

Root of BJP in assembly elections

RED STAR

PLATFORM FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTIONARIES

Vol. 8 No. 1 January 1999 Rs. 5.00

- **Take Lessons from Past; Prepare to Create Leaps in the New Millennium**
- **December 11 All India General Strike: A Historic Step Forward**
- **US Aggression against Iraq: A Declaration of War against World People**
- **Indian Political Situation After Elections to Four State Assemblies**
- **Struggle against Terminator Gene Seeds**

Press Statement

Rout of BJP in assembly elections

The overwhelming defeat of BJP in the elections to Rajasthan, Delhi and MP assemblies categorically show that economic issues got paramount importance before the people. The suffocating price-rise and impoverisation as a result of liberalisation - globalisation policies became crucial questions. That the so-called anti-influmcumbency factor did not work in MP in spite of the anti-people rule of Congress there show that people have started realising that Centre's economic policies are mainly responsible for the intensifying crisis. Alongwith this the frantic communalisation policies and attacks on minorities by Sangh Parivar have led to the rout of the BJP.

The elections were held at a time when liberalisation - globalisation policies are being nastily carried forward mortgaging people's interests, and when the Sangh Parivar is intensifying fascicisation in all fields to help the neocolonisation. So while the defeat of BJP is a very welcome factor, the Congress victory is not going to change the situation basically. Because, it is the Congress which in continuation to its anti-people policies pursued during the four decades in power launched the 'New Economic

Policies' at the dictates of IMF - World Bank. It was same Rao government which colluded with Sangh Parivar to demolish Babri Masjid. Again It was Congress which declared 'Emergency Rule' in 1975 and initiated fascicisation of the state machinery which it is justifying even now. What BJP has done is to take these policies to their logical ends with an open communal agenda gravely threatening the unity of the country and all democratic rights. So in spite of the claims of Congress, and the illusion created by the LF led by CPI (M), Congress cannot become an alternative to BJP in basic sense. The change of governments in the states or at Centre is not going to bring out any basic change. What is required is a fundamental change in the economic policies itself. It is these reactionary economic policies of neocolonisation which serve as the economic base for fascicisation.

What is required is a people's alternative combating Congress and the BJP which is working hard for intensifying neocolonisation along with frantic communalisation moves.

New Delhi,
30-11-98

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

Sidhartha Shankar Roy and Naxalites

Sidhartha Shankar Roy, the Congress leader, was the central minister in charge of W. Bengal affairs during 1969 - 71 and then chief minister during 1972 - 77. He has now told a Bengali daily that he had no role in the genocide of Naxalites during 1969 to '72. He accuses CPI (M) and a section of police for it.

It is a fact that CPI (M) saw Naxalites as their enemies during those years and connived with state administration in suppressing the revolutionary movement. But the present utterances of Sidhartha Shankar Roy is totally false.

He is lying to cover-up his role in the genocides of those years including Barranagar killings and the murder of thousands of CPI (ML) cadres and leaders including comrades Charu Majumdar and Saroj Dutta in police custody. He should not be allowed to get away with such utter lies. He should be exposed as the leader of the killer gangs of those years.

It is the task of the progressive democratic forces to mount pressure on the Jyoti Basu government to order a time - bound full scale enquiry into the state terror during 1969 - '72.

EDITORIAL

Take Lessons From Past, Prepare For Create Leaps in the New Millennium

The new year is dawning posing great challenges. And this new year is different also. It heralds the new millennium, bidding farewell to the old. So it calls for a stock - taking of the millennium to which we are bidding farewell to, on the one hand. It also calls for preparing ourselves to meet the challenges we are facing, and to create leaps in the new millennium, on the other.

The 20th century started with capitalism reaching its highest and at the same time moribund stage, imperialism. Capitalist succeeded in dividing the world among the imperialist players. A 'brave new world' of imperialism was forecasted. And the imperialists started wars at local and global level to redivide the world also. Colonialism became the instrument for dominating and plundering the oppressed nations and people. Imperialism meant wars, wars for exploitation and plunder.

But the forecasts of imperialist ideologues were shattered. Bolsheviks made history in Russia. Taking lessons from Paris Commune the proletariat led October Revolution to great victory. The world entered the era of, not only, imperialism, but also proletarian revolutions to overthrow it. The contradiction between imperialism and socialism got concretised. The goals of socialism and communism gave qualitatively new orientation to the struggles of the oppressed nations and people against imperialism, and to those of the proletariat against monopoly bourgeoisie in the imperialist countries. By the middle of the century the struggle for democracy and socialism reached such developed levels that it looked like "East Wind of Socialism may prevail over West Wind of Imperialism".

Alongwith this mighty socialist advance, the post World War II situation also witnessed numerous moves by the imperialist camp to overcome the socialist challenge. Imperialists quickly and repeatedly transformed their tactics.

While developing its war machine and building numerous military blocs to fight back revolutionary advances, imperialist system propagated illusions about creating welfare states under class collaboration. In place of colonialism it introduced neo colonialism, strengthening the comprador states. In due course imperialist capital, market system and MNCs were promoted to dominate everywhere. Instead of fighting this counter-revolutionary offensive, the Krushchevite leadership surrendered and preached class collaborationist theories. Soon Soviet Union and East European countries started changing their colour. Proletarian dictators turned into bureaucratic bourgeois dictatorships.

Once again the proletarian forces made valiant efforts to struggle against the negative tide and to advance. The Comintern positions were restated and carried forward in the Great Debate led by CPC against CPSU leadership. Cultural revolution in China and anti-imperialist advances in South East Asia gave rise to hopes of advances in theoretical and practical fields. But the sectarian trend dominating CPC in its Ninth Congress and pragmatism dominating Vietnamese leadership slackened and then beat back these advances. Remaining socialist bastions also were lost. Soviet Union disintegrated. Socialist forces suffered a grave set-back. The imperialist camp celebrated it by declaring imperialist system as the last chapter of history. Like the 'brave new world' declarations in the beginning of the millennium, now as it reaches its end the imperialists are talking about a 'New World Order' where imperialism shall prevail for ever. They are celebrating the hegemony of imperialist capital and market system in a liberalised and globalised world.

This is one aspect of the present world situation. We have to evaluate the experiences of this century to take lessons from the mighty advances as well as the grave setbacks. But there

December 11 All India General Strike: A Historic Step Forward

We extend revolutionary greetings to the many crores of organised and unorganised working class, agricultural workers, peasantry, youth, students and other progressive sections who made the December 11 general strike a historic step forward in the history of the left movement in our country. In almost ten states stretching from Kerala to Bihar to Manipur it turned more or less into a virtual bandh. In other states also many millions of working class and other pro-

gressive sections joined it. As a whole it became the biggest expression of resistance of Indian working class and other toiling millions against the liberalisation-globalisation policies. Even compared to the two all India general strikes and Bharat bandhs organised during 1992-94 period against Rao government's so-called New Economic Policies implemented at the dictates of imperialist agencies, this general strike was a significant step forward. It has exposed the

is also another aspect which demands the attention of the proletarian forces.

