

PROTEST

AGAINST UNJUST TAXES UNLESS POLICY IS REVERSED

Says E.M.S. Namboodiripad

Punjab's Pratap Singh Kairon denounced the opposition parties in his State as "anti-national", because they opposed the new taxes which his Government proposed to levy on the people.

HE and his colleagues undertook a "campaign of exposure" against these opposition parties, and, to this end, held a series of meetings throughout the State. He tried to incite the Harijans against the rest of the people saying that the new taxes were meant to improve their conditions.

U.P.'s C. B. Gupta went a step further. He threatened the opposition parties in his State that he would deal with any campaign which they might undertake, with a 'firm hand'. He would not show any mercy to those who would express their protest against the new taxes by mass demonstrations and actions.

DEMAGOGY & THR EATS

These are just two examples of the two approaches which the Congress Governments adopt towards the growing popular discontent against their anti-people policy of taxing the common man's daily necessities. One is the demagogic approach and the other of repressive measures. Every other Chief Minister or Finance Minister of States, as well as Union Finance Minister Morarji Desai, adopts the demagoguery of a Kairon, or the threatening attitude of a C.B. Gupta, to make the common people accept the heavy taxation that they propose to impose on them.

It is, however, becoming increasingly clear that neither the demagoguery nor the threats would deter the people from giving expression to the acute discontent that is growing

within their hearts. This was shown throughout the month of June when many of the opposition parties gave calls for protest meetings and demonstrations against the taxation policy pursued by the Central and State Governments.

It will be recalled that the Communist Party observed June 16 in some places, and 17 in others, as an All-India Anti-Tax Increase Day; meetings and demonstrations were held under the auspices of the Party all over the country. Other opposition parties too called on their members and sympathisers to give public expression to the discontent of the people in this regard.

These meetings and demonstrations against tax increase in general were followed by demonstrations and peaceful picketing on July 1, directed against the increase in Railway fares and freights. According to a News Agency message, 600 persons were arrested on that day in various parts of the country. Included among those arrested were Members of Parliament, Members of the State Legislatures and other leaders of the people.

This was a programme which so far as the Communist Party is concerned, was carried out on the initiative of State units; no all-India call had been given by the Central leadership; it was only in three States that the State units took the initiative and carried out this programme. It is clear from what happened on that day that, if the Party had made it an all-India programme and if other

those who opposed him. He was one of the most conscientious and hard-working Ministers and he devoted his energies for the success of the cause in which he believed.

The Central Executive Committee sends its condolences to the bereaved members of the Chief Minister's family.

P. D. TANDON

THE Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of India expresses its deep sense of regret at the sad demise of Sri Purshottam Das andon who was one of the outstanding personalities of our freedom movement. He played a notable role in rallying the peasantry against the Zamindari system. (See Also page 4)

WILL GROW

NEW AGE

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parties had joined us in making it a success, it would have become a huge nation-wide demonstration.

These meetings and demonstrations in June, and the demonstrations and peaceful picketing on July 1, are only the beginning. They will be followed by continuous campaigns, and, in places, by direct actions undertaken by one or more parties separately or jointly.

According to reports available, such direct actions are likely to be held in the next few months in U. P.; it is this that has enraged the Chief Minister C. B. Gupta. But the leaders of the Communist Party, the PSP, the Socialist Party, etc., have made it clear that they would proceed with their programme despite the threats held out by the Chief Minister.

GATHERING MOMENTUM

There is no doubt that this will gather momentum if, in the meanwhile, the Chief Minister himself does not give up his policy of threats and concede the demands made by the people.

Just as in U. P. so in other States too, the common people are bound to come out in larger and larger numbers in demonstrations, and, if necessary, in direct action too, against the taxation policy of the Central and State Governments.

For, involved in this movement is the question whether the Governments should be permitted to adopt such taxation policies as would depress the living standards of the common people to very low levels, while the handful of landlords, capitalists, and other sections of the rich are allowed to garner all the benefits of development taking place in the country through the Five Year Plans.

It should, in this connection, be stated that the parties which joined in the meetings, demonstrations and peaceful picketings in the month of June and on July 1, do not agree on several vital matters of policy. Even on questions of taxation, there are differences among them, such, for example, as the difference between the Communist Party (which is not only not opposed to, but actually demands, increased tax burdens on the rich) and the Swatantra Party (whose spokesmen in Parliament opposed even the stoppage of

HAIL INDEPENDENT ALGERIA

Editorial July 3 will go down in the annals of the freedom struggle of the colonial peoples as a memorable day. The courageous people of Algeria, who have been carrying on a long and difficult battle for freedom are acquiring all the attributes of a fully sovereign nation and entering the comity of the free nations of the world.

The Algerian people have won their freedom, not because their colonial masters are 'generous' enough to 'make a gift' of their freedom, as is claimed by the imperialists. Freedom is wrested from the unwilling hands of the colonialists who had to be fought every inch and made to retreat.

The freedom struggle of the Algerian people has been the longest and the most exacting in sacrifices that any freedom-loving nation had to fight against its colonial masters. Year after year, the army of national liberation had to fight and sacrifice the lives of thousands of its gallant soldiers. Untold losses and sufferings have been the lot of the civilian people, because they 'committed the crime' of loving their country and rendering whatever help they could to gallant soldiers of the army of national liberation.

The colonialist masters had at their disposal not only the French army of occupation. Fascist bands had also been organised by the French settlers in Algeria, the notorious Secret Army organised by the settlers, the OAS, has inflicted unimaginable acts of cruelty on the peace-loving and patriotic citizens of Algeria. Hand in glove with the reactionary officers of the French Army, the OAS became a threat not only to the Algerian freedom-fighters but also to democracy in France.

That this combination of reactionary officers of the French Army and the OAS in Algeria could be defeated was due, firstly and above all, to the heroism of the Algerian people led by their united national organisation, the Liberation Front. Only people who have unbounded faith in the cause for which they are fighting can resist such a powerful combination of reactionary forces.

It is due, secondly, to the working-class and other sections of the democratic people in France itself. The Communist Party of France and other democratic elements in France came out in unmistakable terms and told their rulers that they would not tolerate the continuation of the unending war.

It is also due to the fact that the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union has grown powerful to inflict defeat after defeat on the colonialists. The socialist powers have given unstinted support to the colonial peoples and barred the path of the imperialists who could no more drown the freedom movement in blood, as they have been doing.

The emergence of several new countries in Asia and Africa as fully free and sovereign nations is the remarkable feature of the international situation in the post-Second World War period. Contrast this with the situation in the pre-World War years.

Not only were the freedom struggles of the colo-

*SEE PAGE FOUR

CEC MOURNS

The Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of India adopted the following resolutions on July 1.

DR. B. C. ROY

The Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of India expresses sorrow at the death of Dr. B. C. Roy, the Chief Minister of the Government of West Bengal. He was an eminent physician who played his part in the freedom struggle as a congressman. Later when he acted as an administrator and the Chief Minister in West Bengal, we have had differences with Dr. Roy on many important issues. But the Chief Minister was not moved by pettiness and was always willing to discuss problems with even

INTUC "RETHINKING" OVER LABOUR POLICY

Analysed By Sadhan Mukherjee

Quite an interesting article on the "Wage Policy and Deteriorating Industrial Relations in West Bengal" has appeared in the INTUC Annual Session number of the Indian Worker. The author of the article is Kall Mukherjee, working President of the INTUC in West Bengal.

THE article is quite a pointer in regard to the State Government's labour policy and their complete subservience to the interests of the Jute bosses who had been and still are controlling the State labour department. It reflects very candidly the deteriorating standards of living of West Bengal workers.

This is, perhaps, the first occasion when a top INTUC leader has openly come out to criticise the labour policy of a State Government which is controlled by the Congress Party.

This article has raised certain very pertinent and vital questions. These, mainly, are (a) wage policy of the Government in the context of need-based wage standards as recommended by the Fifteenth Indian Labour Conference as well as appeasement of employers by following the traditional forms of exploitation as practised by former British Government; (b) despite high membership ratio, the trade unions are unable to protect the interests of the workers; (c) unplanned and uncoordinated movement including strikes fail to bring about desired results and (d) Government follows a policy of appeasement towards the non-democratic trade union movement initiated and led by the Communists and therefore West Bengal workers should rise to the occasion and teach a lesson to the subversive forces.

We will therefore analyse the argument and substance of Kall Mukherjee's article and try to find out what exactly he wants to say and make out.

Lowest Wages

Quoting data to prove that the wages of workers in West Bengal are one of the lowest in India, the author states: "The position of real wages is left to pre-war level in West Bengal. There has been nominal increase in wages through conciliation, tribunals and Wage Boards but the real wages are static and in many cases substantial erosion is visible to the embarrassment of the State Government as well."

He further accuses the West Bengal Government of following the same labour policy as the British Government. He says: "It is well known in history that in order to attract British capital in Eastern India, wages in Bengal were deliberately kept low for the exploitation of Indians. Floating labour population and indentured labour for plantations and collieries were an additional advantage for them."

"The present State Government it seems, is also ad-

movement including strikes really failed to bring about the desired effect. One should admit this hard fact and find ways and means to improve the conditions of the workers." (emphasis added).

Later, of course, he realises the incorrectness of his argument and admits, "The setting up of jute and plantation Wage Boards would not have been possible had there been no protest strikes in these two major industries in the State."

