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Protesting against police brutality in Singur

West Bengal observes total strike at the call of SUCI

It was spontaneous and overwhelming. The people of West Bengal true to their glorious tradition of standing up against any assault on humanity, injustice, barbarism, despotism wholeheartedly responded when our party gave a call of 24-hour general strike in West Bengal on 5th

December to protest against one of the worst police savageries that raved wild on the poor peasants and villagers in Singur, a fertile rural belt in the agglomerate of Calcutta, on 2nd of December.

Blood-curdled Singur

It may be recalled that the

CPI(M)-led West Bengal government creating a smokescreen of industrialization — a hoax that we exposed in a couple of articles in the issues of Proletarian Era dated 15th September and 1st December, 2006—decided to acquire 1,000 acres of multi-crop agricultural land in Singur by evicting the poor peasants, sharecroppers and agricultural labourers making a living out of it and hand over to the Tatas who reportedly preferred this particular plot for setting up a modern automobile plant. The affected villagers decided to resist this forcible acquisition and our party activists immediately took upon themselves the imperative task of organizing the peasant masses in various people's committees and volunteer brigades to unleash an united protracted struggle to foil the conspiracy of the government. At the initiative of our local party unit, many such struggle committees were formed. Sensing public mood,

activists of other political parties including the local Trinamool Congress (TMC) MLA as well as aggrieved workers of the ruling parties joined these committees. While the fighting villagers refusing all carrots of monetary compensation and braving all threats and intimidation by police and ruling party goons tried all available democratic means to make the government listen to their genuine grievance and abandon the perilous move to extinguish such rich fertile land for namesake of industrialization, CPI(M) government's has all through been an attitude of autocratic arrogance and utter disdain towards the legitimate voice of the toiling people. So committed and subservient has been the ruling party and its government to the class-interest of the Tatas, that it ultimately decided to let its armed police and hoodlums go berserk and

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B.B.D. Bag, the main office centre of Calcutta, on 5th during the office hours

Dangerous portent of US-connived arms build up of Germany and Japan

Fast developing arms build up and militarization in Germany and Japan, have become a matter of serious concern to the well-meaning people of the world. People's memory is still alive with the horrors and devastations of the two world wars, more so the second world war, which were perpetrated by none other than these two capitalist-imperialist countries, with Italy as the third in their combination of the Axis power. Thus peace-loving people can hardly hold them back from shuddering at the thoughts of these two imperialist countries once again teething themselves with lethal arms

and arsenals. They cannot forget that they were the key factors that ignited the pyre of humanity in the two world wars, though one may wonder, what made them take such moves that could have and actually proved to be self-annihilating.

As capitalism developed and consolidated in different major capitalist countries, giving rise to monopoly and then to imperialism there, being based on exploitation of labour power of their respective toiling masses leading to their more and more impoverishment, it also gave birth to increasing acute crisis of internal market. This compelled those capitalist-imperialist countries

to seek for external market and in course of that vie with each other for domination over the global market through grabbing of colonies and semi-colonies. The more this crisis aggravated, the sharper and bitter became the competition and conflict among the imperialist countries themselves, ultimately leading to war for domination and power. It was their compulsion; it was their inevitable end.

Imperialist war to avert crisis only aggravated it

Here we must recall the invaluable thesis of Lenin, the great proletarian leader. Based on his

unique and threadbare Marxist analysis, he had concluded, before the world witnessed it in reality, that imperialism was not only the highest stage of capitalism, it was the most decadent and crisis-ridden too. The acute market crisis, it bogged into, lead it inevitably to generate war for domination and power. Now, it was only a matter of time to prove how precisely correct Lenin was in his analysis. The tremendous economic crisis and recession forced the imperialist countries to hold each other at their throats in the first world war. As Germany was vanquished, the other

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Singur is fighting the battle for the whole country

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snatch the land shedding blood of the innocent peasants and poor villagers.

A massive contingent of armed police personnel numbering over 16,000 alongwith several battalions of RAF gathered at the spot on the fateful morning of 2nd December to protect 'law and order' of the Tatas that the state government apprehended would be violated by the 'outlaws' comprising rural poor and have-nots under notice to relinquish their legitimate claim over the piece of land they survive on and perish in the abyss of despair and destitution. Backed by this armed force, the government officials proceeded to initiate the job of fencing the earmarked land. When the peasants including women protested, the police pounced upon them in display of ravenous monstrosity. Apart from severe lathicharge, the police also indiscriminately fired tear gas shells and rubber bullets causing grievous injuries to many including women and children. Uttering filthy language, the police torched every house in the village, dragged the people out and mercilessly beat them. Women were not spared. They were pulled by their hair, thrown on the floor, kicked, punched and pounded with baton. Their clothes were torn, modesty outraged. Even an 80-plus lady was not let off. A 9-year old girl was repeatedly struck on her eyes. Paddy and other harvests were destroyed. Crop storehouses were set on fire. Live footage of this diabolic police action was beamed across the country by all TV channels. And the media covering the ground reality had to admit that it was our party which has been organizing the resistance movement of the poor villagers.

After carrying out the operation with ruthless severity, the police handcuffed the victims writhing in excruciating pain with profuse bleeding and broken limbs and proudly exhibited their 'prized catches' before the camera to ensure that 'no wrong message was conveyed to the industrial barons and giant corporates' about the sincerity of the CPI(M) government in pursuit of the kind of 'industrialization' they have schemed to aggrandize themselves at the cost of the toiling people. Our local leader Comrade Chaitali Bhattacharyya alongwith others

were arrested and till now under custody. It was so horrifying a spectacle and so ghastly an act that even the bourgeois media particularly the electronic media could not but cover the incident branding it barbarism on the part of the custodians of law and order. Everyone burst into protest which found expression in his or her wholehearted support to the strike we called on 5th December.