The world has changed in all respects in this century. We are not where we started. In spite of all setbacks today socialist forces are there everywhere. World people are more politically conscious. They are challenging the capitalist-imperialist system, intensifying the general crisis it is passing through. Democratic movements, people's upsurges and mighty revolts are taking place everywhere forcing Suhartos to disappear, and Pinochets to face trials. When Clinton, symbolising the heinous phase to which imperialism has degenerated the ruling system, launches aggressive assaults on defenceless people of Iraq, the world public opinion isolates them, compels them to retreat. It is proved imperialism is not the answer. It is only an obstacle. It is the most moribund stage to which capitalism has degenerated. It has to be overthrown.

Thus the challenges posed by the present world situation and the response it demands from the progressive forces everywhere are clear. The imperialists can boast that they could survive this millennium. But the fighting people with the proletariat leading them shall not allow them to survive coming millennium. The new century is going to be a century of revolutions for democracy and socialism.

We observed 1998 as the 150th Year of Communist Manifesto. During this year we tried to the Marxist-Leninist banner higher fighting against the ideology of capitalist-imperialist system. Not only the old forces who persisted in

struggling against the ruling system, but many new forces also joined this campaign to uphold Marxist-Leninist positions. In this process the contradiction between imperialism and forces of socialism sharpened further. Also the contradictions between imperialism and people of neo-colonies, as well as between the monopoly bourgeoisie and proletariat in the imperialist countries sharpened. These twelve months witnessed mighty upsurges of people reflecting these growing contradictions. The heinous aggression on Iraq by US and UK and the growing resistance to such barbarism symbolises the present situation well.

Within our country also, in December 11 general strike symbolised the growing people's opposition to the liberalisation-globalisation policies, the recent assembly elections marked the serious reversals suffered by Hindutva forces. There is an upsurge of people's resentment against the ruling system

The new year should be an opportunity to consolidate these gains. The revolutionary and left forces should become capable of leading the left masses. The task of reorganising CPI (ML) in to a Bolshevik Party with countrywide influence capable of leading coming people's upsurges is to be taken up as urgent task. These steps calls for polarisation of all genuine Communists, as well as polarisation of left and democratic forces under their leadership. These moves shall create the situation favourable for great leaps in the coming millennium.

Let us herald the new year with this revolutionary determination. ●

US Aggression Against Iraq: A Declaration of War Against World People

The massive four day long aggressive bombardments and rocket attacks by US and UK against the defenceless people of Iraq calls for severe condemnation by world people. In this attack which started on 17th December latest electronic weapons including smart bombs, cruise missiles and satellite facilities were utilised. There was no previous warning or declaration of war before Baghdad city and suburbs were massively attacked, when the UN charter signed by 185 countries including US and UK clearly states that the member states "are to refrain

from the threat or use of force against any other state". There was no decision of Security Council also for such an action. It was a unilateral action carried out by US imperialism and its ally violating all international rules. Through such an action US imperialists have once again demonstrated that they consider UN and its Security Council only as their puppets.

This barbaric aggression was not supported even by the Arab states who had supported US aggression in 1991. Even Kuwait distanced

hollowness of the claims of the ruling classes and parties like BJP and congress that liberalisation-globalisation policies have support of the people. On the contrary, this strike proved that the working class, other toiling sections and the exploited majority are against them. Even those who supported it earlier are now turning against these policies. December 11 proved the growth of this people's resistance.

The latest instances of sell-out of even huge profit-earning PSUs, Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill and Bill to amend Indian Patent Act, to cite a few important government's actions, are proving how imperialists are resorting to arm-twisting of the Indian government, how shamelessly the Vajpayee government is surrendering before it, and how Congress is collaborating with it. Besides even the organised working masses have started facing the grave consequences of these policies. They include loss of jobs through various ways and cutting down of real wages. At the same all areas of social life have come under neocolonisation. An Indonesia like situation has not come still only because the NEP was started later and India had a fairly strong infrastructure built up during Keynesian days. But the way liberalisation is pursued in a hurry, possibilities for such a situation are increasing fast. That is why this general strike got the support of many new sections.

While the neocolonisation is intensifying and ruling classes and their political representatives are working hard to perpetuate it the De-

ember 11 general strike clearly showed the growing strength of the left and democratic forces in our country. When CPI (M), CPI leaderships repeat that left influence is confined to three states and that the left is not capable of leading a people's movement at all India level, this general strike proved the hollowness of such arguments. Even in elections to states like MP Delhi and Rajasthan where the CPI (M), CPI leaderships surrendered themselves fully to congress and thereby lost all seats they had earlier, and got the voting percentage reduced by one-third, working masses energetically responded to the strike call. That is, in spite of repeated failure on the part of CPI (M), CPI like leaderships, and their degeneration to social democratic positions, the strength of left masses are increasing. What is lacking is a leadership capable of giving them correct orientation, and of leading them forward. This is the most important lesson of December 11 general strike.

We once again salute the working class and other left and progressive masses who made this strike a phenomenal success. It may be remembered the biggest strike so far against liberalisation-globalisation not only in India, even at international level also, considering the number of workers participated in it. The revolutionary and left forces should take proper lessons from it. They should get themselves ready to give leadership to these masses in coming days to lead the anti-imperialist democratic movement consciously forward.

Itself from this aggression. Arab League severely condemned it. Except for a handful of imperialist countries including Japan, Germany, Australia and Canada along with Israel, no other governments supported this exhibition of the law jungle. Out of five Security Council members, three including Russia, China and France condemned it and asked for its immediate halt. All third world countries opposed it. US and UK were criticised and isolated by the overwhelming majority of the UN members.

But still this aggression has taken place. Many residential areas and defence installations of Iraq were destroyed. Present reports talk about many thousands of casualties with more than thousand people dead. Many civilian facilities are also destroyed. In spite of all these Clinton has arrogantly stated that his aim is to overthrow Saddam Hussain. He has warned of more actions.

This criminal assault on a sovereign country was ordered by Clinton on the day of vote on his impeachment was to take place. He was facing charges of cheating and betraying people's trust. To divert attention from it and if possible to escape from it he ordered brute attacks on a defenceless people killing or wounding thousands including many children. Today he is the second president in US history against whom impeachment is voted by House of Representatives. Still he goes on threatening Iraq about more aggressive acts to "teach Saddam a lesson". It shows the levels to which imperialist system has degenerated, how much barbaric and inhuman it has become. Clinton is a worthy representative of this barbaric system.