"The protest strikes of workers of 1960 and 1961 helped the workers to secure a settlement, through not wholly satisfactory was, however, unique in many respects. For the first time in West Bengal, the D. A. was decided to be linked with cost of living index number, which was achieved long ago in other States."

"Had there been no protest strike on February 13, 1961, by the jute workers, thousands would have been retrenched by this time and the Industry and Commerce Ministry of Government of India would not have come forward to control speculation in raw jute market."

Thus it is clear from his own admission that he does admit the effectiveness of the strike actions of the working class but he only admits effectiveness of industrywide actions as he cannot depart from the general policy of the INTUC. All he does is to counterpose the two aspects of the matter and try to strike a balance of inadequate results or "desired effects" between working class actions and concessions from employers, and tries to find "ways and means to improve the conditions of the workers."

Why therefore this change? Is there a sort of rethinking in the policy of INTUC or an awakening to the fact that the policy of INTUC of collaboration with the employers is gradually proving useless? Kall Mukherjee himself admits that the percentage of bipartite agreements in West Bengal has ultimately been reduced to 2 only during the year 1961!

Kall Mukherjee's this approach, has, therefore got to be examined also in the context of the prevailing situation in West Bengal. His denunciation of the Government is a part of the sharp difference between the State INTUC and the State Congress. The defeat of Abdus Sattar, former Labour Minister of West Bengal in the last General Elections due to INTUC-Congress squabbles is still quite fresh. It is also obvious that due to the death of Chief Minister Dr. B. C. Roy, the internal rivalry of Congress will be further intensified.

In the same context, the bid of another powerful wing of West Bengal Congress led by Atulya Ghosh to capture both the Government machinery as well as the State INTUC organisation, has also to be noted.

Referring to the fact that in West Bengal there are about 7,25,000 workers, among whom about 40 per cent are members of the trade unions, Kall Mukherjee walls that, "Had the membership as verified and claimed by the respective trade unions been effective, the fate of the trade union movement would not have been so dismal as it is today."

This, in fact, is a queer logic. The trade union movement in West Bengal, as it is many other States also, is weak mainly because of the disruption in the movement and not because the verified

or claimed membership, is ineffective. After all, the strength or the effectiveness of the trade union movement is determined by the fact as to what extent unity of the workers as a class against the employers' offensive has been established.

The author says that "In spite of this high percentage of trade unionism, the working class movement in the State is weak and helpless before the offensive of the employers." But in order to explain this position, he takes to the logic of "effectiveness" of membership ignoring the crux of the problem that for this state of affairs, the INTUC itself is mainly responsible.

Because, it is the INTUC which created division in the ranks of workers and together with that, the pro-employer policy of Government has contributed towards the weakening of the trade union movement.

Outspoken Criticism

This outspoken criticism, coming as it does, from an INTUC stalwart is very interesting. Such criticism of the labour policy has been made by the opposition parties and the trade unions affiliated to other central trade union organisations. At that time, the INTUC solidly supported and justified the stand of the Government.

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Another Vital Factor

Another very vital factor which he does not mention is the insecurity of job and life of active trade union functionaries. The murders, assaults, and other oppressive measures used by the employers to curb trade union movement are by themselves a great deterrent. Even the State machinery in these cases work hands-in-glove with the employers. I am sure even Kall Mukherjee himself will not be able to guarantee trade union and democratic rights to an active trade union worker against the employers' offensive, irrespective of the union affiliation.

Other Central trade union organisations, particularly the AITUC, for a long time had been trying to forge unity among the ranks of the working class. But it is the INTUC which has been consistently opposing the call of unity on the fantastic pretext of "communism" and covertly trying to wean away the workers from the folds of other trade union organisations.

Thus the weakening of the trade union movement in West Bengal in particular and in the country in general is due to the factors stated above and not due to workers' apathetic attitude.

This article, as usual but more succinctly and subtly than before, tries to argue that the strike actions of the workers in West Bengal have been a failure. It is, of course, well known that INTUC is generally opposed to strikes. Kall Mukherjee has only posed one aspect of the matter in his article.

He does not state that sometimes it is the pressure of the working class which has compelled the INTUC to take militant actions in coordination and jointly with other central trade union organisations. One has to find out why he undermines these strike actions.

He says that "the trade union organisations with their uncoordinated and unplanned

Government's weak policy in the matter of dealing with the employers on one hand and appeasement of the non-democratic trade union movement initiated and led by the Communists in this state, on the other." His argument about "appeasement" holds no water because the number of false police cases against the trade union workers, the number of attacks made on them and the amount of repression they have had to withstand, tell quite a different story.

Bankruptcy Again

Kall Mukherjee further warns: "West Bengal working class is also going to face another crisis shortly. The Communist Party of Bengal being the close collaborators of the Chinese Communists as against the Russians and having frustrated in the last General Elections due to their miserable failure in achieving alternate Government in the State is taking recourse to organising a violent and subversive movement."

He has therefore given a call to the West Bengal working class to "rise to the occasion as they did in the past and teach a lesson to the subversive forces once again."

Thus Kall Mukherjee's entire argument boils down to this that the Communists should be shunned by the working class and the INTUC should have a free hand in the shaping of the destiny of the West Bengal working class.

That is his only suggestion—if not a profound conclusion. He does not talk about changing the anti-labour policy of the Government, does not talk of any concrete and effective measures to be taken by the working class against the employers and does not hold out any future programme of working class actions, or "ways and means", as he calls them, for the betterment of the deteriorating conditions.

His tirade and vituperation against the Communists with fantastic description are therefore just time-worn slander and he falls, I am sure, even to convince himself and therefore does not dare to suggest any concrete steps in that regard.

All that can be said about his illogical logic is that he has taken an upside down look at the problem which is not the reality of present day trade union movement.

All the central trade union organisations, particularly the AITUC, and barring of course, the INTUC, have called upon the working class to forge greater unity to fight for their rights and responsibilities. Even in the context of developing economy of the country, working class actions have got to be organised to safeguard their interests and resist the attacks from employers and Government.

The AITUC in its Ernakulam Session has already given the call that strike should be taken recourse to only as a last resort and in order to ensure the effectiveness of working class actions, unity should be established as the prime prerequisite. And that's the only way to ameliorate the conditions of the workers and not as hinted by Kall Mukherjee.

He says, "Constitutional trade union movement under the banner of INTUC has become the first casualty in West Bengal due to State

PEOPLE DEMONSTRATE AGAINST RAILWAY FARE INCREASE

KERALA

OVER five hundred volunteers of the Communist Party staged protest satyagraha in front of fifty railway stations throughout Kerala on Sunday, July 1, protesting against the enhanced railway fares and freight rates which have come into force from Sunday.

The campaign organised by the Communist Party was preceded by meetings in all these centres, addressed by prominent Communist leaders including Members of Parliament and Legislature. At all centres batches of volunteers, whose strength ranged from five to twenty five were led in demonstration throughout adjoining towns.

The picketing was led by Thunkayya at Trivandrum Junction, K. Narayanan at Kayamkulam, P. K. Kunjachan, MLA, at Mavelikkara, K.

MADHYA PRADESH

THE State-wide demonstrations organised by the Madhya Pradesh Council of the Communist Party, succeeded in so far as providing a strong medium for expressing public anger over the increase of

Railway fares and other central taxes. Response of the people to the call of the Party in general was spontaneous and encouraging.

Incomplete reports reaching the headquarters of the Party indicate that over 200 workers of the Party courted arrests at the various centres of the State and over one lakh persons were brought into action

in various forms. Indore stole the limelight where about 20,000 persons, according to the estimate of the police, witnessed a batch of 51 led by Homi Daji, MP, offering satyagraha. The enthusiasm of the people of this politically conscious city was so great that almost all the spectators numbering about 20,000 tried to join the demonstration. The police in utter frustration resorted to the uncalculated

*SEE PAGE 14

SPOTLIGHT

RIGHTISTS ON KASHMIR

THE West's latest antics over Kashmir have caused deep anger and wide disillusionment among our people. It should not surprise us, however, that a section, spearheaded by the Swatantra and the Jan Sangh, does not share the popular feeling.

The arch ideologue of the Swatantra party has come out with the unequivocal statement that any such feeling is uncalled for. "The Kashmir Symbol" in the Swarajya of June 30, C. Rajagopalachari has gone a long way in reducing the tax burdens on common people while at the same time augmenting the revenue of the State. Even now the M.P. Government has not claimed its rightful royalties from the mines of Rajhara, Belladila, Korba etc.

And in spite of its own admissions, the M. P. Government is not demanding and fighting for the adequate quota of iron, cement and non-ferrous metals which is the lowest for our state. The utter helplessness and thoroughly incompetent character of the M. P. Government is further observed in the fact that it has not settled the rightful claim of Madhya Pradesh to derive the benefits of such national projects as Rihand Power, Matatilla Dam, Hirakud Dam, etc.

The Secretariat recorded its strong protest at the failure of the M. P. Government to safeguard the interests of the State and appealed to the people to raise their mighty voice against this.

The Secretariat while demanding of the Government withdrawal of the proposed taxes, asked for exemption of all taxes from uneconomic land holdings. It appealed to the people to rally their strength and unite to fight these tax measures.

The Secretariat further noted that the M. P. Government has only tried to fleece the common people while not touching the incomes and huge wealth of rich houses and of big trading and industrial concerns.

