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PNC : A great friend and comrade

K. N. Ramachandran

The telephone message I received on 24th August evening while engaged in a hectic campaigning in Raichur district for 13th Lok Sabha elections that PNC is no more was a great shock. Rather I could not believe it. So I counter checked dialling for Ban Bihari Chakravarthy (BBC). He confirmed the sad news that P.N. Chatterjee, who was known among all friends and comrades as PNC, is no more with us.

Our friendship and comradeship started 20 years back with the first discussion we held in his small rented house near Kalighat Fire Station alongwith Malay Ghosh BBC and one or two of PNC's friends. From then onwards he was always with us till the last day. On 10 and 11 July when I last met him we held long discussions primarily on building the cultural movement in Bengal as well as at all India level. At the same time we discussed at length about taking up a concrete study of the changes that had taken place in the class relations in Bengal in the post Naxalbari period, about uniting the genuine communists fighting against the social democratic positions of CPI(M) -CPI, against the sectarian line, and against the ideological backwardness dominating most of the CPI(ML) groups. He proposed that a meeting of some of the revolutionary intellectual comrades can be convened in September with the objective of initiating such a discussion. As a part of this effort he had agreed that a seminar should be organised in September on 'Coming elections and Left approach to it'.

In spite of the frustrating atmosphere in the ML movement in Bengal, he was always on optimist. When it has become a fashion to repeat that intellectuals are no more interested in classic Marxist positions, he convened a meeting of more than hundred intellectuals at Howrah in April to discuss on the relation of party with the cultural movement where the discussion focused on building up a revolutionary, broad-based cultural movement closely related to the struggle for new democracy led by the party. His daily life as a higher secondary teacher and close relation with the *Little Magazines* were utilised for bringing together left intellectuals, all of whom will be missing PNC a great lot.

He was always with the party, more closely after formation of CPI(ML) Red Flag. At a critical time he took party membership and became prepared to be in the leading committee while focusing on cultural activities. In the struggle against all sectarian tendencies he solidly stood with com. Souren Bose, and after the irreparable loss of SB, took initiative to defend the Red Flag Line. As the few issues of *Mukti* which he initiated could not fulfill the present ideological political demands of party reorganisation, he had proposed the bringing out of another publication to deal with basic issues of it after a series of discussions with revolutionary intellectuals and concerned ML forces.

I came to know about the sad death of his son in a bus accident only on 20th August. Then onwards I was dialling his number daily but there was no response. He had shifted to his in-laws house at Howrah. When I wrote to him on 24th consoling him and reminding him that we shall meet in September I never knew that he had already left us. His son's death was a great shock

Com: PNC

Com. P.N. Chatterjee, a member of the leading committee of the W. Bengal party committee, and who was the convenor of Gana Sanskritic Andolan passed away on 23 August following heart attack.

His quite untimely death is a great loss to the cultural movement and the party as a whole. We extend our deep condolences to the family. We pledge to carry forward the revolutionary tasks left unfulfilled by Com. PNC.

to him. On 23 August evening PNC, our close friend and comrade, left us following a heart attack.

It is not easy to forget PNC for all who have known him even once. He was friendly and comradesly to all. He had a very large circle of friends and comrades. He always maintained close relation to all progressive movements. In the strictest sense one may not call him a disciplined party activist. But he was a real Marxist in the sense that he upheld the party's banner, inspired all around him to have faith in a socialist future, and represented communist values. He was actively engaged in building a broad-based, anti imperialist, people's cultural movement.

PNC and his family were very close to many like me. It is impossible to console PNC's wife at this juncture. But we can assure her that PNC was always our friend and comrade, and we share her grief. PNC's departure is not only a loss to CPI(ML) Red Flag, but also to the Communist movement as a whole.

IN LIEU OF EDITORIAL

Support Anti-Imperialist Democratic Alternative

Elections to 13th Lok Sabha mark an unprecedented polarisation of the major political parties varying from BJP & Congress to CPI & CPI(M) on all basic economic and political questions. It was manifested, in all the parties represented in the last Lok Sabha passing this year's budget hailed by imperialist agencies and Indian ruling classes as the introduction to second generation economic reforms in 10 minutes without a debate. It does not mean marginalisation of ideological positions by the various trends as some argue. It means, even the traditional socialist and left trends abandoning their anti-imperialist positions and supporting the imperialist dictated agenda of globalisation. When privatisation is taking away even the reservation and social welfare benefits, the parties claiming to uphold social justice and dalit-backward interests are shamelessly toeing the New Economic Policy. Similar is the case with the parties claiming to champion regional or minority interests.

On the much debated question of communal fascism also the dividing lines are becoming thin. For the one time socialist stalwarts to present day Janatha Dal leaders and provincial parties, there is no more untouchability towards Sangh Parivar. The Nationalist Congress is nearer to BJP than to Congress. On the other hand, Congress which was/is always promoting all brands of communal and casteist forces, and the traditional left parties are joining hands with minority communalists and forces like AIADMK which helped BJP to ascend to power. When both majority and minority communal forces are working in tandem to communalise and divide the people and to divert their attention from the mortgaging of the country to imperialist forces and MNCs, none of these parties are ready to fight for genuine secular democratic values, and against the New Economic policy. All of them are united in opportunist policies. In this

way all of them are helping directly or indirectly the growth of communal fascist forces led by Sangh Parivar and the fascicisation in general, to serve the intensifying neocolonisation.