Significant success of the Strike

Despite the fact that the call was given barely at a day's notice and there had been two strikes earlier in the immediate past, the strike was a total success braving all threats, intimidation and terror on the part of the CPI(M) and its government as well as incessant anti-bandh campaign in the bourgeois media. There was no work in the high court. All district courts remained non-functioning. Offices, markets, weekly wholesale garment market shops, schools, and colleges were closed. The ruling party compelled some of its followers to come to office and sign the muster. But they did not work. There was enthusiastic response in the industrial belts as well. Compared to other days, the state government plied more number of trams and buses. Its friendly government at the centre kept the rail service operative. But there was hardly any passenger. Thus to break the strike, the government wasted crores of rupees from public exchequer. After 11 A.M., the government withdrew most of the transport from Calcutta roads. But a sizeable section of the media joined the chorus in propagating that the strike was a 'partial success', 'a flop', 'did not receive public response' etc. When the major TV channels were busy narrating the flop story, the footage on display showed that all shops had the shutters down, roads were deserted, and trams-buses-trains were running empty. Similarly, while the headlines in the print media on the following day talked otherwise, the truth could not remain obfuscated either palpably in the lines or subtly between the lines in the coverage that followed. The police and the CPI(M) storm troopers led murderous attack on our workers when they were peacefully campaigning in support of the Singur movement. In Bolpur (the

city of Shantiniketan), even an SDO did not hesitate to take the 'law' in his hand and in full media glare mercilessly beat one of our party activists. Yet, the ruling party and its servitors could not scare the striking people from expressing their solidarity with the fighting Singur peasants and hatred towards the CPI(M) government by extending full support to the strike call.

While congratulating the people for coming out so spontaneously in making the strike a grand, Com. Provash Ghosh, State Secretary of the party said: this aptly showed that the capitalist class and their representatives – earlier the Congress and now the CPI(M) governments – have not succeeded in completely destroying the struggling heritage of the people of Bengal. The peoples' conscience and humanity are still alive, the spirit of protest has not died down.

Singur is now a forbidden territory

The situation of Singur is now extremely tense. There is no trace of many who were arrested. The relatives of those missing fear that they are dead. Apprehending torture and arrest, male members of many villagers are absconding. The macabre tale of the feral ferocity of the police operation bristles on the battered face of the children, broken limbs of the males, shock and awe of the molested women, oozing fear in the eyes of the elders. As the dusk drops its shades of darkness on the villages today, a spectre of horror haunts everyone. Flummoxed and dumbfounded, this hapless group of rural poor wonders what crime they have committed by not agreeing to hand over their cultivable land to the government that they have been subjected to such inhuman torture as if they are criminals or slaves. What had been the propriety of the government calling itself democratic or civilized to mete out such gruesome treatment to them?

Not only blood-curdled, Singur is now virtually under seize. To make things worst, the police have now cordoned off the whole area. No one is allowed to move inside, not even the media. Under the protection of several thousand armed policemen, the government officials alongwith some CPI(M) cadres are now busy completing their mission of encircling the earmarked fertile multi-crop land

with fences for 'smooth handing over to the Tatas'. The reporters who tried to force entry into the 'forbidden area' were treated equally brutally by the police. Many of them have been hospitalized. Obviously the question is raised that if everything is so hunky dory for the government, what is the necessity of such swallowed suspense or secrecy? Why the people of the country are denied their democratic right to freely to go to Singur and see for themselves the actual state of affairs? Even Medha Patkar, eminent social activist and leader of *Narmada Bachao Andolan* (Movement for saving Narmada) was prevented from entering Singur after the gory parade on 2nd December. She was physically assaulted and taken into custody. Smt. Patkar, who earlier visited the spot, took part in the mass audience conducted by the local peasants and had a feel of the movement, was effusive in appreciating the role of our party in organizing the struggle and mentioned that in all her press conferences, public meets and other discussions.

Country burst in protest

One to all including many eminent intellectuals, artists, litterateurs, educationists, distinguished citizens and honest rank of the Left Front constituents vented their ire and indignation against such brazen flouting of democratic rights and naked indulgence in dastardly acts by the CPI(M) government. Many of those hitherto endorsing the line of the CPI(M) despite all its wrongdoings in the past could also not remain silent and wondered how the CPI(M) could still call itself 'left'. In a statement issued by eminent persons like Justice VR Krishna Iyer, former Judge, Supreme Court, Prof Rajni Kothari, former Member, Planning Commission), Aruna Roy, former Member, National Advisory Council, UPA Government, Prof Muchkund Dubey, former Foreign Secretary and D Bandyopadhyay, former Commissioner, Land Reforms, West Bengal have, inter alia said that: "It is strange that the West Bengal Government, run by the Left Front for almost 30 years, is kowtowing to the Tatas' obduracy and using force against the common people to propitiate big business....It is time the State

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General Strike on December 14