The party has decided to send a march of volunteers to be sent by various party units of the State to the Assembly hall on July 16.

question—will the U. S. abandon us?—the editorial has proclaimed the stooge's credo:

"May be because of our inherent incorrigible optimism or perhaps because of our disinclination to believe that representatives of a great nation which aspires to spearhead democracy and freedom-loving humanity's resistance to the advance of Communist totalitarianism can be so stupid and imbecile, we do not presage U. S. making that extreme decision." Such belief is exactly the stuff of the stooge's politics!

What Deendayalji has said makes the position even plainer. A la the Swatantra leader, he has tried to throw the blame on India and thus play the role of American imperialism's servant. Says he:

"Initially the U. S. was not at all eager that Pakistan should raise this issue at the U. N. But later on the U. S. began to evince greater interest in this matter than even Pakistan. Those very countries which because of U. S.'s pressure during the early debate favoured India (1), voted against India. This changed (?) American attitude is just a link in the chain of recent developments."

So, it is the MIG deal and such "maladroitt" Indian moves that have angered U. S. A neat alibi, indeed, for imperialism's nefarious role right from the beginning of the Kashmir question!

In this connection, our Jan Sangh leader has made a very profound statement. "This crisis that confronts us today is the consequence not of a wrong policy but in some measure of a wrong implementation of the policy."

Example: The information pertaining to the MIG deal leaked out. The implication is that it is we who caused the offence to the "friend"! Deendayalji clinches the plea by declaring: "The infatuation that the present Government has come to have for Sri Krishna Menon is proving costly for national interests."

This exposes the patent hypocrisy or the pose of being hurt by American pressurisation. Jan Sangh leaders know the price to be paid for American friendship. The price is stoicism. And they are willing to pay it. Both they and their blood-brothers, the Swatantra.

Pathetically posing the

—GARUDA

Madhya Pradesh Sectt. RESOLUTION

THE Secretariat of the Madhya Pradesh Committee of the Communist Party of India held its two day session at Bhopal on June 27 and June 28, 1962.

The State Secretariat discussed reports from various centres about the preparation for Satyagraha against enhanced Railway fare and Central Government taxes. It expressed satisfaction at the response to the Satyagraha and the support extended by the people.

The State Secretariat directed all its units to make the 1st July symbolic and peaceful Satyagraha at important Railway stations a big success.

The State Secretariat devoted considerable time to discuss the new tax burdens proposed in the current session of the Assembly as also the utter failure of the M.P. Government to assert the interest of Madhya Pradesh on question of financial allocation from the Centre and the Planning Commission.

It should be noted that not content with the already heavy indirect taxation, the M.P. Government now proposes to further increase the sales taxes on passenger fares and on freight charges by Road Transport, on clay and sand, on land revenue and many other things whose burden will fall on the common people. Through the Government estimates an income of only 5 crores but the experience of previous years and the nature of the present taxation indicate that the Government would fleece the people to the extent of Rs. 7 crores or more.

The Secretariat further noted that the M. P. Government has only tried to fleece the common people while not touching the incomes and huge wealth of rich houses and of big trading and industrial concerns.

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JULY 8, 1962

NEW AGE

PAGE THREE

PEOPLE MOURN DR. ROY

★ FROM JNAN BIKASH MOITRA

CALCUTTA, July 2

Dr. B. C. ROY, Chief Minister of West Bengal and an outstanding physician, suddenly died at his Calcutta residence at 12-03 p.m. yesterday (July 1), his 81st birthday.

Dr. Roy was taken ill on June 23, but it was reported even in yesterday's morning paper that his condition was improving. However, at 11-30 a.m. he had a sudden heart attack which proved fatal. Renu Chakravarty, Dr. Roy's niece and Deputy Leader of the Communist Bloc in the Lok Sabha, was by his bedside when the end came.

Within half an hour the news of his death spread like wild-fire, and thousands upon thousands of people—men and women, young and old, people drawn from all communities and walks of life—thronged all the approaches to Dr. Roy's residence to have a last glimpse at the mortal remains of the man who was regarded not only as a great physician possessing almost mythical powers of diagnosis and cure, but also a towering personality in the political life of this State.

About 36 people were injured, some of them serious-

ly, in the terrific rush.

To enable the milling crowd to have a look at him, his dead body was taken to the Assembly House where it lay in state for the night. Unending streams of people filed the body throughout the night.

A week-long State mourning was announced. All Government offices, schools and colleges and other institutions have been closed for today and tomorrow. All Cinemas and theatres cancelled their shows. The protest demonstration called for by eight Left parties against the enhancement of railway fares was postponed.

At 6-30 a.m. today, the funeral procession started from the Assembly House. Several lakh people lined the streets and crowded the balconies of houses along the 10-mile route to the cremation ground. On the way, the cortege stopped at the Writers Building, the Secretariat of the State Government, at Calcutta University, of which Dr. Roy was the Vice-Chancellor during 1940-42, Calcutta Corporation, of which he was a former Mayor, and "Congress Bhavan", headquarters of the West Bengal P.C.C.

Dr. Roy has been given full State funeral.

TANDONJI

ON July 1, after a prolonged illness Babu Purushottam Das Tandon, a veteran among fighters for national independence, breathed his last at the age of 80.

Born in a Khatri family at Allahabad, Tandonji was one of the oldest members of the Indian National Congress having joined it in 1899. He was educated at the Government College and the Central College in his home town of Allahabad. It was there that he began his professional career as a lawyer. He served the Nabha State in Punjab as Law Minister from 1914 to 1918.

Tandonji took active part in

the national upsurge against the Rowlett Act in 1920. Finally he left his legal practice in 1921 to become a full-fledged non-cooperator.

He was elected President of the U. P. Congress Committee in 1923. He was chairman of the Allahabad Municipal Board for several years. He became President of the Servants of the People Society, founded by Lala Lajpat Rai, in 1929.

It was in the late twenties and early thirties that the most fruitful period of Tandonji's life took shape with his founding of the Central Kisan Sangh. He played a big role in rousing the Zamindari-ridden peasantry of U.P.

After the 1937 elections

Expressing his great admiration and respect for Dr. Roy, Jyoti Basu, Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, who was in Delhi, said that he was shocked to hear of the news of his death.

"I have disagreed with Dr. Roy for more than 15 years inside and outside the West Bengal Assembly. But hardly ever have I found him moved by petty or mean considerations", Jyoti Basu said.

"Rarely have I known any Minister who has worked so hard and conscientiously. He dreamt great dreams for West Bengal and even though many of his dreams may be thought to be utopian, it was worthwhile dreaming about them."

"Dr. Roy has died in harness at a ripe age. On behalf of the Communist Party of West Bengal I express our sorrow and convey our condolences to his family."

The State Council of the Communist Party in a statement said that Dr. Roy was undoubtedly a towering personality and had left an imprint on contemporary history. The Council conveyed its condolences to the bereaved members of his family.

with the return of the Congress to office, Tandonji became the speaker of the U. P. Assembly which office he filled with great dignity and eminence.

He was elected president of the Indian National Congress in 1950 but having differences with basic questions of policy with Pandit Nehru, he chose to resign that post and ultimately retired from political life.

His service to the Kisan movement in U. P. in its days of formation will always be remembered. People in their thousands lined the streets of Allahabad on July 1 evening when his body was taken on its last journey and cremated at the holy Sangam.

Editorial

ALGERIA

★FROM FRONT PAGE

national peoples drowned in blood but hitherto free nations had, one after another, to go under the heels of colonialism—such was the situation in the years between the First and the Second World Wars. In the post-Second World War period, however, country after country in Asia and Africa threw off their shackles; as for subjugating the already free nations, the imperialists do not even dream of it.

We, the people of India, have had the benefit of the tremendous change in the world situation that took place after the end of the Second World War. It was in this period that we became free. Having thus secured freedom for ourselves, we in our turn have done our bit to strengthen the struggles of our brethren in other colonial and dependent countries. We played a by-no-means-negligible role in the liberation of the African peoples, including the people of Algeria.

So have all other newly-independent countries of Asia and Africa done their bit to further weaken the colonialists. This unity of newly-independent powers of Asia and Africa was also a powerful factor in securing for the Algerian people their freedom.

We, therefore, salute all those who made it possible for the Algerian people to beat back the offensive of the French Army and the OAS.

We salute the gallant people of Algeria. We salute the class-conscious and democratic people of France who expressed their sympathy and support for the cause of Algerian freedom.

We salute the peoples and Governments of the countries of the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union whose very existence and steady strengthening were of tremendous assistance for the people of Algeria, as for the peoples of other freedom-loving Asian and African countries.

We salute the peoples and Governments of the hitherto colonial and dependent countries who have now become free and who use their newly-won position to further strengthen the cause of freedom for which the Algerian people have been heroically fighting.

We have no doubt that the courageous people of Algeria who have successfully resisted the reactionary leaders of the French Army and of the OAS, would be equally successful in defeating the games of imperialists who, using certain provisions of the agreement between the French colonialists and the Algerian Liberation Front, would try to have their grip on the economy and public life of Algeria re-established in new forms. We hope that the freedom for which several lakhs of Algerian lives have been sacrificed would be strengthened further and further, and that the Algerian people will realise the cherished hopes with which their martyrs laid down their lives in the struggle for freedom.

