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How US imperialists starve Iraqi people and kill infants

The economic blockade and sanctions against Iraqi people by US imperialists and their supporters are proving more cruel and inhuman than what Hitlerite fascists did in the concentration camps. Even in last December US and British bombers rained cruise missiles and bombs, and are continuing their wanton attacks killing and maiming hundreds of civilians and destroying their homes, schools, hospitals and places of work.

In last years almost 20 lakhs Iraqis were killed due to sanctions, nearly half of them children. Imperialist vultures are starving to death 6000 Iraqi infants every month. Even cultivation is not possible as pesticides and fertilisers are banned, alleging that they may be used for military purposes. Water treatment plants were blown up in 1991. Still chlorine is banned preventing water treatment. Though typhoid, dysentery and cholera have reached epidemic proportions, there are no medicines to treat them.

Against these Hitlerite fascists ruling US and other leading imperialist countries, local action is started by people of US and respective countries. This is not enough. The Yankees should be asked to take their dirty hands from Iraq. People's anger should rise up everywhere against these brutal imperialist jungle raj.

Com. Appu's Martyrdom Day

Com. Appu was member of the first central committee of CPI (ML). During the days of extreme fascist state repression against Communist Revolutionaries, Com. Appu became a martyr in 1970. The Coimbatore district committee of, CPI (ML) Red Flag and TN state committee are observing Com. Appu's martyr day on 10th October.

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Prepare to Launch Struggles Against Globalisation-Liberalisation

The last phase of elections for 13th Lok Sabha is held on 3rd October. And the new ministry is expected to take over before 20th October. But whoever is going to take over, BJP-led NDA, Congress, or even a new version of the 1996 vintage UF, one thing is clear. It is going to pursue the IMF-World Bank dictated globalisation-liberalisation policies more speedily. It is going to surrender before imperialist dictates imposed through next Seattle ministerial conference of WTO. It is going to lead the country to the new century as a neocolony plundered and bled by all imperialist vultures and their compradors.

The election campaign by BJP, Congress and all other parties from the regional parties to the CPI (M) led so-called Left parties was a testimony to this. Even when the country is already facing economic crisis and recession, and when the new government has to immediately hike diesel prices and impose a Kargil tax, further intensifying this crisis, none of these parties found it necessary to debate the economic agenda as the principal question. On the contrary, there was a conspiracy among them for not discussing it in the election campaign.

BJP-led NDA and Congress converted the election into a slandering game. Both Vajpayee and Sonia Gandhi, and senior leaders on both sides gave leadership to limit the campaign to personal attacks often of most stinking type. They concentrated on peripheral issues. Even when Bofors case came up, both saw to it that even available informations are not brought out. The election manifestos of both, which were published with lot of fanfare but were not distributed among the electorate, faithfully declared to implement the globalisation-liberalisation policies speedily. Each of them tried to score over the other by promising to implement them more efficiently. At the same time, each and every election after the introduction of these anti-rational policies enslaving the country has proved that the party or combination implementing it are voted out. So they conspiratorially maintained silence, in a

way absolute silence, about economic policies and engaged in mere mud-slinging at each other. Even when it is proved everyday that all the countries which have implemented these IMF-World Bank-WTO dictates have got ruined, the balance sheet of eight years of 'New Economic Policy' was not at all discussed.

Same was the case with the regional parties and the so-called social-justice parties. All of them kept silence about the net result of the 'NEP', even while upholding it as a 'national policy'. The parties who survive by repeating about 'reservation' did not bother even to mention privatisation, even when it is decimating and wiping out 'reservation'. The CPI (M)-CPI leaderships played a more cunning game. They projected communal fascism as the principal danger. In the name of fighting this principal enemy they called for supporting Congress, and canvassed for it, everywhere except Kerala, Bergal and Tripura. They united with AIADMK, RJD like forces also, whom they had strongly denounced in the past, in the name of fighting communal fascism. It was a heinous attempt to divert attention from the fight against globalisation-liberalisation policies. Even when their election manifestos talk about the negative consequences of the 'NEP', they are totally silent on the cardinal question: should not we reject such an anti-national policy? By projecting communal fascism in an isolated manner as the principal danger they are consciously rejecting the basic fact that growth of communal fascism is directly linked to the intensifying neocolonisation. Rather communal fascism is a convenient tool utilised by imperialism to speed up neocolonisation. By concealing these facts CPI (M)-CPI leaderships are serving as apologists of neocolonialism.

This conspiracy by these parties from BJP and Congress to CPI (M) poses a great challenge before the toiling masses. Very soon the burden of unemployment, price rise and cutting down of even remaining welfare measures are going to make life more miserable under the

QUIT WTO IS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE

The major political parties serving ruling class interests and both print and electronic media were united in keeping the economic agenda away from the election campaign. Though the revolutionary left forces repeatedly questioned the utility of such a costly election to elect the coming government at centre if the basic economic policies which clearly showed its class preference are not debated, there was a deafening silence about them from the forces serving vested interests. Neither these parties nor the media tried to provoke a discussion on the utility of the 'New Economic Policy' as far as the interests of the vast masses and the future of Indian society as a whole is concerned. So it is no wonder that what basic approach the coming government should take with regard to the serious problems going to come up in the next ministerial conference of the WTO to be

coming government.

It calls for active resistance of the revolutionary left and democratic forces. They should get prepared for united struggles against the new government. They should work hard to polarise the left masses opposed to globalisation liberalisation and launch consistent anti-imperialist anti-state struggles. The election campaign conducted by CPI (ML) Red Flag and like-minded forces focussing on the anti-national globalisation-liberalisation policies shall help to advance these efforts.

Alongwith this the growing danger from all communal forces, and the Sangh Parivar in particular should be combated. These communal forces are working hard to divide the people and direct their attention from the intensifying neocolonial slavery. They should be resisted uncompromisingly.

What is immediately required is to build up an anti-imperialist democratic alternative uniting all democratic, secular and patriotic forces. All the struggles should be focussed towards it, directly or indirectly. Even if no united approach is possible about it now, attention has to be given to launch struggles against the anti-people policies of the coming government without any delay. Let us focus our attention for uniting with all like-minded forces and to launch these struggles vigorously without any delay. ●

held from November 30 to December 31 at Seattle, USA, was also not even mentioned by any during the election debate. Such crucial questions like whether India should continue its membership in WTO or come out of it, and if it continues its membership what action should be taken to protect national interests were not points of discussion.

