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Estate Workers In Perilous Conditions

In India estate workers have a history of more than a century. They belong to one of first contingents of Indian working class organized under the colonial rule of Britain in the last century. They had been raised from the famine stricken rural peasantry of the country and was one of the most downtrodden sections of the population.

In the beginning days of plantations the plantation workers' living and working conditions were unimaginably poor. They had little protection from the hostile topography and weather. Many a worker fell prey to wild beasts and malaria. Reminding us of the guild masters of early capitalist days the managers and supervisors in estates resorted to brutal measures against workers. They even used to flog them. There was virtually no stipulated time period regarding working hours. Food and shelter conditions were extremely pathetic. For many decades the workers payment was in kind than in cash. In short the estates were valleys of misery and death for the worker while the estate owners reaped a good harvest of profit.

But the situation began to change when the working class stood up and began to fight for rights. Through a series of struggles in which many comrades laid their lives the workers obtained eight hour work, shelter, medical aid, wages, rug etc. In Tamilnadu the workers had to struggle upto 1957 for getting their winter blankets. On 26 January 1957 four comrades fell to police bullets at Valparai in Tamilnadu in the struggle for various demands including blankets. This gives ample evidence to the inferior conditions in which estate workers were compelled to live and work.

Though gradually the british estate owners withdrew and Indian monopolies and multinational companies took over after 1947, the basic methods of estate managements and treatment towards workers did not change substantially. But in the leadership of left trade union movement the workers fought through and obtained some of their rights.

Now by the introduction of new economic policy, as in other fields, the workers in estates have began to face serious problems. It has accelerated the process of deprivation of rights regarding the workers. For the last few years with a systematic increase in workload and the introduction of various measures, the strength of permanent workers is decreased drastically. Valparai, Sholayar Estates of Jayasree tea, a

Birla concern, stands as a typical example where the ratio of permanent workers with temporary workers strike a demarcative disproportion. The estate management makes check roll manipulations to undermine the standing order stipulations regarding the ratio of permanent workers per acre. This has resulted an increase in plucking task. Instead of stipulations in the agreement between Tamilnadu Planters Association and trade unions which put up a plucking task of 12kg, 13kg, 15kg & 16kg, the management compells the workers to pluck 30kg, 40kg, 60kg and 80kg, per day. If the workers fails to meet this task he or she is victimized. The women workers, who come to be the majority, are being victimized the most. The management denies intervals to breastfeeding mothers to breastfeed their babies. In cases of miscarriage, though the existing law insists to provide maternity benefits, Birla management manipulates the medical reports and dismiss the cases to be those of anaemia with delayed period. The workers are driven to the fields even before the stipulated working hours begin. At times wild animals which have come astray to the fields at night might not have withdrawn and the workers fall prey to them.

The creche for children is a place of misery. There are provisions in standing orders and plantation labour act for nutritious food and medical care. But inhuman greed of the management always denied these rights. So, the next generation of estate workers learn their bitter lessons of misery right from infancy.

The temporary workers, who are perpetuated in that status because of checkroll manipulations and other illicit measures of the management, are totally denied of medical facilities assured in standing orders. These workers are the majority of the total working force. Even the dependants of permanent workers do not get the medical facility though it is assured legally. Sick leave is rarely sanctioned to workers.

The drinking water provided by the management is hopelessly polluted and the maladies come in a procession due to this. Public health officers, after their inspections, have warned that the public health conditions i.e., latrins drainages etc., are in deplorable state which would cause the spreading of epidemics but the Birla management stands unmoved of that. Workers lines bear similarity to Uncle Tom's

(Contd. P. 2)

EDITORIAL

New Year Challenges

1996 was an eventful year in many respects. At international level even while the imperialist system could maintain its hegemony, it was confronted with grave challenges. The crisis faced by the system continued to intensify. Efforts to tide over it cutting down all welfare measures at home and intensifying plunder of the neocolonies further sharpened the contradictions at global level. Even while US continued to dominate the imperialist camp, the inter imperialist contradictions were also sharpening.

In spite of many round of talks fiscal and trade relations among US, Japan and European Community did not improve. Within EU itself the signing of Maastricht Treaty is facing more problems. The WTO remained only an instrument to further exploit the neocolonies, it did not lessen trade conflicts among the top imperialist powers.

The cutting down of welfare measures and increasing unemployment gave rise to numerous workers struggles often paralysing the imperialist countries. This sharpening conflict between ruling monopoly bourgeoisie and masses of the toilers got reflected in the bourgeois efforts to fascise the state, to abandon even the remaining bourgeois democratic values, and to attack the working class as well as to disarm them ideologically and politically by encouraging alien trends. Still, alongwith the working class struggles, various movements for protecting ecology, against women's oppression and child abuse, for democratic rights etc. were witnessed in these countries.

Once again US imperialism bombed Iraq. Under UN label economic blockade or controls against Iraq, Libya, Iran, Cuba, Yugoslavia etc. continued. Imperialist interventions continued to bleed the African countries, latest victim being Zaire. Apart from IMF and World Bank, the WTO was also utilised as tools of neocolonialism to devastate the neocolonies and to plunder the masses. In spite of imposed peace agreements West Asia and former Yugoslavian republics are in turmoil. Against NAFTA, APEC

like regional groupings and against economic aggression by MNCs and imperialist capital numerous agitations were coming up in the neocolonies. In short the contradiction between imperialism and oppressed nations and peoples further intensified.

These developments had their impact in our country also leading to the intensification of all internal contradictions. Disproving the tall claims of the imperialist and comprador propagandists that the NEP have done wonders to the people, they voted out Rao government with Congress suffering its worst defeat. But as all the ruling class parties of all shades from right to 'left' have arrived at a consensus to implement the NEP, the UF is pursuing it with more vigour through its CMP, always trying to cheat the people with its slogan 'reforms with human face'. As a result the pauperisation of the masses was becoming more acute, and they waged numerous struggles against the anti-people policies. Like Congress and BJP the UF parties are also exposed more and more as compradors in the service of imperialist policies.

Thus during the last year even while the capitalist imperialist system at global level and the comprador rule at home continued to dominate and plunder the masses of people, it witnessed sharpening of all contradictions and also strengthening of various forms of people's struggles. This objective condition gave rise to many efforts for uniting the revolutionary forces against the imperialists and their compradors everywhere.

Reflecting the growing challenge raised by the socialist forces all over the world against the imperialist system, in this year the Marxist-Leninist forces tried to unite at international level against the forces of reaction. The bilateral and multi-lateral relations among them were more strengthened. There were international seminars and conferences of anti-imperialist forces. Among them the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Organisations held under the leadership of Joint Coordinating

NCP (Mashal) On RIM

The meeting of the Central Committee of Nepal Communist Party (Mashal) held recently to consider over the letter of the CORIM (Committee of the Internationalist Movement) dated 21 Aug. 1996, after a brief discussion, adopted a resolution concerning it. The committee, meaning CORIM, has advised Mashal either to give up its opposition to "Maoism" or render "Voluntary resignation" within three months, which infact is a threatening to expel it from the RIM in case it continues to support Mao Tsetung Thought. However, it (CC) unanimously decided to continue its position on Mao Tsetung Thought or "Maoism", not to render resignation from the RIM and continue its struggle to defend Marxist Leninist ideology against the "leftist" opportunist, sectarian, splittist, despotic, illegitimate and arbitrary, left opportunist, unprincipled policies and style of work of CORIM.

The letter of the Committee has written that, "The dispute between RIM and NCP (Mashal) is by no means limited to question of terminology" but "Concentrates to a whole series of political and ideological

We are reproducing below a statement of the CC of the Nepal Communist Party (Mashal) dated 5.11.1996 received by Red Star with a request to publish the same in Red star. Editor.

questions". It further states, "It is necessary to be concluded this period of classification and debate It is all the more important and urgent" due to "denunciation of the launching of the peoples war" in Nepal by Mashal. Mashal mentions that the so-called peoples war launched by "Maoist" of Nepal is, infact, an ultra-"left" deviation and, so, its opposition is justified by Marxist - Leninist ideology and tradition of the World Communist Movement fighting both right and "left" opportunism. But RIM has been unable to take correct, objective and Marxist-Leninist stand on this regard, which has done much harm to the movement of Nepal.

The Resolution of Mashal has concluded that although for many Marxist-Leninists of the world the difference between

Mao Tsetung Thought and "Maoism" seems that of terminology, only, in the contest of RIM "Maoism" represents an opportunist trend to drag Revolutionary Internationalist Movement as a whole to the path of opportunism and Trotskyism. Committee is doing its best for pulling down Leninism from the position of leading ideology of the era of imperialism and proletarian revolution and distorting Mao, although in the name of flying high the banner of Marx, Lenin and Mao. However, the resolution maintains that the Peruvian Communist Party inspite of its wrong ideological position or "Maoism" and Gonnzalo Thought, in practice adheres to Marxist - Leninist ideology. So the resolution does not keep PCP in the same footing of CORIM and RCP, USA, regards it as a true revolutionary and Marxist-Leninist party and gives emphasis to continue its support to the Peruvian peoples war. CC has also decided to release the letter of the CORIM and Resolution concerning it publicly.

(M.B. SINGH)
GENERAL SECRETARY
NEPAL COMMUNIST PARTY
(MASHAL)

Group spelt out a clear cut anti-imperialist stand and was another significant step ahead.