In this way all of them have shattered the dreams cherished by the people about a new India during the independence struggle. During last half century and more after transfer of power, the country is economically devastated making many more hundreds of millions pauperised, and it is now more divided communally. The burden of the accelerated plunder by imperialist capital, MNCs and native ruling classes is coming over the working masses and oppressed sections more and more.

It is in this context CPI (ML) Red Flag is putting forward an anti-imperialist programme through its Election Manifesto and calling for building an Anti-Imperialist Democratic Alternative against all these opportunist forces who are serving the imperialists and the ruling classes. It is trying to unite all revolutionary left and democratic forces around this programme. It calls for the support of all progressive democratic secular and patriotic forces in this election, and thereafter for militant struggles against whichever opportunist alliance led by either BJP or Congress may come to power to implement the globalisation agenda.

We submit this Anti-imperialist democratic manifesto before the people and put forward 13 candidates for the Lok Sabha from five states.

We are putting seven candidates to the election to Karnataka Assembly also. We appeal for the support of all progressive democratic patriotic forces to this Anti-imperialist democratic programme, and to the candidates fielded by CPI (ML) Red Flag, and by all revolutionary left and democratic forces who support this programme.

CPI(ML) RED FLAG.

KARGIL PROBE

The 'Commission of Enquiry on the Kargil war' constituted by the Vajpayee government and the presently defined terms of it show a calculated effort for concealing the facts, rather than to bring out the details about the failure of the government to prevent this major conflict for which the country had to suffer heavily both in the case of man power and economic terms.

Already we had witnessed the most

disturbing moves by this government to politicise the armed forces in a most crude way in the interest of the Sangh Parivar and neocolonisation. This commission of Enquiry shall only help this conspirational move by Vajpayee government. Democratic forces should fight against politicising the armed forces in the *Saffronite* way, and in making it more and more subservient to imperialist interests.

CANDIDATES FOR LOK SABHA

1. Mohammad Alam Sher	Outer Delhi	Delhi
2. D. H. Poojar	Raichur	Karnataka
3. G. S. Kadimani	Koppal	Karnataka
4. Moudamani Das	Bhadrak	Orissa
5. Dr. Ajoykumar	Vadakara	Kerala
6. K. T. Kunhikannan	Kozhikode	"
7. M.M. Davis	Thrissur	"
8. M. K. Thankappan	Mukundapuram	"
9. Edvin Thomson	Ernakulam	"
10. C. K. Sajeev	Alleppey	"
11. P. J. James	Kottayam	"
12. V. Kamaraj	Chidambaram	Tamilnadu
13. Chenkottayan	Coimbatore	"

Among them the first 12 are party candidates and Com. Chenkottayan is party supported independent. In Karnataka Red Flag candidates are contesting in Assembly election also, for Kalmala, Lingsugar, Sindhanur, Devadurga and Manvi in Raichur District, and Krishnaraja and Chamaraja in Mysore District.

Election Manifestos of B.J. P. and Congress (I)

The Election Manifestos of B.J.P. led National Democratic Alliance and Congress (I) have gladdened imperialist chieftains and the comprador ruling classes. Both the parties have pledged to carry forward the New Economic Policy more speedily disinvesting remaining PSUs and allowing the entry of MNCs and imperialist capital to all spheres. The Patent Amendments and Insurance privatisation will be pursued. In short both are dedicated to pressure The *neocolonisation* with all their might.

Apart from this central issue, what they talk

about creating one crore jobs every year and what not are nothing but humbug to cheat the gullible.

No wonder CII's new chief Rahul Bajaj has loudly declared that the bosses want only two parties - Congress and BJP - or their alliance if necessary. He has said that *Hire and Fire* should be the basic approach of the National Labour Commission constituted by Vajpayee Government.

The ruling classes and their parties have spoken out their intentions. It is now the task of the people to teach them a lesson by acting against them.

CLINTON'S KILLING FIELDS

[The author argues well that US imperialist sponsored NATO attack on Yugoslavia is neither an isolated action nor an aberration. It was calculated. It was fascist aggression by this imperialist superpower. The forms may differ in details but what the US administration is doing today is not qualitatively different from what Hitlerite fascism did. Today US ruling clique is doing it with more finesse wing newly achieved destructive powers provided by technological leaps and under open call for globalization under its dictates. This aggression is political, economic, social, cultural and militaristic. It is high time that the Marxist-Leninists should seriously discuss about the necessity for characterising US imperialism as a fascist superpower. Concrete features of the contradiction between imperialism and socialist forces and the tasks of world proletariat in mobilising all democratic forces nationally and internationally should be evaluated in this context-- RS]

US foreign policy can be summed up as: kiss my arse or I'll kick your head in.