The Imperialist dictated structural adjustment policies through which neocolonisation is imposed over the poorest countries like India with only one option; would they ever be able to move out of the poverty trap ever and meet even the very modest objective of advancing a few inches towards becoming a middle level income country like South Korea or Taiwan, that also in a few generations' time. But even this meagre development is possible if the governments of these countries resort to maximum manoeuvrability within the present straight-jacket system imposed by IMF-World Bank-WTO trio. It is in this context the negotiations in Seattle conference assumes importance. No home work for it by Vajpayee government and silence of Congress over it is a continuation of their collusion in parliament in February last to pass the Patents Amendments Bill providing exclusive marketing rights to the MNCs within a very short time. No other party tried to make an issue of it also. This was an act of treason by these parties when this patents regime has irreversibly closed for India the option of ever becoming an industrialised or even mildly developed country under present imperialist system.

In addition to imposing world hegemony through WTO conditions, the imperialist countries have formed various alliances like EU, NAFTA, OECD, G-8 etc to protect their interests. In the 1986-93 Uruguay round of WTO negotiations US, European Union and Japan had worked in unison to arrive at GATT treaty and WTO conditions. The major gains of imperialists from WTO is that it has transformed the patents rights which were so far a national right into an international regime dominated by them. Even the 1993 Convention on Bio-Diversity (CBD) is bypassed destroying the bio-diversity through utilisation of new technological advances with greedy profit motives.

In the name of preventing 'piracy' of in-

East Timor: New Brand of Imperialist Occupation

Timor island is part of Indonesian archipelago. Alongwith other islands of this archipelago West Timor was colonised by the Dutch. East Timor was under Portugese colonisation. In 1949 Indonesia became formally independent from Dutch. The West Timor was handed over by Dutch an year after. In 1976 the Portugese occupied East Timor was taken over. Despite the demand of secession of East Timor before and after 1976 the US led imperialists, had not approved it. But with Suharto, a creation of US imperialists, stepping down and Indonesia in a period of transition, UN has acted under imperialist orders, a plebiscite was ordered in which overwhelming majority voted for separation, and now Australlan led so-called peace-keeping forces have landed there in the name of implementing the verdict of plebiscite. The world is told that once again the white men, the imperialists, have taken the burden of bringing democracy to a people. What type of freedom the East Timor people are going to get under imperialist dispensation, one can easily guess. Only

those who have forgotten the colonial history, and the heinous record of neocolonisation can celebrate this plebiscite and UN, that is imperialist forces, taking over East Timor. The media are working overtime to sell the imperialist version, as it smartly did earlier in the case of imperialist aggression against Iraq and Yugoslavia.

Those who talk about democracy for East Timor do not talk about West Timor, the unity of Timor people or about their real liberation. Similarly what about the rest of Indonesian archipelago consisting of different ethnic sections and sub-nationalities? A vast population under neocolonial domination? Imperialists and their tool, UN, are consciously distorting the fact that unless imperialist yoke is overthrown and people's democracy is achieved under the leadership of the working class, the democratisation of the archipelago with right of self-determination to different sections of people can never be achieved. Self-determination with

tellectual property, the MNCs are trying to impose their patents rights over world people, hiding the fact that they could develop these patents only by borrowing heavily from the technological development achieved by the people of different countries in the past millenniums. The imperialists dictate that the backward countries of today will remain so for ever and will not have the option of developing their own technologies, and selling the products made under their own brand names. WTO dictate patents rights for 20 years when technologies are changing fast, and this is also a measure to perpetuate technological dominance of the imperialists. Further WTO extend patenting to life forms also leading to consequent rush of MNCs and their agri-business agencies to resort all legal and illegal measures for collecting plants and their germplasm, and to patent them. This bio-piracy of MNCs are allowed, when even present process patenting of India is made illegal.

WTO imposes its conditionalities over the neocolonies pressurising them to change their patent laws to surrender to international regime, to lift all trade barriers to allow MNCs free play, and to keep the doors of the country for the

free operation of international capital and market system. Indigenous concerns in these countries are denied all protection. But US, EU and Japan even while imposing WTO conditions on others are protecting their own markets through special laws. For example, US protects its market by way of "Special 301" provisions. Under the laws of US Congress, in case of any conflict between GATT-WTO rules and the US laws, the latter shall prevail. EU and Japan have similar laws.

The Seattle conference will only tighten the knot around the neck of the neocolonies. WTO, like IMF and World Bank are imperialist tools to plunder and bleed the people of neocolonies. No negotiating skills at Seattle are going to save us from it. The argument that "there is no other alternative but to remain in WTO" is a bogus one spread by the apologists of the imperialist bloc. The patriotic democratic forces should once again reiterate the demand that India should quit WTO and encourage other countries also to pursue this path. The call "Quit WTO" should be raised once again and propagated so that the coming days shall witness a popular movement to achieve this slogan. ●

Election Campaign of Party in Various States

Karnataka

Karnataka is one of those states the left movement is supposed to be very weak. Not because the objective conditions are not there. Once during the time of undivided Communist Party, the left movement was a growing force here, in the 1950s and early '60s. But the split in 1964, and leadership of both faction-CPI and CPI(M)-taking reformist positions, and toeing this or that ruling class party for electoral gains, the movement started stagnating. Though Naxalbari uprising and CPI (ML) formation had its impact, the sectarian line prevented the strengthening of left movement. CPI (ML) PW which had a long presence here is almost becoming extinct. It resorts to an isolated 'action' in one of the border districts with AP and soon the local cadres either get arrested or disappear. CPI (ML) Liberation claiming to have a presence here is also having only negligible influence.