Working people observe it countrywide : feel need to develop sustained movement

At the call of the Sponsoring Committee of trade unions comprising 7 central trade unions including, among others, UTUC-LS, CITU, AITUC, AICCTU, HMS, TUCC, UTUC, and supported by the National Platform of Mass Organizations of different employees federations of workers and employees of the organised and unorganised sectors observed general strike throughout the country on 14th December last on 16-point charter of demands which included, inter alia, removal of ban on recruitment and stopping downsizing of workforce, stopping contractorisation and outsourcing of jobs, privatisation and disinvestment of even profit-making PSUs; implementation of all labour laws, statutory minimum wages, equal wages for equal work, maternity benefits to all females workers and employees, withdrawal of Banking Regulation Act, review of National Electricity Policy 2005 and Electricity Act 2003, immediate measure to ensure right to strike for workers and employees including government employees; annulment of drastic cut in interest rate on all PFs and small savings; immediate introduction of comprehensive legislation for unorganised sector workers incorporating suggestions of the trade unions and simultaneously bringing in separate legislation for agricultural workers and last but not the least taking firm and swift measures to check price rise and strengthening PDS etc. The demands are nothing new as all the attacks relating to the same on toiling people's life have been continuously coming down with ever greater ferocity since the advent of capitalist imperialist liberalisation-privatisation-globalisation programme introduced by the ruling class and implemented by all the governments at the Centre including the last BJP-led NDA and the present Congress-led and CPI(M) backed UPA governments. The UPA government pledged to the electorate and formed the government thereupon, to ameliorate their sufferings and do justice to them. But assuming office for the past two years, it has again and again come out with its

rabid subservience to the capitalists and has been equally persisting with the neo-liberal economic agenda of the erstwhile NDA government.

On this backdrop, the strike was observed successfully by the working people throughout the length and breadth of the country in face of and circumventing all odds and difficulties. It reflected their firm resolve to effectively resist the attack on their life and livelihood. But it was also obvious that a token strike for a day did not suffice for thwarting the attack, as it can be judged from the adamant attitude of the government persistently refusing to concede to the vital legitimate demands of common people. The situation undeniably demands of the toiling masses of the country to develop and conduct a countrywide sustained well-organized movement imbued with clear perspective and determination. Right-thinking persons with concern for well-being of common toiling people cannot but feel this necessity; at the same time they are tormented by a series of vital questions particularly in face of realizing this dire necessity of a protracted movement.

The first thing that plagues them is that not only the government persistently refuses to accept working people's legitimate demands; with all venom and making use of all the means at hand, the media, the administration and the like, it has been unleashing an orchestrated barrage of slanderous campaign against strike and 'bandhs', rather movement in general, branding them as useless and harmful to the workers' interest. This is meant not just to develop anti-movement mentality among the fighting people and thus dissuade them from movement. It is also directed to set up an anti-movement ambience within the society at large. Undeniably, the slander could confuse and vitiate the mass mind and stood as a stumbling block to the preparation of any prolonged movement. This was true also before the present strike on December 14 last. However, and the question lay particularly here, did the leadership, the Sponsoring Committee in which CITU, AITUC were at the drivers' seat, take any

pain to combat effectively this vicious propaganda from the reaction and establish to the fighting masses the legitimacy and necessity of movement as the only means for their survival? They had rightly decided upon this strike long ahead and thus had enough time for a massive campaign to develop at the grass root level. Did the major forces of the movement take adequate and proper initiative to make people conscious of this truth that the one-day strike is going to be just the beginning of a long arduous movement? On the contrary, they seemed to be rather escapist in their attitude in confronting this vital issue. The rulers naturally took advantage to step up their vile efforts. People wondered what could be the factors, the reasons of this lukewarm approach of the leadership of the movement towards sustained movement. Did it lie in the fact that it was because their parent organizations, the big left political parties, CPI(M)- CPI, which were in the government in states like West Bengal and Tripura, were themselves implementing the same policies of globalization-liberalization-privatization, to the fullest benefit of the Indian capitalists and foreign imperialists as well? Was it for the fact that to make this implementation smooth and hassle-free they themselves had deserted the path of struggle there and, overt or covert, were busy in fostering the anti-movement mentality in those states with a view

to maintaining their grip on power? Not only that, in those states where they enjoy the privilege of power, they are bringing down ruthless attack on democratic movements of workers, peasants and other sections of the toiling masses, perfectly matching with the rulers in other states of the country. Does not all this contribute largely to buckling the moral backbone of movement and the working people engaged in that, howsoever fiery may be the jargons used by the leadership to vouch for their authority?

Serious-thinking people also could not but fail to note that the same CPI(M) and CPI were the forces that provided crucial support to the UPA government for it to remain in power. They wondered if these parties did take every effort to exert effective pressure on the government so as to force them accept the legitimate demands of the people. Rather their attitude towards the government could give a handle to the vested interest to raise questions about the sincerity and ethics of the movement, particularly of those at the helm.

Notwithstanding all these shortcomings, the organized sustained movement, countrywide and covering every aspect of social life, is the crying need of the hour. It cannot be built up without organizing the entire toiling people, step-by-step, firmly and resolutely upon lofty morals and ethics of fighting people, ready to face the thousand hazards for the cause of

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UTUC-LS congratulates working people for successful General Strike

In a statement on December 14, Comrade Sankar Saha, General Secretary, All India Committee, UTUC-LS, congratulated the working people of India for actively participating in the countrywide General Strike called by the Sponsoring Committee of seven Central Trade Unions on a 16-point Charter of Demands. He further stated that the working people understood that the present UPA government surviving on the support of the Left were pursuing the anti-labour policies as was pursued by the predecessor NDA government and one day General Strike was not sufficient to reverse their policies. He therefore urged upon the working people to forge unity for prolonged and protracted movement to achieve the demands. He also opined that the most important demand of providing constitutional right to employment hitherto dropped by the Sponsoring Committee must be added to the Agenda alongwith the demand for scrapping the new pension scheme for government employees.

What 'secret' CPI(M) keeps up in the sleeves in the Singur deal ?