In our country the revolutionary forces played important roles in waging many people's struggles trying to give them anti-imperialist, anti-feudal orientation. Even when continuing influence of right opportunist and sectarian tendencies led to setbacks in some areas, the movement as a whole has come forward as the only alternative for the people against different ruling class alternatives. Recognition of this reality had led to the signing of a joint

statement and organising All India Anti-Imperialist Convention on last New Years Day at Delhi by five revolutionary organisations. Following this based on ten anti-imperialist anti-feudal democratic slogans these organisations had continued their efforts to create conditions for uniting all patriotic democratic forces for a countrywide anti-state movement. Thus, inspite of barbarous attacks on the forces of proletarian revolution by the imperialists and their agents, and the setbacks suffered by the International Communist Movement, the

Class Struggle: International Survey

Far from marking the end of history the 90s experience the intensification of political, social and military contradictions. The turbulent regions are getting closer to Western Europe, The East, still before it becomes a "second breath" for capitalism, is a source of social instability and of national crises which can change the map of this region and bring new immigrants to Western Europe. In the south the Maghreb-countries (Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco - note of the translator) are at the same time affected by the advance of Islamism and by the pressure of workers' struggles. Also Africa, the last bastion of the French imperialism is shaken by people's movements

So this instability is going to have outstanding political consequences. It is going to intensify the difficulties of French imperialism that must confront itself with the transformations in Europe, with the increased power of its German rival, with

developments during last year have proved that the revolutionary forces are once again on the threshold of a new polarisation against the imperialist camp; on the threshold of a small yet significant move forward. The objective situation internationally and in India is becoming more favourable for such a polarisation at the dawn of this new year.

The present task before the Marxist-Leninist forces is to vigorously pursue the efforts to reorganise the International Communist Movement beginning with the formation of a platform. With this as the core a broad anti-imperialist front should be built up at global level to combat imperialism at all levels, ideological, political, economic and cultural.

An excellent objective situation is unfolding in our country favourable to the proletarian

This is the brief note presented to the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Organisations by OCML Voie Proletarienne (France): RS.

the opening of the markets for the Japanese competitors and with the instability of its export-markets in Africa.

The national and social crises at the borders of Europe, with civil wars in the east and the misery in the south will increase the number of potential immigrants. In addition to the Islamic movements existing in the south, this thrust will intensify chauvinistic reactions of fear and the search for protection. We can already see extreme manifestations of this in Germany but also in France we already know these campaigns, be it on the occasion of the so-called "affaire du voile" ("veil-affair"), chasing foreigners without documents, opinions about an 'invasion' or

bourgeois speeches about the loss of the national identity. These reactions are going to nourish a reinforced nationalist consensus.

But the workers, who put pressure on all over the world, contribute to the weakening of imperialism, holding a potential of international solidarity. Their pressure is the material base for a genuine class-solidarity and an encouragement of workers' struggles. But only an anti-imperialist political activity within the imperialist countries will make it possible to make this solidarity concrete and to use it for encouraging a workers' point of view there, where in the oppressed countries nationalist sentiments are increasing.

While making this solidarity concrete, informing about class struggles throughout the world and explaining the sharing of common interests of all workers, we will strengthen workers' unity here in France and with the workers of other countries.

revolutionary forces. This situation can be utilised and the struggles for New Democratic Revolution can be carried forward only when the reorganisation of CPI (ML) as the vanguard of the Indian proletariat is advanced vigorously. Alongwith this party reorganisation work, the process of uniting all revolutionary left forces around anti-imperialist, anti-feudal slogans also should be actively carried forward. The working class, the peasantry and all other toiling masses of the country demand such an initiative from the Marxist-Leninist forces.

On the occasion of this new year's day let us pledge to make CPI (ML) Red Flag capable of taking up these revolutionary tasks. Let us pledge to unite with all other revolutionary organisations more closely to launch a country-wide movement against the Indian state led by big bourgeois-big landlord classes and serving imperialist interests.

Joint Meeting of Revolutionary Left Organisations at Calcutta

At a well attended joint meeting at Yuva Kendra, Calcutta on 18 December the representatives of revolutionary left organisations reiterated their resolve to mobilise the masses for anti-state struggles based on the ten slogans put forward in the joint statement. The meeting was held in continuation to those held at Hyderabad and Kozhikode and completed the first phase of the joint campaign plan.

Comrade Partha Ghosh of CPI (M L) Liberation welcomed the gathering and com. Sudhir Bhattacharjee of M. C. P. I. presided. Com. Sefudin of C P I (M L) New Democracy read out the joint statement signed by the revolutionary left organisations.

Addressing the joint meeting com K N Ramachandran secretary CPI(ML) Redflag explained the process through which the joint move could be initiated. The NEP started by Rao government, the signing of Gatt Treaty and making India member of W T O, and the consequences of this neo colonisation on the general masses prompted countrywide mass movements in which revolutionary organisations played a good role. They raised the necessity of atleast slogan based joint actions by them in a situation when congress was pursuing I M F - W B dictated policies, B J P was supporting it, and the centrist and left parties had become apologists to it. Now the formation of U F government with the L F Parties joining its steering committee and CPI joining the cabinet, the revolutionary forces are facing the challenge of launching powerful movements to oppose the anti-people policies. CMP is not an alternative to the N E P, but represents its continuation and accelerati-

on. As such the U F government's policies should be uncompromisingly opposed.

In this context com K. N. Ramachandran pointed out the necessity for differentiating our opposition to L. F. parties from the criticism of them by congress and B J P like forces. Our criticism is from revolutionary positions. We reiterate that by pursuing the policy of apologists neither imperialist onslaught can be checked nor the Hindutva parivar can be prevented from coming to power. Even the judicial activism of today is a transitory thing. In spite of it no effective action is taken against scammers. On the other hand the state terror is intensifying putting down all form of people's struggles. In this the L F parties are also not different as it proved in W. Bengal and Kerala.

In this situation the revolutionary left organisations have to take up the challenge of resisting the enemy onslaught. The ten anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic slogans can be the basis for this. Based on them let us unite our forces to launch countrywide struggles to mobilise the people for an alternative outside the ruling system. From these joint meetings we have to advance towards joint struggles, comrade pointed out.

Following this Com. Subrata Bose of C. O. I. (M. L.) pointed out that though his organisation could not sign the joint statement earlier, it support it and have decided to continue as a part of the joint move. He explained the imperialist offensive in different sectors and called for a countrywide movement against it.

Next Com. Pradip Singh Tha-

kur of C P I (M L) New Democracy pointed out that all reactionary forces are united in the propaganda that there is no other alternative to the N E P. Now Dewagowda government has only accelerated the implementation of Rao government's policies. More and more sectors are privatised. We have to seek an alternative outside the ruling system. The joint move by the five organisations is a good beginning. Let us carry it forward with full vigour.

Following this Com. Karthikpal of C P I (M L) Liberation explained the crisis caused as a result of implementation of the N E P. After 50 years of independence people's problems are aggravating. In this context, even when we are having differences we have decided to unite in struggle based on those slogans. Let this joint meeting inspire us to take up the challenge in coming years.

Com. Somanath Ghosh of MCPI stated that what we were saying about the consequences of the N E P have come true. Attack on hawkers and preparing Calcutta to receive the tycoons of Hongkong by L F government are part of the N E P. MNCs have started dominating everywhere. A new independence struggle is needed. This joint statement and united movements will inspire people to come forward in countrywide struggles.

On the whole the joint meeting was yet another step forward in launching united movements by the revolutionary left organisations against the anti-people policies implemented by the ruling classes under imperialist dictation.

Advance Anti-Imperialist International Joint Struggle Of Asian People

This paper "Advance anti imperialist international joint struggle of Asian people focussing on anti Apec struggle in Manila this coming November against the invasion and domination over Asia by US & Japanese imperialism", was presented by Japan Communist League to the Interational Conference of the Marxist - Leninist Organisations in October 1996 -RS.

I. Crush the Ongoing Maneuver by Japanese & US Imperialism Aiming the Consolidation of their rule over Asia

In the latter half of the year of 1996, our main efforts should be concentrated on the advance of Asian-wide international joint anti-imperialist struggle, which has developed under the banner of Asian Wide Campaign (AWC) throughout Japan (mainland), Okinawa and Asian countries. We recognize the situation of Asia as follows:

First, the competition among imperialists over the market of Asian-Pacific countries is getting severer, and it is spurring the intension of exploitation and oppression on Asian people, which leads to sharp and deep contradiction and confrontation between the ruling and ruled classes. The WTO and the APEC has forced third world countries to accept "liberation of trade and investment" in order to promote more invasion of transnational capitals over Asia and the Pacific and conversion and integration of the region into the market and stronghold of production of Japanese and US imperialism.

Even though competing each other, US and Japanese imperialism have consolidated the

APEC as a regional economic, framework to ensure the freedom; freedom of exploitation of transnational capitals in the Asian-Pacific region. However such bourgeois advertisement as describing the region as a "growing center" illustrating a "boom of investment" by foreign capital and hiking-up of wage of minimal number of workers has been already disillusioned by the reality of deepening contradictions. The policy of liberalization of trade and investment by APEC has brought lots of burden to overwhelming majority of workers, peasants, and urban poor.