Building The Party In Cuba

By BLAS ROCA

The most important and decisive job now facing Cuban Marxist-Leninists is that of building a party able successfully to direct the complex and difficult process of creating a socialist society in Cuba, a bare 90 miles from the imperialist United States of America.

SUCH a party must unite all the revolutionary forces which fought against the Batista tyranny and draw in advanced working people coming from the masses and indivisibly linked with them.

The Party will have to be built in an extremely acute and difficult situation, which means that we cannot give all our attention and all our energy to the solution of this task alone.

We face a whole range of problems which insistently call for solution. These are due above all to economic difficulties and shortages of a number of prime necessities, and to the increasing aggressive character of U. S. imperialism with the intensification of the economic blockade, the organisation of sabotage, diversions and provocations from the U. S. naval base at Guantanamo, and the threat of new armed intervention by mercenaries, by the bought rulers of a number of Latin American countries or, finally, directly by the U. S. armed forces.

Many problems are the result of the ill-starred activity of Anibal Escalante, prompted by the desire for power and self-elevation, by sectarianism and other mistakes, thanks to which the building of the Integrated Revolutionary organisations constituting the first step

towards the formation of the United Party of the Socialist Revolution of Cuba, was to a certain extent distorted and made more difficult.

We must now pay exceptionally great attention to organising production on the people's estates and agricultural cooperatives, to the relations with individual peasants, to increasing the production of agricultural products of all kinds within the shortest possible time in order to satisfy the people's food requirements, and industry's raw material needs, and also to increase our exports and get more resources to pay for imports.

All this is of vital importance, because only when we have really solved the economic problems and ensured the necessary level of food-stuffs for the people, can we ensure the conditions for the further development of the revolution and for the creation of the strong socialist industry for which we are now laying the foundations.

This is a very difficult job. Our economic difficulties are due to a whole range of different reasons: firstly, mistakes committed in various spheres of economic activity, arising out of the lack of administrative experience, technical knowledge and the wrong choice of managerial personnel; secondly, the economic blockade by the United States, which is putting pressure on other countries, demanding that they stop or reduce trade with Cuba, is having its effect; thirdly, severe drought over the entire country which affected the sugar-beet harvest, the bean crop, and also the production of milk and meat.

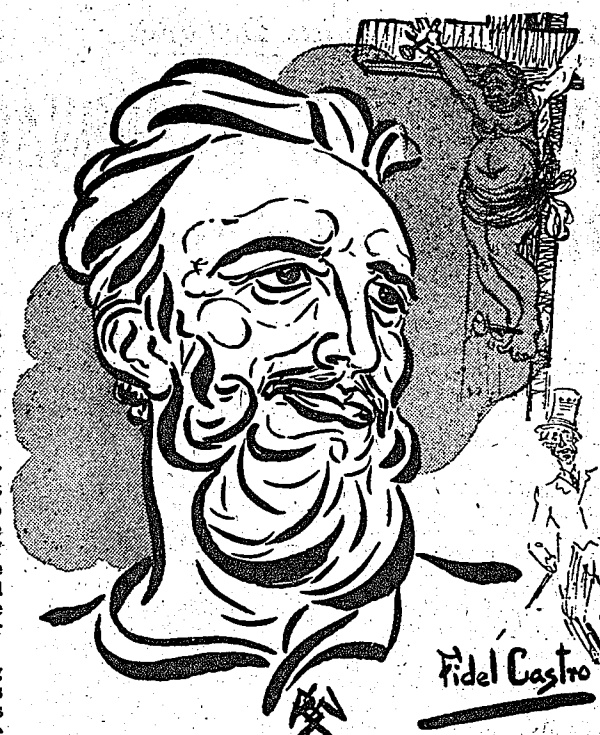
However serious may be our economic problems, we must give untrifling attention to questions of defence, to the struggle against agents of U. S. intelligence, and be ready to repulse any armed intervention planned by the U. S. imperialists and their hangers-on.

Clearly, the strengthening of our defences demands great expenditure and diverts many people from productive labour. This is also having its effect on the rates of development of the Cuban national economy.

The damage caused by the harmful activity of Anibal Escalante and sectarianism was a negative factor in the process of building a United Party of the Socialist Revolution of Cuba. Now we have not only to build, but also to rebuild that which was badly done, to begin work from the most simple things.

The difficulties confronting us merely emphasise more strongly the need for the party which we are creating to be strong, and free of sectarianism and opportunism, from dogmatism and revisionism, that this party should be closely linked with the masses, enjoying their confidence and leading them.

The party must master the



Impression of Fidel Castro, First Secretary, Integrated Revolutionary Organisations

theory of Marxism-Leninism and be permeated by its spirit, learn to apply it in the solution of the concrete problems arising before the Cuban people.

Party organisations in the factories, in the agricultural cooperatives and the People's Estates, are being set up under the direct leadership of the First Secretary of the National Leadership of the Integrated Revolutionary Organisations.

In each centre, representatives from the Organisational Commission of the Integrated Revolutionary Organisations call a general meeting of workers. Here the best workers are nominated.

Account is taken, firstly, of a person's attitude to work

and to the way in which he fulfills his direct responsibilities in production; secondly, his attitude to those around him, the degree to which he has the spirit and comradeship and the desire to help others; thirdly, his participation in defence measures (the Revolutionary Militia and the guarding of installations, etc.); fourthly, by the degree to which he is imbued with the revolutionary spirit and his loyalty to the revolutionary cause; finally, account is taken of his past.

The advanced workers nominated at such meetings, regardless of whether or not they had formerly been members of the active revolutionary cells of the Integrated organisations,

Account is taken, firstly, of a person's attitude to work

*SEE PAGE 14

COMMUNIQUE Of CPI Central Executive

A meeting of the Central Executive Committee was held at Delhi beginning on June 28 and ending on July 2. The duration of the meeting had to be cut short because several members were to leave for Moscow to attend the World Congress For General Disarmament and Peace.

THE Executive heard a report made to it by Comrade E. M. S. Namboodiripad on the meeting of the National Integration Council and also of the Asoka Mehta Committee on National Integration and Communalism. It thought that the definition of communalism sought to be made by the Committee and the political approach guiding it, were important for the national campaign which the Party is running against the forces of disruption.

It was, therefore, decided that Comrade E. M. S. Namboodiripad should prepare a note on this problem which after due consideration by the members of the CEC will form the basis of the stand which he will be taking at the

next meeting of the Asoka Mehta Committee to be held on July 31.

The meeting considered the ideological question arising out of the 22nd Congress of the CPSU. The conclusions arrived at on these questions were incorporated in a draft resolution which will be placed before the next meeting of the National Council.

Due to the early ending of the meeting, drafts could not be prepared on two other questions—on certain aspects of the election review left over after the last meeting of the National Council and on organisational questions.

However, preliminary discussions took place regarding the possibility of starting a central daily in Hindi and also

the ways and means for raising a memorial to the late Comrade Ajoy Ghosh. The Secretariat was authorised to further examine these questions and make proposals for the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

It was decided that, in view of the opening of the Parliament session on the August 6 and of certain other factors, the dates of the next meeting of the National Council should be changed to August 14-20 instead of August 5 to 12 as decided upon earlier. The meeting of the National Council will be preceded by meetings of the Secretariat and of the Executive whose dates are as follows:

Secretariat: August 8, 9 and 10.
Executive: August 11, 12 and 13.
National Council: August 14 to 20.

It was further decided that the responsibility of editing the New Age Weekly should be taken up by the General Secretary, Comrade E. M. S. Namboodiripad and of the Monthly by the Chairman, Comrade S. A. Dange. (July 2, 1962)

CALCUTTA PLANS

REPRESENTATIVES of eight left parties, who met on June 26 to chalk out a programme of the anti-tax campaign which had been launched throughout West Bengal on June 16, decided to step up the tempo of the campaign in Calcutta as well as in the district by organising protest meetings and demonstrations during July. A State Convention will then, be held in August to review the situation and to decide the future course of action.

The programme drawn up includes the following:

- July 7 and 14: Public meetings at Hazra Park and Beadon Square, Calcutta.
- August: State Convention (The dates for the Convention have not yet been fixed).

The Railway passengers' Association, Calcutta, has strongly protested against the enhancement of railway fares with effect from July 1, 1962.

At a press conference in Calcutta on June 29, it was stated by a spokesman of the Association that there was no justification for increasing the fares, because the facilities provided for the passengers during the past twelve years were wholly inadequate.

He further said that between 1948 and July 1, 1962, fares had increased by 93 per cent. In some sections, the increase would be as much as 150 per cent.

● July 25: Mass demonstration before the State Assembly.

NEW AMBASSADOR ARRIVES

MANUEL Stolik the new ambassador of Cuba who arrived in Delhi on June 30 was born in 1938 in a village near Havana city. He will thus be the youngest ambassador posted in India's capital.

He went to the Capital to have the Secondary schooling, where he started his revolutionary career by joining the revolutionary movement for the liberation of his country. Later he went to the University of Havana to study Electrical Engineering. At that time the freedom movement against the Batista regime was gaining momentum.

As a leader of the student movement and as a member of the 26 July Movement he took major roles in the fight and was imprisoned several times. Later on he was put in prison, sentenced to six years, in the hands of the Batista Police.