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Government and the Left parties in power in West Bengal reversed their policy in this regard and made it clear that industry cannot be developed in the State by large scale displacement of common people, especially the poor farmers and agriculturists." Murmurs are also noticed among the other partners of the state government whose leaders are finding it too tall a task to handle the questions being raised by their ranks. But the CPI(M) leaders who are now trying to elude the Congress or the BJP in serving the class interest of the bourgeoisie for pelf and power have not even a shade of retribution for mauling the poor peasants with such a vengeance. Like Narendra Modi of Gujarat, Bhupinder Singh Huda of Haryana or Naveen Pattanaik of Orissa, Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, the CPI(M) chief minister defended such a demonic act on the part of the police and floated the same story of police having retaliated after being attacked by the mob first. He has also ruled out lifting Sec.144 from the area and permitting the external world to know what is the actual state of affairs. In display of autocratic arrogance he has said that he would not allow anyone to touch even a hair of the Tatas. Such 'impeccable' has been his loyalty and servility to the monopoly houses and corporate bigwigs. But what is that the CPI(M) and its government want to hide from the countrymen? What is there under the wrap that the CPI(M) is so scared to divulge? Some of the revelations so far from various sources have of course been a touch exposing.

Truth suppressed by the CPI(M) government

The CPI(M) leaders are claiming that 90% of the peasants have wittingly surrendered their land to the government. But all other sources are disputing the claim. Though the government and the CPI(M) leaders are saying that they are in possession of all the documents, such have not been made public. On the contrary, most of the peasants are alleging that they have been coerced to relinquish their ownership of land. In a leaflet issued by the CPI(M) to 'rebut' opposition claim, it could manage the names of only 42 persons as having handed over their land out of

volition. Of course the name topping the list is one of the part's district committee members. Similarly the CPI(M) leaders are having no qualms in saying that the proposed land is not multi-crop bearing while everyone knows that Singur is one of the most fertile soils of the state. It is one of the prime irrigated areas having more than one canal and several deep tube wells. In a document released by the bloc agriculture development officer of Singur a year back, it is mentioned that 83% of Singur land is well irrigated. Land of Singur produces huge quantity of high quality rice, potato and other vegetables, jute, various garden fruits like banana, papaya and mango as well as cash crops. 15 co-operatives, 59 seed companies, 139 chemical fertilizer vending farms and 90 pesticide supplying farms cater to the need of the Singur farmers. Cropping intensity of Singur land is as high as 220%. Surely such a land can not by any stretch of imagination be called a dominantly mono-crop area. To all those who visited the area prior to it being declared a prohibited zone by the government, the local peasants had taken them round and shown how rich the soil is and how many crops are cultivated in phases throughout the year. Even the other front partners of the CPI(M) are disputing the version of their big brother. Yet the CPI(M) leaders for reasons best known to them continue to behold only mono-crop and fallow stretches in Singur.

When asked to disclose the terms of agreement with the Tatas, the CPI(M) industries minister, number two in the cabinet, said that it was not possible since those were 'trade secrets'. But a glimpse of the secret could be had when it had come to light that while the state government has been paying around Rs 140 crores to acquire this land, Tatas will reimburse only 20 crores to the government and that too after 5 years (discounted net present value is calculated around 12 crores). Not only this, there will practically be no levy of taxes. Electricity and water will be supplied at low tariff. According to a press report, the West Bengal has agreed to bear all the additional cost Tatas would have otherwise incurred had they located the unit in any other state and the total amount is envisaged around Rs 400 crores.

Thus, when so many state sector units are being closed down for want of money and the popular demand is establishment of employment-generating industries in the government sector with the public money available at the disposal of the government, the CPI(M) government is heavily subsidizing the a giant corporate like the Tatas from the public exchequer that, it often laments, is so cash-strapped as to be unable to undertake any public welfare measure or grant relief to the people.

We have already said that when thousands of industries are downing shutters, millions are thrown out of job; the creation of handful capital-intensive technology-driven sophisticated industries here and there cannot be called industrialization. To think that the proposed Tata plant, if it comes through, will breed gainful engagement to the displaced persons is nothing but seeking comfort from illusion. Experts are saying that in the globalized capitalist economy driven by 'technology boom' and fuelled by 'jobless growth', an investment of around Rs 5 to 6 crores generates one job. Going by that, even an investment of Rs 1,000 in the Tata automobile venture is not expected to breed more than 200 jobs. A noted economist in one of his recent columns has also criticized the government for arguing that since the number of mandays created by a factory is more than the number created by agriculture, extinguishing cultivable land in favour of industrial unit set up is justified. According to him, there is a difference between number of labour employed and mandays created particularly on plot-based agriculture. He wondered on what basis is the CPI(M) government giving facts and figures of expected employment concomitant to establishment of the Tata factory in Singur by ousting the peasants. (Kalyan Sanyal in Ananda Bazar Patrika dated 14-12-06)

Land is grabbed for Real Estate development

It may be added that hereinbefore industrial belts in the state like Durgapur-Asansol, Naihati-Barrackpore and the Jute mills on the bank of the Ganges were all set up on barren land. Even today, huge amount of barren and fallow land is available in the state

for establishing industrial units. Had set up of automobile plant been the sole consideration as the CPI(M) leaders and their sycophants are so desperately trying to make us believe, there is no earthly reason for the Tatas not settling at alternative plot. Even there is huge non-agricultural shallow land available in Singur itself. Moreover, requirement of so vast stretch a land for installing a modern plant producing one lakh car per annum is also under a scanner. It may be recalled way back in the fifties, Birlas were handed over 750 acres of land in the Konnagar area of the same Hoogly district for building Hind Motor factory. But such a huge plant needed only 350 acres of land. Of late, the CPI(M) government has permitted the Birlas to build residential complexes on the balance 400 acres and sell on commercial basis.