In the Philippines, for instance, Ramos administration announced that the unemployment rate of April, 1996 was 10.9% while it was 12.1% one year before. However 40.3% of "employed worker" that the governmental statistics

categorized was self-employed people and domestic workers who don't receive wages. Aside from these workers, according to a data issued by IBON of the Philippines, the real rate of unemployment recorded at 27.8%, which is the highest since 1993. Including 4 millions of overseas workers, the rate reached at around 36%

On the other hand, the disparity among workers has been rapidly expanding in the Philippines. The ratio of contractual workers whose average work time per day is less than one hour increased by 25% over last year, while that of regular workers showed a decrease of 6.3%. This is a result of the "Flexible Employment" policy under the "Strategic Program for General Employment" launched by Ramos administration, which aims at legalization of contractual workers. These

Under the banner of Asian Wide Campaign (AWC) anti-imperialist forces from Southeast and East Asian countries together with the progressive forces of Philippines held a series of massive protest demonstrations against the APEC meeting at Subic Bay, Manila. The demonstrators marched to Subic Bay demanding an end to imperialist plunder by US and Japan, and their 'action-plans' to keep the countries of Asia-Pacific region under their domination. As an international anti-imperialist action the Manila protest demonstrations are significant. *Red Star* salutes the anti-imperialist demonstrators, and express solidarity with all such anti-imperialist actions.

are a real situation surrounding Filipino workers under the increase of investment by foreign capital and an "economic boom".

The balance of trade of South-east Asian countries has been also getting worse since last year. The deficit of the current balance of trade of Thailand last year showed a big increase of 47% over the previous year and it is not declining yet. The deficit of foreign trade from January to May of this year, 1996, is \$ 7.7 billion (28% increase from the corresponding period of last year) in the Thailand, \$ 5.0 billion (44% increase) in the Philippines. In Indonesia, the deficit of the current balance of trade will reach \$ 9.0 billion in estimation, which will be 30% increase over last year.

This is an inevitable result of the liberalization for the interest of transnational capital and export-oriented industrialization. Transnational capital's accelerating the transference of manufacturing stronghold to Asian countries, these countries have been importing capital goods more and more while their competence of export in labor-intensive industries have rapidly declined. At the same time, the import of luxury goods and other consumer goods have increased depending on the increase of income of urban middle classes, which is providing a good market for transnational capital. These are the factors of the trade deficit of Asian countries.

The increase of the deficit of current balance of trade is converted to an increase of burden of the majority of workers and peasants through financial stringency of the state. Furthermore the development of infrastructure in those countries is

spurring the situation worse. The infrastructure of the countries has been developed through huge amount of loan mainly in the form of Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan and the other imperialist countries for the sake of incursion of transnational capital into Asia. It has created deprivation of land and demolition of numerous peasants and the urban poor of Asian countries. In addition, it is one of the largest factors of accumulated foreign debt. Multinationals have been competing to get bigger share of the huge market of development of infrastructure which is estimated to reach \$ 1.4 trillion by the year of 2000. A great deal of value will flow into imperialist countries through the profit that multinationals can get from the market and the debt service.

According to the statistics issued by OECD January, 1996, the foreign debt of Asian countries has prominently expanded and the total amount recorded at \$ 750 billion in 1994, which was an increase of 17.8% over the previous year, and shared as much as 41% of the foreign debt of the world.

The increasing foreign debt and the pressure of repayment by the World Bank-International Monetary Fund have brought financial stringency of the governments of Asian countries and destroyed the life of workers and peasants through deduction of the expenses of social welfare, raise of charges for public services, and inflation ignited by the cut of subsidies for local products. In the Philippines, the bill of "Foreign Debt Regulation Act" that stipulated the upper limit of foreign debt as 10 billion Philippine Peso passed the Parliament. Nevertheless the mission of Japanese government dispatched to

Manila last May for the sake of the negotiation for the grant of 21st Yen Loan launched imperialistic diplomatic maneuver to give pressure to the Philippine Parliament to pass the bill of "ODA Usage Act" which would put Japanese ODA out of the regulation of the "Foreign Debt Regulation Act" as one and only exception.

ODA has been revealed its nature as a weapon of imperialists for the competition and economic invasion over Asian-Pacific region. Japanese imperialism is the largest creditor over the world, which has loaned \$ 236.8 billion or 13.8% of the total amount of foreign debt of the world, and 72% of which has been loaned to Asia. The most updated mode of Japanese ODA is to combine with transnationals' development work of infrastructure. Around 200 of the combinations have been already proposed in Asia. Most of the projects are to construct power stations, communication networks, and railways, which will pave the way for the incursion of multinationals into the region and assure the giant enterprises of US, Japanese and EC tremendous profit, which are rushing into Asian market because of severer competition due to ongoing deregulation and privatization in their own countries.

Second, the "economic growth" sacrificing workers and peasants has created uprising and protest of the people all over the Asian countries, which shows that bourgeois propaganda such as "duration of economic growth" assures "political stability of Asia" is nothing other than deception. In Burma and Indonesia, the policy of economic liberalization by imperialists and military dictatorial regimes has given birth to exp-

ansion of the gap between the rich and the poor and severer social contradictions, and has brought fury of workers and the other people. Recognizing the potential threat to themselves, Japanese and US imperialists have tried to build APEC as not only a framework for economic cooperation and liberalization of trade and investment, but also for that for regional security strategy combined with the Asian-wide collective security plan including Japan-US security treaty, proceeding to construct the military deployment system in order to suppress people's resistance, especially anti-imperialist, national liberation and socialist revolutionary movement.

Last July 27, 1996, Indonesian people waged in Jakarta an open anti-government action for the first time under Suharto regime, raising the banner of opposing the dictatorship. This action was triggered with the raid of last June by the security police against the supporters of Ms. Megawati Sukarnoputri, who had been holding rallies at the head office of Democratic Party of Indonesia protesting the Suharto government's intervention of the opposition party and their ousting Megawati from the position of party leader. In the background of the revolt, however, which involved all the area and tens of thousand people of Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, there is widely-spread indignation among the people against the expanding economic gap under the policy of economic liberalization and strengthening suppression, also the advance of workers' struggle which succeeded in organising first general strike under Suharto regime in 1992. Megawati and the Democratic Party of Indonesia which expressed their position after the revolt on July 27 by saying "We

draw a line between us and anti-government forces" can never be a genuine leader of Indonesian workers and people's struggle.

The Suharto government and its national military force issued a statement that this uprising was "agitated by PRD (Democratic People's Party) which is connected with the Communist Party of Indonesia" and started arrest of activists of workers and students across the country. It is obvious that the statement was fabricated to make an excuse for the suppression, and there have been critical voices that say "the cause of the revolt is poverty", not only from groups for human rights but even from the inside of national military forces.

The real target of the suppression is advanced activist groups scattered over the country which embarked on organizing workers and peasants since 1990s, surpassing the historical lesson of the bloody suppression in 1965. The government is shuddered at the fact that the activity of these groups has been combined with the indignation of lots of workers and peasants and trying to crush the move. We should never allow the Suharto dictatorship to crumble the struggle of the activists and workers and peasants. The AWC should concentrate all its' might to organize the support and solidarity with the struggle of Indonesian people from all the Asian countries, especially it is decisively important and an international duty for the advanced workers in Japan, which is the largest investor country and ODA supplier to Indonesia, to stand up for the fighting Indonesian people.

For the Clinton administration that regards the Asian-Pacific

region as vital for Us rollback, it is a key of its Asia-Pacific strategy to establish APEC and a collective security organization in Asia based on the Japan-US Security Treaty as a ruling system over Asia. The "APEC Security Plan" initiated by US Secretary of Defense Perry last November in combination with the "Japan-US Security Joint Statement" released last April and the third conference of Asean Regional Forum (ARF) held at Jakarta last July aims at building a US-led comprehensive security system in Asian-Pacific region. Furthermore, the ongoing revision of "Guidelines for Japan-US Defense Cooperation" to concretize Japan-US joint defense strategy plan at times of emergency in Korean Peninsular will lead to the establishment of "North-east Asia Collective Security Organization" based on Japan-US-South Korea military alliance sieging North Korea. It is due to this security aspect of the nature of APEC that Japan and US imperialism jointly propelled the consolidation of APEC as a new Asian order in spite of severe economic competition over Asian market between them.

And what we should pay attention to is that the above-mentioned US-led Asian collective security conception accords with Japan's security strategy to protect Japan's economic interest over Asia with its own military forces by breaking through the restriction of the Current Constitution, therefore Japanese imperialists have their own intention relatively independent from the US to promote the collective security conception. At the third conference of ARF held last July, a sectional meeting regarding "Role of military troops at times of calamity" was newly set up. The New

National Defense Program outline decided last year also formulated it as one of the regular tasks of Japanese Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to dispatch their troops abroad in case of emergency such as calamity or terrorism. As well as deployment to UN Peace Keeping Operation, these moves would pave the way for counter revolutionary invasive mobilization of Japanese military troops. Corresponding the third conference of APEC, Secretary General of Liberal Democratic Party, a conservative ruling party, Koichi Kato released a statement that the ARF should have standing army and the SDF should take part in it even if amendment of the current Constitution would be necessary..

Japanese Defense Agency has been active for the sake of the establishment of Asian collective security organization. Having held several seminars and forums inviting military officers of Asian-Pacific countries in Tokyo and Bangkok after the start of ARF, Japanese Defense Agency is calling for an "Asian-Pacific Region Defense Authorities Forum" at the end of coming October.

