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After Iraq Haiti falls prey to naked armed invasion by US imperialism

After the naked occupation of Iraq under a fraudulent pretext, the US imperialists in one more demonstration of brazen overlordism and brigandage, forced a change of regime in another sovereign democratic country, Haiti, in Western hemisphere through direct

military intervention preceded by worst political trickery and economic strangulation. On the night of February 28, 2004, US marines landed at the capital of Haiti, stormed into the official residence of the president, abducted Bertrand Aristride, the democratically elected

president and took him to an unknown destination. Aristride, it may be recalled, refused to relent to US pressure for stepping down and hand over power to a US sponsored opposition leader who represents the monied class, transnational banks and corporations.

Haiti has been the first black republic founded by the former slaves who fought to free brutal colonial domination. Right from 1990 when he was in his first term as a democratically elected president after winning the elections that the US rulers tried to rig to have their stoogies in power, Aristride has been under pressure of being removed from presidency as

SC Judgement against women's security

AIMSS Convention in Delhi

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A Women's Convention was held in Delhi University under the auspices of the Delhi State Committee of the All India Mahila Sanskritik Sangathan on 13th February 2004 against the recent judgement of the Supreme Court empowering the police to arrest an accused woman any time during day or night without the presence of any lady constable. A large number of women from different colleges, other institutions and various localities attended the convention. The speakers included the Chief Guest, Justice Rajinder Sachar, former Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, Comrades Chhaya Mukherjee and Dr. H.G. Jayalakshmi, the President and General Secretary of the AIMSS



A view of the dais. Sitting (L to R) Mr. G K Khurana, Comrade Krishna Chakraborty and leaders of AIMSS and on the right Justice Sachar addressing the Convention

respectively, Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, Member, Central Committee, SUCI, Mr. G. K. Khurana, General Secretary, All

India Government Nurses' Federation and Comrade Kusum Singh, Delhi State Secretary of the AIMSS. The convention was

presided over by Professor Subodh Sharma, Delhi State President of the AIMSS.

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Aggressive pursuance of Hindutva agenda

BJP's 'Good Governance' laid bare in Hindi heartland

The BJP leaders during their campaign for vote in the recent assembly elections to the four Hindi heartland states pretended as if their main plank was developmental activities and hence hitherto pursued rabid Hindutva agenda kept in the backburner. The bourgeois media gave a wide publicity to this "shift"

in the BJP's politics. But the people of the said four states noticed that notwithstanding such pretensions of shifting emphasis, the BJP went on inciting the Hindu fundamentalist passion in the grass roots level to harvest election gains. Following such crafty and wily camouflages and manipulations, the BJP did

manage to win the elections in three of the four states. But once saddled to power, it took no time to bare its rabid fundamentalist teeth and claw with impunity.

Uma Bharati, the saffron-clad self-styled sannyasin, BJP chief minister of Madhya Pradesh and one of the principal accused in the hated

Babari Masjid demolition case, became too aggressive to reassert her Hindutva credential from the very first day of her ascending the throne. She went to Tirupathi temple, tonsured head and fed fruits to cows under media glare and came back to attend the swearing in

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Proposed Model University Act

Opening floodgate of Commercialisation of Education

University Grants Commission (UGC) has of late come out with a document titled, "Towards formulation of Model Act for Universities of the 21st century in India, a concept paper." The first part of the document released on 30th October, 2003 elaborates the concept while the second part is a questionnaire "seeking response from the various stakeholders of the university system in the country" on the concept. UGC chairman wanted such responses to be received in just a month's time to make use of the same for final recommendations. There is clearly a resentment among the educationists, teachers and others over the concept as well as the hurry with which they have been asked to give their reactions and opinions on such significant an issue having ramifications and far-reaching consequences.

On a close examination, it will be observed that the concept paper which the authors claimed to be "the X-plan vision and strategy of UGC" ... "to keep pace with the world changes... in higher education" has focussed on two areas — modalities of governance and funding of the universities. We look at the issue of governance first. The concept paper says that "Model Act should protect the autonomy of the universities", "introduce democratization in its working", "insulate itself from interference by agencies outside the university system." But, the recommendations made actually indicate that instead of granting more autonomy to the universities, there would practically be banishment of any kind of independent functioning of these academic institutions. This is a shameless exhibition of outright falsehood.

No more elected representation

Hitherto the practice was that the University Visitor would receive several names from the Senate, the highest policy making body composed of elected representatives of the people for being considered for appointment as Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors of the universities. Then the Visitor in consultation with the government would select the appointees out of these recommended names. But the concept paper on the model Act now proposes that authorities and bodies of the universities like Court

(Senate), Executive (Management) Council and Academic Council would not comprise of elected representatives but would be constituted with ex-officio and nominated members. In other words, there would be no provision for any elected representation in these bodies. The President of India or the Governor of the State would occupy the chair of the University Visitor who in turn would appoint Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors. These Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors would seek policy directives and approvals from the Visitor. The Court or the Senate would as per the model Act be relegated to the position of a "deliberative/consultative" body having practically no power or say. So the selection of university heads would be arbitrary as against the existing practice of being elected from among the names recommended by an elected Senate. Obviously, the heads of the universities would be appointed as per government directives strengthening the control of the party in power over these institutions. What then remains of autonomy?