He remained in jail for two years and three months under terrible conditions created by the Dictator Batista, and he was freed when the popular

Banarsi Das Chaturvedi, MP, President, Indo-Cuban Friendship Society welcomes the ambassador as he alights from plane at palam.

people's forces came out successfully.

He joined the Revolutionary government where for the first six months he was one of the members of the political section in the National Direction of the 26 July Movement.

Later on he became the Deputy Director of the

Latin American Department. Then he was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary in the Foreign Service and has been Charge d'Affaires a.i. of Cuba successively in Venezuela, Canada and Great Britain, his last assignment before coming to India as the Ambassador.

Chief of Protocol, S. K. Bannerjee, receives the Ambassador at Palam. Left to right: Cultural Counsellor, F. Chavarrri, S. K. Bannerjee, Ambassador M. Stolik and Charge d'Affaires, Dr. Armand Florez Ibarra.

WITHDRAW PROPOSAL TO ENHANCE LAND REVENUE

June 24 Observed As Protest Day

★ From V. HANUMANTHA RAO

The Andhra Pradesh State Council of the Communist Party sent its top leaders to different districts to address public meetings on June 24 and come back with reports about the people's reactions to State Government's taxation proposals and the possibility of taking forward this agitation.

It also decided that the date for the final demonstrations and rallies shall be decided in consultation with other political parties, so that with the united strength of masses behind all parties including Congress, it would be possible to drive some sense into the heads of the Congress rulers and force them to withdraw this retrograde measure, or, in the alternative, at least to win some exemptions and concessions.

Thus, a well prepared and well thought-out offensive against increased taxes will unfold itself during this month in this State.

From the fact that this increase in land revenue by 100 to 800 per cent will hit the rich and poor alike, a broad united front of all sections of peasantry is expected to emerge during this month and its weight would be felt by the members of Assembly, as they sit down to consider the bill in detail at Select Committee stage.

"Withdraw this bill. Scrap prohibition and you will find enough resources" — this was the only demand made at every public meeting held in the State. That was the one and only resolution voted by the people at these meetings.

The withdrawal was demanded not merely because it means increase and human psychology is to oppose any such increase, as the Minister stated while speaking on the bill in the Assembly.

Forty Years Ago

Take for instance the argument of the government that since land revenue was fixed 30-40 years ago, peasants have prospered, price of land has appreciated as also the price of foodgrains peasant produced. This argument was smashed by P. Sundarayya in his hard-hitting speech in the Assembly, with facts and figures given by Government itself.

Taking the State as a whole, in 1890, the average yield per acre (paddy) was between 1,000 to 2,000 seers, while cost of cultivation per acre was ten to fifteen rupees and price of paddy was three rupees per bag of hundred seers. But, in 1956-57, the yield per acre was only 1,000 to 2,000 seers, the cost of cultivation was Rs. 200 per acre and price of paddy was only 25 rupees.

Thus, while price of paddy has gone up by eight times, the cost of cultivation had gone up by 20 times.

Similarly, with regard to Jawar, price had gone up by ten times, but cultivation costs had gone up by 15 to 20 times. Even in Telangana area, in

1910, yield per acre of paddy was 750 to 1500 seers, cost of cultivation was Rs. 12 to 15 rupees. But, in 1956-57, yield was only 500 to 1500 seers, while cost of cultivation had gone up to Rs. 200 to Rs. 250. (all figures of yield are seers in measures and not in weight).

Do these figures prove that the prosperity of peasant has increased, that his profits have gone up or the average yield has increased?

Prosperity Imaginary

That the prosperity of the overwhelming majority of the peasantry, barring a few landlords, is only imaginary, was also proved in the speeches in the public meetings, when it was pointed out that while it was true that price of paddy

has increased from what it was before, the increase in prices of commodities that peasant had to purchase also went up many times more, thus nullifying the effect of increase in the price of paddy.

For instance, between 1953 and 1952, while the all-India wholesale price index registered an increase from 100 to 101 only, the price index for manufactured goods shot up from 98.6 to 126.4. This shows, they pointed out, that prices of foodgrains practically showed no increase, while that of manufactured articles rose by twentyfive per cent.

Take another instance of supply of fertilisers. Firstly, it is wholly inadequate. While its ex-factory price is Rs. 29 and while it is offered by government to peasants at about Rs. 39, it is not at all available to the peasant at that rate and at times, which force him to purchase it in blackmarket, the ruling price is as high as Rs. 95 to Rs. 115.

Sundarayya effectively punctured another argument of the Government that Government took this decision to in-

crease land revenue basing on the report of Anantharaman Committee which was asked by government to suggest a rationalised land revenue structure. Sundarayya pointed out that while the Anantharaman Committee categorised six types of land according to fertility and four types of irrigation sources and suggested that these differences should be kept in view while determining the land revenue, the Government totally forgot this aspect and levied the same rate on poor and rich soils alike.

But Government don't seem to be concerned with justice or injustice of their proposal. Or, shall we say, they were too much aware of the injustice of the proposal and the possible repercussions on the people of this increase.

Unseemly Haste

For, the bill proposing increase in land revenue was gazetted on June 8, but released to the public only June 15. It tabled the bill for first reading on June 15 and 26 and the Chief Minister, who was averse to having sessions of legislature both in the morning and evening, readily agreed to have

sessions in morning as well as evening so that it can be referred to Select Committee.

The bill will have to emerge out of Select committee before end of this month, when it would be taken up for clause-by-clause discussion and adopted before the present session is adjourned.

Thus, all possibilities for the public to discuss this measure which will have far-reaching consequences and which will have permanent effect at least for the next ten years to come, have been suppressed and the bill is being hustled through.

But, the Communist Party is determined to see that Government would not have its own way. All methods open in parliamentary procedure would be adopted by opposition to see that this bill is not enacted in this session, or at least, is delayed as long as possible.

Sundarayya uttered a warning in the legislature itself. Even if the Government persisted in pushing through this measure relying on their brute majority, it would provoke wide-spread resentment among the people and it would be utterly impossible for the Government to enforce the provisions of the bill.

Floods Again Taking Heavy Toll In Assam

★ From Madhusudan Bhattacharya

Flood which has now become a chronic phenomenon in Assam every monsoon, has caused extensive damage this year also. Early this month as many as three districts—Goalpara, Lakhimpur and Cachar felt the fury of flood. But the damage has been by far the most extensive and devastating in the district of Cachar.

ACCORDING to official reports till the time of writing, flood water has been gradually receding in the first named two districts. But Lakhimpur district, particularly its Dibrugarh subdivision, is faced with erosion on extensive scale. The embankment on the Brahmaputra suffered breaches at several places, according to available reports.

Official sources could not deny that the flood control measures on which huge amount of money has been spent proved of little assistance to the people.

It is alleged by competent sources that many of the flood control measures were executed in a haphazard way; some of the schemes, they allege, were rendered defective as a result of misappropriation of the allotted money and other corrupt practices.

Besides, doubt is harboured in some quarters as to whether proper and adequate scientific investigation had been made

before the flood control measures had been taken up.

Whatever may be the basis and authenticity of these allegations, the fact remains that flood which in modern world should not be considered unpreventable has been a permanent source of suffering to the people of this State.

Hardly a year has passed since 1950 earthquake when some area or other of the State was not inundated, bringing in its wake untold sufferings to the affected people.

Apart from other things, relief of the afflicted people itself is a big drain on the State finance.

This year, according to all available reports, the worst hit area has been the district of Cachar where nearly 7 lakhs of the total population of about 12 lakhs are stated to have been affected.

According to the State Medi-

cal Minister who has just returned from a tour of the district, in Silchar subdivision 566 villages, covering an area of about 399 square miles with about 45,172 families were affected; while in Karimgunj subdivision an area of about 80 square miles covering 250 villages with 10,000 families were affected and in the Hallakandi subdivision that had been cut off from the outside world by land route for several days and even now is not easily approachable, 199 villages with 15,000 families were affected. About 4,355 houses were damaged according to the Minister.

EXTENSIVE DEVASTATION

This facts given by the Minister give a picture of the extensive devastation caused by the flood in that district. According to Communist party sources the flood devastation in that district this year is almost as extensive as that of 1929 when the district was visited by the worst ever flood in living memory.

According to the Medical Minister till now the State has spent a sum of about Rs. 1 lakh 50 thousand for relief operations and he believes another sum of Rs. 50 thousand will be required for the purpose.

It is learnt that the Cachar district Council of the Party has thrown its entire strength to flood relief work. Some other non-official agencies are also rendering relief to the affected people.

from adequate and the relief machinery has been moving at a snail's pace. More expeditious and more extensive relief measures are needed according to them.

Flood water has not yet receded from all the areas. While it has been receding in some areas, water has become stagnant as a result of putting fishplates under some of the railway bridges to strengthen these.

Incidentally railway tracks were also damaged in some areas, though railway communication has been restored in Silchar and Karimgunj subdivisions, it has not been fully restored in Hallakandi subdivision till now.

Loss of six human lives has been reported from that district till now.

No proper assessment of the damage to crop can be formed until the flood recedes from all the areas.

Communist Party State Council Secretary Phani Bora in course of a statement has appealed to the people to rush relief to the victims of flood in Cachar. He has also called upon the Government to rush relief expeditiously. He has directed Party units to organise relief work in cooperation with other agencies in the field.

It is learnt that the Cachar district Council of the Party has thrown its entire strength to flood relief work. Some other non-official agencies are also rendering relief to the affected people.