II: Organize Asian-Wide Counterattack Against the Invasion and Domination By Japanese and US Imperialism

However, the economic and military domination being strengthened by Japanese and US imperialism has drawn wide spread people's counterattack all over Asia. We should proceed the construction of Asian-wide anti-imperialist united front we already started to organize in the past several years.

In the Philippines, workers

and people led by BAYAN have been making an appeal to anti-imperialist forces of the world to join the anti-APEC struggle in the Philippines coming November. The liberalization of the Philippine economy by APEC will bring to Filipino workers and peasants only further exploitation and oppression. For the preparation of APEC, Ramos administration is about to demolish more than 16,000 families of urban poor communities in Metro Manila without any concrete plan for resettlement.

BAYAN has organized an international conference against APEC from November 21 to 23 and protest action on November 25 when an informal summit conference of APEC is scheduled to hold, calling for anti-imperialist forces in Asia Pacific region and in the world. This is a struggle, appealing to all anti-imperialist forces in the world to join in the struggle against the domination and invasion of imperialist neo-colonialism intensified through not only APEC but NAFTA. Japanese advanced workers and people should take part in this struggle with all their might together with anti-imperialist groups of Asia and make the conference and action successful.

Another gathering of NGO is also called for "opposing" APEC. This move is to reform with the demands of people. However we can observe a fact that a trend of social democracy and new Kautskyism is surging based on the internationally-spreading spontaneousness; without any criticism and struggle against imperialism and directing reformism. We should criticize any kind of reformism or social democracy.

We should advance the AWC as an anti-imperialist united

front through attending the international conference and anti-APEC action sponsored by BAYAN and consolidating the international unity of anti-imperialist forces of Asia. We should propel further international joint struggle against Japanese and US imperialism as follows:

First, we should organize Asian-wide joint struggle to oppose ARF, a collective security organization of Asia, and the Japan-US Security Treaty, a counter revolutionary military alliance, to remove all the US military bases from Asia, and to stop the deployment of Japanese Self-Defense Forces abroad.

We must organize the struggle against the legislation of a special law for the forcible use of the land occupied by US army in Okinawa firmly combined with the struggle for the cancellation of the Japan-US Security Treaty and the removal of Japanese-US military bases.

In the Philippines, BAYAN is now launching a campaign against the conclusion of Philippine-US ACSA, taking over the success of the struggle for the withdrawal of US bases in 1991, and has organized several times of protest action against US embassy in Manila in solidarity with the anti-US base struggle of Okinawa people since last year. In South Korea, there was a rally and demonstration in front of a military base in Seoul to demand the return of US bases and revision of Korea-US Administrative Agreement. More than 1,000 people attended the action and delegates of AWC Japan Committee also joined.

Let us strengthen the tie of people's struggle of Okinawa, Japan (mainland), South Korea, (contd P. 16)

IV

P. J. JAMES

IMPERIALIST CRISIS AND TRANSITION FROM KEYNESIANISM TO MONETARISM

Monetarism and Intensification of Neocolonial Plunder

The ascendance of monetarism as the current imperialist ideology and practice has made even seemingly inward-looking economic policies in neocolonies a virtual impossibility. The elimination of even the last vestiges of Keynesianism in imperialist centres also led to the removal of similar masks (the Nehruvian mask in India, for instance) in neocolonies leading to a further erosion in the power of the comprador state there to effect Keynesian type policies through budget manipulation. Through a new policy of global integration or globalisation, the US-led imperialism is trying to transfer the burden of its mounting crisis to the shoulders of Afro-Asian-Latin American neocolonies by intensively using the Fund-Bank combine, the twin pillars of neocolonialism. The result was the unleashing of a process called structural adjustment programme by Fund-Bank combine in neocolonies since the seventies, culminating in an unprecedented drain of resources worth hundreds of billions of dollars into imperialist centres. This massive economic squeeze of Afro-Asian-Latin American countries is accomplished through the launching of a multi-dimensional onslaught by global capital facilitated through a set of Fund-Bank conditionalities comprising a whole range of anti-people programmes such as cut in social welfare expenditures, elimination of state subsidies to weaker sections and price support programmes, disinvestment of public sector units, liberalisation of banking, trade and financial markets, liberalisation tax regime, wage freeze along with required anti-strike laws, and above all, free entry and exit for MNCs. Of late, with the creation of WTO and ranging it along with the Fund-Bank combine, this globalisation has identified agriculture, intellectual property rights and services as the new thrust areas to be made captives of imperialist capital. Since all these are much discussed topics today, here we are not going into a repetition of all these issues. On the other hand, we confine ourselves to certain conspicuous trends accentuated by global monetarism in the imperialist world economy at present. A bird's eye view of these trends

will reveal that they have added a qualitatively new dimension to ongoing world imperialist crisis and that there is no going back to a so-called pre crisis stage as was the case with previous capitalist crises.

Stagnation in Production, Affluence in Finance

Monetarism as an ideology and practice at present covers a variety of policies and programmes ranging from deflation and deregulation of the economy to alteration of the labour market via anti-union legislative measures. Though it has been suggested as a readymade alternative to the uncontrollable inflation and growth of debt including speculative finance, what, in fact, is occurring is a further intensification of these trends, thanks to the laws of motion of capital in the present era. The result is the rapid growth of a fictitious or bubble economy engulfing the entire imperialist world economy and sucking everything into its 'black hole'. One often witnesses the terrible paradox of the co-existence of huge public sector cuts and sky-rocketing state deficits and debts at a global level. It was under Reaganomics that USA transformed itself into world's biggest debtor whose foreign debt alone has been more than three times the combined debt of all neocolonies together. A corollary of this rapid growth of debt is the unprecedented rise in all kinds of rentier incomes including huge interest earnings accruing to parasitic classes. In its recent Trade and Development Report, the UNCTAD has also admitted this fact. Among other things, the Report says: "..... short-term and long-term interest rates in OECD countries have risen to exorbitantly high levels. Long-term rates in recent years have been higher than in almost any similar period since the last century. They were exceeded only in the Great Depression years 1930-1932, and they are three times as high as those during the subsequent recovery of 1933-39 and in the Golden Age" (UNCTAD, 1995 P, 177). Thus under contemporary global monetarism, the situation is far more worse than was the case under Keynesianism and according to capitalism's inherent logic high interest rates mean decline in profit rate from real capital invest-

ment resulting in stagnation. However, this is just a modest way of explaining things as it represents only the tip of the iceberg,

During the 'golden age' itself, there was significant increases in global finance and in the absence of profitable (from the point of view of capital and not from that of humankind) real investment, the dominant trend in the international economy since the sixties has been the growth of speculative or 'fictitious' activities comprising corporate take-overs, real estate dealings currency speculation and so on. The result has been a process of deindustrialisation and casinoisation at a global level. As a manifestation of this the total global reserves of major imperialist countries increased from about \$ 37 billion in 1950 to \$ 68 billion in 1970. However, this does not include the rapidly accumulating 'Eurodollars' in European banks, an aspect referred earlier. During the same period while global outputs expanded by 200 percent, the volume of international trade expanded by 500 percent. No doubt, this has immensely contributed to a spurt in global currency circulation. All these including the galloping in international debt led to an incredible growth in finance,

Another factor that contributed to the growth of global money in the context of the collapse of Keynesianism and inauguration of monetarism has been the "Oil shock" (two stage hike in the prices of oil during the seventies) or "oil crisis" of the seventies. While aggravating the balance of payments deficits of poor countries having no known oil reserves, it actually resulted in a surge in the dollar earning of petroleum exporting countries. These reserves by petroleum exporting countries has come to be known as "petro dollars" which were deposited in imperialist banks especially in Europe and USA and which in turn could be used for immense speculation by global financiers. No doubt, a major component of international money during the seventies and early eighties had been the excess billions earned by OPEC. And, it is estimated that between a third and half of "petrodollars" actually went to Euro-dollar markets. During the period 1974-1980 this flow was \$ 150 billion. This led to a further burgeoning of the Eurodollar market too which shot upto \$ 4560 billion in 1988 from \$ 375 billion in 1979. Due to the stagnation and falling rate of profit in real investment this abundance of money which in itself was inflationary was used for unfettered speculation and

'armaments trade' in the eighties. But, once cut off from its link with real production finance assumes a logic of its own as manifested in the sky-rocketing financial transactions in global foreign exchange markets. While the credit needs of world's crores of poor people remain unmet, the volume of finance capital that moves around the globe jet speed in search of super profits is fabulously high. For instance, in 1986 the daily transactions on world's foreign exchange markets amounted to \$ 290 billion; by 1990 they exceeded \$ 700 billion and by the end of 1995 they might have scaled \$ 15 trillion. As already noted, these fictitious financial transactions have nothing to do with production or global trade in commodities. According to Peter Drucker, a writer on corporate business, "90 percent of transnational economy's financial transactions do not serve what economists would consider an economic function" (The New Realities, 1990, P. 127). For instance, taking the case of dollar, only just 2 percent of the more than 1 trillion dollars traded daily in the foreign exchange market is destined for productive purposes. No doubt, the crumbling of this imperialist bubble economy can occur at any time. This may take the form of stock exchange crashes, mass exodus of finance capital from one country to another and similar other ways. That is why several writers have characterised the global financial galaxy as a 'ticking time bomb'. Referring to the troubles, in the financial system in the 1980s, William Seidman, Chairman of the US Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation said in 1986: "The financial area is probably, the next to nuclear war, the kind of area that can get out of control, and once out of control cannot be contained and will probably do more to upset the civilised world than about anything you can think of" (Financial Times, May 29, 1986). In fact, separation between real economy and finance and scope for amassing huge speculative gains from transactions in pure finance have prompted global capital to try for maximum freedom of international capital movements. The ongoing globalisation and structural adjustment which are in full swing at a global level are policies dictated by the interests this speculative finance capital