The concept of granting complete autonomy to the educational institutions, it may be recalled, emerged during the days of evolution of modern democratic education system. It was envisaged that education would be best-managed and directed if left to the disposal of the educationists and teachers who are really concerned about and involved with the learning process. This was deemed essential for spread of education as a medium of imparting knowledge free from any administrative or bureaucratic encumbrance. As education was declared a public welfare measure and the right to education a fundamental one as per Constitution, the government was made accountable for allocating necessary resources. So, any attempt to infringe upon the academic freedom was considered to be against the spirit of democratic education and hence protested against as well as resisted. But if the provisions of the model Act get implemented, the much vaunted, much cherished and much needed autonomy of the educational institutions would be totally wiped out.

Next comes the question of funding the universities. The

concept paper warns that there is "already decline in the financial support from the government both at the Centre and the state levels" and hence advocates that the universities be set up as "company/registered society for revenue generation" for being "self-sufficient". As means for revenue generation, the suggestion is to associate/collaborate "with private sector", carry out "sponsored research, consultancy and testing services ... for industries, companies and other institutions in India/abroad." The Pro-Vice-chancellor, it is proposed, should be entrusted with the job of resource generation. So it is obvious that the recommendation is for eventual privatization of the universities through private funding route. Under the pressure of freedom movement and subsequently democratic mass movements, the government mostly has so far been providing necessary finance to the universities and other academic institutions under deficit grant system.

Class design to rein in education

This had been the earlier practice throughout the world. But the model Act clearly indicates a deviation from the current operation. Curiously, the UGC which as the model agency of the government in the educational affairs is itself reducing the grants to the universities, feigns as if some extra-terrestrial power is causing this steady dwindle in the government funding of education. Simultaneously, the UGC is shamelessly militating against the principle of government financing of academics and preaching for tapping private sources to raise funds. The resultant effect, can be easily made out, would be rampant commercialization of the university education involving exorbitant fee hike and escalated increase of other related costs and thus would practically throw out the students from the middle class and poor strata from the arena of higher education. The realm of higher education would therefore be exclusive preserve of the rich and the affluent who would enjoy all the fruits. This is how the concept paper of the model Act entails to take on the "many challenges" the Indian university "system has been facing for past

some time" like "globalization of higher education and entry of foreign universities in the country."

This proposed model Act drafted and circulated at the instance of BJP echelons is not an isolated policy proposal. In fact, it has come in a sequence. In the first few years after independence, the ruling class and its most trusted Congress Party could not but take some steps in extending educational facilities as an indispensable part of the process of speediest development of capitalist economy at that time. But the ruling Indian bourgeoisie as inalienable part of the moribund capitalism could not allow the vibrant dimension of education as a secular, scientific, value-based democratic learning process to take a firm root on this soil nor could it afford to keep the door of education open for all.

As early as in 1957, C.D. Deshmukh, the chairman of the first Education Commission, while articulating the government's education policy openly announced that higher education must be curtailed to minimize the number of educated unemployed. Because the ruling bourgeoisie and its servitors know that the capitalist order cannot be free from mounting unemployment problem. But instinctively they realized that political danger lied with the swelling number of educated unemployed who might not resign to fate but probe into the cause of unemployment. And in the course of such probing, they might well discover the truth that the capitalist system is breeding unemployment and all other sorts of misery in life. This might lead them to revolt against the exploitative social order. On the contrary, the uneducated unemployed were much prone to be misled in various ways, suppressed and deceived with less effort. So the class and its protectors exercised a preference in favour of restricting higher education in a highly planned way. Opening of new schools and colleges was contained as far as possible and seat restrictions were imposed on the existing institutions. Side by side, there was general hike of fees. In this way, the door of higher education was virtually closed to the vast multitude of the common people while to the rich the horizon was wide open.

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Calcutta Remembers Stalin With great Reverence

With due solemnity, the 51st death anniversary of Comrade Stalin, the great leader of the proletariat was observed on 5th March, 2004. To commemorate the occasion a meeting was organized at the University Institute Hall, Calcutta which was presided over by Comrade Manik Mukherjee, member of West Bengal Secretariat and Central Staff. Comrade Provash Ghosh, member, central committee and Secretary, West Bengal State Committee was the main speaker. Also seated on the dais were Comrades Anil Sen, Sukomol Dasgupta and Asit Bhattacharyya, all central committee members.

At the outset of his speech, Comrade Provash Ghosh said, on this day the teachings and contributions of Comrade Stalin are remembered with reverence all over the world from Russia, China to East Europe, Latin America and Asia. He was held in high esteem not only by the communist revolutionaries but even great humanists of his time like Romain Rolland, Bernard Shaw, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Rabindra Nath Tagore, H. G. Wells and others.

Comrade Provash Ghosh, inter alia, said that it was Stalin who led Russia from a backward to an industrially advanced country, where each and everyone was guaranteed a job, as well as education and medical benefits, free of cost.

In the newly framed constitution of 1936, known as "Stalin Constitution", the 'right to recall' was introduced, whereby an elected representative could be called back from power by the people if he fails to discharge his duties. This was referred to by Romain Rolland as the proper realization of the ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity, for the first time.