Why then are the Tatas eyeing on this very fertile land in Singur? Is it because it is adjacent to national highway and in the vicinity of Calcutta and hence most suitable for development of real estate which is what they intend under camouflage of so-called industrialization like what is happening in the other parts of the country in the name of establishing SEZs (we carried out an analytical article on this issue in the previous issue of Proletarian Era dated 01-12-06)? In most of these SEZs while a small part of the land is used for building up a few capital-intensive sophisticated industries, the huge surplus is utilized for constructing housing blocks, shopping malls, hotels, restaurants, amusement parks, night clubs, health hubs and so forth for the rich and affluent. Will it then be too unfounded to conclude that under the pretext of setting up automobile plant, Tatas have seized the opportunity to acquire such fertile huge land almost free of cost for lucrative realty business and the state government raising a bogey of industrialization is executing the order by forcibly ousting the poor farmers?

United people's resistance movement – need of the hour

It is thus clear that the CPI(M) government of West Bengal emboldened by the all-out backing of the ruling class and bourgeois media is hell-bent to go to any

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Comrade Manik Mukherjee attends Second Party Congress of Jordanian Workers' Communist Party

At the invitation of the Jordanian Workers' Communist Party (JWCP), Comrade Manik Mukherjee, Central Staff, SUCI, attended its second congress held on 30th November and 1st December in Amman. While fraternal delegates from Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Iraq and Morocco also attended, our party was the only invitee from outside the Arab world. Around 350 delegates were present in the inaugural session where all the foreign invitees as well as leaders of JWCP delivered brief speeches.

In his address in the said session, Comrade Manik Mukherjee, at the outset, conveyed on behalf of the Central Committee and Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, our beloved General Secretary, revolutionary greetings to the JWCP for organizing its second congress and wished it all success. He also expressed profuse thanks for inviting our party to its congress and hoped that JWCP after deliberating on the various policy and strategy issues in this all important congress will adopt revolutionary political line, emerge stronger to lead the revolutionary class and mass struggles in Jordan as well as add dimension to their initiative in organizing worldwide anti-imperialist movement. Comrade Mukherjee emphasized that apart from both our party and their party being immensely benefitted by way of exchange of mutual experiences, we have lot to learn from their extremely laudable and courageous struggle in the current critical situation of the Middle East. Comrade Mukherjee said that after 20th congress of the CPSU, the Khrushchevite revisionists usurped the leadership of the party and set out the process of degeneration finally leading to counter revolution in Russia and dismantling of the socialist camp. Yet, so long the socialist camp notwithstanding the weaknesses it was suffering from existed; it acted as a deterrent to imperialist intrigues and machination. But after collapse of Soviet Union and the socialist camp in early 90s, the imperialists have become unbridled in pursuance of their hegemonistic design and agenda of aggression and overlordism. The imperialists are not only vying with each other over

capture of the shrinking world capitalist market but are nakedly invading and occupying others' territory, threatening their independence and sovereignty. On the other hand, the imperialist world has unleashed a vicious propaganda that fall of socialism in Russia and other erstwhile socialist countries prove that Marxism is outdated and the workers have rejected it. Hence there is no alternative to capitalism. The imperialist shirks are trying to mislead the working people by saying that capitalism which Marx saw is no more there. Concomitant to tremendous technological advancement, there is emergence of a new capitalism, which is

movement would be a temporary phenomenon. The need of the hour was to draw appropriate lesson from the things that happened and release the process of building up revolutionary working class movement afresh with renewed vigour and on correct base political line. And while developing this movement, it has become imperative that each genuine communist party beside concentrating all attack against the ruling class of their respective countries also undertake fierce ideological and political struggle against all shades of revisionism-reformism and isolate all such forces from the working class movement.

been to launch a massive broad based anti-imperialist movement involving all such people with communists forming the core. With this objective, our party in 1995, informed Comrade Mukherjee, organized an all India anti-imperialist convention in Calcutta in which many foreign delegates also participated. From that convention was formed All India anti-Imperialist Forum (AIAIF) which since has been making all efforts to intensify this movement in the country and establish link with similar movements surging forth in other parts of the world. Comrade Mukherjee said that we have been receiving enthusiastic response from many countries and expected that not only would JWCP and other fraternal parties present there would lend their all-out help and support in steering this movement but they would take active initiative in developing this movement in the Arab world. Mutual help and co-operation, exchange of experience would enrich us all. It is in this way that we should be able to uphold the noble banner of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism and frustrate the nefarious design of imperialism-capitalism to enslave the humanity, dominate the world and run its steamroller of oppression and suppression.

Comrade Manik Mukherjee alongwith other foreign delegates also attended the first delegate session as observer. On 2nd December, Palestine solidarity day was observed under the auspices of an anti-globalization organization which JWCP workers are also actively involved in. In his brief speech there, Comrade Mukherjee expressing total solidarity with the fighting Palestine people said that the Zionist regime of Israel, the most hated enemy of all in this region is fully backed and nurtured by the US imperialists, the worst enemy of the mankind today. Hence the fight against Zionist Israeli rulers has also become interwoven with the anti-imperialist struggle of the world people.

Comrade Mukherjee also had party to party discussion with Dr. Mazen Hanna, General Secretary, JWCP as well as the leaders of all other fraternal parties who were

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*Dias in the inaugural session at Amman :
(inset) Comrade Manik Mukherjee addressing*

progressive, development-oriented, outwardly focused and humane. This imperialist propaganda and frustration at dismantling of the mighty socialist camp have been creating lot of confusions among a large section of the working people. Many of the communist parties threw away the flag of proletarian internationalism, changed the names of their parties and plunged into morass of despair and hopelessness.