-British playwright., Harold Pinter. (*The Guardian weekly*, April 7, 1999)

I

One of the most damnably criminal aggressions of US imperialism of the 20th century has momentarily halted. Abetted this time by its 18 Nato co-conspirators bulldozed under the mendacious alibi of 'humanitarian interventionism' and a spate of other phony ethical platitudes. With the enthronement of Bernard Kouchner, French right-wing social democrat, a frenzied propagandist of bombing at any cost, all the paraphernalia of a permanent colonial protectorate are in place. Already Albania has attained the status of a US colony.

The bastion of this colonial creation in Kosovo apart from Nato's imperial occupation, which has no time-limit, is what one Pentagon Central American insurgency specialist lucidly designated as the Koso-Contras given the parallels and provenance of the Nicaraguan Contras. In short, a native quisling force that underpins the current viceroy's power base, Kouchner, never mind his fatuous nonstop palaverings about 'human rights', that's part of his social democratic repertory, is nothing more than a majordomo of the US imperialism as his soul-sister Louise Arbour.

At least in her case she has no qualms of obsequiously acknowledging that she's a protegee of the state department in quest of a job in the Canadian Supreme Court, given the constant pressure of the US government and Jean Chretien's enfeebled prime ministerial status. Her posturing has become so burlesque that some of her leading touts in the foreign office and the state department are peddling her nomination as a Nobel Peace

Prize laureate, a possibility that cannot be ruled out as the Nobel Peace Committee itself and its selectors are invariably ventriloquist dummies of the US policy. The McCarthyite red-baiting inquisitorial skills that she's honed with public relations perfection to the ecstatic plaudits of her mentors are being mass marketed as part of her curriculum vitae.

The Kouchner/Arbour duo is one of the biggest political scams staged by the fixers in Washington. Both functions are inextricably related, an inseparable gimmick that has transformed international law into a cesspool for the blatant pursuit of the US imperial aggrandisement, all of course with the fig leaf of humanitarianism and that now fraudulent catch-all, the 'international community'. *Le Monde* had even the gall to label this violation of international law "a just war". Precisely the name given for the invasion of Panama.

The political show biz of war crimes tribunals in the Hague masterminded, bankrolled, duly supervised and propagated by the US political caste and its British jackal through its vast corporate press and electronic media is part of the road-show that's become a part of the theory and practice of imperialism. What this amounts to is that a colonised peace of sorts matched by chronic instability and repression will arise from the ashes of the present carnage of imperialist humanitarianism.

II

But let's get one thing straight: the US battering of Yugoslavia must not be seen as an aberration or as an isolated killer-venture of the US corporate/military gulag; the nonstop killings of Iraqi men, women and children; trademark wars and embargoes that have bled Cuba to the sum of over \$ 60 bn; prosecution of an unfinished war against North Korea, with the concocted

Nato's collective crime against humanity are not the end game but a harbinger of more cataclysmic offerings. It should be apparent even to the supercilious bourgeois observer that what this aggression has done, and specifically with the deliberately planned and immaculately executed annihilation of Beijing's embassy, is that it has triggered a new version of the cold war. This is mandatory in the perspective of the US military-industrial complex. At the zenith of its stock market euphoria the US oligarchy is, paradoxically as it may appear, presently more morally isolated than ever.

IV

Nato pursues the blueprint that witnessed the earlier amputation of Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia. 'The big chop' to use the Pentagon's annexationist bombast is not over. Kosovo is one more sizeable 10 percent chunk to be put on the chopping block. Montenegro is already being groomed by an avalanche of the European Union money and the US to smash the federation. A new currency (printed in the US) is on the anvil before its gobbling up by the US imperialism is consummated.

The 80 days and nights that saw the wanton bombardment of Yugoslavia will never be forgiven or forgotten by a humanity to whom the United Nations Charter remains the basis text of the rule of international law and human decency. This contention is not made to give an unconditional clean bill of health to president Milosevic's policies, although in many ways his reaction violent, and at times seemingly uncompromising as they appeared, were visceral reactions to the premeditated genocidal assaults visited upon his country.

Nato's aggrandisement has reduced the United Nations to a shambles, tantamount to dumping the democratic process at the highest international level. No, doubt the secretary general, a mealy mouthed politician, kept his ammunition dry by failing to excoriate the explicit violation of the UN charter. For his services, imperialism operating under the putrid little alibi of 'the international community', has once again thanked him. He condoned not merely the aggression but the bombing itself. His derogatory utterances against president Milosevic were stupidly self serving as certain members of his coterie sheepishly acknowledged. Not too difficult to understand from a political hustler that's flung his hat into the ring for another four-year electoral binge.

After all his record is clear and he's still on course: a protege of the US power complex and specifically his mentor and pusher Madeleine Albright whose state department handlers shovelled him into the

job. History pinpoints that imperialism crumbles without its phalanx of collaborators grabbed in various degrees of respectability. In Kofi Annan it has much to be grateful for as he bestowed the trappings of a once prestigious office to the merciless savagery of the non-stop war against the Iraqi people.

In Yugoslavia, Annan performed his master's monkey dance once again to the hosannas of his cherished 'international community', another cheap little shortcut for the policies of the US. His tenure of office has not only destroyed the credibility of the UN but, no less primordial, it has shrivelled the persona of the secretary general himself into a cheap, chattering opportunist and do-nothing US backed political ragman. His mode of conduct recalls the Ashanti (the region from which he comes) proverb that the higher a monkey climbs the more he shows his ass.