It is in this situation, a sizable section of Dalit Sangharsh Samithi (DSS), a statewide dalit organisation, came into contact with CPI

(ML) Red Flag. A period of protracted politicisation followed. As a result this section merged to Red Flag. From the beginning of this decade a series of mass movements were organised primarily focussing issues of agricultural workers and poor peasants. Against landlordism land-grabbing movement was launched, confiscating tens of thousands of acres and distributing it. Agitation for minimum wage of agricultural workers and against social oppression were launched. The Ryot Coolie Samgraha Samithi (RCSS) spearheaded these agitations. Besides joining with like minded forces it launched anti-imperialist movements, against MNCs' penetration to agrarian sector. Anti-Cargill and anti-Monsanto agitations focussing on promotion of terminator-Gene infected seeds, against rising costs of agricultural inputs, and for remunerative procurement prices were also launched. While TUCI led some notable trade union struggles, RYF and RSF led many struggles focussing on cardinal issues of youth and students.

It is in the background of these decade long mass struggles, Karnataka state committee

imperialist blessings is similar to walking innocently into the slaughter house of neocolonisation.

Even when US imperialists had succeeded in 1965 in imposing a Suharto like military dictator over Indonesia, the Australian imperialists had other ideas. They wanted their own share in Indonesia, or at least East Timor. For this they were supporting the ethno religious conflict there from the beginning. The Christian majority in East Timor was encouraged to revolt against the Islamic majority rule in Indonesia. International media networks were utilised to repeat the horrors of Indonesian domination in East Timor, while the neocolonisation in Indonesia was never mentioned. On the contrary, resorting to double-speak Indonesia was glamourised as an Asian Tiger. Many NGOs repeated this, and petty bourgeois anarchists everywhere swallowed this bait.

Today the whole Indonesian people, the toiling masses are in revolt. Their uprising unseated Suharto. Military dictatorship and

Islamic fundamentalists hold along with imperialist domination are being challenged. The recent election, with all its numerous limitations proved that the vast majority of people are against military dictatorship. Subjective forces struggling for democratisation of Indonesia are slowly getting strengthened, or coming up.

Sensing the danger the imperialists provoked their agents in Indonesian army to let loose a reign of terror in East Timor and at the same time came forward as champions of national liberation provoking their agents among Christian majority to act. Imperialist tool UN was pressed into action, plebiscite was held, and now Australians have landed to take over East Timor. Almost the same scenes witnessed in Yugoslavia for last 7-8 years are repeated.

Imperialism led by US imperialists are letting loose great disorder and blood-baths to further their hegemony. It is high time the world people should get organised to finish these imperialist monsters with their dirty scheming for ever, and to achieve real liberation.

of CPI (ML) Red Flag decided to participate in elections by fielding two candidates to Lok Sabha at Raichur and Koppal and four candidates to assembly at LingSugur, Manavi, Sindhanur and Mysore. Neither CPI nor CPI (M) had put candidates for LS. Though they fielded half a dozen candidates each to assembly joining hands with Janatha Dal (S), in effect at Bellary and elsewhere they were serving Congress.

Though Red Flag has mass base in 5-6 districts, as the organisation is still weak, and the mass base is confined to most oppressed sections, it had to face acute economic problems in organising an effective campaign putting candidates in all areas of its influence. Still the campaign was energetically organised. In the process of this campaign *Moulana Abul Kalam Azad Memorial Youth Organisation* merged in RYF giving a boost to the campaign in Manavi. Considering economic difficulties priority was given to squads of comrades in cycles with Red-Flags going to the far-flung villages and campaigning. Red Flag Election Manifesto was translated and published in Kannada. Thousands of its copies alongwith tens of thousands of copies of the appeal to the people by the state committee were used as main propaganda material. A 45-minute stirring speech of com: R. Manasayya, state secretary, explaining the manifesto and the basic issues confronting the people in audio cassette was well distributed and played at all junctions and villages.

Public meetings addressed by all India leaders and state level leaders were organised at many places. Tours of central and state leaders were also organised to explain party line. The candidates with volunteers made extensive tours of their constituencies. Wall-writings, posterings, street-corner meetings were also utilised for campaign.

While in neighbouring Bellary the Sontia-Sushama contest was reduced to a contest of slangs and money power, and when the main contestants in the state, Congress, BJP-JD (U) combine, and JD(S) had basically same approach to globalisation policies, CPI (ML) Red Flag used all its energy to focus on propagating its anti-imperialist democratic programme. Imperialist globalisation was targetted. It was explained to people that the real fight was between those who follow the 'New Economic Policy' and those who reject it. Growth of communalism and fascist threat cannot be delinked from the onslaught of the imperialist globalisation. This political

propaganda projecting a people's alternative as immediate programme with long term perspective of building New Democratic India attracted people's attention everywhere.

One important feature everywhere was that, despite the coaching of opportunist leaders, CPI and CPI (M) followers joined Red Flag comrades in the campaign. At Mysore the striking *Vikrant Tyres* workers led by CITU invited the candidate for Chamaraja seat com: Kumar and TUCI state president com: Ayyappa Hugar to address them. Later they invited com: K. N. Ramachandran, all India secretary of Red Flag to address the workers. At *Hati Gold Mines* where CITU and AITUC unions dominate the meeting addressed by comrades K. N. Ramachandran and state secretary R. Manasayya attracted a very large number of workers. A large number of CPI and CPI (M) followers fed-up with the opportunist policies of their leadership are expected to join Red Flag.

The ruling class parties who reduce their campaigns to personal mudslingings and sectarian attacks indulge in distributing money and arrack during last days of the campaign to corner support. Party state committee asked the Election Commission to take action against it, or it will be compelled to take its own action. On the eve of election party activists surrounded two jeeps carrying arrack meant for distributing to voters, destroyed the arrack and damaged the vehicles. On election day, 5th September, many newspapers carried this news on front page.

The vigorous election campaign launched by CPI (ML) Red Flag putting forward an anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic programme has given political essence to the campaign after a long time, as many old comrades pointed out. This campaign highlighted the series of struggles waged in the last decade, and it will serve as a spring board for agitations to be launched in coming days. Through practice comrades are learning how to utilise all forms of struggles to advance class struggle towards New Democratic Revolution.