Clinton is arrogantly barking that he is punishing Iraq for not allowing UN inspectors to detect and destroy 'weapons of mass destruction' stockpiled by Saddam. But the UN weapon inspectors under UNSCOM led by the Yankee bastard Richard Butler is making inspections for last 7 years utilising most advanced technological equipments. Why Clinton or UN chief Annan is not announcing what are the findings of this team? How long such a drama will be staged against a sovereign country to prolong economic sanctions? And now, by procuring a false report from Butler US imperialists have attacked Iraq again. There is no justification in continuing UNSCOM and its present chief Butler to violate the sovereignty of Iraq.

Clinton talks about weapons of mass destruction. He can lie a hundred times and may still get away protected by US administration, Pentagon and the media. But he cannot escape from world public opinion, even from public opinion in US. Who used weapons of mass destruction repeatedly, and who has amassed it in fearsome quantities? Only US imperialists have so far used two nuclear bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing and destroying the life of many lakhs. Many more lakhs are still suffering for it. US has the biggest stockpile of most destructive nuclear bombs—17,000 or more. It has the biggest stockpile of chemical and biological weapons. It used them unscrupulously in Vietnam and Kampuchea in the 1970s killing tens of thousands. Still people in those regions are suffering from the after-effects. It is not Iraq, it is US which is the enemy of world people and Clinton is the most hated war-criminal.

Clinton talks about peace in west Asia. Who destroyed the peace in this region? It is US and UK by creating Israel, a contribution to Zionists. For creating Israel imperialists made the whole Palestinians refugees. For the last five decades it is Israel and the imperialists led by US imperialism who are nakedly backing its aggressive Zionist policies who made West Asia an area of violence, a killing field. Again it is US and its allies which are promoting rivalries and arms-race in this region to maintain their hegemony for plundering the oil wealth of the region. How many times Israel has openly violated UN and Security Council decisions? Israel has equipped itself with most deadly weapons including nuclear devices and chemical biological weapons. Has any action ever taken against it? So it is Clinton and company who have made West Asia an area of violence, a killing field.

Clinton and Blair talk about Saddam amassing weapons of mass destruction. But who are the biggest merchants of death, merchants to deadly weapons? They are none else than US and UK. Out of the \$ 800 billions spent up by 185 UN members. For defence that is for military expenditure, \$ 625 billions are spent by US alone. This four day attack itself was a theatre to test the latest weapons by these two imperialist countries. A field test to attract buyers. Clintons and Blairs are the worst enemies of world people, and war criminals.

(Contd. P. 12)

K. N. Ramachandran

Indian Political Situation After Elections to Four State Assemblies

The rout of BJP in the elections to the four state assemblies is a very significant development. It was a good reflection of people's anger against a party running the Central government which led to unprecedented price-rise and impoverishment of the masses in all respects. It was also a rebuff to the frantic communalisation policies of Sangh Parivar, and the threat it poses to minorities and all democratic secular values. All the progressive forces have contributed in exposing the BJP-led government and in inflicting this crushing defeat. That, in this election campaign, not only the state affairs but policies of Central government also became a major factor is now clear. The so-called anti-incumbency factor did not become the determining factor in MP where the Digvijay Singh government of Congress had created a new record in corruption and anti-people policies. There also BJP failed to make gains. These election results, in the main, represented a negative vote against the consequences of liberalisation-globalisation policies as well as the hectic communalisation policies pursued by the Vajpayee government and the Sangh Parivar whom it serves. It is a positive development.

Congress gains

Though Congress lost miserably in Mizoram where it was in power, its victory in Rajasthan, Delhi and MP has given it a boost. Its leadership is trying to project it as a positive vote for Congress. Based on this victory Sonia Gandhi is claiming that Congress can come to power on its own strength at Centre in next elections. Contrary to the expectations of CPI (M) and its LF allies, and of other former UF parties, and in spite of their repeated appeals, Congress is not in a hurry for toppling the Vajpayee government. On the other hand, it did not participate or support the December 11 all India general strike. At the same time it is collaborating with Vajpayee government to implement numerous IMF-World Bank dictated policies. It is supporting entry of MNCs in more sectors. It is colluding in passing the Insurance Regulatory Authority bill and amendments to Indian Patent Act as per

WTO conditionalities. In spite of minor differences occasionally expressed, Congress will not hesitate to support if Vajpayee government goes ahead to sign CTBT in its present form also. That is Congress leadership would like if this government completes the implementation of these manifestly anti-people policies, before it falls due to its own inner-contradictions. By that time it hopes to settle its own organisational problems and make itself capable of fighting next general elections on its own steam. As a party which still justifies its emergency rule, and its collaboration in demolishing Babri Masjid, it is not in a hurry to topple Vajpayee government until it can come to power on its own strength. As the 'grand old party' of Indian ruling classes, Congress is very clear about its future agenda. That, it is such a reactionary ruling class party which is getting benefitted from the negative votes against Vajpayee government is an important matter which deserves the attention of progressive forces.

Ruling class agenda

Compared to most of the other neocolonies, the ruling classes in India are more developed and experienced. In the early 1960s itself, when the question "after Nehru, who" was being hotly debated, they had encouraged launching of 'Swatantra Party' and promotion of a two-party system in the western style. So far they had not succeeded since the social contradictions had developed in ways contrary to the expectations of the ruling classes. Possibilities for a left alternative had powerfully come-up in the 1970s and 1980s and even later in place of the Congress which was continuously degenerating. But the CPI (M) led LF which went on degenerating to social democratic positions and which was satisfied with playing power games within bourgeois politics never tried to put forward such a programmatic independent left alternative forward. The two UF governments formed with its support in effect became only a *benami* for Congress. BJP could come to power in such a situation.

Now the ruling classes are trying to perpetuate this situation by promoting a two-party or two alliances led by Congress and BJP system. The ruling class theoreticians and Congress-BJP leaderships are utilising the post-assembly election situation for this purpose. Congress is consciously avoiding toppling of Vajpayee government in order to weaken the LF and former UF parties who are in a hurry for it, so that it can come to power mainly on its own strength. BJP is also playing the game in this direction.

What should be the left agenda?

Congress implementing the comprador ruling class programme had started getting isolated from people soon after the transfer of power in 1947. Two decades later it lost elections to most states and reduced to a thin majority in Lok Sabha. But the left could not utilise this situation. CPI leadership was satisfied in joining any government in states for getting ministerial berths in most opportunistic ways even joining hands with Jan Sangh. Though CPI (M) restricted itself to supporting these governments from outside, in Bengal and Kerala where it came to power as major partner of ruling alliance, it was satisfied by remaining within the framework of ruling class politics. It was against this degeneration of CPI and CPI (M), the CPI (ML) emerged. Though it succeeded in bringing forward once again the slogan of democratic revolution, due to its sectarian tactical line it got isolated from the masses and failed to lead the left masses. At this critical juncture Congress splitted and there was a significant opportunity for allround left assertion. But CPI-CPI (M) came to the help of Indira Gandhi faction and helped it to come up as the saviour in 1971 elections. Thus the left worked against its own interests. Again when Indira regime declared emergency the left failed to mobilise the masses on a democratic platform, in spite of the great sacrifices of CPI (ML) sections during this period. In the absence of such an independent left initiative, the rightists benefitted and came to power under Janatha Party banner.