But at that time, the Central Committee of our party under the leadership of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee had, based on the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, founder General Secretary of our party and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era, categorically said that Marxism is a science and there could be no obsolescence of science. So this current setback of socialism and international working class

It was at that point of time, added Comrade Mukherjee, that our party decided to take initiative to build up a broad based anti-imperialist movement in our country and try to integrate all such movements round the globe to give rise to a worldwide massive anti-imperialist movement that could help ameliorate to a great extent the sense of helplessness among the masses and prove to be a formidable deterrent to the imperialist design to escalate tension and foist war on the people. Those who in various countries were opposing imperialist aggression and desiring peace were called upon to join and strengthen this anti-imperialist movement. It is to be remembered that as Lenin taught us, it is imperialism which generates war and hence in today's world, anyone opposing war and wanting peace cannot but be anti-imperialist. So our initiative had

History amply vindicated Leninist thesis : Imperialism generates war

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major imperialist powers dreamt of peace and stability. To their utter dismay, that was not to be. The crisis of market, the economic recession never died out. Rather it aggravated fast to slide into the Great Depression of 1929, that almost shattered the economic structure of the world capitalist system and pushed the world to the brink of war. At the same time, as Lenin simultaneously envisaged, this era of imperialism was also the era of proletarian revolution. Crisis of capitalism sharpened and intensified the inherent class struggle between the capitalist class and the working class. It was out of that contradiction that Soviet Russia emerged as the first socialist country through the October Revolution in 1917, only to stand out as the beacon of emancipation to the working class of one country and another. Working class movements rose to their height in Europe, with revolutionary situation maturing in different countries. National independence struggles often with the working class in the leadership started to grow and develop in colonies and semi-colonies. But in many countries, as the representative communist parties failed to avail of this opportunity, the ruling class, the

capitalists-imperialists grabbed the advantage and established the counter-revolutionary fascism, as was to be found for example, in Germany and Italy. Rise of Hitler or Mussolini to power as strong-hand messiah with their doctrines of Nazism or fascism, was nothing but this frantic effort of the ruling capitalist class of those countries to stave off their intense economic crisis, roping in the crisis-stricken people in support of their counter-revolution, mesmerizing them with the slogans and programmes of national socialism.

Subsequent history is yet to fade out from the memories of people of the world. We may refresh it in brief. The brute Nazi German war machinery, Wehrmacht, that devastated the entire eastern Europe and the USSR in Blitzkrieg or lightning attack, with the ultimate goal of exterminating the new-born socialist state of Soviet Russia and, with that, communism itself, had to accept its ignominious defeat at the hands of none other than the heroic Soviet people, fighting virtually single-handed in the world, under the leadership of the great proletarian leader, Joseph Stalin. It must be reiterated that, on the contrary, in spite of repeated demands of the Soviet Union to open a second front to distract the

German fascists, the US-UK-France combination 'began to give thought to plans for a second front in Europe from the end of 1941,' but did not take any practical decision until June 1944, when they invaded Normandy across the Channel. In fact, since the emergence of USSR as the first socialist state, the capitalists-imperialists without exception fixed their ultimate goal in the extermination of socialism and communism. Thus even when the US, UK and other allied forces stood helpless before the fearsome advance of the Nazi forces towards east, they kept playing with the nefarious design of allowing the Nazis to crush the Soviet first, lose their own forces and strength in course of that, so as to make it easier for the so-called Allies to combat the weakened Nazi war machinery in the later phase of the war. Even as early as 11 June 1938, a British government spokesman, Sir Arnold Wilson declared in the House of Commons : 'The real danger before the world today is not the fascist Germany or Italy, but the Communist Russia.' But when the course of event went otherwise, when the heroic Soviet Army chased the Nazis and drove them out of their soil, when it helped the entire eastern European countries, devastated and enslaved by the brute

force of the Nazis to win freedom back, when the vanquished, shattered and demoralized Nazi forces retreated into their last refuge of Berlin, when it was evident that the fall of Berlin was only a matter of days and hours, when the people of entire eastern Europe and Germany itself, were eagerly waiting to greet the victorious saviours, the Soviet Army, when the land of Germany, as well other Axis Powers was in total disarray and confusion and when the stage was all set for the defeat of the Nazis and the other fascist forces, it was at that opportune moment that the US and Britain pushed their own forces into Berlin with a view to carving out and establishing their respective spheres of influence, occupying the western part of Germany. The Berlin (Potsdam) Conference held between July 17-August 2, 1945 outlined the conditions, principles and measures of post-war administration in Germany under the joint control of the USSR, USA and UK ; it also set the principles of imminent surrender of other forces of the Axis, namely Italy and Japan. Shocking the world aghast, the USA dropped atom bomb on the innocent people of Japan just within a few days from the conclusion of the Potsdam Conference.

To be continued

MULLAPERIYAR DAM

Joint Statement released by the Kerala State and Tamilnadu State Organising Committees of SUCI

Voicing serious concern over the totally unwanted and harmful controversy being generated over the Mullaperiyar Dam issue, the Kerala State Committee and the Tamilnadu State Organising Committee of the SUCI have released the following joint statement on November 23, 2006.

Centring round raising of the water level of the Mullaperiyar Dam, politicians belonging to the ruling and opposition parties in Kerala as well as Tamilnadu are fanning up parochial sentiments and creating artificial inter-state rivalry simply for narrow political and sectarian gains. We are of the firm opinion that the pending problems could be amicably settled with a well conceived scientific approach, keeping the age-old fraternal relations, interdependency and co-operation between the people of Kerala and Tamilnadu foremost in mind.