What kind of peace settlement will emerge? If it is endure, in the interests of who will it be shaped? What will be the repercussions in the short and medium-term of the horrendously indiscriminate aerial bombardments and the colossal destruction of a nation of 10 million? We'll leave the job to future historians to draw up the final balance sheet as to the likely contours of the revolutionary and counter-revolutionary mutations that must inevitably trail in the wake of this ignoble, undeclared war, not only in the Yugoslav Federation, the Danubian economics and Russia, but universally as well. Already however one perceives the reverberations that will follow.

The relentless aerial butchery triggered on March 24 that endured for 80 days and nights was conceived and executed over-whelmingly as a US operation, that contributed to one of the biggest demographic shifts of the postwar world with its awesome consequences. In this crime against humanity, the US corralled its Nato satellites as well as its neo-colonies in eastern Europe now banging to be admitted into Nato's portals. Is it fortuitous that the butchery coincided with Nato's 50th anniversary of its anti-Soviet and anti communist beginnings? Nineteen countries with a combined GDP of over 14 trillion dollars, military expenditures topping \$ 500 bn ganged up against a third world nation of 10 million already vastly impoverished by a raft of US-inspired economic sanctions.

The crime of the Yugoslav parliament was that it refused to endorse the Rambouillet agreements that would have spelt the end of the nation's sovereignty and permanent Nato occupation. The ultimatum slammed down the throat of Yugoslavia is enshrined in Appendix

B: Status of Multi-national Military Implementation Force is one of the most brutally explicit violations of national sovereignty of all times and graphically exhibited in paragraph 8.

“Nato personnel shall enjoy, together with their vehicles, vessels, aircraft and equipment, free and unrestricted passage and unimpeded access throughout the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) including associated airspace and territorial waters. This shall include, but not be limited to, the right to bivouac, manoeuvre, billet and utilisation of any areas or facilities as required for support, training and operations.”

This underclared war, blessed and propagated by the BBC and the CNN to mention the two most evangelical pro-war imperial propagandists, is a watershed in the history of postwar imperialism and its mediatic extensions. Indeed, the entire global corporate media without exception abandoned even the pretence of honest reporting. Nowhere was this better exemplified than in the jingoist headlines of the *The Washington Post* (by no means exceptional): ‘Victory for decency, and by a margin of 5,000 to 0’. Such were the glories of Clinton’s killing fields and the seeds of imperialism.

Not only has the war entailed the destruction of a sovereign state and the redrawing of Europe’s map but it has prodigiously reinforced the shackles of US imperialism in central and eastern Europe. It demonstrated that those who called the shots were not in Europe but in Washington, DC. One of its corollaries is the uncontrolled flow of corporate capital to those countries that have welcomed the encroachments of neo-liberalism and its entire works. What the IMF and World Bank had not achieved, or rather failed to complete, since the mid-eighties in Yugoslavia, was done by the US/Nato war machine now brazenly internationalised in the service of the transnational corporate gulag.

The grand plan of the state department and the Pentagon is the completion of the job begun by the demolition of the USSR and that special US creation: Yeltsin’s banana republic. Among the essential components of the plan is the overthrow of the legitimately elected leader of Belarus: Alexander Lukashenko, and its annexation by the reactionary clerical dominated Poland, now a full-fledged Nato satellite, and hollering for EU membership; amputation of Serbia’s northern province of Voivodina (the nation’s granary) containing a sizeable Hungarian minority and its transfer to one of Nato’s newly acquired prize satellites: Hungary-indubitably to be sequelled by the mass expulsion of the Serb population.

The precedent is the expropriation and ejection of the 5,00,000 Krarjina Serbs from Tudjman’s Fascist Croatia, carried out under the jackboot of US army planners. For Clinton and his jackal Tony Blair, Yugoslavia’s is one of the major pre-conditions for the ultimate ‘intergration of Corporate Europe and Nato with all its sinister connotations.

General Wesley Clark Supreme commander of Nato defined the language of genocide in unequivocal terms: “We are going to systematically and progressively attack, disrupt, degrade, devastate and ultimately-unless Milosevic complies with the demands of the international community- we are going to destroy his forces.. we are going to grind away at him until we accomplish the military objectives.” And that he did with the help of Chernomyrdin’s diplomatic sell out of Yugoslavia. Destruction of the Village of Korisa with its innumerable victims of all nationalities bore testimony to the vindictive pledge of Nato’s premier Gauleiter.

Obliteration of Korisa was the application of the Herman Goering Doctrine to the Basque village of Guernica on April 27, 1937 during the Spanish civil war. “The communists [sic] must understand that their existence in Spain is incompatible with the national interests of Germany. We are fighting for the defence of Free Europe. We are fighting a war against the dark conspiracy of Bolshevism that is the enemy of European civilisation.” The British and French ruling class and indeed Europe’s entire bourgeoisie thunderously applauded the victories of the Nazi/Franco axis, and the deliberate wiping out of civilian populations that was one of the centrepieces of its strategy.