Orissa

After long bargaining finally CPI settled with getting Congress support for Aska seat and supporting Congress in remaining 20 seats. Congress was not so accommodating with CPI (M). So CPI (M) leadership had to state that it will put

two candidates for 'friendly' contest with Congress and support Congress in all other places. All these are happening when the Congress government is suppressing Chilka agitation, when it has killed four fish workers in police-firing, when it is selling Orissa's interests to MNCs hastily, and when its police is protecting the Dara Singh of Bajrang Dal who has unleashed a killing spree against minorities. CPI-CPI (M) support to hated Congress prove their total degeneration to ruling class politics.

It is in this situation, Orissa committee of CPI (ML) Red Flag has fielded Com. Moudamani Das in Bhadrak reserved constituency and has launched a vigorous campaign based on the Red Flag Election Manifesto alongwith an appeal by the state committee. The campaign started in mid-July with a press conference and activists' meeting. Whole organisation was mobilised for the campaign. Election committees were formed at all levels to the level of villages/wards wherever party and mass organisation has influence. A first round of discussion was organised based on election manifesto. In three assembly segments where party has organisational strength systematic door-to-door campaign was started with squads. In two assembly segments where sympathisers are there, street corner/village meetings are organised. In the other two segments candidate made a tour on last days to address people at main towns and junctions. Wall-writings, postering, street-corner meetings, village meetings and public meetings at important places are taken up. The campaign has enthused a good section of the left masses.

The decision of 'Azad Hind Fouz' having good mass base in 15 gram-panchayats in Chandbali area to work with Red Flag and campaign for com. Moudamani Das has given a good fillip in that area. Com Dasarath Senapathi, a district council member of CPI, left CPI and is campaigning for Red Flag candidate alongwith a good number of CPI members and supporters. The election committee convenor at Tihdi is a comrade who left CPI (M) protesting against its leaders' opportunist politics.

It is expected that a good number of CPI and CPI (M) comrades will join Red Flag or campaign for it as the election date of 3 October comes closer.

The public meetings addressed by all India secretary Com. K. N. Ramachandran, state secretary com. Sivaram and com. Moudamani Das

at Tihdi, Mitho, Simulla and Talapada explaining the consequences of imperialist dictated globalisation policies and the need to build up anti-imperialist democratic alternative fighting against the 'New Economic Policy' and growing communal fascist threat utilise to conceal it evoked enthusiastic response everywhere. In taking party's politics to the people, and in spreading party and class/mass organisations winning over left masses, this campaign is going to yield good results. In the post-election situation party is going to strengthen its mass base or and organisational strength in Bhadrak as well as Balasore districts. This will provide a favourable situation to launch anti-state struggles more vigorously in coming days.

Delhi

In Delhi state neither CPI nor CPI (M) had put up candidates for the Lok Sabha election. Their leaderships were supporting the Congress. In this situation, the Delhi committee of CPI (ML) Red Flag decided to put up a candidate at Outer Delhi despite organisational limitations primarily to launch a vigorous political campaign against the imperialist promoted New Economic Policy for implementing which the main contenders for power BJP led NDA and Congress are competing.

The committee decided to put com. Mohammad Alam Sher who had worked in SFI, DYFI and then CITU-CPI (M) for 16 years and who had resigned from it in 1996 opposing the opportunist policies of CPI (M) leadership as its candidate. He had organised a secular front and fighting against growing threats of communal fascism in the wake of intensification of neocolonisation when he came in contact with Red Flag and later joined it. He is actively working in the trade union front especially to organise the contract workers in west Delhi.

The task was formidable. To organise necessary cadres, to mobilise funds locally and to launch effective election campaign fighting against BJP's Saheb Singh and Congress's Dip Chand Sharma, a dummy for Sajjan Kumar, notorious for his involvement in anti-Sikh riots were not easy tasks. But in spite of all obstacles comrades decided to raise the red banner in capital state and to campaign for anti-imperialist democratic programme.

Outer Delhi has the largest number

of voters (about 30 lakhs) and 22 assembly segments. When the work was started in July Red Flag had organisational contact in only one. But by 5 September when the election took place comrades could extend campaign to nine segments, especially in Nazirpur and Madangir areas. An election committee was formed uniting democratic forces also. The meeting held on 15 August to organise it was attended by more than 100 comrades and sympathisers. In the course of campaign many new contacts were obtained.

In mobilising funds also there was encouraging experience. Worker comrades and NDYO comrades contributed and collected funds. Besides a large number of workers and employees in other areas, petty-bourgeois intellectuals, and shopkeepers also contributed. The whole amount for campaign was raised locally.

In the course of campaign many CPI and CPI (M) followers extended their support. All revolutionary left organisations also supported.

The Election Manifesto was distributed extensively in the course of door to door campaign through organised volunteer squads. Tens of thousands of copies of appeal by Delhi committee was first distributed in the course of initial campaign. Once the candidate and symbol were approved, another handbill with candidate and symbol, and explaining the significance of building up anti-imperialist democratic alternative were distributed in large scale. In the final phase of campaign many friendly organisations also helped. Wall-writing and posterings were done in these 9 segments. A tour by candidate and important comrades along with activists in these areas addressing numerous street corner meetings and distributing hand-bills provided opportunity to explain party line to the masses. BJP's NDA and Congress were attacked ruthlessly. So-called social justice parties like Samta, JantaDal (U), Samajvadi Party and BSP were exposed for their support to New Economic Policy which takes away even reservation through privatisation. CPI-CPI (M) leadership's opportunist politics also was exposed. The need to uncompromisingly fight against imperialist globalisation was highlighted. While communal fascist threat is increasing and the need to fight against it is also increasing, it cannot be fought delinking from the principal fight against 'New Economic Policy', it was explained. All the secular, democratic, patriotic forces were called for to unite to build a New Democratic India.

The response of the people to half a dozen public meetings was an indicator for the people's support the campaign could create.

That the Red Flag marched through vast areas of this sprawling constituency and a really red political propaganda was carried out for a month are positive things. This campaign will help to build up the organisation and to spread the politics of new Democratic Revolution further in coming days.

Kerala

For the last three decades Kerala politics is polarised between Congress-led UDF and CPI (M) led-LDF. With the introduction of 'New Economic Policy' in the beginning of this decade even whatever cosmetic differences existed between these two started evaporating away. Except in forms and slogans, in essence both are serving the ruling class interests. In each election the ruling front is invariably voted out, but the one who returns does not bring in any change. There is allround neocolonisation, leading to stagnancy and degeneration in all fields. Even the democratisation achieved in days of left resurgence are taken away.

