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**ALL TOGETHER...AGAINST JAP AGGRESSION,
FOR FOOD AND FREEDOM**

May Day Call (1944) of the Communist Party of India.

Our Destiny In Our Hands

On this May Day, under the banner of Indian patriotism, we appeal to all our fellow-patriots and their great organisations for

Unqualified resistance to Jap invaders.

United relief for Bengal.

United struggle in all our towns and villages against the hoarders and for people's food.

All together for food for our people and freedom of our country !

A United India under its own National Government is destined to play together with China the same liberationist role in Asia as played by the Red Army in Europe.

Our Destiny and more is in our keeping.

On this May Day, the Communist Party warmly greets all fellow-fighters for freedom and appeals to their organisations for a common patriotic policy to save the country in this grave hour of national peril.

For two long years the threat of Fascist aggression hung over our heads. For the last two months it has become a grim reality.

Foiled in China, pressed back from the Pacific, the Japanese invading forces have crossed our borders. Decisive battles are being fought, and the fate of North Assam and East Bengal hangs in the balance. Will the invaders be hurled back to the Chindwin or will they march forward to Dimapur and Silchar ?

The Allied armies enjoy all-round superiority. But which country has ever been successfully defended against the Fascist aggressors through military might alone ?

The greatest weakness of the situation is that the British rulers still think in terms of military defence alone.

Weakness of the Home Front

Tojo's strength comes from the weakness of the British position in India under which the Indian people feel helpless. He hopes to exploit not only the helplessness but also the hunger of

our people. Sixty million Bengalees right behind the front lines are in the grip of epidemics like Malaria, Cholera and Small-pox, the legacy of the last famine, and face a situation drifting towards a second famine.

In the rest of the country food prices are higher than our fathers could ever imagine and the Government food plans are in the hands of the hoarders.

Manufacturers and merchants in their profit-hunt are getting round all control measures and openly engage themselves in activities which are classed in every other country as industrial sabotage.

The Government multiplies the economic chaos by initiating inflation, on the one hand, and introducing confiscatory measures, in the name of deflation on the other.

The front has been pierced, the people are helpless and the economic rear is on the verge of collapse.

Rouse the People Against the Japs

The people have to be roused not to bend the knee to the aggressor but the foremost patriotic leaders of the country are behind the bars.

Bose is coming with the Jap Army and the only effective answer to him can be that Nehru stands behind the Allied armies.

In every town and village hoarding and profiteering have to be smashed and food won for the people, but the greatest and broadest organisation of the people, the National Congress, stands banned.

No situation could be worse than this for the Indian people and better for the Jap invaders.

We share the righteous indignation of our fellow-patriots against the unchanged policy of the imperialist bureaucracy.

We, however, realise that if Indian patriots only curse the bureaucracy and themselves play no positive role they will be guilty of doing nothing.

The Japs can exploit a break-through only if we keep quiet, the hoarders can produce famine conditions only if we sit silent. To drift is not to put our patriotism into practice when our people need it most, but it is to yield to frustration when we can least afford to do so.

All Aid to Assam

We welcome the ringing call of the Congress leaders of Assam. It is in the best traditions of our national movement. They have pledged themselves to fight panic and rouse the spirit of resistance among their own people. They have appealed to us for solidarity. We must not fail them.

The attack on Assam is the first thrust against our common motherland; solidarity with the people of Assam is our first fraternal duty.

On this May Day we appeal to our fellow patriots to join hands for a countrywide demonstration of our anti-Japanese hatred and solidarity with our brothers in Assam.

Help Bengal All the More

From disease-ridden, famished and famine-threatened Bengal comes, like a cry of anguish, the call for more money, medicines and men, through no less a person than Dr. B. C. Roy, eminent physician and Congress leader. All the patriotic organisations have united themselves inside the Bengal Medical Relief Co-ordination Committee under his leadership.

On this May Day we appeal to our fellow patriots for another round of the country-wide "help Bengal" campaign.

All that we can do for our brothers and sisters in Bengal will yet be too little, but the knowledge that the country is behind them will give them strength and inspire them to struggle harder against their own hoarders.

The cause of Bengal is above all differences. All that we do to unite behind Bengal will be added inspiration to Bengal's patriots to get still closer together among themselves, establish a United Ministry and raise such a powerful united people's movement that it will pull down the architects of famine, the hoarders, and embody anew the best tradition of Bengal's patriotism. In the spirit of Tagore's letters to Noguchi it will denounce Bose as a traitor, its confident challenge to Tojo's mercenaries will be :

"No part of Bengal, the homeland of most of India's martyrs, will become your foothold but it is there only to be your graveyard."