The much discussed "debt crisis" that erupted in the eighties and which continues even now with full fury is also linked with the globalisation of finance. Until the collapse of Keynesianism, the major sources of external finance for neocolonies had been official creditors such as imperialist states and neo-

colonial institutions like the World Bank. However, with the advent of monetarism in the seventies, there occurred a replacement of official creditors by private sources of credit. Swelling liquidity encouraged transnational banks in Europe, USA and other imperialist countries to lend to money-starving poor countries to be spent on the imports of oil, armaments, etc. During the decade of seventies itself this massive flow of finance to neocolonies from imperialist banks registered an increase of 800 percent and this trend continued during the eighties too. Coupled with this the operation of MNCs in neocolonies got a boost during the eighties. A Survey made by 'The Economist' (London) in 1993 had revealed that during 1983-90, foreign direct investment by MNCs (whose number crossed 35000 in 1990) had grown four times faster than world output and three times faster than world trade. This was occurring at a time when the global economy was undergoing an irreversible stagnation in real productive sectors. We have already pointed out the extent of neocolonial plunder accomplished by international capital under Keynesianism. Quite logically this drain from neocolonies assumed gigantic proportions under monetarist policies. According to the UNDP during 1983-89 the rich creditor countries who control international finance received 242 billion dollars in net transfers on long-term lending from poor countries (Human Development Report, 1992 P-45). This became the basis of the so called "debt crisis" of neocolonies. (However, this estimate on the drain by transnational banks does not include the plunder by MNCs). This ever-intensifying debt crisis and the consequent threat on the part of neocolonies to default on their external debts even now continues to have the most serious consequences for the viability of several transnational banks in USA and Europe. Every time the G-7 meets, this problem continues to be a serious topic in its agenda. The establishment of an 'Emergency Financing Mechanism' at the IMF with the sole aim of extending finance to imminent defaulters also exposes the gravity of the situation.

Conclusion

Thus the era of industrial capitalism being already over, the world has already transformed into what is called casino or butterfly capitalism. Speculative finance or finance capital that accomplishes cross-country transactions in

split seconds through the use of every advances in electronification and 'informatisation' is now engaged in a basic de-industrialisation of the economy. Even leading MNCs who were formerly associated with industrial production are fast moving under the control of financial speculators who lead the mergers, take-overs and buy-outs of enterprises going on at a global level. A best example is IBM (International Business Machines) which has passed under the control of Morgan Guaranty Trust. Ownership of several industrial firms are grabbed by what are called institutional investors (pension funds, mutual funds, insurance companies, etc.), a euphemism for speculators. Today's 'robber barons' (Templeton, Merrill Lynch, Jardine Fleming and the like) whose names are quite familiar in global financial centres are interested only in 'paper-entrepreneurship' and not in production. As is obvious, this situation is not an overnight development; it is rooted in the specific character of capital and its movement in the neocolonial phase of imperialism.

It is in this context that we have attempted to have an overview of the evolution of Keynesianism and its eventual transition to monetarism. It is to be reiterated that neither Keynesianism nor monetarism is the cause for the present imperialist crisis, the stagnation and casinoisation of global economy; on the contrary it is the logical outcome of the development of the inherent contradictions of capitalist-imperialist system in the neocolonial period. However, both have been policies of imperialist capital suited to this specific historical contexts when the imperialist crisis was assuming newer and newer forms. Just as the medicine itself aggravates the disease in certain conditions, in a similar way both these 'solutions' have contributed much in accentuating imperialism's crisis. The apparent differences between both Keynesianism and monetarism (the former emphasising the realisation and the latter the profitability aspects of capitalism) have been shaped by historical circumstances. In retrospect, it can be seen that while attempting to shift the ever-mounting imperialist crisis to the shoulders of posterity in an intensified manner, Keynesianism had also been capital's answer to the challenge posed by world proletariat fully backed by socialist Soviet Union and its international prestige at a specific context of history. On the other hand at present the imperialist crisis having assumed a more devastating dimension has made it impossible on the part of capital to sustain a

In The Path Of Revolutionary Struggles - Hopes For Still Higher Unity....

Joint Conference of Revolutionary Organisations 28 November '96, Kozhikode

(Continued from previous issue)

Com. Narayanaswami pointed out how even the nominal land reforms taken up in different parts of the country were scuttled by the WB-IMF directives in favour of the grown agribusiness being launched by the MNCs. The long standing slogan of 'land to the tiller' has now turned a cry in the wilderness.

Com. Narayanaswami added that though situation is ripe for revolutionary movement to act the LM movements at present are not able to deliver the goods because of their fragmented existence. Despite differences the ML parties in India, is the only force, if act unitedly, to take up the challenges the ruling classes threw at the face of the people. The four ML parties who have come together to carry forward the struggles of the

glowing state bureaucracy and public expenditures. Quite ironically this is the context which has inflicted several set backs to international proletariat on account of a number of historical factors. This has provided an opportunity moment for capital to launch its all-out offensive against world people in the form of monetarism, the anti-people content of which is a widely discussed topic today.

Thus capital has already moved in to its 'final stage' and is now submerged in unprecedented decay. A historical understanding of this process amply demonstrates that there is little scope for any reform within the existing system or a return to Keynesian type policies as argued by a whole set of revisionists and social democrats. Nor is it the duty of progressive people to offer programmes for reform today. On the contrary, it is their duty to strive for a basic transformation of the existing order without waiting for the speculative bubble (ie, imperialism) to burst on its own. Till then the working class and toiling masses the world over will continue to bear the burden of imperialism's worst ever crisis, in one form or other. ●

people have taken up a grand historical task with this humble beginning. He hoped that more broader sections would join to strengthen this unified campaign and enthuse the commoner, the peasant, the student, the suppressed woman, the adivasi, the weakling at large to fight out the system,

Com: P. Gopal, CC Member CPI (ML) Liberation started with a note of glad surprise in addressing such large a mass of audience with revolutionary urge in a state supposed to be a land of social democracy under the political domination of CPM. He pointed out that the myths and double talks indulged in by CPI, CPM parties have begun to crumble. They could not raise even a little finger against the recent imperialist cultural business in Bangalore—the Beauty pageant—while people's protest against it was being brutally suppressed through police unleashed with the sponsorship of Gowda Govt.

The situation is so pathetic that the ruling classes have co-opted every single party including the leftists to their new politico-economic order of globalisation, liberalisation and privatisation. Communalism and globalisation policies are part and parcel and no communalism is against imperialism.

While betraying their real content the ruling class including the revisionists harp on the same old tune—ML forces are non-existent. We have proving that we are the real peoples forces who fight relentlessly against imperialism and fundamentalism. And our unity will prove a real death knell to the ruling classes. Com: Gopal concluded exhorting the real revolutionaries to come together in the coming days including those now in the fold of revisionists and social democrats.

Speaking next Com: K. N. Ramachandran surveyed at length how and through what all measures the present ruling system in India is implementing the very same imperialist policies of the Rao Govt which were resisted and voted out by the people. The very same left parties which participated in the people's agitations and

campaigns against the congress policies— 3 General strikes, 2 bundhs, the historic anti-GATT movement—during the last five years are now sharing the responsibility for implementation of the policies more vehemently by the UF Govt. Now CPM CMs Basu and Nayanar are vying with other CMs to woo foreign capital in the name of industrial development at a time when lakhs of large and medium industries are shut down under the impact of liberalisation policies

Citing the experience of the colonial period Com: K. N. Ramachandran pointed out that foreign capital had always resulted in native deindustrialisation and the neo-colonial context will multiply this disaster.

In every field of human life in India—whether economic, political, cultural, intellectual or so-imperialist policies have pressed deep its venomous fangs. In the labour sector working class is forced to wage life and death battle. Out of the 15 crores workers in India only 15% is organised. That too is being fizzled out by implementation of labour contract system. New policies in agriculture have left crores of agrarian workers jobless. The peoples struggles for land and against feudal suppression are met with organised massacres by the state terror,

The ruling class parties have come together in selling the country out to the imperialists. They time and again are propagating that India has no other go but to accept the globalisation economy for its development. The people however are experiencing the harsh reality in their day to day life. The revisionist CPI, CPM and other social democrats try to create an illusion that inspite of their opposition to these policies they can build an alternate model within the frame work-like the 'Peoples planning' joke in Kerala. Communalists and other fascist groups as well as voluntary organisations too try to project their own alternative to the system. All these alternatives share a common suggestion—Rejection of working class politics and its struggles. The new philosophies liberally taking rounds among pro-imperialist intellectuals theorise these anti-working class alternatives.

Now what is the reality of the world? That the common man, the trodden, the working class is in the forefront of momentous, struggles even in the capitalist countries—recent strikes in France, Germany, Japan and even in America—proves that the coming century will certainly be

dominated by working class movement.