In the comparatively more democratic atmosphere of Kerala, Singh Parivar's entry was very slow. But the CPI-CPI (M) led degeneration and in the atmosphere of socialist set back everywhere, it could start increasing its cadre forces and spread its communal venom. Today it has also small but vocal presence in Kerala but far below what it could achieve in Bengal despite 23 years of continuous 'left' rule. These three forces well supported by the media have spread an atmosphere of alienation, frustration, stagnancy and even nihilism among many sections. In spite of people's urge and aspirations of democratic forces they had succeeded to a large extent in perpetuating the neocolonial domination in all walks of life.

The ML movement had only small beginning in late 1960s and 1970s. Still it played a role in Kerala history. But the sectarian trend dominated it preventing it to recognise the reality around and to lead the masses forward. The 1980s was a decade of settling accounts with sectarianism, recognising the neocolonial reality around, and rectifying the path to reach out for a broad people's movement for democracy and socialism. But this struggle within

and without was not easy. There were casualties. Still by the end of the decade, CPI (ML) Red Flag was ready to take off, beginning to launch numerous anti-imperialist and democratic struggles.

This decade witnessed, in line with the progress of rectification at all India level and process of building up a Bolshevik style party and movement, numerous struggles in Kerala led by the party. Starting from attack on a World Bank team and raising the banner of 'Quit MNCs' the anti-imperialist movement strengthened. When the globalisation-liberalisation-privatisation policies started taking away even the partial democratisation that could be achieved and the welfare policies, party agitated against these anti-people attacks. Kerala Bundh was organised against GATT treaty, comrades marched to Mumbai to prevent Dunkel's India visit, and becoming member of WTO was opposed. The present Red Flag organisation in Kerala is built up through these movements, the cadres ideologically steered, and experienced through numerous struggles facing the lathis and jails. With the 1997 All India Conference making a new break through taking the reorganisation of the party further ahead, and deciding to utilise all forms of struggle for accelerating the class struggle, the whole organisation was getting prepared for it. So, when the CRC gave the call to participate in the 13th Loksabha elections and put forward the Election Manifesto, the Kerala State Committee vigorously launched an election campaign deciding to put candidates for 7 out of the 20 constituencies.

The campaign started from July, the thick of monsoon itself by organising a large number of public meetings. The state committee brought out an appeal explaining the numerous struggles it has led against the IMF-World Bank dictated policies, and against their consequences. Along with public meetings to put forward party line, vigorous organisational work also was taken up. From election committees at LS constituency level to panchayat ward/municipal ward level committees were formed uniting party cadres, activists in class/mass organisations, sympathisers and democratic forces.

Though the media published the decision to participate in election, it did not give any coverage afterwards. Even other political parties, especially CPI (M) also did not give it much importance. But by August middle the situation had changed. The systematic organi-

sational work and political campaign compelled the media and all political forces to take note of Red Flag.

The chief thrust of the Red Flag campaign was against the 'New Economic Policy'. In imposing these anti-national policies and serving imperialism to impose neocolonial slavery, Congress and BJP are two sides of the same coin. The UDF, LDF and NDA voted together and got the second budget of Vajpayee government, hailed as introduction to second generation of reforms by all imperialist agencies, passed in 10 minutes. So despite left phrase-mongering LDF is also with Congress and BJP in pushing through the anti-people globalisation. Actually Congress, in tune with it, CPI (M) is projecting communal fascism as the main danger in order to conceal the above fact. Today fascist threats are increasing in all countries as part of the general crisis of imperialism, and in order to suppress people's struggles to counter the transfer of imperialist burden to their shoulders. So struggle against the imperialist dictated economic policies is the principal aspect and fight against growing communal fascist threat, and fascistisation in general should be waged as part of it. In this context CPI (M) line of opposing Congress in Kerala and Bengal while serving it in all other states and at centre was exposed. The opportunist concept of third alternative as a replica of 1996 UF was also thoroughly exposed. In short, out and out it was a fierce political campaign which targeted BJP and Congress on the one hand, and CPI (M) for serving as the apologist for Congress, on the other.

This two month long political campaign gave a new dimension to the electioneering. While all others released their manifestos and then kept mum on them, Red Flag circulated it in thousands and provoked a discussion on them. What should be the development policy, one serving imperialist capital and market system, or one which stands for self reliance and oriented to start from fulfilling all basic amenities of all people, one which protects ecology also, was squarely put forward. Such a campaign coming out repeatedly through hundreds of street corner meetings and large number of well-attended public meetings compelled many newspapers, weeklies and electronic media also to give some space to these views.

Besides Red Flag campaign roundly criticised CPI (M) for conscious moves to liquidate the left movement. Red Flag's campaign

C P I (M) Attacks Against C P I (ML) Red Flag

The political campaign organised by CPI (ML) Red Flag Kerala State Committee much before the September 11 elections and which intensified as election dates came closer focussing on the *Election Manifesto* which called for building up *Anti-imperialist Democratic Alternative* had many similarities to the election campaigns of the undivided party during 1946, 1952 and 1957 elections, as many older Communists pointed out. In the hundreds of big and small public meetings speakers explained in detail the devastating effects of globalisation-liberalisation and how they intensify neocolonial slavery in all fields. Growth of communal forces and fascist threat were explained in this context. This was in sharp contradiction to CPI (M) propaganda of projecting communal fascism one-sidedly and its opportunistic support to Congress in the name of fighting BJP. Its contradictory stands in Kerala and Bengal where it opposed Congress and in other states where it was tailing behind Congress were exposed, and Comintern's approach was correctly explained. This intense political campaign enraged CPI (M) leadership. As the campaign accelerated CPI (M) leaders star-

was projected as an effort to mobilise the left masses and to build up a genuine left movement for democracy and socialism. Vajpayee government was severely attacked for speeding up the neocolonial policies, for reducing the foreign policy to an appendage of Washington's orders totally, and for worsening the relations with neighbouring countries starting with the Pokhran blasts.