Thousands and thousands of

farmers and common people in several districts of Tamilnadu neighbouring Kerala depend on the Mullaperiyar water. It is an undisputed fact that acres of cultivable land became unirrigated and hence uncultivable, causing huge losses due to lowering of the storage level of the Mullaperiyar dam in 1979 on safety considerations. It is also a fact we cannot overlook that there are greater demands for water today due to the considerable changes that have taken place in the population, climatic conditions, ecological realities, agricultural and industrial requirements ever since 1979, not to speak of 1895, the year the dam was actually built. In spite of all these, the various governments, which ruled Kerala and Tamilnadu all these years, did not fulfill their responsibilities, or show any genuine concern, to try and reach a settlement that would relieve the woes and

agonies of the toiling people.

Now, what must be primarily considered is that the Mullaperiyar Dam is a gravity dam built in 1895 with surki (lime mortar), utilizing the then available know-how, technology and materials. It is an accepted fact that the life span of such dams cannot exceed 50 to 60 years. In 1979, the Central Water Commission, considering safety factors and the weakness of the dam, directed that the water level be brought down from 152 feet to 136 feet and immediate reinforcement measures be taken up. Reports have also come out pointing to increased seismic activities in the area, establishing that the dam is located in an earthquake prone zone. The presence of several other dams in the vicinity, including the high capacity Idukki Dam, and the occurrence of more than five earthquakes within a radius of 40 kilometres of the Mullaperiyar Dam within a decade –

the one in December 2000 measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale – all point to a real seismic threat. Expert opinion is that if an earthquake of the magnitude 6 on the Richter scale were to hit the area, a possibility that is not ruled out, the result would be catastrophic. So we earnestly feel that the fears about the safety of the dam are well-founded and genuine. If the dam collapses it will be a disaster for the people of both the states, since on one side immense loss of life and property will occur and on the other, even the existing availability of water, power and livelihood will be lost.

In this light, the recent Supreme Court verdict to allow the level of water to be raised to 142 feet should be critically examined. Though the apex court has made a reference to the recommendations of the expert committee, it has not made it clear to the public whether this committee

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7th All Kerala Students' Conference held at Alleppey

The 7th All Kerala Students' Conference organized by AIDSO was held in Alleppey town from 24th to 26th November, 2006.

On 24th November, a procession of hundreds of participant students from various schools and colleges, including professional colleges of the state marched through the main streets of Alleppey town raising slogans against GATS, DPEP, SSA, Self-financing system and cultural degeneration. Then the students assembled at Bhagat Singh Nagar (Narasimhapuram auditorium) Comrade Debashis Roy formally inaugurated the open session. Comrade M.Shajarkhan, State president, AIDSO presided over. Comrade Sreejith Sudhakar, State secretary welcomed all. The delegate session was inaugurated by Comrade C. K. Lukose, State Secretary, SUCI. He drew attention to the pivotal role AIDSO has been playing in developing revolutionary students' movement in Kerala based on Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh thought.

There after a public meeting was held at Municipal ground which was addressed by Comrade Provash Ghosh, Central Committee member, SUCI and the advisor. With grave concern he pointed out that all capitalist countries including ours are

passing through severe and all-out crisis in every walk of life particularly in the sphere of ethics, culture and morality emasculating the people particularly the students and youth from within.

During freedom struggle, great men like Netaji Subhas, Bhagat Singh, Kshudiram and Chandrasekhar Azad were torch bearers of noble politics. But today the political field in tandem with socio-cultural degeneration is also dominated by rotten elements. Recalling the teachings Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, a foremost Marxist thinker of this era, he emphasized that surging waves of proletarian revolutionary movement alone can only mount the society on higher ethics and morality and fight social malice and injustice. He urged upon the students to build up a Revolutionary students' movement with this aim and objective.

In his speech on the concluding session, Comrade Provash Ghosh also called upon the delegates to strengthen AIDSO and take firm resolve to fight against infiltration of globalization in education sector and for a secular-democratic and universal education system. A 46 member new State Council with office bearers was elected unanimously.

Jordanian Congress

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present there. He also handed over the works of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and other party literature to them and hoped that in future there would be more exchange of experiences, enhanced mutual cooperation in developing worldwide anti-imperialist movement and a close party to party

contact. Comrade Mukherjee was also invited to attend a separate meeting of all these parties and JWCP for discussing the course of movement to be developed in the Arab world. At the end of that meeting, a joint communiqué was released. Comrade Mukherjee, on behalf of our party, was a signatory to the communiqué.



Police runs amok at roof top in Singur village on December 2



SUCI protesting Singur atrocity in front of Banga Bhavan, New Delhi on December 9, the all-India Protest Day called by the Central Committee of the party



SUCI protests at Patna on December 9

General Strike on 14 December

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justice against oppression and exploitation. The December 14

strike has proven that the working people are not averse to stepping ahead for the struggle. Now it remains the prime task to accomplish the unfulfilled parts of the movement, that is to build up the necessary organization at the grass root level in the form of struggle committees of workers, peasants and other sections of common people, to raise volunteer forces to relay on the torch of struggle and such others. At the same time, people must be vigilant and proactive to create effective pressure on the leadership to meet these ends.

With survival at stake, failure to do these is sure to cost the dearest.



Massive rally of government employees and Anganwadi workers at Rohtak on 11th November at JPA's call

Singur struggle must be led to victory

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extent in quelling the legitimate movement of the displaced peasants to defend their right to live. It is so adamant as to take no cognizance of the wave of protest and dissent throughout the country. Hence it has become imperative to escalate the movement and rally the support of the entire countrymen behind it. It is the united resistance of the people that the despots of all ages dread most. So the need of the hour is to build up united organized protracted resistance movement involving all sections of the toiling masses against the fascist attitude of the CPI(M) government and compel it to bow down under pressure of movement. So the task is to create and sustain required grit and determination among all to carry out the struggle till the demand is met. It ought to be a do or die battle for all. No individual effort on the part of anyone, no sacrifice at individual level will lead the struggle to its logical culmination. What is required is to form fighting people's committees in every locality as instruments of struggle and release a conscious, well-knit well-disciplined protracted movement on the edifice of higher ethics and morality. Alongside, there should be a wave of democratic mass movement round the country in support of this just struggle of the Singur peasants.