India could not be an exception. In the present historical context when no force is in the forefront to rally with the people and lead them the revolutionary forces in India will prove their mettle. People have no alternative but the revolutionary alternative. The coming days will show the greater possibilities of our small beginning. We could be able to garner still wider sections of revolutionaries, progressive and democrats in escalating our programmes of agitation, Com. K. N. hoped.

Speaking next Com: Sambasiva Rao expressed his sentiments of elation of being in the land of Kayyoor, Punnapra-Vayalar and the anti-imperialist agrarian struggles like Malabar rebellion. After fifty years of power transfer the country is plagued with untold miseries. Forty percent of the population is still under poverty line. The recent policies have accelerated the country's sojourn into total peril. The foreign and internal indebtedness of alarming proportions, legendary corruption of the power brokers, evergrowing state terror in oppressing and suppressing peoples struggles and the position of the established left who abandoned the ideas of struggles—all these and many more have turned peoples lives hell like.

Now that there are no genuine forces to lead the people in their struggles. There exists a big void. Only revolutionary movement can fill the void. Despite our differences our unity will enthuse the democratic sections in the country. This beginning of a greater historical task will scale new heights, he expected.

The conference ended up by 8' o'clock amidst thundering revolutionary slogans. What Kozhikode witnessed was only a drop from the surging revolutionary stream that is going to inundate people's conscience in the days to come. A small step, that go a long way in the path of united struggles



(From P. 10)
and the Philippines against US military bases and the Japan-US-South Korea collective security. Let us advance Asian-wide joint action under the banner of AWC opposing the military domination by Japanese and US imperialism.

Second, we should develop anti-Japanese-imperialism struggles as Asian people's joint struggle. At the same time, in solidarity with the Asian people's struggle, we must organize with all our might Japanese workers and people to rise up against Japanese Imperialism. Among all, people in Asian countries such as South Korea, DPRK, the Philippines, Indonesia, China and Taiwan are launching to denounce 'Asian women's Fund' Japanese government started to provide in last August as a lump sum grant. We should denounce exhaustively the Japanese government maneuvers with its aim to atone war responsibility deceptively in unity of the struggle of all Asian war victims such as former "comfort women" forced by Japanese military and should push forward the struggle to demand genuine apology and compensation with all our might. We also should know that demand for the post-war compensation and indignation of Asian people against Japanese government has been directed at not only the past invasive war responsibility but also the present invasion in Asia of Japanese imperialism, so we will organize Japanese workers and other people into anti-Japanese imperialism political struggle.

There will also be an international conference against Japanese imperialist ODA in the Philippines coming November. ODA has been revealed its inva-

sive true nature as a weapon for Japanese imperialism to dominate Asia as well as destroying Asian workers' and peasants' life. We'll make solidarity with the Asian people's struggle against ODA projects and develop its struggle into international anti-imperialism joint struggle.

Third, we should strengthen international solidarity activity to support for the advanced workers' and other people's anti-dictatorship struggle in Asian countries. Under the intensifying exploitation and oppression of imperialism and dictatorial regimes, workers' and people's struggles against military dictatorship are upsurging in Burma and Indonesia. These struggles are going on based on the peoples' demand for anti-dictatorship democratization, and bourgeois parties and some parts of ruling class are in the center of the movement and the leadership of working class which can lead workers and people to fight against imperialism and ruling class consistently has not been formed yet.

However, there are many activists and their struggles that are aiming to get genuine liberation of people based on the oppressed class and against the domination of imperialism inside the above mentioned struggles. We should strengthen our international support not to allow any oppression on democratic struggles and human rights by military dictatorial regimes in solidarity with the struggle of the advanced activists who represent the future of the movement.

III. Crush The Japanese Imperialists' Attack on Workers / People

In response to its global policy for counter-revolutionary

invasion, the Hashimoto government, agent of Japanese imperialism, has accelerated attacks on Japanese workers/people in domestic arena.

In the first place they try to complete re-alignment of the political parties and establish two-big-conservative-party system through Diet dissolution and general election this year. Thus, they try to build the new ruling mechanism under which workers/people's complaints will be moderated in any conservative party and serious demands of increasing lower strata of workers/people will be disregarded.

Driven by the intensifying inter-imperialist competition, Japanese imperialism is transferring its production line to Asian countries, on one hand, and is shifting domestic industrial composition as well as domestic labor market, on the other hand. This has brought about expanding gap between upper strata and lower strata of the working class. In result unemployment and unstable employment has made record increase. Unemployment rate has reached 3.5% last June and proved to be not temporary but structural phenomenon.

The imperialist government will not resolutely pay attention to the demands of the lower strata, instead, push through the political system under which their voices can not be reached.

In the name of "Liberalization," the government and business circle has imposed "Administrative reform" and "Deregulation," which has increased job-cut and intensive labor.

In addition, Japanese imperialism is caught in the financial

crisis. The amount of the government bonds will reach 240 trillion yen (about U.S. \$ 2 trillion). The debt is intended to put on the shoulders of workers and people as usual; They have decided to extend financial rescue from tax to housing loan companies which went bankruptcy, while they decided to raise consumer's tax up to 5%. Furthermore, they are trying to increase the burden of the people in the arena of social welfare, medical service, education, pension, etc

On the other hand, imperialists plan to push through "political reforms," that is, re-alignment of political parties in to "two big conservative party system," like in the United States. As of now they have been successful to split the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and to transform the biggest opposition social Democratic Party (SDP) into a conservative party, which triggered occupation of two conservative parties, LDP and the New Frontier Party (NFP) in Japanese Diet. This process was prepared by imperialists in good cooperation with leadership of RENGO (Japan Trade Union Confederation, the biggest but yellow national labor center).

However, to their regret, there have been signs that workers and people expressed their dissatisfaction to the process. The LDP and NFP show no difference but exposed themselves to be a common bourgeois party. In the governor election in 1995, owing to unaffiliated voters' increase, unaffiliated candidates defeated existing party candidates in Tokyo Metropolitan and in Osaka, two big cities in Japan. Annoyed by the people's deviation from the existing parties, imperialist again plot to estab-

lish the third conservative party which pretends to be "opposition to the two big conservative party." This move to form what they call a "new liberal party" or "Democratic Party" is ongoing among a small LDP-split faction ("Harbinger" faction) and SDP, backed by the leadership of RENGO. It is no more than the third conservative party in reality, and nothing but a manipulation to bind people to all-out conservative party system in Japanese political circle to monopolize Japanese politics. This is what the imperialists are pushing through in the name of 'political reform' to win the intensifying inter-imperialists' competition.

In the second place, Japanese government try to crush the people's movement against U.S.-Japan military alliance (AMPO Treaty) and, adversely, to consolidate the military alliance and Asian collective security system.

The U. S. soldiers' rape against a schoolgirl in Okinawa in September 1995 has triggered the revival of anti-base campaign of Okinawan people. They organized successful anti-U. S. base mass rally last October, which later little by little expanded in the mainland of Japan. Imperialists are scared that the people's campaign might turn to be anti-imperialist struggle and resolute to crush the anti-AMPO and anti-base campaign throughout autumn 1996.

For this purpose they are determined to take the offensive in three tactics.

The first one is to legislate a compulsory expropriation law which enables the government to confiscate the farmers' land, even if they reject the lease contract, and surrender it to U.S. military control. Driven to the

corner, Japanese government is forced to dare this special legislation; Ongoing compulsory contract of U.S base lot will be expiring in the coming May 1997, and the government will lose any legal basis to use the lots of more than 3,000 anti-war landowners who will be rejecting the renewal of contract. For the government it means that the existence of U. S. bases, which is the substance of AMPO, will be endangered, and U.S.-Japan military alliance will be badly damaged.

The government plans to legislate this law not only for the purpose to avoid its illegal occupation of the contract-expiring lot and to forcibly secure U.S. bases in Okinawa, but to arrange the emergency system and to introduce the Emergency Law. According to the media, the government revealed that law shall be applied not only U.S base lot in Okinawa, but all military facilities in Japanese mainland as well. Also the law shall enable the government to directly implement the procedures of confiscation so that they can avoid the resistance of the somehow pro-people governor or local assembly like in Okinawa.

However, it is more likely that this unconcealed, reactionary plot will again trigger the people's struggle to expand.

The second one is to pretend to "tackle on reduction of U.S bases in Okinawa," only to deceive the Okinawan people and appease and root out the anti-base movement. Both of Japanese and U.S. government are publicizing for final report of Special Action Committee on Okinawan U.S. bases in November. But it will be just a cover for their plot which maintains the 100,000 U.S. army and

military forces in Asia (45,000 out of 100,000 are stationed in Japan and 75% of U.S. bases in Japan are located in Okinawa) and even consolidate U.S.-Japan military alliance and the function of the bases. On the other hand Japanese government try to bribe Okinawa capitalists with small dubget for "Economic development in Okinawa."

The third one is to review the "Japan-U.S. Defense cooperation Guideline", which enables to further promote the joint military exercise and prepare both troops for action in anticipation of emergency in Korean peninsula. This is in line with "Re-definition of U.S.-Japan Security Treaty," which was concluded in Bill Clinton and Hashimoto talks last April, and supported by U.S. - Japan ACSA (Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement).