In the post-emergency years there were mighty strike-struggles and mass upsurges all over the country. Instead of coming to their leadership CPI, CPI (M) and the rightist trend among M-L-factions tailed behind or compromised with the Janatha raj. When Janatha regime

fell due to its own inner contradictions, and the left was far from providing an alternative the Congress easily came back to power. The same story was repeated allthrough 1980s. And in the 1989 elections when the LF joined the anti-Congress move with BJP, to its own opportunistic positions LF failed to gain, while BJP scored fantastic gains. This opportunist policy of LF became one of the important factors for BJP gaining strength.

The beginning of 1990s witnessed further degeneration of CPI (M) and LF to social democratic positions in the background of collapse of Soviet Union and 'market socialism' fully dominating Chinese party. Though they took lead in mobilising all India strikes and Bharat bandhs against the privatisation-liberalisation-globalisation policies initiated by Rao government at the behest of imperialist agencies, they started compromising with these policies, as they themselves came under the influence of market system. They never tried to put forward an alternative agenda against these imperialist dictated policies. After 1996 elections both Congress and BJP were not in position to form a government. The LF took initiative to form the UF government. But the Common Minimum Programme (CMP) it adopted was basically not different from Congress agenda. UF governments implemented the NEP more speedily. At the same time it shelved even decision on minimum wage of agricultural workers, and such reformist items in CMP. It is the negative votes against Congress and UF governments which helped the BJP to power following 1998 elections.

As the CPI (M), CPI have degenerated as social democratic parties they are not ready to analyse the experiences of these three decades. In their 16 and 17 congresses held recently the maximum they could decide was that Congress should take lead in toppling BJP regime with their help. Their UF or *third alternative* concept is still a repetition of old UF. It is in this situation the ruling classes and BJP - Congress are becoming bold enough to boast about a two-party system to run the comprador ruling system. Any hope about CPI (M), CPI leaderships or the LF giving leadership to a left alternative capable of mobilising the left democratic masses based on an anti-imperialist democratic programme shall remain only an illusion.

Today Sangh Parivar and the threat it is

IRA and Amendments of Indian Patent Act: Whom they serve?

The Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) allowing 40 percent foreign and NRI equity in Insurance sector and Amendments to Indian Patent Act pushed through by Vajpayee government with active collaboration by Congress show how the BJP-led coalition and Congress are engaged in nakedly selling out all vital interests of our country. These two steps expose the real nature of liberalisation-globalisation policies.

Opening Insurance sector

While allowing privatisation and 40% foreign equity in insurance sector its protagonists are covering-up many vital factors. Like all other sectors in US from where BJP and Congress leaderships get inspiration insurance sector is also highly speculative. The report of US Congressional Committee appointed after collapse of

many insurance companies making the entire savings of huge sections simply disappear itself was "Failed Promises." According to it between 1970 and 1990, 420 insurance companies collapsed, 370 of them seeking insolvency. This record of speculative insurance companies in US and other imperialist countries should have been an eye-opener for us. Besides, by allowing foreign equip doors are opened for the MNCs and FFIs (Foreign Financial Investors) to take away huge profits, that is to take away huge sums from the earnings of Indian people. It is to get this lucrative sector opened the MNCs and FFIs are exerting pressure through WTO. Though the finance minister talks about not disturbing the LIC and other government controlled insurance corporations, it is not difficult to understand that once privatisation and foreign equity is allowed, these corporations will also get mortgaged soon.

posing to Indian polity is undoubtedly the most serious danger. Exposing this threat, fighting against it and defeating it has become the most important task before the left and revolutionary forces. But this task cannot be seen in isolation. In India as well as in other neocolonies religious fundamentalist forces, racists, and other sectarian forces are utilised by imperialism for misleading the people, for dividing them, and for creating favourable situation to impose its neocolonisation. They are utilised as cover to fascise the state machinery also.

So, Vajpayee government can be exposed and Sangh Parivar can be defeated only by combining the struggle against communalisation and the fascist threats from these Hindutua forces with the struggle against neocolonisation. History has proved that Congress cannot lead the struggle on both these fronts. While it compromises with communalism, it is competing with BJP as the chief promoter of liberalisation policies. Supporting Congress is not the solution to fight BJP and the Hindutua forces it represent.

The revolutionary and left forces with an anti-imperialist democratic programme should come forward to provide leadership to the left

masses and all progressive democratic sections all over the country. Only in this way a polarisation against both communalisation and neocolonisation can take place. They should be capable of mobilising all the popular discontent against the ruling classes by utilising all forms of struggle.

This task poses a challenge before all sections claiming the Naxalbari or CPI (ML) tradition. Those who call for a "left confederation with CPI (M) and CPI like forces", as well as those who still pursue sectarian lines isolated from social reality should rethink about their positions. The revolutionary and left forces should strive hard to come to the leadership of the left masses, the strength of whom was once again proved in December 11 general strike, win over all progressive sections in this process, and launch countrywide anti-state movements with the perspective of New Democratic Revolution as our goal. The anti-imperialist democratic programme should be firmly put forward in this way all sections of people coming forward against the ruling system, against communalist and fascist BJP and against reactionary Congress should be mobilised around this left alternative. This is the lessons to be drawn from the results of the recent assembly elections and the December 11 general strike.

Struggle against Terminator Gene seeds

Against the Terminator gene seeds being tested and marketed in India by Monsanto and its affiliate Mahyco (Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Company) utilising the jointly patented Terminator Gene owned by US Department of Agriculture and multinational seed company Delta and Pineland the peasants in Karnataka are in struggle. AP peasants have also joined the movements.

Peasants under the leadership of KRRS (Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha) and RCSS (Raitha Coolie Sangrama Sanithi) destroyed the cotton crop in Sirdhanur Taluk of Raichur district where genetically engineered Bollygard or Bt cotton seeds were being tested. Hundreds of peasant activists under the leadership of Prof. Narjurda Swanay (KRES) and Com. D. H. Poojar (RCSS) participated. After uprooting the plants they were made heaps and burned after soaking with petrol.

