chorus: And since a worker's a worker  
No class can free him but his own  
The emancipation of the working-class  
Is the task of the workers alone'

The meeting pledged support to people's struggle against imperialism, fascism and reaction all over the world.

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## Pepsi for whom

Behind the 'Pepsi success story' there is the real story of rich peasants become wealthier and poor and middle peasants further impoverished. Those who have many acres of land, take 'pepsi tomato seeds' at Rs. 1500/- per acre and sell part of the ripened tomatoes Re 1/-. It per kilo to pepsi factory at Zahura. Even when prices soar in open market, Pepsi gets its requirement at dictated prices. While Pepsi gets exorbitant profits and the rich peasants attached to it also becomes richer, the poor and even middle peasants are compelled to sell their lands as farming is becoming costlier for them.

## Land reforms on reverse gear

It was Devagowda's Karnataka government which led formal reversal of earlier land reform objectives and openly called for land accumulation and mechanisation on a large scale in the name of generating export surpluses and diversification of agricultural production. Even corporate business enterprises and MNCs were provided opportunities to grab farm lands to set up big modern farms to produce food grains, fruits, vegetables etc. generating export surpluses from farm sector. As a result, the provision for "old style" land reforms in central budget has been cut from Rs. 34.61 crore in 1990-91 to Rs. 25.02 crore in 1992-93, and to virtual zero in 1996-97.

The Central Task Force on Agrarian Relations in its 1973 report had already stated: "Enactment of progressive measures of land reforms and their efficient implementation call for hard political decisions and effective political support, direction and control. In the context of socio-economic conditions prevailing in the rural areas of the country, no tangible progress can be expected in the field of land reforms in the absence of the requisite political will. The sad truth is that this crucial factor has been wanting....."

"In no sphere of public activity in our country has the hiatus between percept and practice, between policy pronouncements and actual execution been so great as in the domain of land reforms. Considering the character of the political power structure obtaining in the country it was only natural that the required political will was not forthcoming.

"In a society in which the entire weight of civil and criminal laws, judicial pronouncements and precedents, administrative tradition and practice is thrown on the side of the existing social order based on the inviolability of private property, an isolated law aimed at restructuring of property relations in rural areas had hardly any chance of success".

This is exactly what happened under Indian State machinery led by comprador bureaucratic bourgeois—landlord classes serving the imperialist camp. Now under SAP in order to integrate Indian agrarian sector to international market, the whole land reform drama itself is stopped and the reverse process of land accumulation for cash crop cultivation, horticulture, fission culture, floriculture etc. is started on a big scale.

The class analysis of land reform programmes in Karnataka done at the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, stated the following with regard to the change in political power, which is coming in the way of land reform.

"In the earlier years of land reforms immediately after independence, the dominant groups opposing land reforms (mostly covertly) were the groups of absentee urban elite owning land in the villages from which they had migrated for good. With the changing distribution of political power and emergence of growth pockets in agriculture, the dominant group now is the middle and large land owning-cum-cultivating groups within the villages. They pose a political challenge to the government and to the rural poor—which is far more formidable than the earlier challenge from the absentee owners. The dominant groups now emerging on the scene are much more ruthless, have a tighter grip over the policy-making politicians at the highest levels and use extra-legal methods at the ground level more effectively and with greater impunity and disconcerting frequency".

Thus these new semi-feudal, pre-capitalist forces as well as the comprador agricultural bourgeoisie emerging from Green Revolution days are lording over the agrarian scene.

## Farmers' agitation in AP

September first week marked agitations, clashes with police and a statewide bandh by the farmers of AP to withdraw hikes in electricity charges and water cess. The police firing



## News from States

### Anti-US demonstrations

Protesting against the missile attack of US imperialists over Iraq demonstrations were organised at many places by CPI (ML) Red Flag activists. They burnt the effigies of Clinton. Reports of such demonstrations are received from many district head quarters and Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala.

### Struggle against alienation of Adivasi land

Like in all other states, in Kerala also a bill was unanimously adopted by the state assembly in 1975 including it in the ninth schedule of the Constitution to prevent alienation of adivasi land. It stipulated that the land already lost to adivasis should be restored. But Kerala government failed to implement it in the last two decades inspite of both UDF and LDF coming to power alternatively. The justification was that its implementation will adversely affect the poor settler families. But the fact is otherwise. Only a small portion of the land is with this section. Most of the land is with rich settler peasants. It is to protect them, the act was not implemented.