Consequently, it is very obvious that Japanese government is wrestling to activate AMPO in actual combat, and to establish emergency system under which they have free hand to mobilize all the civil ports/airports. In line with this they make use of Anti-Subversive Action Act to root out anti-imperialist and revolutionary organizations,

In the third place Japanese government is pushing through deceptive settlement to the victimized Asian people who rose up to demand Japanese government to apology for war crime and make genuine compensation in the last invasive war.

Last August Hashimoto government forcibly paid "compensation" from privately donated "Asian Womens' Fund" to Filipino former "comfort women" who were victimized as sex slaves by Japanese invasive

army. Hashimoto wrote his letter of "apology and reflection," which only proved that Japan tried to evade sincere apology and genuine compensation as state. This payment was done in spite of strong and broad opposition and protest of almost all victims.

Japanese imperialists are trying to appease the voices/protest with small amount of money and without genuine reflection, and to root out the struggle against Japanese imperialism. This is based on their strategy to pave the way to another Japanese domination over Asia, removing any hazard through deceptive means, and secure the conditionality to get a permanent seat of U.N. Security Council as one of the gobal power. In this light Japanese government's deceptive war compensation is connected with U.N., APEC, ASEAN Regional Forum, and Asian regional security framework, in a word, Japanese increasing initiative for imposing imperialist order in Asia.

Recently Japanese government reveal their territorial ambition for tiny islands in the ocean; Tok-do island between Korea, and Tiaooyitai islands between China, Taiwan. They expose themselves to be expanding invasive ambition and to be encouraging chauvinistic mood among Japanese people.

It is the duty of Japanese workers and people to expose and struggle against all these imperialist attacks

We have to exert ourselves in organizing workers, especially lower strata and unstable layer, and in protection of human rights of migrant workers.

Thus, workers have to spearhead anti-military base and anti-AMPO struggle throughout Japan. Then it should be developed to Asian people's joint campaign to dismantle U.S. bases and its presence in Okinawa, Japan (mainland), Korea, the Philippines, and other Asia-Pacific region.

To Our Comrades and Friends

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INTERNATIONAL SCENE

Russian miners strike

In the biggest labour protest since open market reforms began five years ago, a general strike has paralysed the Russian coal industry. More than 400,000 workers, or 80 percent of Russian miners joined the strike. Workers demand the back wages due to them amounting to \$ 450 millions. Even after 17 official letters from top Yeltsin officers, workers demands were not met compelling them to strike when Russia is in the middle of a bitter winter.

According to a recent estimate, half of all Russian workers have not received wages from one to six months. The total dues amount to about \$ 7.8 billions.

This is happening at a time when Yeltsin's prime minister has gone to Paris to assure the French imperialists that what the Tsarist regime owed them will be repaid soon. It shows how Yeltsin and company are betraying the Russian people making them pauperised more and more, while going all out to establish close relations with other imperialist powers. But the workers are now getting mobilised, and they have started hitting back. ●

Fascists gain strength in Europe

The degeneration of the socialist countries to capitalist path, the economic disaster all of them are facing, set-backs suffered by proletarian parties as a whole and the counter revolutionary theoretical attacks launched by forces of reaction on the one hand, and the intensifying crisis faced by imperialist camp and further degeneration of bourgeois democratic institutions have given new life to the fascist or neo-fascist movements in all capitalist countries, especially in Europe

In Austria Jorg Haider's Freedom Party has won 27.6 percent votes in recent European elections on chauvinist and fascist slogans. The support to Jean Marie Le Pen's neo fascist party in France is increasing. Same is the case with Italian National Alliance Party led by Gianfranco Fini. It is no secret that in 1960s then US president Kennedy utilised like many other bourgeois leaders aspects of fascist appeal like cult of youth, nationalism, glamour of the leader, competitive ruthlessness, emphasis on military power etc. In Europe now neo fascist groups

are utilising the Maastricht Treaty calling for greater European unity and a Common Euro currency just as Hitler utilised Versailles Treaty. Besides the presence of immigrants is utilised like Hitler exploited anti-Semitism.

As bourgeois democracy is facing a systemic failure, and the crisis of imperialist system is intensifying in almost all European countries neo fascist groups are coming up. Only a proletarian revolutionary offensive can combat this growing danger which is nothing but a natural progeny of the capitalist imperialist system ●

Fall of Benazir Bhutto

Apart from all other failures of her government, the one factor which contributed maximum in the last few months to the fall of Benazir's PPP government in Pakistan, or her dismissal by president Leghari with the support of armed forces and Islamic fundamentalists is her economic policy. In the latest budget her government imposed many new taxes and burdens over the masses to bring down fiscal deficit to 4 percent as dictated by IMF-WB. Many social welfare measures were cut. These policies only aggravated popular resentment and worsened internal dissensions.

Behind the Pakistan developments the role played by US imperialism and the IMF-WB combine is very clear. The US president did not feel any necessity for condemning the dismissal of an elected government. And IMF-WB who were dictating the economic policies to Benazir government so far have now replaced it with one which is almost totally run by their officials, that is with Pakistani bureaucrats who were working in them. New caretaker government led by Khalid has assured total adherence to 'structural adjustments'. It has facilitated immediate release of IMF assistance giving the government an impression of competence and professionalism in the management of the economy, the key issue for the time being. Democracy, even of the Pakisani type, is dispensable when a more reliable set of rulers have over, as far as IMF-WB and US imperialism is taken concerned. After the promised February elections if they favour Imran Khan or Islamic fundamentalists to take over with army's support it should not surprise any. ●

Zaire: Decolonisation at its worst form

In spite of 'decolonisation' the colonialists and imperialists along with their mercenaries never left African continent. Africa is bleeding even now more than any other area. The structural adjustments of IMF-WB only compounded the miseries. Zaire, a country which should be one of the richest in the world with its immense natural resources including huge petroleum deposits, is today a very good example for the barbarism and criminality of the imperialists and their agents.

In late 1950s imperialists used Mobutu to eliminate the anti-imperialist forces and made him the dictator of Zaire. He opened the country for imperialist plunder and himself plundered Zaire's wealth stashing away billions of dollars in Swiss banks. Now he is away in Europe taking treatment for cancer, when Zaire is witnessing one of the worst civil wars created by the imperialist marauders. They are exploiting racial conflicts to instigate Hutus and Tutsis to kill each other. In the name of ferrying aid the imperialists have brought in their forces also.

The 'aid agencies' like CARE and 'Save the Children' have now forgotten Sudan, Liberia, Rwanda, Angola, Ethiopia... , have moved in to Central Africa and are having their logos advertised through CNN reports in which they brazenly call for UN troops. The same story is repeated in country after country. The MNCs plundering natural resources, bringing in mercenaries to put down any popular resistance, Mobutus training elite presidential guard through Israeli armed forces to protect himself not the people, imperialist manoeuvring through IMF-WB like agencies, the so-called aid agencies UN troops and the misinformation through CNN like reports—all serve neocolonisation. Result: the exodus of people, more civil wars, more refugees starvation deaths, the sickening pictures of half-dead African children shown time and again as if in a ritual, undaunted by it more massacres, and numerous international meets in five star hotels and troop movements in the name of 'solving' these issues. The rulers of the neocolonies in Africa and elsewhere also join in this criminal game. ●

A successor to Yeltsin

The doctors' team led by US experts very well know that Yeltsin is as good as half-dead. A coterie supported by US and other imperi-

alist powers is now running Russia. When Yeltsin was in hospital, lakhs of workers were agitating in the streets of Moscow and other cities demanding that Yeltsin fulfill his election promises. There is no public sympathy for this ailing man. On the day he was operated on most of Russia went on strike protesting against government's failure to pay wages for months. Even then, when it was announced that he has taken over the administration after a 'successful operation', his first 'act' was to issue a decree renaming the anniversary of October Revolution as a day of accord and reconciliation. Whether Yeltsin is in real control or not the administration maintain its rabid anti-communist record

The US and its allies are in search of a reliable successor for Yeltsin. Till one is found Yeltsin has to continue even if his heart is functioning at 20 percent efficiency only. Meanwhile as winter intensifies the millions who are denied wages and jobs are counting days, hours. Thus, the imperialists on the one hand and great Russian people on the other hand are facing each other once again in a life and death struggle ●

W T O meet at Singapore

The WTO ministerial conference at Singapore has established once again beyond any doubt that it is nothing but a 'rich countries club' created to fleece the neocolonies. The imperialist countries did not agree to change their adamant stands taken at earlier Uruguay Round.