Again, in the backdrop of the Second World War, which involved Britain, France, America together conspiring to destroy Russia through Germany, while the people of the world were apprehensive about the protection of the Soviet Union, it was Stalin who led the Red Army and the people to its victory against Hitler, who invaded Russia and was drawing nearer to Moscow. Turning down requests to leave Moscow in the face of impending danger, Stalin

served as a living inspiration to the Red Army and the people in the battle.

Comrade Ghosh also said, Stalin's name was interlinked with each and every movement against imperialism, fascism, war and so also in support of peace. This is why, reactionaries looked upon him with apprehension and aided and abetted by revisionists, tried, though in vain, to tarnish the glorious image of Stalin in their attempt to resist revolutionary movement in the world.

Comrade Provash Ghosh then reiterated what the great Marxist thinker Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had taught us when he showed that allegations of personality cult were wrongly posed against Stalin. Stalin hated self-propaganda. It was the low level of consciousness of workers which turned their respect for Stalin to individual worship which he never wanted.

Right back in 1956, when revisionist Khrushchev leadership started its slandering against Stalin in the name of fighting personality cult of Stalin, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had forewarned that demeaning Stalin's leadership would mean denouncing authority itself in communist movement and would invariably pave the way for revisionism. This has been proved pathetically to be true.

Sometime before his death Stalin had observed that lack of ideological struggle would cause irreparable damage to the party and revolution. In Russia, during war, ideological struggle was neglected and the harm was done. However, socialism being the only option, people in Russia within a few years after the fall of socialism, are again out on the streets with portraits of Lenin and Stalin. Waves of working class movement are surging up in many other countries of the world, reverberating with slogans like "Down with imperialism". Comrade Provash Ghosh went on to assure that Marxism being science can never be destroyed and the downfall of the Soviet Union does not prove that Marxism is futile. Socialism which changes the age-long history of exploitation may take time for a final victory. But working class will inevitably bring about revolution. In our country, too, revolutionary movement will have to be developed, enriched with



Comrades Anil Sen, Asit Bhattacharyya, Sukomol Dasgupta — Central Committee members and Comrade Manik Mukherjee, Central Staff are on the dais. (Inset) Comrade Provash Ghosh, Central Committee member addressing on Stalin Day Meet in Calcutta.

teachings of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao Zedong and also with the guideline provided by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh on the basis of applying their teachings on Indian soil. The more our party will gain in strength, the better will it serve the cause of world revolution. In paying homage to Stalin, this is the pledge we should take today.

In his presidential address,

Comrade Manik Mukherjee pointed out that the character of a great communist leader like Stalin cannot be properly assessed by humanist outlook. Communist ethics has to be acquired. He said Stalin was a person to whom nothing was dearer than revolution, socialism and party of the proletariat.

The meeting ended with the "Internationale".

School of Politics

The SUCI workers from Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi, and Guna and Gwalior districts of Madhya Pradesh enthusiastically participated in a three-day long School of Politics in Delhi, on and from 13 - 15 February '04 under the conduction of Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, member, Central Committee of SUCI. Comrade Chakraborty deliberated on subjects ranging from dialectical and historical materialism, party organization to different aspects of communist character. He also dealt with the present national and international situation.

A Political class was organized

by the efforts of Sultanpur and Pratapgarh district committee of SUCI at Patti (Pratapgarh) on 14th and 15th February 2004.

Party workers of Sultanpur and Pratapgarh participated in the class. The class was inaugurated by Comrade V.N. Singh, Secretary, U.P. State Committee of SUCI. The class was addressed by Comrade Dipankar Roy, a central organizer of the party.

There was a great enthusiasm amongst the participants. Near about one hundred party workers participated in the class. Music squad headed by Comrade Shobha Lal presented revolutionary songs in the class.

Demonstration at North East District of Delhi

SUCI, North East District of Delhi had organized a massive demonstration on several burning problems of the people of the area at Delhi Chief Minister's Office on 3rd March 2004, where a meeting was

addressed by Comrades R.K. Sharma, Harish Tyagi, Manager Chaurasia, P.K. Pawar, Duli Chand Sharma, Rakesh Kumar and Pushpa Chandli etc. A 6-point demands was submitted to the Chief Minister.

International Women's Day observed in States

Kerala

In connection with International Women's Day, Kerala state committee of AIMSS organized a convention at Trivandrum on 8th March. State Secretary Shyla K. John was the main speaker. SUCI state secretary Comrade C. K. Lukose extended revolutionary greetings to the convention.

On this occasion Trivandrum wing of 'Sarathchandra Mobile Library' was inaugurated with the aim of promoting good reading habits and finer tastes among women. This library movement is being successfully conducted by AIMSS in other districts. Well known poetess Lalitha Lenin while inaugurating the mobile library congratulated AIMSS for this highly meaningful and needed step. Women's problems are becoming more and more complex and only with higher knowledge and firm commitment to social values can we face the situation, for which worthy books will help a lot, she said. Smt Sugatha, Lecturer, NSS women's College speaking in the function said she is very much delighted to see that the mobile library is named after Sarat Chandra Chatterjee. This is apt, she said, not only because Sarat Chandra is one of the greatest literary figures of India, but especially because he is the one who has studied and portrayed Indian women with all her nobility and weakness so profoundly. We have much to learn and imbibe from him, she added. Smt.Sreelekha also spoke.