Contrary to the huge advertisements planned by Monsanto in big newspapers and the propaganda made by hired agents in the media Monsanto, with the merger of Cargill and proposed purchase of Delta and Pineland, the seed company owning patent of Terminator Gene

with US DA, has become the biggest seed MNC and it is conducting field - trials of Bt Cotton and other genetically engineered seeds with Terminator gene in India under orders signed by the Department of Biotechnology in a covert way. It is suspected that these genetically engineered seeds being utilised in large scale by farmers of Maharashtra, AP, Karnataka and TN are responsible for failure to germinate fully and the yields going down to 35 - 45%. Seeds marketed by Mahyco and Australian Pro Agro and largely used in these areas have played villainous role in the suicide of hundreds of farmers last season. Atleast it was one of the reasons for these suicides. In this situation, the agreement signed by Vajpayee government with Monsanto and field trials allowed by DBT goes against the interest of the country.

The DBT gave permission to Monsanto and Mahyco for field trials even without notifying state governments which are supposed to be primarily responsible for development of agriculture. They came to know about these field trials only after the peasant agitation. AP government has now ordered closing of all field trials in agricultural areas following the agitation. But trials in areas owned by agricultural

Amendments to Indian Patent Act

Earlier these amendments were passed by Lok Sabha in 1995 during Rao regime and then allowed to lapse under intense popular pressure and dissensions among its supporters. As a developing country under entitled exemptions India has to adopt WTO patent rules only by 2000 and introduce product patent in place of present process patent for drugs and pharmaceuticals only by 2005. To bypass this exemption, WTO has an article 70.8 which insists that all members should start receiving applications for product patent from January 1, 1995, and that these applicant would enjoy special privilege of "exclusive marketing rights" (EMRs) in the intervening period. This article goes against the Indian Patent Act and imposes stringent royalty and other conditionalities of patent holders.

We had pointed out at the time of debate

about Dunkel Proposals, at the time of signing GATT treaty, and while Rao government making the country a member of WTO, that how this is going to enslave our country in all respects, how it is going to ruin Indian enterprises, PSUs and devastate the country and people. Whatever we said is becoming clearer and proved in practice now. With the present amendments, patent holders (who are almost fully from imperialist countries) are given permission to loot the country much before stipulated 2005. BJP-led government and Congress are acting together to fulfill imperialist demands.

A major agitation against Insurance Regulatory Act and Amendments to Indian Patent Act is to be launched, there by strengthening the demand for quitting WTO. Our country cannot be saved from imperialist strangulation without quitting WTO and scrapping liberalisation globalisation policies. The polarisation of left democratic forces should be made around this slogan.

Terminator Gene and Gail Omvedt

Gail Omvedt (GO) finds it hard to "appreciate the horror felt about the 'Terminator Gene' or to understand what is so dangerous about genetic manipulation to prevent reproduction" (Hindu, 14 Dec.). So she demands that the farmers and MNCs should be allowed to settle this question between themselves. She ridicules all who are organising agitations against Monsanto and Mahyco as hypocrites. The only difference of this *avatar* of GO from her earlier *avatars* for defending GATT treaty and liberalisation-globalisation is that this time she has omitted claiming that Monsanto's entry with terminator seeds shall help dalits, adivasis and women in their fight against Brahmanism. Otherwise the style and rhetoric are the same.

The problem with bourgeois intellectuals like GO who have sold out their journalistic intellectual faculties to imperialists is that they do not feel responsible to defend or justify the statements they go on making utilising the vast media coverage at their disposal, when the evil consequences of the policies they propagate become evident later. Take for example the liberalisation-globalisation and GATT treaty. They are part of the monetarist policies which are now devastating the people of the neocolonies and working class of imperialist countries. Under,

universities are continuing. But Karnataka and Maharashtra governments have not taken any action so far. RCSS has announced that it will continue agitation against Terminator Gene seeds, as well as against MNCs manipulation of the seed sector for imposing their hegemony in agricultural sector.

At the same time Monsanto is expanding its activities in India. It has set-up a joint venture with EID Parry (India) Ltd or EPIL for developing, producing and commercialising seeds, including biotech seeds in India. The foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has given permission for this. All these actions show that Monsanto is entering the country in a big way. A countrywide agitation is called for against the entry of MNCs in the agrarian sector, and the manipulations going on to make Indian agriculture a captive of MNCs and international market system.

these policies working class is thrown out of jobs, peasants are committing suicides, agricultural workers are impoverished, women and children are more oppressed, dalits-adivasis-oppressed masses are further exploited, ecology is destroyed, and the country is getting devastated with even formally existing democratic rights and welfare measures disappearing. The country is caught in the whirlpool of unprecedented allround crisis. GO is silent on these questions or at the most take an 'Amartya Sennist' approach. Let the country and the oppressed masses go to dogs. Why she should be bothered? She has served the imperialists well by giving her own contribution in dragging at least some 'intellectuals' to the path of serving neocolonialism.

This success has made agents like her more arrogant. These agents know very well that they can make most heinous pro-imperialist statements and get away with it, as even so-called progressive journals like 'Frontier' will not publish a rebuttal of their views, leave alone the comprador newspapers and journals who glamourise them. While GO propagates "farmers' right to use 'any seeds'", she is silent about the fact that this terminator gene could become a biological time-bomb by gradually choking the reproduction system of all major crops. She is also silent about the fact that this terminator technology would rob the farmer of his legitimate rights to save the seed for his next harvest. Instead she is calling for a sell-out to MNCs who preach virtues of biotechnology in order to bring whole agrarian sector under their control for huge profits.

GO like agents of MNCs conceal the fact that the already achieved results of these seeds prepared under Terminator technology are not at all encouraging in US or in India. This Bollguard (Bt Cotton) which is claimed "as fastest adopted new product ever launched in the history of agriculture" by Monsanto agents was a disaster in US. So this MNC had to agree to a multi-million dollar out-of-court agreement with US farmers. Even the crop-failures and suicides of cotton farmers last year in AP and Karnataka are attributed to the illegal marketing of this cotton seed. The secrecy covering the permission granted to Monsanto and its affiliate Mahyco by the Central Department of Biotechnology,

Advani lauds Mahyco Karnataka High Court extends protection

The heroic action of Karnataka peasantry in destroying the Bt Cotton plants from genetically engineered seeds containing Terminator Gene manufactured by Monsanto and marketed by its affiliate Mahyco has unnerved the imperialist agents. BJP leader and central home minister L. K Advani visited Mumbai office of Mahyco and consoled it that it will be given full protection to devastate and loot the peasantry. He lauded the 'services' rendered by this company. The question is whom does this company really serve? Advani's visit to Mahyco headquarters when the peasantry is targeting it as their enemy very well exposes Advani as an imperialist agent, and Mahyco as a hated enemy of Indian people.