The adivasi Land Protection Committee organised by KKTU led by CPI (ML) Red Flag is in agitation for restoration of adivasi land for

against the agitating farmers in West Godavari district has only aggravated the situation. In spite of withdrawal of the hikes partially by the Telugu Desam government, agitation is continuing demanding total withdrawal. Practically every party except TD, including revolutionary organisations have supported the agitation. The farmers organisations have decided to carry forward the agitation through non-cooperation with the government including non-payment of taxes, electricity charges and water cess till their demands are met.

### Management education

The economic reforms and liberalisation have intensified the craze for management degrees. So, in addition to the four institutes for management studies, a number of institutions have sprung up where at fabulous capitation fees increasing number of youth are provided

last two years. And Kerala high court has given an ultimatum for the implementation of this act. Now the LDF government has moved an amendment to this act to by pass this court order in effect nullifying whatever positive aspects it had.

Against this ALPC launched a state-wide campaign. As a part of this On September 2 when the amendment was scheduled to be moved in the assembly an indefinite fast was started in front of the state secretariat at Thiruvananthapuram by ALPC convenor Com. Ravi Kallachi. It was inaugurated by CPI (ML) Red Flag state secretary Com. P.C. Unnichekkann. He declared that if the land is not restored to adivasis all form of struggle including confiscation of it will be resorted to. The campaign and the fast encouraged positive response from progressive sections.

On September 9 an adivasi march was organised at Thiruvananthapuram. Hundreds of adivasis and other progressive forces participated. The speakers addressing the march warned the LDF government against going ahead with the amendments.

Though under mounting pressure from the campaign both LDF and UDF parties were compelled to express lip sympathy for the adivasis during the discussion in assembly, all of them persisted in pitting the poor and lower middle settler families against the adivasis and thus

the magic degree or diploma for entry in to the world of corporate bodies and MNCs. The MNCs are already outmanoeuvring aggressively in this hunt for better managerial staff. In this scramble scientists and technologists are embracing the field of management as it is the "in" thing now. Thus liberalisation alongwith investment opportunities has whipped up the mad competitive or animal spirit. To serve the no holds barred profit craze of the MNCs and corporate bodies a mad hunt for management talent is unleashed under monetarist thrust by the capitalist imperialist system. By aping it the Indian rulers both at central and state level are destroying whatever human values had existed in the developmental process in India also. They are creating in animal kingdom based on the concept of the survival of the fittest. It is to promote this heinous concept the socialist path is viciously attacked by these forces.



serving the interests of the rich settlers. As the bill is sent to subject committee, democrats like V. R. Krishna Iyer appealed to Com. Ravi to end the fast and continue the struggle through other means. When Com. Ravi was arrested and removed to the hospital on 15 September, Com. Narayan, leading adivasi Comrade, started indefinite fast on same day. Indefinite relay fast and campaign is started in all adivasi areas. On 21st when the Kerala assembly voted for the amendments, Red Flag volunteers picketed the highways in all districts. On the time of passing of the bill on 23-9-96, Comrades rushed to the Assembly hall shouting slogans and they were mercilessly beaten up by watch and ward staff and police. One Comrade is hospitalised in serious condition. The so called people's representative were witnessing this police torture. A convention is planned at Thiruvananthapuram to mobilize broad democratic forces against this barbaric amendment.

This Campaign has enthused large sections of progressive democratic forces. Uniting them ALPC propose to carry forward this struggle for establishing the right of adivasis on their traditional land.

### Agitation against bus fare hike

As the LDF government imposed 25% bus fare hike with minimum charge raised from Re. 1 to Re. 1.50, Yuvajanavedi alongwith other forces launched a stir against it. Facing the wrath of the people though LDF reduced minimum charge to Re. 1.25 and paise per km. marginally, the agitation is still continuing. Hundreds of VEDI activists are participating in the agitation.

### Resistance to Baikal tourism project

Instead of scrapping the Baikal tourism project initiated by earlier UDF government which is intended to include Kerala sea-beaches in the map of sex-tourism, the LDF government is taking hasty steps to implement it soon. Against this Yuvajanavedi has launched a major campaign uniting progressive democratic sections.

### August 15: Yuvajanavedi campaign

With the slogans Unite against NEP and Drop Enron-Cogentrix like projects Yuvajanavedi organised demonstrations and held dharna

in all district head quarters on August 15. Hundreds of vEDI volunteers participated in the programme.

### Martyrs Day at Jamshedpur

Jamshedpur, an important centre of working class movement, has a glorious tradition of struggles and sacrifices. July 25 is a memorable day for the Communist revolutionaries and working class of this city. It was on this day in 1971 authorities massacred 16 revolutionaries lodged in Hazaribagh jail in the name of jail break attempt. Remembering these martyrs and hundreds of others who have sacrificed their life for Indian revolution *shahid Smriti Raksha Samithi* observe July 25 as martyrs day every year.