Comrade Lalitha Mathew, AIMSS state president presided over the Convention Hyderabad

On the occasion of International Women's Day the Hyderabad District Committee of AIMSS conducted demonstration at Tank bund near the statue of Sri Kandukuri Veeresham Pantulu, a pioneer of Renaissance movement in Andhra Pradesh. After the garlanding of Sri Kandukuri Veersham Pantulu by Comrade Ch. Prameela, State Secretary, AIMSS, the participants raised slogans against dowry, atrocities, obscenity and against the recent Supreme Court judgement. They held a rally from the statue to the tank bund entrance. On this occasion Comrade Ch. Prameela addressed the gathering. She told that though the International Women's Day was observed as an occasion to put forward the demands of women, in the recent period it has been reduced to a celebration by various Govts. subserving the ruling exploiting and oppressive class. She condemned the recent verdict of Supreme Court with regard to women's arrest. She also condemned that release of 11 accused members in Roop Kanvar's ghastly sati incident happened in 1987. She called upon the women to rise voice against all types of discrimination.

Comrade D. Swaroopa Rani, Hyderabad District Secretary and Smt. A. Shantishree, President, AIMSS and others participated in the programme.



Demonstration at Nagpur on 8 March, 2004



Demonstration at Hyderabad on 8 March, 2004



Convention at Trivandrum on 8 March, 2004

AIMSS Convention in Delhi

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The speakers said that increasing atrocities, violence and torture on women, including filthiest incidents of eve-teasing and rape on little girls and women alike throughout the country were on the increase and had surpassed all previous records. The common people could not but feel deeply concerned at this, especially the way the modesty of women was being violated in the capital during the past few months. And what was most distressing was that not only the anti-social elements but also the keepers of law and order were involved in outraging the dignity of women. The incident of rape of a girl student by the bodyguards of

the President and of a school-going girl in the east Delhi colony by a Delhi police inspector and a constable were only some of such recent incidents.

In such a situation, the recent decision of a Division Bench of Supreme Court is very unfortunate. One can easily visualize how dangerous would the result of this judgement be.

The chief guest, Justice Rajinder Sachar strongly criticized the judgement. He pointed out that only due to sheer ignorance of law many were afraid of speaking out against this judgement of the court. Any judgement can be criticized or even contested, only without imputing any motive on the judges, but by

showing its harmful effect on the society or by exposing its irrationality. This is a fundamental right of any citizen of the country. He appealed to the women and all well-meaning people to join the movement, initiated by AIMSS to revoke the recent judgement for ensuring safety, security and dignity of women.

The organizers informed that the Chief Justice of India has been requested to review the recent judgement, to restore the earlier provisions and to add further

provisions so as to give severest and exemplary punishment not only to the perpetrators of rape, but also to the 'keepers of law and order', who indulge in such criminal activities. A resolution against the said judgement mooted by Ms Neetu Verma was also passed unanimously.

On this issue a letter addressed to the President of India was sent on 25.02.04 to him with copies of the same forwarded to the Prime Minister and the Home Minister as well.

RSS dominates in State Governance

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ceremony flanked by other sanyasins chanting Vedic mantras on a high pitch. The dais, too, had a very prominent saffron decor with sadhus and sants, many of whom are associated with the Sangh Parivar, occupying front seats. Her next important announcement was of course nothing related to the burning issues like bijli, pani, sadak (electricity, water & road transport), health care or mounting unemployment that she raised in her pre-poll rhetorics to catch votes, but flawless preparation for the Simhastha (Kumbh mela), a religious function of the Hindus, scheduled to be held in the city of Ujjain. Her next move was to declare the cities of Ujjain, Maheswar and Amar Kantak as "holi cities" where consumption of all kinds of non-vegetarian food including egg has been banned. She also announced that power would be supplied free of cost to Akhras (Hindu religious centres) in Ujjain during Kumbh mela. One would recall that alarming shortage of electricity as well as rampant corruption in power supply have been plunging the state for quite sometime and the BJP made full use of this to discredit the erstwhile Congress government. Lavish expenditure out of public exchequer has been approved for patronizing such a religious ceremony of a particular community. Even this generosity is not for all citizens of Ujjain. The areas inhabited by the minority communities who constitute 20% of the population, have been kept out of the purview of this extravagant spending. Apart from disdainfully trampling the principle of secularism and indulging in the crime of preaching fundamentalism, it is inconceivable as to how could citizens of one particular city in a democratic country could be discriminated against on communal lines for distribution of benefits doled out of public money.

The next priority Uma Bharati assigned to was complete ban on cow slaughter. Even storing beef at home is declared a cognizable offence that might entail imprisonment for three years or a fine of Rs.10,000/- or both — something the civilized society could ever dream of. Uma is well aware that this is a very sensitive issue and there have been several riots and fratricidal bloodbaths over it. Even British rulers had used this

in waging a divide among the soldiers of Sepoy Mutiny on religious lines. Yet she deliberately did it to keep the atmosphere surcharged with tension and widen the gap between the two communities so that she and her party could pull the levers as and when necessary to buttress their petty party interest and power greed.