What they did not foresee was that in short order they too would taste the annihilating whiplash of Nazidom to be unleashed two years hence. Goering, later a condemned Nazi war criminal at Nuremberg, had at least the merit of concision. In less than three years London, Amsterdam, Coventry and Warsaw would understand the meaning of the Goering Doctrine as would tens of thousands of Soviet towns and villages. The lessons to be drawn by Clinton’s application of the Goering Doctrine is one of the grimmest reminders of the implications of the global reach of the US imperialism as it hurtles into the new millennium.

It was a war of high tech. Unique in the history of warfare in which thousands of Yugoslavs perished, the body count is woefully incomplete, but not a single Nato rapist was killed. Yugoslavia in its entirety was the test bench of the new technology. Smart bombs and Tomahawk and Cruise missiles, laser-guided bombs unleashed by F-117 bombers. Other new killer creations

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CIA Against World People

[What Philip Shenon has written for New York Times Service reproduced below is only partial truth. It was US imperialism and its brutish agencies like CIA who masterminded overthrow of Allende's regime in 'Chile' in 1973. It is only part of the fascist aggression by this hegemonic imperialist superpower against world people. Even the release of documents selectively is a new form of Hilterite disinformation campaign when Pinochet has come under severe attack. This report helps to know more about CIA, though partially -RS]

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and other United States government agencies had detailed reports of widespread human rights abuses by the Chilean military, including the killing and torture of leftist dissidents almost immediately after a U.S. supported 1973 right-wing coup in the country, according to once-secret government documents released on June 30.

The 5,800 documents, which the Clinton administration decided last year to declassify and make public, could provide evidence to support the prosecution of General Augusto Pinochet, who seized power in the coup and was arrested in Britain last October. Spain is seeking his extradition, on charges that his regime had kidnapped, tortured and killed Spanish citizens (*Frontline*, October 23, 1998).

The documents were released as Clinton administration officials confirmed that the Justice Department has conferred with Spanish authorities, in part to exchange information about Pinochet, including his possible involvement on the 1976 car-bomb assassination in Washington of a former Chilean Ambassador to the U.S., Orlando Letelier, and a colleague, Ronni Moffitt, of the Institute for Policy Studies. Because the department considers the Letelier investigation to be ongoing, the government withheld documents related to the murders, officials said.

Historians and human rights advocates who were busily trying to sort through the nearly 20,000 pages released by the National Archives, agreed that the documents did not offer any startling revelations about U.S. ties to the Chilean junta under Pinochet. Instead they said, the documents provide rich new detail to support the long-held view that the U.S.

knew during and after the coup about the Chilean military's murderous crackdown on leftists.

On September 21, 1973, 10 days after the coup, a once-secret CIA report said: "The prevailing mood among the Chilean military is to use the current opportunity to stamp out all vestiges of communism in Chile for good. Severe repression is planned. The military is rounding up large numbers of people, including students and leftists of all descriptions, and interning them." The report noted that "300 students were killed in the technical university when they refused to surrender" in Santiago, the capital, and that the military was considering a plan to kill "50 leftists" for every leftist sniper still operating.

In a summary of the situation in Chile a month after the coup, a CIA report dated October 12, 1973, found that "security considerations still have first priority with the junta." "The line between people killed during attacks on security forces and those captured and executed immediately has become increasingly blurred," it continued. The report said that the junta "has launched a campaign to improve its international image; the regime shows no sign of relenting in its determination to deal swiftly and decisively with dissidents, however, and the bloodshed goes on". However, a CIA report dated March 21, 1974, insisted that "the junta has not been bloodthirsty".

"The government has been the target of numerous charges related to alleged violations of human rights," it said.

An estimated 5,000 people were killed in the coup, including Chile's democratically elected President, Dr. Salvador Allende, whose body was recovered from the bombed remains of the presidential palace, which has been attacked by military jets.

Thousands more died or were tortured at the hands of the military during Pinochet's 17 year rule. Last month, the Chilean College of Medicine reported that at least 200,000 people had been tortured by government forces at the time.

Under the Nixon administration, the CIA mounted a covert operation to keep Allende from taking office and, when that failed, undertook subtler efforts to undermine him. The CIA's director of operations at the time, Thomas Karamessines,

later told Senate investigators that those efforts "never really ended."

The CIA has never provided a full explanation of what it knew about human rights abuses carried out by the Chilean military during and after the coup. But internal government documents released since have shown that the agency's knowledge of the violence was extensive. The Clinton administration announced last December that as a result of the arrest of Pinochet it would declassify some of the documents. The administration described the move as an attempt at government accountability, and it was the first sign that the U.S. intended to cooperate in the criminal case being built against Pinochet.

The vast majority of the documents released- 5,000 of the 5,800-came from the files of the State Department. The CIA released 490 documents, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) 100 and the Pentagon 60.

Human rights groups said they were surprised by the paucity of documents declassified by the CIA. "The CIA has the most to offer but also the most to

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comprised the giant bomber B-2 and the A-10 'tank' buster, the Predator unmanned aircraft, newer and more deadly cluster bombs, orange yellow used with such devastating impact in Indochina.