NEW CRISIS IN BIHAR GOVT.'S LAND POLICY

By INDRADEEP SINHA

The decision of the Bihar Government not to implement the levy provisions of the Land Ceiling Act, barely three weeks after the Act itself was enforced by a Gazette Notification on April 19, 1962, is symptomatic of a new crisis in the Government's Land policy.

THIS crisis was inherent in the two opposite and even contradictory aims pursued by the Government in the sphere of land reforms. One such aim is: "to arrange for more equitable distribution of land" as declared in the statement of Objects and Reasons of the Land Ceiling Bill and repeatedly proclaimed from various official and non-official platforms.

The Real Aim

But the other, unproclaimed, but nonetheless, very real aim is to leave as much land to the landlords as possible, and with this end in view, to sabotage quick and effective legislation on Ceilings.

The result of these two opposite aims of the Government's land policies has been that while it has endlessly talked about ceiling and distribution of land, repeatedly introduced and withdrawn its Ceiling Bill, it has actively aided and abetted the landlords in their relentless drive to "clear" the lands in possession of the Bataidars and other cultivating tenants and has finally defrauded the latter of even the meagre occupancy rights conferred by the British as a result of long and bitter mass struggles.

Long History Of Sabotage

Even a cursory glance at the various manoeuvres of the Bihar Government to introduce, amend and withdraw its various Ceiling Bills helps to illustrate this point. It is well known that the first Ceiling Bill (1955) introduced by the then Revenue Minister K. B. Sahay proposed two types of ceilings.

While the Bill provided for a formal ceiling at 30 standard acres for a family of five members, it simultaneously proposed to allow a real ceiling upto three hundred acres per family in the name of "efficient farming" and "scientific management".

And when, due to united popular opposition to this atrocious proposal, the clauses relating to "efficient farming" and "scientific management" were dropped and a Bill with only a thirty acre ceiling per family emerged out of the Select Committee, the whole legislation was dropped on the eve of the Second General Elections when it was already before the Legislature.

We have it on the authority of Baidyanath Prasad Choudhury, an ex-President of the

BPC that this withdrawal was perpetrated due to the "great pull of the reactionary forces inside the Congress". (Bhoodan Yagna—May 18, 1962)

The Government took three long years to redraft and introduce the present Ceiling Bill in 1959 and it did so only after being satisfied that the interests of the landlords to the maximum possible extent and transfer the major burden of the acquisition of surplus land to the peasants.

While refusing to impose proper ceiling on the landlords, the new Bill has sought to cover up this sabotage of ceilings by imposing a levy mainly on the land of the peasants.

The Land Ceiling Act as finally enacted after years of evasion is nothing but a caricature of Ceiling Legislation.

The Bihar Government has rejected the family as a basis for land ceiling and has provided a new definition of a "landholder" according to which, "a member of an undivided Hindu

family, it has outright excluded the big farms owned by the sugar factories, temples and other religious bodies from the operation of the Land Ceiling Act.

Gift To Landlords

The result of these unashamed pro-landlord provisions of the Land Ceiling Act can be understood from the following figures. According to the figures given by the first Agricultural Labourer Enquiry Committee, only 1.6 per cent of the rural families had more than 25 acres of land each and they together owned 19 per cent of the land. The total number of families was 49 lakhs and total area of land held was 2 crore acres. These figures show that nearly eighty thousand landlord families owned about 38 lakh acres of land.

With a ceiling at 25 ordinary acres about 18 lakh acres of land could be acquired for distribution among landless labourers. But after the new Act, which takes the individual shareholder as the basis for ceiling and also provides for further partition through gifts etc., and further grants liberal exemptions, hardly one and half lakh acres of land are expected to be available even ac-

more than 20 acres. Nearly eleven lakh acres of land are expected to be available from this levy.

Enacted in the teeth of opposition from all the peasant organisations and left and democratic organisations, this Land Ceiling Act together with its levy provisions was tom-tommed during the last general election to catch agricultural labourers' votes for the Congress Party. These same provisions also were utilised by the Swatantra and Jan Sangh to entice peasant votes for their reactionary programmes.

But now the elections are over, the Government has made a volte-face and announced the postponement, if not altogether abandonment, of the levy provisions.

Govt.'s New Dilemma

These pro-landlord and anti-peasant policies and opportunist manoeuvres of the Bihar Government have placed it on the horns of a dilemma. If it proceeds to implement the levy, whose main burden falls on the support of the peasants and hands them over to the Swatantra Party.

Nation, the mouthpiece of Darbhanga Maharaj, the biggest landlord in the country, has editorially warned the Government of a "political storm" should it try to acquire any more land from the landlord class. Commenting on the proposed changes in the ceiling and the levy legislation it says:

Darbhanga's Mouthpiece

"Truth to say, the further lowering of the ceiling on agricultural land would amount to asphyxiation of higher castes in the village economy... The Planning Commission, which has no soul of its own, will not serve the Bihar Congress Party well by encouraging it to go in for the lowering of the ceiling or for the retention of the Land Levy provision". (Indian Nation, June 9, 1962).

This vile attempt to rouse caste sentiments in the interest of the landed magnates of the State is an expression not only of the utter bankruptcy of the "political theorists" and hired hacks of the landlord class, it also shows as if in a flash, that semi-feudal landlordism is the social base of the evil of casteism in the socio-political life of Bihar, and hence an obstacle to national integra-

—Amend The Ceiling —Exempt Peasants From Levy

According to the Government's optimistic calculations.

We shall not be surprised, however, if, in actual practice, even these one and half lakh acres are reduced to an insignificant amount of surplus land.

Needless to say that these one and half lakh acres of land, if available would be utterly inadequate to satisfy even a part of the land hunger of the 17 lakhs families of landless agricultural labourers.

Levy On Peasants

In order to cover up this shameful sabotage of Ceiling Legislation, and this gross betrayal of the solemn pledges given to the agricultural labourers, the Bihar Government has resorted to the diabolical method of imposing a graded levy on all landholders owning more than one acre of land.

This act stipulates a levy of one-twentieth on those owning more than 5 acres of land, and one tenth on those owning

But if it does not enforce the levy it hardly gets any land from its so-called ceilings, then it loses the support of the agricultural labourers.

The Chief Minister and the Revenue Minister have been making different statements on different occasions. Sometimes they say that because the main burden of the levy falls on the peasants, so it has to be abandoned. On other occasions they have said that at least 8 to 10 lakh acres of land for the agricultural labourer can only be acquired through the levy, so the levy has to stay. On yet other occasions they have said that further exemptions from levy can be given provided the level of the ceiling is lowered.

This new development with regard to ceiling and levy has caused diverse reactions among various political forces in Bihar. The Swatantra Party and the landlords, entrenched inside the Congress and the Government are exerting pressure on the Government to drop the levy altogether and at the same time, not to lower the ceiling any further.

For example, the Indian

tion. The leaders of the Bhoodan movement have made loud and bitter complaints against the proposed abandonment of the Levy. Their grievances are four-fold.

Firstly, it was on the basis of the Levy provisions of the Land Ceiling Act that they launched their so-called "Bigha-Katha movement" in Bihar which envisages the voluntary donation of one-twentieth of the land by each landholders to the Bhoodan Samiti.

Bhoodanis Complaint

The Government of Bihar had provided legislative sanctions to this movement by obligingly stipulating in the levy clauses of the Land Ceiling Act that any land "donated to Bhoodan Yagna Committee... or to Acharya Vinoba Bhave for the purpose of the Bhoodan movement on or after the 25th days of December 1960, shall of set off towards the area which the landholder is requi-

★ SEE PAGE TEN

STATE-WIDE ANTI-TAX DEMONSTRATIONS IN U.P.

Gupta's Threats Resented

The battle has, unquestionably, been joined. The meetings and demonstrations that have taken place all over the State from June 16 onwards against enhancement of taxes and the policies implied therein clearly indicate that the giant is awakening and girding up its loins to meet the unwise challenge thrown by the Chief Minister.

THE call for meetings and demonstrations was, as is known, given by the Communist Party and the Kisan Sabha. Later, other parties of the State had also announced their resolve to oppose the further burdens on the people. The Praja Socialist Party, as is its wont, did not agree to have meetings, etc., on June 16 or 17 and fixed up June 27 for expressing its disapproval of the taxes.

The Socialist Party, pursuing its peculiar ways, dubbed the "talk of civil disobedience" as a "crime against the people" and yet fixed up August 1 as "civil disobedience day", from August 8 to 14 as "revolutionary week", and October 18 as a day for demonstrations against taxation.

The Jan Sangh fixed July 1, which was also the day fixed by the Communist Party, for demonstrations on railway stations against the increase of railway fares.

Despite these divergent voices and some unhelpful postures, the fact remains that the anxiety caused by the news of the coming taxes was so widespread that no party could dare to ignore it and the declarations made by them have helped to strengthen and intensify the climate of struggle and resistance to the proposed satanic impositions.

The meetings and demonstrations held on June 16 onwards have fully borne this out. From Meerut, Ghaziabad and Moradabad in the west to Ballia, Ghazipur, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Basti, Balrampur and Azamgarh in the east, and from Tehri and Pauri Garhwal in the hills in the north, to Banda and Jhansi in the south of the State, through several hundred meetings and demonstrations, the thunderous cry has risen: NO MORE TAXES! RESTORE REBATE ON IRRIGATION RATES! IMPLEMENT THE PLAN BY TAXING THE RICH AND BY REALISING THE HUGE DUES PENDING WITH THEM!