Karnataka High Court competed with Advani in coming to the protection of Mahyco. Without waiting for a proper hearing on the petition moved by the advocate of this company, it ordered Karnataka police to provide full protection to all establishments of Monsanto and Mahyco. The courts in our country are competing with other wings of state machinery to protect the interests of imperialists and MNCs. The Bihar High Court gave immediate orders banning bandhs when some non-descript state agent asked for it. Kerala High Court asked police to see that the general strike is not turned into a bandh. And

the covert means adopted in the so-called test cultivation of this seed, the large quantity of these seed detected in the godowns of seed-merchants etc. create the suspicion that the bureaucracy and this MNC are involved in a multi-million dollar sell-out of this country's interests making Indian farmers guinea pigs. GO who is a Fellow in the University of Pune is supposed to know all these. Should we believe that she is ignorant of all these facts, and is an imposter in the academic circles? No, her track record shows she is not ignorant. She is a clever manipulator serving the imperialist interests and the MNCs.

It is hightime that such dangerous agents like GO are exposed. Academics and students should take initiative for this.

Karnataka High Court is so concerned with the safety of the killers of Indian peasantry. We have not forgotten how MP High Court and Supreme Court protected the interests of Union Carbide which massacred tens of thousands and disabled lakhs following 1984 gas disaster.

But history is going to prove that neither Advanis nor these courts can save the MNCs from people's wrath.

(From P. 6)

By launching this aggression, and by continuously intimidating Iraq through economic sanctions US imperialists are intimidating all the countries in the world. Yankees are threatening the community of nations that unless all of you kowtow before us, we shall violate your sovereignty with immunity and attack you. So aggression against Iraq is an aggression against all other countries, especially the third world countries who are already subjected to imperialist domination.

So it is the responsibility of the world people to stand firmly with Iraqi people, declaring solidarity with them. The imperialist aggressors should be severely condemned. The barbarous imperialist system which is the enemy of world people should be hated, exposed, and attacked wherever possible.

We should demand an end to so-called UN inspectors. We should demand lifting of all sanctions against Iraq. We should stand firmly with Iraqi people. We should prepare ourselves to teach the US imperialists and the imperialist system the most bitter lessons that they shall never forget. In this process we should prepare ourselves to overthrow this hated imperialist system itself.

Mukti

(Bengali monthly published by
Bengal Committee)
For contact: Ranjan Mondal,
158C, Karaya Road,
Calcutta 600017

News from States

Bhopal: Anti-Imperialist Day Observed

14 years before on December 2/3 night 40 tonnes of deadly chemical gas leaked from Union Carbide pesticide factory leading to more than 20,000 deaths and making more than 6 lakhs battling against its serious after effects. In spite of this becoming the biggest industrial disaster, a genocide, from Rajiv government of that period to the BJP - led government of today, none has taken any serious steps to book the MNC to provide even sufficient compensation to the survivors. Like in 1984 till today the central and state governments have colluded with this MNC

Highlighting this question and demanding sufficient compensation and rehabilitation for the surviving victims and their dependents the Bhopal Committee of CPI (ML) Red Flag observed December 3 as anti-imperialist day. In the evening a demonstration was organised with effigy of imperialist monster. A public meeting was held at Gandhi Nagar market addressed by Dr. B.S. Yadu, comrades Umakant and Tuhin Deb besides Dr. Thomas, secretary, Bhopal Committee. The speakers called for intensifying struggle against the reactionary Indian state serving imperialist interests.

Later the effigy was burnt in front of a large number of people.

Successful agitation by RCSS for higher procurement price

The fortnight long agitation by peasants of Raichur district in Karnataka for higher procurement rates succeeded in compelling the Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee to fix Rs. 535 per bag of 75 kg of paddy. With the onset of harvesting season the central government fixed Rs. 475 per 100kg of paddy as the procurement price causing the crashing down of prices. Added with this, the manipulations of big traders and bureaucrats who are in league with them the prices fell to even Rs. 350 per quintal.

Against this RCSS and KRRS launched a powerful agitation which brought the marketing and movement of paddy in Sindhanur and Gangavathi taluks of Raichur to a standstill demanding procurement of paddy at the rate of Rs. 565 per 75kg. Farmers stopped the sale of paddy en-bloc and organised demonstrations and dharnas in all taluk towns. As the agitation intensified the traders were compelled to stop their procurement moves. Though state administration and APMC officials held many rounds of discussions, since they were not ready to accept the demand of Rs. 565 per 75kg all talks failed.

From 4th December com. D. H. Poojar, state secretary of RCSS, and Shesha Reddy and Vishwanatha Reddy of KRRS started an indefinite hunger strike at Sindhanur pressing for early acceptance of enhanced rates. RYF and DSS came out in support of the agitation *Rasta roko* and locking the godowns of traders and APMC was started and spread to more areas. The whole procurement process came to a standstill.

On 12th December APMC signed agreement with leaderships of RCSS and KRRS and the agitation was called off after the procurement was fixed as Rs. 535 per 75kg. Demonstrations were organised by RCSS and RYF units marking the successful completion of the agitation.

Kerala: Judicial enquiry into killing of com. A. Varghese

Kerala government has accepted the demand raised and campaigned for by CPI (ML) Red Flag state committee and relatives of Com Varghese that a judicial enquiry should be conducted into the killing of comrade in fake encounter in 1970 February. The Kerala High Court has asked the government to put forward its proposals for the enquiry in full by 21 December.

Meanwhile, following the revelation of the police driver who confessed to witnessing the burning of body of com. Vijayan who was tortured to death during emergency, the Kerala state committee have demanded the reopening of the case, and to punish the police officers responsible for the murder of com. Vijayan.

Yuvajanavedi struggle against Enron

Yuvajanavedi has declared that it will intensify the struggle against bringing Enron into electricity sector in Kerala. It has demanded that Kerala government should scrap the Power Purchase Agreement signed with Enron. If Enron is allowed to build the plant in Cannanore district, by 2001 Kerala Electricity Board will have to close down hydel projects providing electricity at Rs 0.50 per unit and purchase it at the rate of Rs 3.50 per unit from Enron as per the present PPA, as by that time at the present level of industrial development 5000 million units of electricity will be becoming surplus. Besides, instead of inviting Enron like projects, there are enough possibilities for building many small and medium hydel projects in Kerala which can provide electricity at very low rates.

Many progressive forces have extended support to the struggle of Yuvajanavedi.

CPI (ML) Red Flag demands reopening Com. Vijayan case

Following the confession of a police constable about the killing of com. Varghese in police custody, another police constable who was working as driver under anti-Naxalite wing during emergency period has confessed that he is witness to the burning of the body of Com. Vijayan after his death during police torture.