This embraced the entire panoply of newly tested weapons, the entire panoply of mass destruction. Almost 92 per cent of the bombs deployed came from US aircraft, 5 per cent from the British jackal and the rest from other members of the gang. It reflected also the technology gap between the US and its satellites. The US spends \$ 40 bn a year on military research and development as against \$ 8-10 bn for Europe. This can be translated into massive marketing muscle and Washington has already cashed in on its 'successes' by proclaiming that the US industrial military complex can satisfy the world's demand for military hardware. Greece, one of the most vigorous adversaries of the war, has now joined the queue for US high weaponry.

Estimated destruction is staggering by any standards, varying from \$ 85 bn to \$ 120 bn. Estimates that obviously do not cover environmental damages. Already Clinton pontificates, and his satraps have followed suit, that they will not give a brass penny to the nation's reconstruction until the legitimate govern-

hide," said Peter Kornbluh of the National Security Archive, a public-interest clearinghouse for declassified documents. The documents that were released, he said, "show that the CIA was well-apprieved of the vicious nature of the Chilean regime."

The documents released date from 1973 to 1978, "the period of the most flagrant human rights abuses in Chile," said a State Department investigation spokesman. The White House said in a statement that "a limited number of documents have not been released at this time, primarily because they relate to an ongoing Justice Department" of the murder of Letelier and Ronni Moffitt.

Administration officials, who spoke on condition that they not be identified, said that the inquiry was active, in part as a result of information available to the U.S from Spanish prosecutors seeking to try Pinochet.

Reed Brody of Human Rights Watch, who unearthed the document, said it "shows the United States was very aware of the terrorist activities that General Pinochet and his colleagues were engaging there, as well as abroad."

ment is toppled. In simple language until the present socialist government is ousted by a regime at the beck and call of the US.

According to *The New York Times* Service (July 26) this is being done in the name of 'promoting democracy in Yugoslavia'. To this end the administration and the US Congress with the blessings of Jesse Helms, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations committee, introduced legislation providing \$ 100 mn over the next 2 years. Radio broadcasts by the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe will be blasting once again their hosannas to freedom - cold war mode - with no holds barred. "Our lawyers and state department lawyers agreed last week", declared John Tennant (deputy assistant administrator at the US Agency for International Development), "that we could provide assistance and go forward for the programmes for independent [sic] media, opposition parties and trade unions. "How familiar the mantra. At least the scum have surfaced but what we all knew was that the CIA were disbursing millions precisely to these ends over the last 2-3 decades.

Overwhelmingly the so-called strategic objectives pulverised day and night were civilian targets: hospitals, schools, kindergartens, airports, railways, bridges, refineries and warehouses, radio and television stations, health care centres, public and private housing estates, TV and radio stations, religious monasteries,

museums, universities and technical colleges, high schools, etc. The radio and TV stations were liquidated from the onset. They were deemed propaganda instruments, no doubt in contrast to Nato's the purveyor of higher truths and the world's salesman of salvation. This crystallises Orwell's vision of things with Nato the supreme Ministry of Truth, a Nirvana where war is peace, freedom is slavery and ignorance is strength.

V

The destruction of Yugoslavia is a military cataclysm that's inseparable from the acts of individuals acting on higher orders in the interests of US imperialism. The military trajectory of General Wesley Clark straddling decades provides a formidable profile of a professional military killer. No less than Clinton he is the quintessential war criminal. A graduate of the West Point Military-Academy-first in his class-he was destined for greater things. He was and remains a colonial soldier that an imperialist poet as Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936) would have extolled. It was he who created the ditty: 'We've got the Maxim gun and they have not'. That was against the dervishes and the 'wogs'. What has changed since Kipling's time is the scale of the imperialist holocaust.

Upon graduation his career immediately began in the killing fields of Indochina, a war launched on the grounds that the loss of Indochina would have a domino effect. It was said in the late 1940s that US imperialism had 'lost' China. This struck Russell Baker as a remarkable feat of double-think, "comparable to losing an elephant in a studio apartment. Many Americans did not know we had China until we lost it". In the case of Indochina the memory of the world is not that short. It recalls the mass genocide of more than 1.25 million Vietnamese, Cambodians and Laotians.

Clark's crimes propagated from his base in Honduras and the Panama Canal Zone, were relentlessly pressed on in Central America where US anti-insurgency

forces played the butcher's role in the extermination of liberation movements. The nine-volume United Nations report on the Historical Clarification Committee of Guatemala concluded that the actual civilian dead topped 2,25,000. These were defenceless Indian Mayan Communities. He was one of the guiding beacons in the planning and invasion force of Grenada and Panama. He was one of the main organisers of the Contras which, in addition to his career boost, would serve him and his masters in good stead in the formation of the Koso Contras. These elite thugs were deployed under his orders as part of the Nato contingent.

His value as a mass killer was recognised by his Pentagon preceptors. During the Afghan war he worked closely with Pakistan military intelligence in Peshawar where he perceived the value of the Mujahadeen. So did boss William Casey of the CIA that cultivated and bankrolled (with others) these Islamic fundamentalist groups from the beginning. Indeed, in addition to their training in US Marine Corps bases in the US and occupied Guantanamo in Cuba, the Koso Contras were also trained in Pakistan. These training programmes were paid for by drug money (as with the Nicaraguan Contras), Saudi Arabia, Brunei and other members of the network.