Meetings and demonstrations have also been held in Lucknow, Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi, Unnao, Haridwar, Etawa, Jaunpur, Lakhimpur Kheri, Pilibhit, Rae Bareilly, Saharanpur and scores of other smaller towns and tehsil centres.

In the State capital, the mass meeting in the Aminuddaula Park was addressed among others by Mohammad Elias, well known labour leader of West Bengal and member of Parliament. The huge public rally in Varanasi presided over by District Party Secretary Satya Narain Singh was addressed by K. K. Warior, Kerala people's leader and member of Parliament. The big workers' rally in Kanpur was addressed by Dr. Z. A. Ahmad, besides S. S. Yusuf MHA, President of the United Sooti Mill Mazdur Sabha.

In the tehsil centres of Azamgarh big kisan and people's demonstrations were personally led by Jharkhande Rai, Chandrajeet Yadav, Surjan Ram, MLAs, Tej Bahadur Singh, District Party Secretary and Ram Chandra Rai and in Ghazipur by District Party Secretary, Raj Nath Singh, Ram Sunder Shastri, MLA and Raghunath Ram, MLA.

In Gorakhpur the impressive Kisan demonstration of Red Flags was led by Jagdish Pathak.

In Meerut, the demonstration to the ADM's office was led among others by Shanti Tyagi, Bharat Singh, Pitam Singh and the Kisan Sabha Secretary Murari Lal. In Moradabad, the public meeting held under the presidency of Ratan Lal in the Town Hall was addressed by Sharafat Hussain Rizvi, the young Communist MLA from Amroha.

The mass meeting held in the Azad Maidan in Tehri Garhwal was addressed by the well known folk poet, Gunanand and Raghunath Singh Rana, apart from the District Party Secretary Vid-

June 27 at many places. So far reports have come only from Allahabad, Kanpur and Sultanpur. The PSP's campaign to collect 20,000 signatures in Kanpur is also in progress.

And, although, it should be obvious that this is only the beginning, the people are just starting to stir, the movement has yet to develop far, both in volume and intensity, before it can muster strength to deliver the goods—it has also become once again clear that, like in 1958 at the time of the food struggle of the State, it is the Communist Party and the Kisan Sabha possess the largest mobilising capacity of all the opposition parties in Uttar Pradesh. This is to the good of our people because it will act as a brake on attempts at letting down or betrayal by some gentlemen who are almost adepts to the game.

It will also help the process of persuasion of the other opposition parties to act jointly and unitedly at least on these vital issues to the life of our people.

Volunteers Being Enrolled

The Communist Party's call for enrolment of volunteers is being carried out in the

Police Act to "crush" the agitation against the enhanced irrigation rates. But, not only that Act itself was declared ultra vires by the Allahabad High Court and the several thousand satyagrahis were ordered to be released, but the ministry was also compelled, as a result of that struggle, to yield a rebate of three annas in a rupee in the irrigation tax. Soon after that Pantji was called away to the Centre.

Again in 1958, when Sampurnanand headed the ministry, he too had tried to "crush" the people's struggle. He too had, dismally failed. He was forced to take steps to curb prices and, very much against his will, he was compelled to constitute an all parties food committee in the State. The reeling blow delivered to him and his unlamented ministry at that time however did not allow him to recover thereafter and, in 1960, he too had to quit the gaddi and later the State! The Communist leader has also reminded the Chief Minister that he should not unnecessarily delude himself about his "majority"; he should not forget that in the last general election 64 per cent of the State's people had voted against his party.

Shukla has, in the end, appealed to him that instead of indulging in these ebullient blandishments he should call a meeting of the opposition leaders in the State and discuss the question of raising resources for financing the Plan. A more helpful and constructive proposal than this can not be conceived.

But the Chief Minister is in no mood to talk to anybody. He does not want to discuss the matter even with his own colleagues of the Congress Party. He seems to be relying entirely on the increased strength of the State's police. And now hardly a day passes when he does not come out with some new threat or an equally ludicrous argument.

A few days ago there was a strike of roadways workers in Kumaon—for some very just demands. But the Chief Minister had no patience. Threatening the workers with dire consequences, he said, "These tactics for getting their demands implemented will not be allowed to succeed... the government will not tolerate illegal strike..." (National Herald, June 24)

Today he has come out with a statement that the people of eastern Uttar Pradesh have become prosperous because now he saw them wearing some clothes in a meeting, while in some meeting in 1952 he had found all of them to be bare-bodied! A majority of the people in that unhappy region are known to be so poor that can barely eat one meal a day and even the Central government has recently been persuaded to pay some attention to the problems of the region; but to the State's Chief Minister, who is bent upon levying further burdens on the peasantry, only prosperity and riches of the rack-rented kisan are visible. He has accused Gahmari, Con-

gress MP, of making false statements in Lok Sabha.

Here, incidentally, may also be mentioned the fact that nowhere is the rate of the agricultural rent so high as in U.P. It is about Rs. 4.40 per acre in U.P., while perhaps in no other State it is higher than Rs. 2.50 per acre. The land revenue in the State has been continuously increased by generations of pro-property rulers. In 1951 it was Rs. 8 crores. Now it is Rs. 21 crores. Gupta now wants to realise from this item some 30 or more crores of rupees.

However, it is clear as daylight that he is not going to have his way. And a lot of thanks for this should be offered to C. B. Gupta himself, for, one may almost say, that his threatening utterances have already promoted the success of the movement. They have forced all the Opposition parties to accept his challenge. They have united them in firm opposition to the increase of taxes.

PSP leader, Triloki Singh, S.P. leader, Raj Narain Singh, Jan Sangh leader, Pitambar Das, and a whole host of others, belonging to various parties, have come out with hard-hitting rejoinders to the insolent threats and pledged their parties to take up the gauntlet.

A typical news of people's reaction has come from Kanpur. The leaders of the PSP, SP and the CPI there have been spurred by the Chief Minister's threats to bring about "political unity" to answer the threats collectively. They are going to convene a meeting of the representatives

of the concerned parties to work out a joint programme of action against the taxes. Even if they cannot form a United Front, they say, they will at least work out arrangements so that all the parties may launch the struggle at the same time, together.

Let us hope the path shown by Kanpur will gradually become the common path of all who stand by the toiling people of the State, of all who really desire the progress and development of the State.

The echoes of the growing tempo of the movement have also begun to find a response—vocal response—in the ranks of congressmen. For instance, on June 27, a convention of congressmen was held in Bulandshahr to consider the serious situation created by the announcement of new taxes. The convention unanimously opposed the move to increase land revenue, saying that it would spell disaster for the congress and the peasantry of the State.

Congressmen Condemn Govt. Policy

The convention, which was presided over by Din Dayal Sharma, of the dissident group criticised the move to take such a drastic step without consulting either the UP PCC or the Congress Legislature Party.

Some Congressmen are reported to be so upset by the move to increase land revenue that they threatened to resign from the organisation if it did not heed the interests of the

kisans. They recall that the late Pandit Pant had assured the State's peasantry that land revenue would not be increased for the next forty years.

The division in the cabinet has, thus, begun to openly percolate into the ranks of the Congress and more resolute opposition may be witnessed when the UP PCC meets at the end of July, just before the next Assembly Session, in Lucknow.

Gupta, it is now revealed, did not want this meeting of the PCC to be held. In fact, he opposed the proposal in the Executive of the PCC last week. And, although in a statement to the press he has claimed that there are no differences between the Government and the State Congress as 90 per cent of the Executive members are also members of the Ministry and as he is the leader of both the wings, the fact remains that the proposal in the Executive was carried against his opposition!

A. P. Jain, President of the UP PCC, has invited Pandit Nehru also to attend this crucial meeting. A great responsibility rests on members of this body at this time. They can still review the disastrous policies of the Ministry, discipline their government and its baton-swinging Chief Minister, and save the State and its people from much suffering and loss.

Otherwise, as stated at the outset, the battle has already begun and it will not stop, whatever the consequences, till success crowns it. (June 30)

Congressmen Grab Public Fund

A number of well-known Congressmen of West Bengal have cheated the State Government to the tune of over Rs. 11 lakhs. Their modus operandi would put many criminals to shame.

Soon after the West Bengal Estates Acquisition Act was passed in 1953, jotedars in different districts started mala fide transfers of lands under faked names with a view to evading the ceiling of 25 acres on land-holdings. One of the methods adopted by them was to set up cooperative societies for the purpose of cooperative farming. The members of these cooperatives were their own relations and other people who did not exist!

One such cooperative society was formed in 1954 by some leading men of Jalpaiguri District Congress Committee at a place called Fatapukur. The State Government was approached for help to enable the society to "cultivate" a few hundred acres of land. The Government gave financial assistance of over Rs. 11 lakhs. The society bought two small tractors and put up a fencing round its office.

Since then nothing is known about the activities of the society. It has just evaporated into thin air and, with its unnatural death, a huge amount of public money has gone down the drain. The only "assets" of the society on which the Government can now lay its hands are some pieces of scrap iron, the last remains of the two tractors, and the dilapidated fencing!