This campaign was concretely put forward as a continuation of the decade long struggle against neocolonisation, and the spring board for waging more uncompromising struggles in the coming days. The seven candidates fielded had participated in the movement for one and a half or two decades. In short Communist style of election campaign was launched once again. It has taken the party's programme and objectives to large number of people. It has broadened the organisational basis considerably with election committee formed in hundreds of Panchayats and Panchayat wards. This campaign has consolidated and developed the party organisation more than ever. ●

ted provoking their cadres to attack Red Flag leaders, to disturb meetings, to spread false campaigns that Red Flag has taken money from Congress, and to burn down election offices of the party.

On 26 July Red Flag party office at Perambra, Kozhikode was burned. On 1 August students of KVS were attacked in Madappally College for agitating against self-financing colleges, in effect privatising education. On 2nd August one activist returning from party meeting was attacked. On 8 August public meeting addressed by state committee member of party comrade Ravi Kallachi was attacked. He and five others had to be hospitalised. On 15 August evening masked men entered the house of TUCI state president com: K. K. Mammu and threatened his 13 year old daughter who was then alone in the house that her family will be destroyed if Mammu does not stop political work. She was pushed violently and had to be hospitalised. On 22 August public meeting of com: K. T. Kunhikannan, candidate to Kozhikode seat, was attacked. Local people with party activists protected comrade. On 26 August election committee office at Kayakkodi in Kozhikkode was attacked. At Kottayam two comrades were attacked and injured. At numerous places Red Flag activists and sympathisers were threatened of dire consequences if they continue the campaign. And on 8 September Dr. Ajoykumar, candidate to Vadakara seat was attacked. He and seven comrades had to be hospitalised. Police and state machinery were utilised to create obstacles for Red Flag campaign everywhere.

Since a large number of CPI (M) party members, DYFI-SFI activists and CPI (M) sympathisers have come over to Red Flag side during last three months, and since the Red Flag campaign was enthusing many more to come over, CPI (M) leaders have let loose a dirty campaign vituperating CPI (ML) movement as a whole. If they were criticising Red Flag till now for not participating in the elections, now they are criticising it for participating in it. Especially when CPI (M) leadership has no answers to the intense campaign launched by Red Flag, focussing on imperialist-globalisation it resorts to physical attacks also.

A most enthusing factor was that wherever

Who Creats Global Terrorism?

Everywhere the talk is on combating growing global terrorism. From Clinton of Vajpayee, all are talking about international co-operation to combat terrorism. But none of them are ready to talk about the cardinal question: who creates terrorism? Who is responsible for the growth of terrorism globally?

Take for instance Osama Bin Laden, who is leading growing Islamic fundamentalism. A decade and a half back he was only a Saudi oil billionaire. It was CIA who recruited him to lead the Jihad against Soviet influence in Afghanistan. He was provided with finance and military and logistical support abundantly from Pakistani bases. Taliban was recruited and trained there. Soviet troops were withdrawn a decade back. But the monster created by CIA did not cease to act. It went on devouring Afghanistan inciting most heinous sectarian wars and mutual destruction by the various forces created by CIA against Soviet troops. Even a decade after withdrawal of Soviet forces peace has not returned to Afghanistan. Kabul is reduced to shambles. In the name of Shariat women are pushed back to middle ages. Besides Taliban and Bin Laden is threatening to strike at will anywhere.

When Clinton talks so much about Islamic extremism nowadays can he wash his hands from its growth everywhere? In Bosnia, in order to breakdown a united Yugoslavia did not Clinton administration utilise Taliban and similar forces? In Kosovo, did not Clinton promote the *Kosovan Liberation Army* and got it trained by Bin Laden like forces? Even after Serbian forces are withdrawn, is it not a fact that the NATO forces are going slow to disarm terrorist KLA? Is it not a fact that CIA is promoting many fundamentalist

CPI (M) attacked, protest action could be organised immediately with the mobilisation of local people. In instances like the attack on K. T. Kunhikannen, local people got mobilised instantly and surrounded CPI (M) hooligans. Only because of the intervention of KT untoward incidents did not take place.

In spite of these terror tactics of CPI (M), a large number of their followers are bound to join Red Flag soon.

forces in the former Central Asian Soviet Republics to promote US lackeys to take over in order to get control of the vast oil resources there? Even in former Soviet Union and after its splitting up in the remnant Russia, did not CIA utilise terrorist outfits to encourage divisive forces? Can CIA wash its hands from the responsibility for arming the Chechnya rebels to further weaken Russia?

The history of the post-world war II period is full of numerous instances of CIA training and launching terrorist forces almost in every country in order to impose US hegemony. In the course of this so many Bin Ladens were created. When the monsters of their own creation go out of hand, they will talk about controlling terrorism, but will go on creating new monsters. Besides it is imperialist political action, economic plunder and cultural thrust which create conditions for the creation of terrorists and terrorism. So Clinton's call for united action to check terrorism is nothing but an excuse to enter everywhere, to impose its brutal hegemony, and to plunder through terrorism of its own brand.

Similarly Vajpayee talking about combating terrorism is hypocritical. Was not demolition of Babri Masjid itself a terrorist act? Sangh Parivar has let loose Bajrang Dal's Dara Singh like forces who is engaged in a killing spree. In the name of stopping cricket matches with Pakistan, and after the demolition of Babri Masjid, did not Shiv Sena engage in numerous terrorist acts with impunity? All these acts can be called state terrorism. It is state terrorism which is breeding terrorist reaction. By refusing to fight international terrorism promoted by CIA and US administration, by promoting its own brand of terrorism, Sangh Parivar like forces have no right to talk about combating terrorism. Imperialists and their lackeys are the real promoters of terrorism. Only by taking uncompromising stand against imperialism terrorism can be combatted, and forces of democracy can be developed.

People's Agitation Against IMF and its Quisling

More than a lakh Brazilians demonstrated on 26th August at Brasilia, the capital, raising the slogan "Out IMF, Out Cardoso".