His ascent into the killing realms was not yet over. Once again he was to be a strategic killer, this time against the peoples of Iraq in the Gulf war whose costs outstrip \$ 105 bn. The Nato victory is not an impersonal force, but one carried out by mass professional killers of whom General Wesley Clark is the highest embodiment and compared to whom Hitler's SS generals were a bunch of brutish amateurs.

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'Mercenaries, And Others

The use of foreign mercenaries in military operations is not a monopoly of Pakistan alone. Reports from the Kargil battlefield reveal that while Islamabad has been using mercenaries from Afghanistan and other foreign countries to occupy strategic heights on the LoC, New Delhi can also be held technically responsible for the deployment of foreign nationals to defend its positions on the LoC. According to reports, at least 40,000 Gurkhas who are Nepali nationals, are employed by the Indian army, and they have taken a major part in the recent conflict.

At least 11 Gurkha soldiers have so far been killed. While the army authorities have tried to send the bodies of most of the dead Indian soldiers to their respective places of residence, those of the Gurkhas have been buried in Leh. The decision to do so was prompted by the adverse reaction in Kathmandu. In early May, when the body of the first Gurkha soldier killed in Kargil was sent to his village in the Pokhara district of Nepal, there were cries of public outrage. Popular opinion in Nepal seems to veer in favour of calling an end to the recruitment of Gurkhas in Indian and British armies.

The British started the policy of recruiting Gurkhas from so-called 'martial' groups of Nepali society for the Indian army. After independence, the Indian government inherited the legacy through a tripartite agreement among Britain, India and Nepal in November 1947 which decided on the future of the Gurkha soldiers in the British and Indian armies. Two units went to Britain, while a special regiment was formed in India to accommodate the rest of the Gurkha soldiers. The agreement was viewed at that time as a tentative arrangement, to be elaborated upon and ratified at a later date by the three countries-which was never done. According to sources in Nepal (which is a Hindu monarchy), there was a tacit understanding that the Gurkha soldiers recruited by the Indian army would not be used against Hindus. Their deployment against Pakistani soldiers, or mercenaries from the Islamic countries in the present Kargil warfare, therefore seems to be in keeping with the spirit of the

1947 agreement. But political opinion in Nepal itself is increasingly turning against the continuation of recruitment of Gurkha soldiers by India and Britain- a tradition that is being viewed as an affront to the national honour of Nepal. Relations with India in particular- which are already soured by frictions over several bilateral problems-are likely to nosedive further if the Gurkha recruitment issue is raked up by the opposition in Nepal. The public outcry in Pokhara on the arrival of the body of the first Gurkha soldier to be killed in Kargil is an indicator of the mood of the Nepali people.

But whether we call them mercenaries from foreign countries, or voluntary recruits from within the country, the majority of the soldiers fighting on both sides of the border are primarily sons of poor families who are desperately looking for employment, rather than being motivated by any patriotic or ideological zeal (barring the handful of 'mujahidins' trained by the Islamic fundamentalist schools in

Kargil Conflict has brought many questions like continuing utilisation of Gurkha recruits by Indian Army in British tradition, the Hocking of many lakhs of youth for recruitment to army, the necessity for a political solution to Indo-Pakistan conflict etc. to the forefront. The progressive forces should not hesitate to encourage a discussion on these and similar issues among people. It is in this context we are reproducing this comment published in EPW of 24 July - RS

Peshawar and committed to the goal of establishing Islamic theocratic states all over the world). On this side of our border, the pathetic incidents of the death of army aspirants who had inundated the recruitment centres in Bihar and Rajasthan indicate the desperate urge for jobs among the unemployment youth. In response to an army recruitment drive in Chapra and Darbhanga in the former state and Jaipur and Bharatpur in the latter, thousands of young men besieged the centers, and turned violent when turned away after the filling of the few vacancies. Several among them were killed when the police opened fire to disperse the violent crowd of aspirants. Although the media and politicians may hold up the incidents as evidence of the patriotic fervour, there is no doubt that for many among the young people who thronged the recruitment centres, the possibility of getting a job in the army meant something more than the satisfaction of the desire to defend the nation. It could provide them with access to the basic facilities, essential commodities and social security measures which their 'patriotic' rulers have failed to offer them in their daily existence. ●

Globalisation in Whose Interest?

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has published its tenth annual report 'Human Development Report 1999'. In its glorification of imperialist globalisation it states: "Globalisation, a dominant force in the 20th Century's last decade, is shaping a new era of interaction among nations, economies and people. It is increasing the contacts between people across national boundaries-in economy, in technology, in culture and in governance. But it is also fragmenting production processes, labour markets, political entities and societies. So, while globalisation has positive, innovative dynamic aspects-it also has negative, disruptive, marginalising aspects". It is a smart and cunning balancing act to satisfy those reformist critics who are trying to find space within globalisation and to accommodate them.

The report talks eloquently about the positive side of globalisation and tries to establish that it is the 'end of History' in a way. While mentioning the

US GRABS PATENTS ON INDIAN HERBAL FORMULATIONS

The US patent no. 5900240 granted on 5th May, 1999, to Cromack Research Inc. New Jersey for "herbal compositions and their use as Hypoglycaemic Agents" utilising extracts from Jamun, Gurmur and Karela exposes the real character of WTO and its provisions on TRIPS as imperialist tools. It is a direct attack on the interests of Indian people. It shows what will happen by 2003 when all the patent directives of WTO come in to force to countries like India.