We ought to remember that the brave peasants of Singur are not fighting a battle of their own but have initiated a struggle that must spread throughout the country. Because, Singur is no isolated an episode. It is merely the beginning. The CPI(M) government is gearing up to grab thousands and thousands acres of agricultural land in Kharagpur, Nandigram, Haripur, Dankuni, Katwa, Siliguri, Bhangar and such other places of the state. Everywhere the aggrieved peasants drawing inspiration from the Singur movement are organizing themselves to build up fierce resistance. Similarly, forcible nabbing of agricultural land is taking place in every part of the country. In the past, the landed gentry used to seize land from their subjects with the help of their armed watchmen and musketeers. Today the Congress, BJP or the CPI(M) as dependable 'political managers' of the domestic

and foreign monopoly capital are doing the same thing in the respective states they are in power by undertaking violent raids on the peasants with their armed police forces. The BJP-BJD coalition government of Orissa is grabbing land in Kalinganagar for the Tatas by killing local adivasis through firing. In West Bengal, the CPI(M) government is seizing land for the same Tatas in Singur by spilling blood of the peasants and agricultural workers. Mulayam is doing the same thing in Dadri, UP for Ambanis. In Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Maharashtra, the Congress is implementing the same agenda.

Movement ought to be under correct leadership

And to steer the movement along the right track, the question of leadership is of extreme importance. In the past, many movements with heroic sacrifices fizzled out or ended in the ballot box because wrong forces were in the leadership – the forces whose only aim was to derive electoral advantage out of the peoples' struggle and secure cozy space in the rendezvous of power. The immense possibility created by the heroic struggle of the Singur people towards revival of countrywide democratic mass movement against the sinister designs and devices of the ruling bourgeois class and its servitors of different hues would be marred if the aspect of leadership is neglected once again. We appeal to the struggling peasants of Singur and other places as well as the conscientious people from all walks of life signing up to this struggle not to undermine this question at any point of time and under any circumstances and ensure establishment of correct leadership on the movement.

The struggle of the Singur peasants is going on. They have taken a resolve to turn rage into outrage, ire and indignation into hate and rancour, fight unto the last. We are confident that all sections of the toiling people from within and outside the state will close their rank and resolutely stand by this just movement. SUCI is committed to take the struggle ahead.

SUCI condemns incident of desecration of Ambedkar statue

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in course of a statement issued on 12 December, 2006 vehemently condemned the incident of desecration of a statue of Babasaheb Ambedkar by miscreants in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh entailing eruption of violence in certain parts of Maharashtra and called upon the people to remain vigilant against any attempt on the part of interested quarters to take advantage of this most reprehensible act. When the need of the hour is to develop sustained organized movement of all sections of the toiling masses irrespective of caste, creed, religion or region against the backbreaking oppression of ruling capitalism aggravated manifold after introduction of globalization-liberalization, preservation of people's unity is of supreme importance, added Comrade Mukherjee. He, therefore, appealed to the countrymen to remain calm at any such instigation and frustrate the machination of the ruling class by intensifying their united struggle against capitalist oppression and repression.

MULLAPERIYAR DAM

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had actually studied and with scientific authenticity concluded that :

- 1) sufficient reinforcement and strengthening has been done to allow the dam to safely hold 142 feet of water.
- 2) threats to the dam from seismic activity had been thoroughly investigated and ruled out.

Naturally, the fears of the people of both the states of a possible disaster could not be dispelled.

Hence, it is our strong opinion that the Central Government should immediately take steps to bring about an acceptable and scientific solution to the problem by appointing an impartial expert committee, which will apply internationally accepted standards and the latest know-how to assess the present condition of the dam, the dangers posed to it by its age, nature of construction and its location in an area of proven seismic activity, along with other relevant factors affecting its safety. Whether a new dam is to be constructed should also come under the purview of this committee. The committee must work within a given time frame, and submit its report at the earliest.

The question of the raising of the storage level can be decided only after the expert committee has made this exhaustive study and the people of both Kerala and Tamilnadu are convinced of the safety of the dam. If it is found, for any reason, that the long-lasting safety of the dam cannot be guaranteed, or the present dam cannot meet the future needs of the people of both states, then a new dam is a must. In the wake of the recommendations of the expert

committee, a solution that will safely and sufficiently address the long term concerns and needs of the people of both states should be evolved and implemented without undue delay.

We once again express our grave concern over the attempts by certain forces to whip up parochial sentiments in order to achieve petty sectarian interests at a time when the need of the hour is for the people of the country to unitedly fight the relentless attacks on their lives brought about by the globalization policies being pursued and implemented by both central and state governments, irrespective of political hue.

It is regrettable that the governments of both states are not taking any step to rein in these divisive and destructive forces, which the Central Government, too, is virtually allowing by looking on passively. In the midst of this hysteria being whipped up by a small section, it is very heartening to see that the people at large of Kerala have always been unhesitatingly willing to give water to the people of Tamilnadu, while the people of Tamilnadu genuinely feel for the safety concerns of the people of Kerala.

We appeal to the people of both the states to maintain this understanding and fraternity as the apple of the eye, and not to fall victim to the vicious propaganda of the disruptive forces on both sides. They must come forward to build up a united movement to pressurize the respective governments to find a scientific and amicable solution that will safeguard the present and future interests and needs of the people of both the states without fail.

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