Com. Vijayan was the district leader of CPI (ML) in Thiruvananthapuram district from 1974. When the party was banned he went underground during emergency and was organising party activities. He was arrested in beginning of March 1976 and tortured under custody. When he died due to torture his body was destroyed to wipe out evidences. After emergency there was mass agitation for action against responsible policemen and political leaders. Justice Viswanatha Iyer Commission was appointed for conducting enquiry by Kerala government. The Commission found that com. Vijayan was killed in police custody and concluded that cases should be charged against policemen it named. In Sessions Court all policemen were punished for rigorous imprisonment. But the Kerala High Court set them free on the ground of insufficient evidences. At Varkala CPI (ML) Red Flag observes martyr's day on 8 March.

After the confession of police driver CPI (ML) Red Flag state committee has demanded reopening of the case. It has moved in High Court alongwith the relatives of Com. Vijayan with this request. Meanwhile state committee has also decided to organise a people's movement to mount pressure on the state government to reopen the case.

Plight of plantation workers in North Bengal

While CPI (M) and CPI leaders are busy at Delhi trying to play their managerial role in bourgeois politics and in forming a third front, in the states the Left Front is ruling they are fighting each other. In these fights as junior partners CPI is bringing out many charges to show the weaknesses of the CPI (M) led LF rule. What is happening now in Bengal is part of this game. But one good thing about it is that some startling facts about the anti-working class policies of LF rule is coming out from the horses' mouth itself.

In Darjeeling district of Bengal dissident CPI(M) leaders grouped inside CPRM and AITUC leaders have brought out the facts that plantation workers' wages in this area is not revised during last 15 years and it is still Rs. 32 per day including all allowances. When Bengal government has fixed Rs. 52 as minimum wages, plantation workers are denied even that. It is a matter of common knowledge that the tea produced in this area is of best quality compared to tea produced in all other areas in India. Productivity of workers in this area is also high. But the wages are not rising.

At the same time in the plantations of Kerala and nearby areas where the quality of tea and thereby its market price is inferior the daily wages is Rs. 80. Besides they get better facilities and other rights compared to plantation workers in Bengal. So it is not difficult to understand how much more profits the foreign and native plantation owners like Tatas are making, or allowed to make. That is why the Tatas and Birlas laud Jyothi Basu government and support him for even primeministership.

The exposures of CPI MP Gurudas Dasgupta should open the eyes of L F supporters everywhere about the real character of LF governments in Bengal, Kerala and Tripura.

Seminar on Communist Manifesto's 150 Years

A well attended *Seminar* on 150 Years of the Communist Manifesto was held on 29 November at JNU City Centre. It was organised by Delhi Committee of CPI (ML) Red Flag,

Introducing the subject Com. K. N. Ramachandran, secretary, CPI (ML) Red Flag explained the basic lessons of Manifesto and how they are relevant in these days of liberalisation and globalisation. He linked the basic teachings of Manifesto with present day problems of the international Communist movement and the movement in India. He extended it to the mode of production debate and to other ideological questions concerning the Indian communist movement. It was an effort to analyse and explain CPI (ML) Red Flag positions in the light of classical Marxism.

Prof. G. P. Deshpande of JNU explained some of the basic features of manifesto and pointed out how it taught the people to dream

CPI (ML) Red Flag oppose VHP move to occupy Sufi Shrine

The Sufi Shrine in Bababudan hills in Chikmagalur district of Karnataka was turned into a contentious issue by Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal who threatened to take it over in 'Babri-Masjid style'. In the cave shrine where the Hindus worship Dattatreya in the first week of December every year, Muslims visit the Dargah of Sufi philosophers including Dada Hayat Mir Khalender, a close disciple of Dattatreya. Except for 3 days in first week of December when Dattatreya Jayanti is observed Muslims hold authority for the rest of the year. There was communal amity here for centuries. Now the VHP and BD has communalised the shrine issue claiming total control of the shrine. They organised a 'Rathayatra' and threatened occupation of the shrine on this 3rd December. Against this Hindu fundamentalist move CPI (ML) Red Flag Chikmagalur district committee organised a campaign calling on the secular democratic forces to oppose this heinous move of the communal forces. Demonstrations were organised. RYF and RSF committees also issued statements and joined the campaign

of revolution. Departure from revolutionary teachings has led to degeneration. A new upsurge is called for when imperialism is launching fierce attacks on world people.

Com. Pari Thapa, representative of the Communist Party of Nepal (Mashal) narrated the basic teachings of CM and how they are related to problems of revolution today. Imperialist agents are spreading canards against Communist movement. But we have advanced much from the days of the Communist League of Marx's days. In spite of setbacks the ICM is still there comprising revolutionary forces everywhere. Let us strive hard to overcome setbacks and move forward. He extended fraternal greetings to the audience and to CPI (ML) Red Flag.

Com. R. K. Singh, Secretary, Bihar Committee of CPI (ML) Red Flag dealt with some of the important questions of ideological struggles today. Com. G. P. Mishra, vice-president, TUCI Central Committee explained the role of working class in the struggle for democracy and socialism. Com. K. N. replied to some of the questions raised in the Seminar, and by audience. Com. Thomas Mathew, Secretary, Delhi Committee welcomed the speakers and audience while Com. Rajendra Prasad Singh presided.

Lal Tara

(Revolutionary Hindi monthly)
Single copy 3/- Yearly Subscription Rs. 35/-
Send letters/DD/cheque/MOs to.
R. P. Singh,
B-14, Lane-5, West Karaval Nagar,
Delhi- 110094.

Chengodi Cheyathi

(Tamil monthly published by TN Committee)
For Contact: T. Chilappathikaram,
No. 1, First St, Somasundar Bharati Nagar
Vadapalani, Chennai- 600026.

Campaign against DPEP getting strengthened

Campaign against the World Bank funded District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) being implemented in six districts of Kerala is getting strengthened. Hundreds of public meetings and seminars are being organised all over Kerala under the auspices of committee for protection of educational rights and the revolutionary youth and students' organisations Yuvajanavedi and KVS as a part of the campaign. Thousands of pamphlets are circulated among teachers, guardians and other concerned people.

The programme implemented with the financial support of imperialist agencies like World Bank, UNESCO, the Dutch govt, European Community and other donor agencies is actually intended to dismantle the effective public education system existing in Kerala. The Left Front govt. ruling Kerala and the NGOs like Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishad (KSSP) and the intellectuals who support the DPEP programme try their best to mislead the people by saying that the DPEP Curriculum is a child centred one and that is going to develop the capacity of students to observe, conceive and express the reality around them. While the programme is reserved only to the govt. schools and govt. aided private schools the students of unaided and English medium schools are being taught in the old system. Guardians afraid of the depletion in the levels of learning of their wards taught under DPEP system are taking their children away from the govt. schools to unaided private schools where they have to pay huge sums as fee. However the latest statistics shows that this trend has got strengthened during the years after the implementation of DPEP.

In such a situation the campaign against DPEP organised by the committee for protection of educational rights is recieved well by the people. They have become aware that their imperialist programme is not for the development of the level of education but for the destruction of the system of public education.