This year also uniting all revolutionary and democratic forces the martyrs day was observed. In spite of heavy rain good number of people participated in paying homage to martyrs and in the meeting which followed with Com. Souren Bose, as the chief guest. The veteran leader of Naxalbari movement called on the revolutionary forces to get united and lead Indian people forward to the NDR with the memory of the martyrs.

On 26 July a discussion on unity of revolutionary forces was organised. Both Com. Souren Bose and representative of CPI (ML) Red Flag, Com. Ram Kavindar Singh stressed the need of upholding a correct ideological political line only based on which party unity is possible. At the same time, they called for uniting all genuine left forces for mobilising people's struggle against Indian state policies.

### UP Elections

In the present Indian political scenario UP elections have achieved considerable significance. The three prime ruling class alternatives are engaged in a three-cornered fight. While BJP is alone, Congress has aligned with BSP, and UF makes up the third force. At a time when the consequences of the New Economic Policy including Rs. 50,000 crores worth scams during these years are calling for a lively debate on this policy, what we are witnessing in UP is that there is a consensus among these forces on it. As a result they are fighting on all other issues except the basic economic policy pursued by the central and state governments including privatisation—



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**condemn us aggression**

The US missile attack on Iraq calls for the severest condemnation by the world people. The demonisation of Saddam Hussein is utilised as a cover to punish Iraqi people, and to terrorise West Asia in to submission for plundering the petroleum resources there. It is nothing but an imperialist act of arrogance and aggression when the very same US administration is supporting massacre of Kurds by Turkish government and aggression against Palestine people by the Israeli hawks.

The unilateral barbarous act violating even present international laws and UN resolutions by Clinton administration is resorted to in this hasty manner reflects how Republican and Democratic hawks are attempting to play one-up

liberalisation—globalisation. Then, what are the policies they are projecting? Caste, religion and all other parochial issues.

Though BJP had an edge over others in the beginning Gujart developments have exposed its weaknesses. Besides L. K Advani is going to face the Hawala case soon. Its *Swadeshi* plank is also in shambles with Enron and what not. Ajit Singh leaving Congress, forming Bharathiya Kisan Kamgar Party with Mahindra Singh Tikait and joining UP have weened away section of Jat votes from BJP. As a result BJP has lost its earlier confidence in getting a majority.

As far as BSP is concerned it has abandoned the 'Bahujan' slogan and adopted 'Sarvajan' slogan to attract upper castes. Taking Congress its junior partner it wants to adopt earlier Congress platform of Brahmins—Dalits—Muslims. But the further exposure of Congress leadership and Ajit Singh joining UP has reduced its chances. When land alienation and pauperisation of dalit masses are the central issues, BSP has nothing to speak about it. It is trying hard to play the communal card while BJP is playing communal—caste card.

The UP is focussing on social-justice slogan, once again an attempt to unite OBCs and dalits with Muslim minority, and sections of upper caste through Tiwari Congress and Ajit Singh.

manship in coming US elections. To disprove Republican Claims of Democratic weaknesses in imposing US hegemony everywhere, Clinton administration is ready to go to any length to prove its bellicosity and aggressive character. This is an ever-intensifying threat to world people.

In spite of it, the failure of Dewagowda government to condemn this US act of aggression exposes its comprador character further.

We call upon all progressive democratic forces to express solidarity with Iraqi people and unequivocally condemn this heinous act of aggression by US imperialists.

Secretary,  
C. P. I. (M. L.) Red Flag

But the black record of earlier Mulayam regime and Gowda government faithfully continuing Rao governments policies more faithfully, are haunting it. Even Uttarakhand declaration may not help it much to gain majority. CPI-CPI (M) parties as part of UF are only helping to further destroy the communist or left image among the people as they chant the very same slogans as Mulayam.

Thus the three ruling class alternative with vote-bank politics have entered in to a conspiracy to keep away all fundamental issues confronting the people from the election debate. With none of them having possibility of getting a majority, a lot of horse-trading and opportunist adjustments are going to be displayed in the post-election days. UP election scene once again portrays the degeneration of ruling class politics to extreme levels.

It once again raises the necessity of a people's democratic alternative with an all India perspective to challenge the ruling system. Only such an alternative taking class struggle as the key link can mobilise the masses, popularise a democratic programme, and raise the prospects of New Democracy. The present UP elections shall only further deepen the crisis of the ruling system.

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