Only 3 days before the march the IMF was praising the Brazilian President Cardoso "for laying foundation for sustained economic recovery". In the name of "fiscal consolidation and to accelerate structural reforms" IMF, then, advised further austerity measures, that is removing the existing welfare measures also. The popular frustration against this criminal policy of IMF fattening the MNCs and local rich while pauperising vast masses of people has brought them to the streets to end this 'IMF raj'.

President Fernando Henrique Cardoso was a onetime Marxist theorist. He was an advocate of dependency theory alongwith Gunder Frank and Paul Barren. Their theorisation did not take into consideration how colonialism reorganised production relations and how imperialism negotiated and maimed class struggle in a neocolony. So this theory against

class struggle ultimately led most of dependency theorists to apologists of neocolonialism. So also Cardoso. He came to power in 1995 with a promise to achieve economic recovery and welfare measures. But what he implemented was an IMF package which has crippled the economy, forcing devaluation of *Real* and pauperising the masses, with 18% unemployed already. Social inequality in last five years has trebled.

In the name of bail out plan IMF insisted on austerity measures. IMF was only aiming to save US interests. Cardoso sneered at the protesting masses and enslaved the country further to market system dominated by imperialists. As investors stopped further investments, the *Real* dropped sharply, and dollar indexed domestic debts were auctioned to protect currency.

As peoples protests intensify, Cardoso is building a moat around the Congress building to protect the president and the parliament from agitating masses, spending 8 lakh dollars.

Post-Election Economics

The BJP alliance and Congress alongwith the regional and other parties contributing to ruling class agenda are celebrating the elections to 13th Lok Sabha as a mud-slinging competition in general or a beauty contest elsewhere. They are united in concealing the real economic crisis deepening all around. It is a calculated conspiracy against the people. That 542 of the 543 MPs in last Lok Sabha got the second budget of Vajpayee government hailed by imperialists and their agents while denounced by people's forces passed within ten minutes without any debate shows the near unanimity on economic agenda among these parties. Even the strongest critics of BJP do not attack the insurance privatisation, patent amendment like acts passed hastily by it. So it is quite natural that none of them talks about what is going to happen to the economy of this country in the post-election days.

Already the petroleum import bill has doubled this year due to sharp increases in its price under OPEC dictates. According to Congress spokesman Manmohan Singh international price

of crude oil has gone up to \$ 22 per barrel. But present pricing is based on \$ 11 per barrel. So he calls for a hefty rise in diesel prices by the new government to avert grave balance of payment crisis. According to him the wholesale price index and inflation rate has gone down now not due to any economic recovery, but due to favourable weather helping enhanced agricultural production.

Another major issue is the payment of *Kargil* bill and hefty allotment for fresh defence purchases. Contrary to the rosy picture presented by Vajpayee government to hoodwink the masses and to influence the elections, in addition to loss of life of large number of army men, the cost of the war is very high.

IMF and World Bank are besides pressuring to cut down government expenses and to put an end to all subsidies for welfare measures.

Cumulative effect of these issues will be yet another leap in prices of all essential commodities and services, and further cut in welfare measures.

News from States

Kerala: Attappadi struggle for subsidised ration succeeds

In Attappadi, the predominantly adivasi area in Kerala-TN border, CPI (ML) Red Flag Palakkad district committee launched a major struggle to ensure regular supply of essential items from ration shops. In spite of subsidy, the authorities and the ration dealers were colluding either to refuse regular supply, or to take hiked prices from the adivasis and other poor people. Though the people below poverty line were supposed to get 10 kg rice at Rs. 3.90 per kilo per week, Rs. 10 per kilo was forcefully taken for long. Besides low quality rice was thrust on the card holders. Up to supply officers, whole administration was conniving with this major corrupt practice.

Red Flag local committee had launched a struggle to ensure ration supply at subsidised rates for the last two months. Local people were mobilised. On 6th September hundreds of people were mobilised to block the roads. When authorities still refused to act from 9th September adivasis and other poor people did not vote in the Lck Sabha elections as a mark of protest. As the struggle started getting more and more support the issue became known outside and more people extended support. On 13th September district authorities agreed in writing to take action against corrupt officials and ration dealers. They agreed to provide ration regularly at subsidised rates. Thus the struggle successfully concluded.

Maharashtra: struggle against toll tax

When World Bank aided to construct 55 flyovers in Mumbai city costing Rs. 1200 crores itself it was pointed out that soon this burden will be imposed over the people directly or indirectly. Now these fears have come true. As more flyovers are opened to traffic, Mumbai municipal corporation started collecting toll-taxes at four points from trucks and other motor-vehicles. Though BEST buses, are exempted now, soon

they also will be toll taxed. The truck owners association started an agitation which is withdrawn after a week as corporation gave it some concessions. But even what truck owners are going to pay will be imposed over the people.

Against this toll-taxing and imposing additional burden on people Mumbai committee of CPI (ML) Red Flag has launched an agitation uniting with like-minded democratic forces. This campaign and agitation started in July is slowly developing attracting people's attention.

Karnataka: Peasants Lathicharged And Fired Upon

Once again the peasantry in Tumkur district of Karnataka are on the path of struggle. When peasants protesting against irregular supply of electricity which is hampering agricultural operations came out in protest at Badavanahalli and surrounded the Karnataka Electricity Board Office, the engineers could not give any satisfactory answers to them. The peasants in this area were encouraged to cultivate flowers for export. Once the farming started, government did not provide facilities. As the flower plants want regular water supply, and as electricity supply is irregular preventing regular water for the plants, peasants are facing crisis. So they were not ready to disperse satisfied by the irresponsible statement of engineers.

The police force immediately started a brutal lathi charge terrorising the people. Then police fired injuring many. More than 40 peasants were seriously injured. As police reinforcements reached, they unleashed a reign of terror. It reminded of police action in the same district a year back when peasants agitated for remunerative prices for ground nut. At that time six peasants were killed. This time though there were no deaths police action was criminal. Hundreds of peasants were beaten up and arrested and put in Bellary jail. Police is continuing the reign of terror in the area. CPI (ML) Red Flag Karnataka state committee has protested against the lathicharge and police firing. It has pledged to carry forward the struggle to protect peasants' interests. It has demanded immediate stopping of police terror in the area.