The organisations or intellectuals who support the DPEP have miserably failed to answer the questions raised by the workers of educational rights protection committee or ordinary people. In the pamphlet brought out by KSSP to answer the criticisms against DPEP they

could not answer the crucial questions of WB funding and Curriculum.

Eventhough the organisations like AIDSO and SUCI are against DPEP, they approach the question as a technical one and believe that the things can be made correct through some technical adjustments. They have even gone to the extent of uniting with ABVP like Sangh Parivar outfits who were for DPEP in Rajasthan, to oppose DPEP in Kerala. It seems that they are unable to grasp the crux of the matter and to understand the importance of struggling against the imperialist dictated policies of central and state governments, of which the DPEP is a part.

However the campaign against DPEP has created a new awareness among the people and they have started to express their opinion against the programme which is going to be implemented all over Kerala by next year. The committee for protection of educational rights have decided to intensify the campaign and to launch struggles demanding the withdrawal of WB aided DPEP from educational sector.

Baba Nagarjun

Baba Nagarjun who passed away on 5 November at Darbhanga, his home town, while undergoing treatment in a hospital, is acclaimed as the greatest Hindi novelist and poet after Munshi Premchand. Throughout his life he supported the left movement. He wrote about the life and struggles of the oppressed masses, especially oppressed peasantry of Bihar. He belonged to the generation of great stalwarts who firmly stood and worked with the anti-imperialist and anti-feudal movements from the days of colonialism. Baba Nagarjun shall be remembered for his great contributions to the revolutionary literature, and his acts of solidarity with the struggles of the oppressed. Our heartfelt respects to his memory.

US-UK Aggression Against Iraq: Protest Actions all over India

As soon as the news of US led aggression against Iraq came out CPI (ML) Red Flag condemned it and called for protesting against it everywhere. On 17th evening itself demonstrations were organised. At numerous places US flag and Clinton's effigy were burnt after demonstrations and public meetings. The imperialist aggressors were asked to stop the attack forthwith. Demonstrators expressed militant solidarity with Iraqi people. Speakers in public meetings called for intensifying anti-imperialist movements to isolate and expose the imperialist forces led by US imperialism. Clinton was depicted as the symbol of imperialist degeneration. These mass protest actions are continuing in towns and villages alike wherever CPI (ML) Red Flag is active.

At Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala following burning of US flag activists demonstrated in front of British Bank of Middle East. They condemned UK complicity in the aggression against

Iraq. The glass panes of the bank were destroyed as a warning against all US and UK institutions in India.

All revolutionary and left organisations organised numerous protest actions all over the country. Militant demonstrations condemning US-UK aggression took place against their embassies in Delhi. Demonstrators declared solidarity with Iraqi people. All progressive democratic forces joined these demonstrations.

All these organisations pointed out that by launching this barbaric aggression against Iraqi people, US imperialists are threatening the people all over the world. It is a brute action to force world people to submit to imperialists. It should be resisted at any cost. US imperialism and the imperialist system itself should be exposed and opposed for their most heinous actions including naked barbaric aggressions massacring innocent people. ●

US Aggression: Militant Protest Action Everywhere

The four day aggression against Iraq by US and UK is condemned all over the world. Except Germany, Japan, Australia, Canada and Israel no other government supported this criminal aggression. Three out of five Security Council members, Russia, China and France condemned it. All other governments from all continents also condemned it and demanded immediate end to it as soon as the news of first rocket and bomb attacks came out. Even within US and UK this aggression was opposed and condemned. In US the Republicans and democratic forces described it as a heinous move by Clinton to save himself from impeachment for 'Monica affair'. In UK even members of Tony Blair's Labour Party condemned it. Unlike in 1991 there were no backers from any among the Arab countries including Kuwait. Arab League unanimously condemned it. Thus the aggressors are opposed and condemned by the overwhelming number of governments all over the world. US imperialists and their henchmen, the British imperialists are facing unprecedented opposition. These imperialists are getting isolated.

Clinton is the target of attack from world public opinion. A new wave of discussion about the despicable depths to which imperialist barbarians have sunk is taking place everywhere.

Democratic forces all over the world reacted sharply and immediately. Within US and UK itself there were militant protest actions. Self-imposed censorship of US media could not conceal these protest actions. In UK Tony Blair's residence was attacked. There were demonstrations at work places, in universities, in slanty towns and at other places. In all other imperialist countries US aggressors were condemned. Clinton is ridiculed. Clinton and Blair are burnt in their effigies at numerous places.

This unprovoked, barbaric aggression gave rise to militant protest actions in all third world countries. Palestinians and other Arab people along with Iraqi people were in the forefront in these protest actions. Burning Clinton in his effigy and condemning the imperialist aggression millions demonstrated. Such protest actions are reported from all third world countries. ●

US-UK Aggression Against India
Protest Actions all over India

RED STAR

Thrissur-680 322,
Kerala, India.

January 1999
Price Rs. 5.00

R. No. D 2. 9359/91
KL/TC 206/98

Com. Vinod Mishra

The death of com. Vinod Mishra is not only a serious loss to CPI (ML) Liberation he was leading for more than two decades, but also to the left movement as a whole. His major contribution was to transform his organisation which was once a sectarian group into a political party with mass base, still continuing the struggle against the landlord forces. By doing so he helped the strengthening of the left forces in Bihar in particular, and at all India level in general.

His departure has taken place at a time our country is passing through a critical phase. While the liberalisation-globalisation policies are intensifying the neocolonial plunder in all fields, the coming to power of BJP led government marks the growth of the fascist danger posed by the Hindutva forces. While the December 11 general strike was an expression of growing people's resistance against the liberalisation-globalisation, the overwhelming defeat of BJP in the assembly elections marked people's growing opposition to it. But the traditional left parties are not ready to unite with all left forces based on an anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic programme. Instead they are spreading the illusion

of fighting BJP by joining with Congress. The collusion between BJP and Congress in pushing through the Insurance Regulatory Authority bill and amendments to 1970 Indian Patent Act under WTO dictates has exposed this illusion.

It is in this context the slogan-based joint initiative by six revolutionary and left organisations including CPI (ML) Liberation and CPI (ML) Red Flag becomes significant. It marks a beginning for bringing together all revolutionary and left organisations together based on an anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic programme. The passing away of Com. Vinod Mishra at this time is a big loss to this joint initiative.

We express heartfelt condolence to Central Committee, CPI (ML) Liberation and to com. Vinod Mishra's family members, and hope that we shall be able to carry forward the task of uniting all revolutionary and left forces in fulfilling which CPI (ML) Liberation under the leadership of com. Vinod Mishra was playing an important part.

19 December 1998

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

Printed and Published by P. J. Baby from Comrade Printers,
Thrissur-680 322, Phone: 0487-355175. Editor: M. M. Somasekharan.