The BJP leaders are also aware that such steps to foment revivalist, obscurantist, Hindutva thoughts and encouraged minority bashing would raise questions about her utter neglect of developmental works. To preempt any such doubts being expressed immediately, Arun Jaitley, who is among the chief spokesmen and policy makers of the BJP top brass, remarked on the day preceding the coronation ceremony of Uma Bharati, "apart from Hindutva related issues, ... governance issue would also be identified with Bharatiya Janata Party after the people's victory in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh assembly polls." And to honour such "identification" Uma Bharati held a meeting with the RSS leaders to chart out the modalities of a close coordinated functioning of her government and the RSS. In order to prove that an appropriate mechanism has been found out, Anil Dave, RSS leader of the state, was made chief adviser to the chief minister and conferred the status of a cabinet minister. It was obvious that Dave would be the extra-constitutional power centre and very soon the whole state administration would be recast to include the Dave's nominees and appointees. This no doubt is a significant 'development' and perhaps Arun Jaitly referred to this only.

With the initial phase of saffronisation of both the cabinet and the secretariat of the government being over, next cleansing operation has been in the field of art, culture and academy. Uma Bharati government has taken administrative steps against two officers of Bharat Bhavan for exhibiting some anti-RSS literature in a fare. What remains inexplicable as to how could sale of some books whose content is disapproved by some BJP ministers be a punishable offence in a democratic state. Similarly, the government has asked the celebrated dramatist and theatre personality Habib Tanvir to vacate his government bungalow without

showing any reason. Perhaps Tanvir's ideological disposition which runs counter to RSS philosophy is costing him his place of residence. Two local magazines Samyantar and Sadhabna having leaning towards Naxalite ideology have also been banned. A hospital named after late litterateur Siv Mongal Sing and constructed during the previous Congress rule has been renamed after late Kushabhau Thakre, the former BJP chief and an RSS leader. Are these not rumblings of cultural fascism which throttles the voice of opposition and regiments the thought process to destroy the very process of man making? And lest there should be protest and resistance against such moves of cultural censorship and forcible conversion to Parivar doctrine, Uma Bharati, in utter disregard to popular opinion and sharp contrast to the 16 other states of the country, introduced draconian Pota Act (Prevention of Terrorist Activities Act) to terrorize the voice of dissent.

Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh — traversing same path

Such "developments" are not the exclusive preserve of Uma Bharati government only. Her counterparts in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh are equally active in carrying out the Sangh Parivar ideology with due expediency. At the instance of Bajrang Dal, repressive measures on stage actor Bhanumati and painter Saila Koel have been intensified by the Vasundhara Raje led BJP government of Rajasthan. Reports of such actions are pouring in from Chhattisgarh as well. In both these states, saffronisation of the state government and making it subservient to the dictates of RSS are in full swing.

Gujarat — bearing the brunt

How grave could be the consequences of such outright anti-people communal measures of the BJP rulers could well be envisaged from what is happening in BJP led Gujarat today. Following the worst programs and unabated spewing of communal venom by Narendra Modi and his henchmen, Gujarat has now turned out to be a nightmare for the minority people who are subjected to inhuman treatment and contempt. There is practically an economic embargo on these people who are

denied the right to work in organizations owned by the majority community people. Their children are refused admission or even continuation in good schools. There is virtually a social boycott of them insofar as availability of civic and other facilities are concerned. None of the culprits of worst carnages and organized violence on the minorities has been punished so far. Rather, they move around freely, openly threaten the victims of and witnesses to the dastardly acts, and continue to indulge in all sorts of anti-social activities under direct patronisation and protection of Modi and RSS. Even the Supreme Court judges are pleading helplessness in bringing them to book. In the capital of Gujarat the two communities are practically living separately on either side of the wall diving the old city and the new. The divide is now inculcated in the minds of the people. Though it is the minority community who is continuously threatened of attack on their lives and livelihood by the BJP and RSS sponsored stormtroopers supported by the police administration and the government, Narendra Modi and the saffron brigade are spreading rumour among the majority community that the minorities posed danger to them. It is almost a holocaust for the minority people. It reminds one of the racial hatred perpetrated by the Hitler regime to outcast and wipe out the Jews. But surprisingly the Congress whom the sham Marxists like the CPI(M) and the CPI consider to be a trusted secular ally in fighting the BJP's communalism has been acquiescing in these moves of the BJP governments despite being the principal opposition party. It can not but do so as both the Congress and the BJP are birds of the same feather and as trusted representatives of the ruling bourgeoisie engaged in the vile game of creating division among the toiling people on caste, creed, religion and such other things.

Now Advani, the number two leader of the BJP, is on another yatra to propagate the message of 'India shining' under their rule and how brighter would be the shine if they get another term after the ensuing parliamentary elections. Once again, he, in typical BJP style of pre-poll deception, is espousing the cause of development and feigns to have given up the communal card. This can not but cause serious concern to the well-meaning democratic minded people who could well visualize what "way of life" the

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Call of All India Anti-Imperialist Forum Observe 20th March as Anti-US Imperialism Day

The freedom struggle of the patriotic people of Iraq is gaining momentum everyday against the US-UK imperialist colonial occupation of their soil. Everyone knows, the Bush-Blair duo launched a most savage military aggression over trumped-up charges to occupy Iraq to take control of its rich oil reserve, cheap labour and market from their imperialist design. They violated international law and norms not only to land forces in Iraq, they aggressively persisted in the same while they captured its head of the state, President Saddam Hussain, and kept large numbers of people in virtual concentration camps. Now they are conspiring to foist a dictated constitution on the Iraqi people and put up a show of elections to legitimize a puppet

regime from behind which to maintain their full control. US imperialism has asserted its self-arrogated right to attack any country and topple any regime it considers hostile to its interests.