MNCs start dictating the state electricity boards

once it was Congress government in Maharashtra which promoted Enron and signed a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with it. It refused to make the PPA transparent in spite of state-wide agitation. Though Shiv Sena-BJP made it an issue for 1994 elections, once they came to power they obediently implemented the PPA. Now Enron has started supplying power to MSEB at the rate of Rs. 4.95 per unit. As MSEB is bound to take the Enron power fully, higher electricity charges are imposed causing difficulty for all sections of consumers. Enron is even charging \$ 3 million spent to 'educate' Indians about virtues of its project. Now Congress has come out with the demand that the PPA with Enron should be published. This 180 degree turn will not last beyond the elections.

Almost the same thing is happening in Kerala. Again it was a Congress government which signed a PPA with NTPC to build Kayamkulam thermal power plant using imported Naftha instead of coal as earlier planned. In spite of statewide agitation this government did not publish the PPA. The LDF government led by CPI(M) which came to power in 1995, in spite of its earlier demand to publish the PPA, refuse to do so. Now the Kayamkulam plant is ready and has started supplying power to KSEB, at the rate of Rs. 3.50 per unit when the hydel power in the state costs only 0.35 per unit. But

(From P. 16)

As regards AIFPC his death steals away one of the archpillars of the organisation. Despite its infantile disorders the organisation could make its presence feel in the northern belt only through the undeniable leadership calibre of Com. P.N.C. We lost our friend, philosopher and guide in his death.

Even at the bleakest conjuncture of his personal life he kept alive the revolutionary urge within and galvanised his friends and comrades with inimitable optimism.

He leaves behind not only his bereaved family but a community of radical cultural activists with irredeemable sense of loss. We pay our richest homage to the departed comrade.

K. A. Mohandas
Convener

All India Forum for People's Culture

the PPA dictates absorption of whole power produced and payment of full compensation in case of failure. So electricity charges are hiked. Followed by closure of good number of industrial units which were already gasping due to the import liberalisation. As the demand of electricity has gone down KSEB is closing down hydel units at Idukki to fulfill the conditions of PPA. Still it refuses to publish the PPA and defend it like a sacred cow.

Almost this is the case of all states which have gone for privatisation of power production.

Pokhran II and Kargil

"At some level, the bus diplomacy turned out to be as inept as most other things that this government has done across the board. More fundamentally, the BJP led government misconstrues what Pokhran and Chagai have meant. On May 18 last year Advani had claimed that Pokhran II had strengthened India's hand in Kashmir. Writing in *Frontline* at that time (June 19 1998) I had suggested that our blustering home minister did not seem to understand that nuclear weapons have little bearing on guerilla actions and localised, low intensity warfare. Now, a year later, one needs to go a step further.

Pokhran was a gift to Sharif as the Afghan war had been for Zia. Since 1971, Pakistan had been trying, unsuccessfully, to overcome its strategic inferiority in conventional warfare. By opening the way for nuclear parity and competitive weaponisation, the Vajpayee government gifted to Pakistan a strategic parity that it could not otherwise achieve. To the extent that the possession of nuclear weapons capability by both sides in a serious conflict tends to put serious constraints on a fullscale conventional war, to that same extent it facilitates the institutionalisation of low-intensity localised wars. The more the two countries move toward nuclear weaponisation, the more Kargils we shall have. In this sense, the present reality in Kargil is not only the other face of the rhetoric of Lahore, it is also a precise, necessary, repeatable consequence of Pokhran".

Aljaz Ahmad
'The many Roads to Kargil'

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Fiftieth Anniversary of Chinese Revolution

The capitalist roaders ruling China today and the revisionists and social democrats all over the world are celebrating the 50th anniversary of Chinese Revolution on 1st October in order to hoodwink the toiling masses all over the world and to cover up their pernicious brand of 'market socialism'. Like the renegades from Khrushchovites to Gorbachovites who dragged Soviet Union first to capitalist path and then to degeneration and disintegration all the while waving red flag to betray the masses, the Dergists and the new brands of renegades are engaged in the same game, in a more heinous form. What they are celebrating now is their success in pulling down China also to market socialism and integrating it with world imperialist system, subjecting the Chinese masses to new forms of wage slavery and national humiliation. They are celebrating their betrayal of proletarian internationalism.

On the other hand, the revolutionary forces all over the world are observing the 50th anniversary of glorious Chinese revolution as an occasion to rededicate themselves to the cause of proletarian revolution overthrowing the imperialist system for ever. The successful New Democratic Revolution in

China in 1949 under the leadership of Chinese Communist party guided by Mao Tsetung and its advance towards socialism, its attempts to fight against and defeat the Khrushchovite revisionism, and its efforts to continue the class struggle in order to consolidate proletarian power, including the theoretical contributions, are of historic importance. In spite of the 'left' deviation first and then the rightist coup that derailed Chinese revolution, the lessons of this mighty revolutions which led the most populous country in the world to stand up breaking free of imperialist and feudal shackles shall form part of the glorious history of World Socialist Revolution. To the Marxist-Leninists observing 50th anniversary of Chinese Revolution means studying these lessons, and making ourselves capable of leading the NDR in our country to victory in this neocolonial phase when imperialists and the comprador classes are engaged in most heinous attacks on the world people, and people of our country.

Let us utilise the coming months to evaluate the experience of the Chinese Revolution to educate ourselves and the masses to carry forward the NDR in our country according to the concrete conditions of today.

Homage to Com: P. N. C.

The most unexpected demise of Com: Pronabendra Nath Chatterjee (PNC) on 22nd August 1999 in Calcutta is a heavy blow to the revolutionary cultural movement in the country in general and to the All India Forum for People's Culture in particular. A leading member of the convening committee of the AIFPC he took up the arduous organisational task of building up a broader anti-imperialist, anti-feudal and democratic people's cultural movement with youthful zeal and vigour.

Com: PNC's long association with the revolutionary movement made him its cultural stalwart for more over four decades. He was in the forefront of the *Gone Sanskritik Andolan* of Bengal and the little magazine movement in the country. His interaction with the radical intellectuals in Calcutta as well as the revolutionary activists made his role cardinal in bridging the different sections of the society in the cause of new democratic culture.

(Contd. in P. 15)

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