Amery has once again repeated his charge against the Congress leaders. The bureaucracy is behaving as if the situation at the front was normal and nothing was wrong inside the country. This unbearable attitude either provokes or demoralises most of

the patriots. They are led to argue: "Our actions can make no difference, the British Government is not prepared to listen and the bureaucracy does not let us do anything." Nothing could be further from reality.

U.S.S.R. Turns the Scale

Our taking up an unqualified anti-Jap stand, our rendering all possible assistance to Bengal may look matters of symbolic or small consequence in themselves. But they acquire a decisive and historic importance when we realise that this is the least we can and must do to rouse the spirit of our people, to raise the banner of Indian patriotism alongside the freedom-loving nations of the world and to get their support for our cause and against the selfish policy of the British Imperialists.

The mighty victories of the Red Army are making history not only for the Soviet people but for every people. At Stalin-grad the Red Army stopped Hitler's hordes from coming to India. Through its present counter-offensive it is inflicting crippling blows at the Hitlerite would-be conquerors of the world. The moment the Allies open the Second Front the mortal blow will be struck and therefore the entire military, naval and air strength of Britain and America will be available for war in Asia, against Hitler's double, Tojo.

Soviet victories are not mere military victories that will release for us unlimited military aid, they have inspired the growth of a new people's movement in Nazi-occupied Europe. The Soviet Government has encouraged and recognised the democratic forces and is actively helping all European countries to win united national governments which together with the U.S.S.R. will build a new peaceful people's Europe.

Old Europe was the traditional base of World Imperialism. Europe is now passing out of the hands of fascist imperialists into those of its own peoples. A people's Europe will be the moral and political ally of the Indian people and not of the British imperialists, whose pre-war (1917-1939) efforts to use it as a pawn in their own game of power-politics ended in yielding it to Hitler Fascism.

Unity at Home Means More International Support

When the real counter-offensive in Asia begins against the Japs, the British and American peoples will themselves realise that many more lives of their soldier-sons are being lost simply

because they do not have the active support of the Indian people, that most of the goods, arms and ammunition produced by their own labour is not being put to the best use because India is run by foreign bureaucrats and not by its patriotic leaders. How long will they stand the unnecessary sacrifice of their own sons, the wastage of the goods of their own tireless labour? The common people are the same the world over, freedom-loving and peaceful.

The more they see that all India's patriots and parties are ranging themselves against the Jap Fascists, the more rapidly they will see through the slanders of Amery and Co., levelled against the patriotic leaders of the nation.

All the major British Trade Unions have demanded Congress Leaders' release and establishment of National Government. Even Pethick Lawrence, Labour Party spokesman in the House of Commons has to echo the demand, raised a year back by the British Communists, that Amery must go.

The more the people of Britain and America see us fighting on the food front, the more easily they will trust us. What to us is the problem of feeding our own people is to them the problem of holding the rear behind the front manned by their soldiers. The last Bengal famine was an indelible scar on the face of the bureaucracy, the second will mean the end of their day if we can show in practice that we continued to fight the hoarder while the bureaucrats relied upon them, i.e., that we—all India's patriots—can and will rescue our country out of the chaos to which the bureaucrats have reduced it.

The more the Indian patriots discharge their own patriotic duty the sooner the British and American peoples will see that with an enslaved India as the base, the war against Fascist Japan can't be fought and won.

The longer we sit still the more hoarders will play hell with our people, reproduce Bengal's tragedy all over our land and the further the Japanese invaders will penetrate.

We greet the efforts of Mrs. Naidu, the only member of the Congress Working Committee out of jail, in rousing patriotic opinion, by repudiating the policy of the Congress Socialists who had monopolised the name of the Congress, by calling upon all Congressmen to work for national unity and food for the people.

A real move forward was taken by our major patriotic organisations, the Congress and the League, when they forged a united front on the floor of the Central Assembly

U.P. Congressmen have gone the farthest in assuring their

League brothers that the right of self-determination is implicit in the Congress position.

We welcome all these moves. We, however, regret that they are yet halting, each party is waiting for the other to make the next gesture. The imperative need for coming together is universally recognised but old suspicions are dying hard. The gravity of the situation created by the Japanese attack and the worsening economic situation is not yet fully recognised as a dire emergency. That is why there is so much waiting, so many signs of helplessness rather than the crusader's confident spirit of faith in fellow fighters, of hope in our own capacity to rouse our 400 million people.

Our vast country is unconquerable if all the patriots rouse the people against the Japs.

Our ancient nation shall not go to pieces if all our patriots unite in the defence of our motherland and in the service of the people.

We shall win a National Government as soon as Congress and League unite and make a joint determined effort to get the support of the United Nations.

Against the peril that faces us this is the only way, for the goal we all desire this is the only path.