The people of this land have condemned this crime on the Iraqi people, on humanity in general, while the BJP-led India Government has sought to get further closer to US imperialism to win support to Indian monopoly capitalism's regional hegemony in exchange for its support to US imperialism's expansion of global hegemony. All other parliamentary parties, regardless of political hues, have objectively sided with this interest, except that they chose respective parliamentary gimmicks to dupe their electorates.

Cautioning against this, particularly the US imperialist menace, the Calcutta Declaration, 2003 of the All India Anti-Imperialist Convention of November 2003, under the aegis of the All India Anti-Imperialist Forum, called upon all democratic and progressive forces to observe 20th March, the day US-UK forces launched attack on Iraq, as Anti-US Imperialism Day every year, not only to demand immediate withdrawal of US imperialist forces from Iraq, but also to mobilize world public opinion against the US hegemonism and overlordism which is threatening everyday through its naked interferences in the internal affairs of different countries, their national independence and sovereignty. Anti-imperialist

organizations and people in general in many countries over the world are going ahead with plans to hold massive demonstrations against US imperialism on 20th March this year.

We call upon democratic minded, justice seeking and peace loving people of all walks in this country to unite on this purpose and observe the coming 20th March by holding rallies, processions, meetings to protest against particularly US imperialist machinations, aggressions and occupation of Iraq and express solidarity with the freedom fighting Iraqi and Palestinian people.

The people of India and the All India Anti-Imperialist Forum hail the heroic freedom struggle of Iraq and Palestine.

Resist black education policy

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Both the Congress government at the Centre and the various state governments began to make this design effective in bourgeois interest. But pressure of democratic movement in general and the protest movements of the teachers and students in particular, restrained the bourgeois governments from implementing the nefarious plan with the expediency that they desired. Moreover, it was possible for the education-loving people to thwart by pressure of movement some of the initiatives towards curtailment of education.

Role of Congress and CPI(M)-CPI

But where the sham Marxists like the CPI(M) and the CPI in pursuance of reformist oppositional politics, abandoned even the limited participation they used to have in reformist democratic movement, in order to appease the class and share power, there was a change in the political climate. The ruling class took full advantage of the situation and vigorously pursued its anti-people education policy. Rajiv Gandhi government in 1986 mooted the New Education Policy (NEP-86) where the vile move to curtail education almost reached its zenith. It was also audaciously declared in the document captioned 'Challenge of Education', a policy perspective,

which preceded introduction of NEP, that the government would not bear the burden of education above the elementary level. Those who would go in for higher education would have to bear the cost themselves. NEP-86 paved the way for converting the realm of education into a sector of commercial activity where the monopolists, big corporates and transnational corporations would find investment of capital a lucrative proposition for earning super profit.

This policy thus completely reversed the course to spell disaster. Proliferation of purely profit oriented institutions as a viable recognized system of education started on a large scale.

It is pertinent to note in this connection that the attack is not on higher education alone. In fact, the entire education system is now a target for complete negation. The government and its mouthpieces are rending the air with the slogan of universalization of primary education. But in practice the elementary level learning is also being squeezed. It is the common experience of the people that there is paucity of schools, adequate number of teachers, infrastructural support and minimum amenities. In a word, there is no climate for education at the grass-roots level. Over and above that, there is adoption of World Bank sponsored District Primary

Education Programme (DPEP), the essential part of which is non-formal education that would ultimately be run by the Panchayats. With the wretched condition of the government aided schools, one could well imagine what this non-formal education would ultimately lead to and of course, there would be parallel formal education in place accessible to only the wealthy segment of the society. Already, there is widespread protests and resentment against the DPEP wherever it has been implemented.

Obviously, such commercialization of education, curtailment of scope of education and subversion of the learning process cannot take place unless the autonomy of the academia is robbed. So, under the aegis of the bourgeois governments there has been steady erosion of autonomy. And now the proposed model Act wedges the final nail in the coffin.

As we have shown, it was the Congress Party which as the most trusted representative of the ruling

bourgeoisie took the main initiative of curtailment of education and extrication of autonomy. All other bourgeois governments followed the trail. But with the ascendancy of the BJP to power implementation of the policy of ruining education has gained tremendous momentum. Alongside, serving the class interest of the bourgeoisie, the BJP has its own agenda of saffronization of education through invocation of backward, obscurantist, revivalist content and thus retrograde the mental process to castrate the learning system of its essence.

Pernicious consequence of the proposed Model Act needs to be understood in this backdrop and accordingly a strong sustained resistance movement has to be developed against such a devastating attack. History behoves the teachers, students, educationists, intellectuals and academicians to rise up to the occasion and join the course of movement. The right to education cannot be surrendered nor can it be bartered away at any cost.

The Real Face of BJP's 'Good Governance'

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Indian citizens would be compelled to succumb to if the BJP manages to secure another tenure through manipulation and hoodwinking and pursue the "developments" on the line of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh on a wide scale and

with yet more punch and pungency. The people ought to be alert of this dangerous portent well in time and ensure that this arch communal enemy of the people do get defeated both ideologically as well as politically and culturally in each and every sphere.