While the neocolonies are told to globalise and bring their trade, services and intellectual property rights fully under international market system, the powerful imperialist countries especially US is protecting its market through devices like Super 301. Besides it threatens companies investing in Cuba, Iran, Libya like countries with assertion of extra-territorial rights using Helms-Burton Act and D'Amato Act violating WTO provisions. As US and other leading imperialist forces take unilateral actions, and no mechanisms exist to verify the extent of compliance by them of obligations with regard to financial and technical assistance all talks of equality and mutual help has become meaningless. Bringing the service sector under globalisation, that is opening banking, insurance, telecom etc. to MNCs will only enrich the imperialists at the expense of neocolonies. Similarly, WTO control on intellectual property

INDIAN SCENE

Impact of NEP

"Fund-Bank income-deflating policies in poor indebted countries, despite being widely criticised for a decade on the basis of their own data for reducing investment and growth, increasing poverty and leading to regression in health and education indicators, continue today to be geared to imposing the same punishing regime of income and demand contracting measures. India as a recent entrant in to the group of adjustors has been implementing exactly the same set of policies. All the talk of 'adjustment with a human face' has not changed by an iota the basic agenda. The package India has been implementing from mid-1991 is no different in substance from the packages implemented from a decade earlier by countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and in Latin-America with very adverse results as we have seen

"The first act of the governing regime in mid-1991 was to devalue the rupee by 25 percent and after allowing the exchange rate to slide further one of its last acts in the course of 1995 has been to carry out a further devaluation by another 16 percent despite the existence by then of large reserves; in total the rupee has been depreciated against the dollar in nominal terms by over 50 percent since 1991. In between it has imposed deflationary income contraction on the economy, engineered inflation in necessities prices, and slashed social subsidies which taken together have increased unemployment, reduced investment and growth, cut the real incomes of the masses and raised poverty..... The rise in administered food prices led to a phenomenal increase in poverty by 1992, especially in rural areas to 48.1 percent compared to 36.9 percent in 1990-91"

(Utsa Patnaik, EPW, Special Number 1996)

rights has already retarded development of science and technology in the neocolonies widening their gap with the OECD or imperialist countries. A stock-taking of last two years will clearly reveal that WTO is yet another imperialist tool for plunder.

The Singapore meet with meaningless discussions for five days at ministerial level and the usual NGOs-comic show only strengthen the call of the revolutionary forces that India should quit WTO. All patriotic democratic forces should raise this demand. ●

Textile workers to launch agitation

Raising the demand "no retrenchment and no privatisation of textile industry" the Joint Action Committee of Textile Workers have called for a countrywide 'rail and rasta roko' agitation on 31 December. More than ten lakhs textile workers are expected to participate in this inspite of many agreements with the unions the government is going ahead with plans for privatisation of so-called non-core and non strategic sectors including textile mills. J A C T W has resorted to direct action as the UF government is also following the anti-worker policies of previous governments surrendering to IMF-WB dictations ●

'Sati' Festival Under B J P Regime

Violating provisions of the Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act (3) of 1988 the B J P government in Rajasthan provided police 'bando-vast' and courts refused to act when the criminal act of Sati was condoned by the 'Sahasra Chandi Mahayagna' at the Rani Sati temple at Jhunjhunu. Police refused to act when complaints were registered. At the same time anti-Sati demonstrators were assaulted and arrested. The state government allowed glorification of this heinous festival by media and fundamentalist sections. ●

LIC, GIC Employees' token strike

One December 9 the LIC and GIC employees all over India participated in one day token strike against the moves for privatisation of insurance sector by Dewagowda government. The employees' associations warned that if the bill for privatisation of insurance is moved in Lok Sabha countrywide agitation will be launched against it ●

News from States

AP: Anti-Beauty Contest Campaign

At Kadiri, Ananthapur district a joint campaign against the Miss world contest organised at Bangalore by ABCL with support from the comprador government in continuation to its NEP was launched by RYF, RSF and Mahila Vimukthi. Squads of activists campaigned on this issue in nearby villages also apart from Kadiri town. On 22 November students of Kadiri Degree College, Junior College, Women's College and I T I boycotted classes and held a protest rally against it. ●

Karnataka: Anti-imperialist, anti-feudal campaign

A campaign was organised by RCSS and RYF in Lingsugur and nearby areas of Raichur district passing through scores of villages and propagating the slogans distribute government lands to the landless, provide drinking water in all villages, provide basic facilities including electricity in all Ambedkar housing colonies, stop oppression of dalits- adivasis - minorities by landlords and police, ban blue films, implement prohibition of liquor etc. Alongwith these slogans MNCs penetration in all fields was opposed, and demands were raised for scrapping the NEP. The campaign attracted large number of people in all villages. Cultural squads of Jana Sanskritik Sangha (JSS) accompanied the propaganda team presenting cultural programmes. Youth volunteer squads gave protection to the propaganda teams. As already reported the campaign culminated with a huge public meeting at Lingsugur. ●

Twelve years after Bhopal massacre

From the time the MNC, Union Carbide, caused the biggest industrial disaster at Bhopal leading to death and worse-than-death after effects to two lakhs of people, the Congress governments at centre and in the state have consciously protected the killer MNC. When its chairman Anderson reached Delhi following the disaster, Rajiv government arranged safe return journey to him when all democratic forces were demanding criminal proceeding against him and the management of UC as a whole. The governments that followed, Congress or non-Congress, allowed these criminals to

perpetrate scientific jugglery, blatant and systematic distortion of truth, and deliberate misinformation campaigns, and failed to provide adequate compensations to all the victims. It was wilful negligence on the part of these governments to protect the MNC. Even the research on the consequences of the gas exposure on people's health is abandoned.

At such a time the decision of the UF government to revive the extradition proceedings against Warren Anderson was a positive step. But this decision is not followed up with concrete actions as expected. At a time when the UF government is determined to speed up liberalisation to bring in MNCs, any steps to force UC to compensate for the massacre will not be favourably considered by the imperialists. So after the decision, UF government is soft-peddalling on the issue.

It is a shame that even after 12 years those responsible for this worst ever disaster are not punished and the victims are not rehabilitated. The patriotic democratic forces should take up this issue with all seriousness it demands.

Karnataka:

Hamalis', Drivers', and Cleaners' strike successful

The 30 hours strike of 400 Hamalis (transportation workers) belonging to 'Sirwar Hamalara Union' and 200 drivers and cleaners of 'Sirwar drivers and cleaners Union' at Sirwar in Raichur District has ended successful on 12th of december 1996. The strike for enhancement of wages started at 8.00 AM on 11th of December. The strike was total and no vehicle was operated or goods were unloaded. At noon on 12th the vehicle owners and other concerned were compelled to invite the workers' representatives for negotiations. 'Hamalara Union' president Govindappa Dore, Secretary Shanmukhaya, Drivers' Union president Lal Ahmed Sab and Secretary Thayanna and others represented the workers in the negotiations. The strike was withdrawn as the owners agreed to meet the demands of workers. The success of the strike was greeted enthusiastically by the workers and people of Sirwar and they are actively engaged in building up the Unions at various parts of Raichur District under the leadership of TUCI. ●

Press Statements

RED STAR

QUIT WTO

The WTO ministerial Conference at Singapore has confirmed the worst fears of the people of the undeveloped countries that it is nothing but a "rich countries club." While the Information Technology Agreement which will lead to zero import tariffs for IT products of imperialist countries was adopted under pressure, they resisted lowering of tariffs on textiles and dismantling trade restrictive provisions of multi-fibre agreement. The Singapore meeting is calling for further liberalisation of trade in services, exerting more pressure for privatisation of insurance sector in India. On all vital issues like labour standards, global investment rules, national competition policies and government procurement Indian delegation further diluted even earlier positions under pressure from the G-7 countries. Besides the major agreements were charted by delegations of about 30 countries with the imperialist countries dominating at all levels, while vast majority of the countries were left with no other options but to sign the agreement. In this situation, in spite of the claims by India's finance minister Chidambaram in Lok Sabha that all agreements will be finalised only through further studies and universal consensus, the "Singapore Declaration" has become a statute in the agenda of WTO. It is how the imperialists operate to plunder the neocolonies.

After agreeing to join WTO without putting it to vote in the Lok Sabha, all the ruling class parties from Congress and BJP to the UF parties who raised a furor on Singapore Declaration are only trying to cheat the people once again. So long as our country remains a member of WTO similar imperialist dictations will be imposed continuously. The only way out to escape from this neocolonial slavery is to get out of WTO.

We request all patriotic democratic forces to raise Quit WTO demand more powerfully and mobilise public opinion for it.

14 December 1996

Secretary
C. P. I. (ML) RED FLAG

Provide Separate Reservation For Dalit Christians

Dalit Christians despite conversion continue to be socially and economically backward. All the progressive forces should support the demand for their reservation. But it should be provided without affecting the existing SC/ST reservation in any way.

The UF government with Congress support is trying to provide reservation to dalit christians from the existing SC/ST quota by including them in the SC/ST list. This retrogressive move with an eye on vote bank will further dilute and undermine the reservation for dalits.

On the other hand, BJP is communalising the issue. It is opposing reservation for dalit christians and trying to mobilise dalits with them. At the same time neither the BJP nor the dalit organisations aligning with them, like the Congress and UF parties are ready to oppose the New Economic Policies which are undermining reservation as a whole.

We request all progressive democratic forces to raise their voice to *Resist undermining of SC/ST reservation, to Provide separate reservation for dalit christians, and to Scrap the NEP which undermine reservation.*

14-12-1996

Secretary
C. P. I. (ML) RedFlag

(From P. 23)

Cabin, especially the temporary workers' sheds.

The management resort to divide and rule policy and utilise cast prejudices to insite division and rivalry among workers.

This picture of a Birla concern give a telling example of the way monopoly companies run the estates in India. And, almost all the trade unions including those led by AITUC, CITU,

HMS, INTUC, BMS and various other centres prove themselves to be abettors to the deeds of managements.

Now Trade Union Centre of India (TUCI) has begun working among the labourers of estates to organize them and fight these perilous conditions. After all, it is the duty of the red banner holders to continue the historic struggle of Indian working class. ●

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