The bloody US imperialists can be fought and our people's rights can be protected by getting out of WTO, and kicking out US agencies like IMF and World Bank, and the MNCs from the soil of our country.

intensification of global inequality in economic and other terms it refuses to solve in to the new forms of deindustrialisation of neocolonies, the throwing out hundreds of millions from regular employment, the growth of inhuman contract labour system, pauperisation of vast masses leading to millions of deaths in any countries, especially in sub-Saharan region, deprivation of education-healthcare-housing facilities to more etc. It also refuses to go into the spread of corruption, criminalisation, sex tourism, child prostitution and suppression of human rights of women and oppressed sections. In a way even while talking about some of the drawbacks and weaknesses, globalisation is presented as the answer of all problems.

Like its earlier versions, *Human Development Report 1999* exposes the real colour of UN and its various agencies who are working as safe conduits for the imperialist system led by the fascist imperialist superpower, the US.

SOUTH KOREAN ECONOMY FACES NEW STORMS

The Economist, the imperialist mouthpiece, and BBC can talk nonsense about the *Asian Tigers* once again start kicking. But the facts speak otherwise. When OECD Survey talks about South Korean Economy's revival, the chairman of Daewoo, the second largest conglomerate there, talks about its impending bankruptcy. This group is saddled with domestic debts of 50,000 billion *won* and estimated foreign debts of \$ 9.9 billion. Allowing the liquidation of Daewoo would mean "Return of 1977". Even such rumours led to stocks falling by 15% within a week. So the government is forced to siphon funds to roll over Daewoo's short-term debts. But it has pushed up interest rates. Foreign creditors are now cautious to down grade South Korean corporate debts also. In this situation a repeat of 1997 cannot be ruled out. Imperialist propaganda about South East Asian recovery like its earlier stories about Asian Tigers is getting exposed.

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Karnataka : Peasant March at Sindhanur

Under the leadership of CPI(ML) Red Flag and RCSS Sindhanur area committees hundreds of poor peasants marched to Sindhanur Taluk Office on 27 July demanding re-enquiry into the Javalgara land scam.

The land Tribunal had earlier declared 2300 acres of land belonging to Venketa Rao Nadegowda, the president of Karnataka Vegetable oil Corporation as surplus. But no action was taken to distribute it even after numerous struggles by RCSS involving hundreds of poor peasant families. Now present land tribunal has announced that this landlord is having only 560 acres surplus. This is one of the biggest land scams in the state favouring the landlords. Alongwith the cancellation of earlier land cealing orders allowing land concentration, these scams have made land reforms a total mockery.

Alongwith this Karnataka government has raised the urban property cealing. RCSS has pointed out glaring examples of violation of urban land laws by the landlords and builders.

After propaganda campaign pinpointing these anti-peasant, anti-people policies the 27 July march was organised. When the march reached the Taluk Office the Taluk Officer refused to come out and talk to the demon-

strators. Then the march turned in to picketing. Demonstration broke the police cordon and rushed inside the office. Police resorted to lathi charge and clashes took place between demonstrators and police.

Only then the Taluk Officer came out and talked to the demonstrators. He assured that the memorandum will be taken to District Collector for reopening the case and an answer will be given in a week's time.

The demonstrators marched through the main streets and conducted a public meeting. Spokespersons of CPI(ML) Red Flag and RCSS warned of serious struggles if the land scam is not settled as demanded. This action has enthused the general public.

ANTI CAPITALIST ACTIONS IN LONDON

As the world's leading imperialist powers met in Cologne, Germany for their group of Eight economic summit in June protests were held in several parts of the world. Thousands of people converged on London's financial district for a "Carnival against Capitalism" and street-fighting broke out as people militantly targeted banks and other symbols of the system.

Hundreds of radical bicyclists waving banners like "Money Kills!" tied up downtown traffic for hours. Many marchers demanded cancelling debts to the world's poorest countries.

London's International Financial Futures Exchange was evacuated and trading was halted as protesters smashed the glass doors of the building and tried to fight their way in. Demonstrators tried to occupy various downtown banks-a team succeeded in entering Lloyd's bank and chained themselves inside.

Police said they were hit by volleys of bricks and rocks thrown from the crowd. The BBC reported that at least 42 demonstrators and four cops were injured.

From CPI(M) to CPI (ML) Red Flag

In Coimbatore District of Tamilnadu in Annur area the Kumarapalayam CPI(M) party unit was dissolved and the members joined Red Flag. More than 50 members of DYFI also joined mass organisations led by Red Flag.

Com. Velusamy, Secretary of DYFI unit and active member of CPI(M) alongwith four others joined Red Flag. They rejected CPI(M) line of supporting Congress and stated that CPI(M) has totally degenerated.

On 1st August a public meeting was organised at Annur in which Comrade N.P. Kumar, district Secretary of Red Flag and Com.Kannan, area committee Secretary explained Red Flag line and welcomed the comrades to the party.

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