Against Policies of Globalisation

SUCI March to Secretariat in Kerala

Kerala State Committee of our party organized two-month long campaign throughout the state demanding withdrawal of policies of globalisation followed by both the central NDA government and the state UDF government. This culminated in a huge march to secretariat in Thiruvananthapuram on 8th March.

The Secretariat March had a specific thrust against "Modernising Government Programme" (MGP) undertaken by Anthony government with all vigour and being implemented in high speed. MGP is nothing but a drastic and all out restructuring programme in accordance with the prescriptions of World Bank and Asian Development Bank. The government has taken huge loans from them accepting stringent conditions in conformity with overall globalisation schemes.

The immediate effects are total withdrawal of the government from all social welfare activities and privatisation of the entire social service sector. MGP sought to drastically reduce the number of government employees. In the public health sector the programme is aiming at privatising all the health services and in water sector, converting water both potable and for irrigation a commodity in the open market. It is a programme to

facilitate privatization of public sector institutions. More than 1000 government schools are recommended for closure and retrenchment of the teachers there of.

These are all in line with Globalisation dictums coming as prescriptions of World Bank and

adequate fees charged".

The shocking fact is that for availing loans from the above financial agencies it was the previous CPI(M)-led LDF government under E.K.Nayanar which signed a "concept paper" wherein all the above "concepts" are



Comrade C. K. Lukose addressing the rally. Comrade A. Jalaluddin, V. Venugopal, K. P. Kosalaramadas, Dr. D. Surendranath scene

ADB that "Government instead of being a provider of all kinds of amenities to the people should change its role to become real facilitator of private capital which is the engine of development" and also that "all services rendered by the government should be cost effective and no services should go without

explicitly laid down by the Banks. Then under the chairmanship of Chief Minister E. K Nayanar, Kerala Administrative Reforms Committee was formed. Actually the recommendations of this committee is the "platform used as the springboard" of MGP as explained in government documents.

SUCI had called for a movement demanding immediate stoppage of MGP and a thorough campaign was going on throughout the State.

The secretariat March was led by Comrade C.K.Lukose, the State Secretary of the party, Comrade A. Jalaludheen and Comrade V. Venugopal, both secretariat members and other state leaders. A well-decorated march starting from East Fort covering main road of the city ended in front of the main gate of the Secretariat where thousands of marchers and public converged. The meeting in front of the secretariat was addressed by Comrade C. K. Lukose. Comrade Lukose said that UDF, LDF and NDA have no difference with regard to accepting globalisation policies and implementing it. Comrade Lukose showed with facts that it was the previous LDF government that had started the initial phases of the present reforms leading to MGP. He called upon people to intensify the movement and appealed them to defeat all these forces in the ensuing Lok Sabha polls who are supporting the policies of globalisation.

Comrade K P. Kosala Ramadas, veteran Trade Union leader and Dr. D. Surendranath a prominent mass leader then addressed the huge gathering. Comrade B.K.Rajagopal, Comrade Shyla K. John, State Secretary of AIMSS and Comrade Sreejith Sudhakar, State Secretary of AIDS0 also spoke.

Successful Bandh in Gulbarga

Gulbarga bandh was called jointly by several organizations including the AIDS0, AIDYO, and AISF, against inhuman lathicharge on innocent students, who were earlier holding a demonstration at Jeenargi, taluk of Gulbarga district of Karnataka state against several problems of students related with their college and hostels. The bandh was declared to protest against anti-people and anti-student attitude of the police and administration. Not only did students of different colleges boycotted classes, but common people too, extended their support, as revealed through closure of shops and other commercial establishments in the district.

Members of the All India Democratic Students Organization staged a protest on Tuesday, 24th February '04, in the Gulbarga

University campus, demanding that the university withdraws the semester system introduced for undergraduate courses.

The protest was led by AIDS0 district President Ghouse Patel, Secretary, Manjunth G. P. among others.



Comrade Ghouse Patel addressing the Students on Gulbarga Bandh Day

Bihar 50th anniversary of AIDS0

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of AIDS0, a seminar was organized by the Patna District Committee of the AIDS0 on 25 February '04, on the present-day educational situation and our

responsibility, at Patna College. Bihar State Secretary of the AIDS0, Deepak Kumar spoke on the occasion.

Martyrdom of Chandrasekhar Azad observed

On 27th February 2004, the occasion of immortal martyrdom of Chandrasekhar Azad was observed by the AIDS0. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Jangbahadur Duigh, member, SUCI, Pachaina Bazar Committee, Bhojpur. Among the speakers were Comrade Sashikant Sharma and Comrade Dharmatma Sharma, members, SUCI district committee, and ward member of Pachaina bazar Ramkisan Vyas as well as Sudhir Singh and Suryakant Jeetendra, member, State Committee of AIDS0.

'Regime Change' in Haiti

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he declined to leave his people, to resign, to subvert Haitian democracy and to get reduced to the role of a bootlicker of US imperialism. His thunderous victory in 1990 was following a mass movement that swept all the debris of left over from decades of foreign interference and US backed Duvalierist terror. Despite a 1991 military coup to oust him that cost over 5000 lives and all sorts of CIA skulduggery, popular support for Aristide remained strong which was also testified in his winning the 2000 elections as well. Failing to bully him to submission, the US government imposed economic sanction on Haiti. A loan of 500 million US dollars was frozen in 1994. But Haiti government has to pay interest on that. An aid embargo was imposed in 2001, humanitarian aids were cut off, basic humanitarian services related to

open political and financial support to the big business led political groups opposed to President Aristide. Failing to wedge a divide among Haitian people, the US rulers unleashed armed contras, gangs of former soldiers and known death squads leaders guilty of mass massacres and mayhem. These armed gangs slowly started encircling the main cities through violent assaults. CIA was accused of collaborating with the armed assassins and coup makers many of whom were found wearing dresses made of US flags. Though Aristide and his Lavalas Party won 2000 elections which was confirmed by all, the US regime branded this election as "fraudulent".

This is how the US rulers were preparing grounds to overthrow a democratically elected government which refused to be compliant with the corporate globalization interest. Ultimately, when they found

of the Organization of American States (OAS) that the US would re-evaluate its role in Haiti if Aristide government did not conform to OAS resolutions about organizing fresh elections. This was also a first warning to all Latin American countries to follow the US policy on Haiti. This same Powell last year sought to rally the support of the OAS countries on an US proposal to attack Cuba and "give the urban people an opportunity to elect a leader of their choice" and establish a democratic system. OAS was formed at the initiative of the US during the period of cold war to arrest spread of communism in Latin America. Cuba was expelled from OAS after success of socialist revolution there. Subsequently, in seventies, Venezuela, Brazil, Bolivia and Equador have severed their relationships with the OAS. They could understand that OAS is an instrument for furthering the hegemonic aspiration of US imperialists. Already, there are slogans in Latin America "No to OAS", "Scrap imperialist tool OAS." President Sanchez of Venezuela, President Lula of Brazil and many other anti-imperialist as well as left democratic leaders have now joined hands to raise voice against the US imperialist policies of aggression, occupation and neo-

colonial oppression. It may be mentioned that in April, 2002, US supported coup against Hugo Chavez, Venezuelan Head of State, backfired as hundreds of thousands of Venezuelan people encircled the US sponsored usurpers of power and forced them out. US rulers and their friends have now abandoned any pretension that they respect democracy and popular will. That is why, they so shamelessly bare their military prowess to occupy a tiny weak state like Haiti.

The US action has set off a fire storm of protest throughout the world. Even the US citizens are highly vocal and opposed to such belligerent acts. Ramsay Clark, former US attorney general and a leading human rights activist, while condemning the Bush administration policy of unilateral wars of aggression, violations of international laws and "armed aggression" in Haiti said "Western hemisphere cannot be a safe or happy place until US military and economic intervention and regime change end, justice for all is assured, reparations for past offences to Haiti are paid and until President Aristide returns to Haiti to serve his people." It is incumbent on every peace-loving, well-meaning democratic minded people to come forward and build up strong anti-imperialist movements to put up a stiff resistance to imperialist aggressors headed by US imperialism.



Haitians protesting against US invasion in New York

water, housing and medicare were undermined. The people of Haiti, have been kept in wrenching poverty. They are semi-starved, made to sleep in shifts and walk several miles to fetch drinking water. The child mortality rate is over 10%. US Attorney General Ashcroft made a statement that Haitian refugees in US pose a "national threat" to US. Yet the Haitian people refused to budge. So the Pentagon rulers with the backing of European Union particularly French imperialists, started financing and patronizing all reactionary forces to engineer an uprising against the popularly elected constitutionally formed government. Semi-official groups like National Endowment for democracy and the International Republic Institute have been giving

Aristide was adamant, they kidnapped him through military intervention and installed their stooges in power. In a shameless display of hypocrisy, the US embassy in Haiti, a day before the abduction, branded the Haitian people trying to resist the heavily armed contras by putting up barricade fights as "thugs" and had the gall to demand of Aristide, who did not have an army, to "stop the violence". At the same hour, Pentagon alongwith its French imperialist friends were abetting a conspiracy to overthrow the Haitian government and install a puppet regime there.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell, whose shameless defence of US war crime in Iraq has been denounced and condemned all over the world, warned in a conference

Successful AIDSO, AIDYO movement against fees hike in Karnataka

A state-wide protest demonstration was organized in Bangalore by AIDSO and AIDYO, Karnataka, on 23rd February, 2004, against fee-hike and examination fees hike for ITI students in front of Directorate of Employment and Training, where 3000 students from around 15 districts of Karnataka had gathered. Among those who addressed the students participating in the demonstration were Dr. B.R. Manjunath, President AIDYO, Smt. K. Uma, Secretary, Save Education Committee, Sri M.N. Sriram, President AIDSO, Dr. H. G.

Jayalakshmi, General Secretary, AIMSS, all India Committee.

The Joint Director, Directorate of Employment and Training who had come to the demonstration to listen to the grievances of the students announced that the order to collect new fees will be suspended, old examination fees will be maintained and the excess amount already collected from students will be refunded.

Later, Labour Minister, Qamarul Islam spoke to the reporters to say that the hike in the fee for students of ITI's has been revoked.

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee improving

Our beloved General Secretary Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, his health condition having improved to a certain extent, was discharged from the hospital on the 5th of March, 2004. He is recuperating at the Salt Lake Commune, Calcutta, and his condition is yet to become normal.

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