Strangely enough, the Government's Block Development Office is situated just by the side of the society's office. It is not known whether the Government's attention was drawn to this blatant swindling. Even if it was done, no steps were taken because the leading lights of the society were well-known Congressmen!

The Government spent a lot of money to make a documentary film about this "Ideal" Cooperative Society. The film is still being shown at some places!!

GOVT. CONVAISSING FOR CONGRESS

COMMUNIST daily Swadhinata in its issue of June 28, published a letter showing how a Department of the Union Government was trying to secure advertisements for a Congress publication, in gross violation of the standing rules regarding the distribution of official advertisements.

The letter in question (November 53-Pub (8)/62 dated June 20, 1962) was sent to semi-official institutions in Calcutta on behalf of the Commercial Publicity Director of the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

It was stated in the letter that the AICC had requested the Government to help it with advertisements in its forthcoming publication, "Fifteen Years of In-

dependence", which would come out on August 15 next.

If the institution concerned, the letter went on, was interested in sending its advertisement, it should directly contact 7, Jantar Mandar Road, New Delhi, Headquarters of the AICC, for rates and other relevant information.

It needs hardly to be pointed out that such "advice" to semi-official institutions has the force of an official directive.

One would like to ask the Government: will any Government Department go out of its way to secure advertisements for the papers published by other political parties? If not, then why this brazen-faced discrimination in favour of the Congress Party?

Cholera Takes Heavy Toll In Calcutta

Cholera is now taking a heavy toll of lives in Calcutta. It was officially declared an "epidemic" disease on June 26. This step is taken when deaths exceed 30 for two or three consecutive weeks.

THE total number of attacks and deaths during the two weeks ended June 23 were 628 and 131 respectively as compared to 449 and 101 respectively during corresponding weeks of June, 1961. The number of cholera attacks rose from 273 to 353 during the week ended June 23, and the number of deaths shot up from 42 to 89.

On an average, about 90 to 110 persons suspected of suffering from cholera are being admitted daily in the Infectious Diseases Hospital. Of these admissions, about 15 per cent of the cases are proving fatal.

At the time of writing, there are about 460 cholera patients in the Hospital, which has a total of 60 beds for such cases. If the epidemic takes a more virulent form—and the indications that it is tightening its grip on the city are already there—the situation will get completely out of hand.

The seriousness of the menace is underlined by the fact that Calcutta Corporation's Health Officer declared the disease to be epidemic on the basis of the mortality figures for the two weeks ended June 23, instead of waiting for the statistics for the third consecutive week. Outbreak of the disease in

The reasons for the prevalence of this preventable disease in endemic form in Calcutta and the menace of epidemic every year are not far to seek.

Lamentably inadequate supply of drinking water is the main cause, although there are other contributory factors, such as accumulation of garbage and consequent fly menace, lack of general sanitary conditions, congestion, etc.

The daily supply of filtered water from Calcutta Corporation's waterworks and tubewells amounts to ten crore gallons. But experts place the total minimum requirements per day at almost double that amount, i.e., 18 to 19 crore gallons.

From Jnan Bikash Moitra

ed water from Calcutta Corporation's waterworks and tubewells amounts to ten crore gallons. But experts place the total minimum requirements per day at almost double that amount, i.e., 18 to 19 crore gallons.

Schemes Have No Effect

The Corporation authorities have drawn up schemes after schemes to augment the water supply. But nothing has come out of them till now. The laying of a 72" pipeline to increase the supply was scheduled to be completed in January this year, but, till

now, only one-third of the work has been done!

Even the present meagre supply of ten crore gallons is most unevenly distributed. Most of the bustees are the "scarcity areas". To cite a few instances, there is no arrangement for the supply of filtered water in 61.7 per cent of the bustees, where 54.6 per cent of all the bustee-dwellers live!

In some bustees in East Calcutta, the percentage of hutments not provided with

filtered water is as high as 98.7.

About 600 tubewells are sunk every year by the Corporation, although many councillors are of the opinion that the number should be increased to at least 2,500. But not more than 125 tubewells were sunk during 1961-62. And, many of the existing tubewells have been lying out of order!

In these circumstances, the people living in bustees have no alternative but to fall back on unfiltered water from street hydrants, in which the supply is quite plentiful and from shallow wells, tanks covered with water-hyacinth and muddy water.

According to the health authorities, the water from these sources is mostly contaminated with germs of cholera and other gastro-intestinal diseases.

Another astounding fact is that while the bustees are deprived of the minimum quota of safe drinking water, the supply in the aristocratic areas of the city is more than abundant. There are even swimming pools in some houses! Not only that. The Corporation authorities recently detected about 300 unauthorised underground reservoirs of filtered water. It is estimated that the total number of such reservoirs exceeds 2,000!

Scarcity of water is not the only misfortune of the bustee-dwellers. Herded together like beasts in small, ill-ventilated huts, they are forced to live in the midst of indescribable filth.

They thank their stars if the accumulating garbage is cleared once in a fortnight. Most of the privies are of the service type. On an average, about 45 to 50 persons use one privy. But in some areas, the pressure is as much as 400 persons per lavatory!

Little wonder that cholera takes a heavy toll of lives in bustees every year.

The outbreak of the epidemic in more fortunate parts of the city is explained by the frequent contamination of the filtered water supply.

The first underground pipeline for the supply of filtered water in Calcutta were laid during 1923-26. Most of these water-mains are in a dilapidated condition. As a result leaks are frequently detected. The water supply gets contaminated with cholera and other germs, which enter the mains through these leaks.

Extent Of Contamination

During the period between June 10 and 23, about 210 samples of drinking water taken from different parts of the city were analysed in the Corporation's laboratory. It was found that the water was contaminated in as many as 80 cases!

Yet the people of Calcutta have to pay high water taxes for such "safe" drinking water!

Under the benign dispensation of the Congress party, Calcutta has become, perhaps, the dirtiest city in the world. Unclear streets and heaps of rotting garbage on roadsides are a common sight. Daily accumulation of garbage amounts to 2,000 tons. But, due to shortage of lorries on the one hand, and utter inefficiency of the Corporation's Conservancy Department on the other, not more than 1,800

BIHAR GOVT. LAND POLICY

From Page Seven

red to, surrender to the State under the provision of (i.e. Levy) this chapter". (Sec. 28, Sub-Sec. 2 C).

The Bhoodan leaders now complain that the Government of Bihar has given them a stab in the back by suddenly announcing the postponement or even the withdrawal of the Levy, after the former had launched a full scale drive of "Katha-Dan" by dumping hundreds of workers from outside the State and spending huge sums of money on this campaign.

Secondly, their grievance is that the Government of Bihar is going back on its solemn pledges to the landless labourers to acquire enough land through Levy for distribution among the latter. Acharya Vinoba Bhave complains that after exploiting the Levy provision for securing the agricultural labourers' votes, "the gentlemen who secured the majority in the elections are now talking of not implementing the Levy. Such betrayal of solemn pledges lowers the level of public life. This pains me most". (Bhoodan Yagna, June 1, 1962).

Thirdly, their grievance is that the Bihar Government is now backing out of its earlier commitments to introduce the Bhoodan principle of imposing a compulsory levy on all landholders, big and small.

Jaya Prakash Narain, for example, has complained that the Bhoodan leaders are the fathers of the conception of the Levy and that the levy provisions as finally incorporated in Bihar Land Ceiling Act, were "in accordance with the memorandum submitted in 1955 by himself and two other Bhoodan Leaders of Bihar, Gaurishankar Sarat Singh and Baidnath Pad. Choudhary". (Bhoodan Yagna, 1962).

This claim of Jaya Prakash Narain is unfortunately not substantiated by facts. It is true that the Bhoodan Samiti in its memorandum of 1955 had proposed a graded levy on land. But it is equally true that this levy was to be imposed after a ceiling of 30 standard acres per family with no exemption and loopholes, and not as a substitute for the sabotage of ceiling as perpetrated in the present Act.

Moreover, the memorandum itself had stipulated that "those who own less than five acres should be exempted from this levy on the ground that they have too little for themselves to be compelled by law to contribute to others." (Memorandum, page 6.)

Question Of Exemption Limit

Even at that time representatives of the Bihar State Kisan Sabha had urged the Bhoodan leaders including Jaya Prakash to raise the exemption limit to 10 standard acres per family on the ground that it would be wrong to deprive at least the middle peasants of any portion of their land and Jayaprakash's reaction was not negative.

But it is amazing that when even the 5 acres exemption limit has been abandoned in this Act and the levy has been brought in as

a manoeuvre to cover up the sabotage of land ceilings, Jaya Prakash should go out of his way to shower blessings on this pro-landlord and anti-peasant piece of legislation.

It is well-known that in a statement issued to the press after the enactment of Land Ceiling Act, Jaya Prakash Narain had congratulated the Bihar Government for its "novel and courageous measure". Jaya Prakash had stated "there is nothing extraordinary in the ceiling level fixed by this Act which in my opinion is rather high, but I can certainly characterise the so-called levy provision incorporated in this Act as novel and courageous. The Bihar Government deserves congratulation for this Act." (Bhoodan Yagna, May 18, 1962).

Real Face Of The Levy

In order to understand the real purport of the levy it is necessary to go into a broad analysis of the extent to which various classes of landholders are hit by its provisions. According to the census of land holdings conducted by the Government of Bihar, taking the person as the family, the distribution of land holdings were as follows: (figures in 1000):

Size of Holdings	Number	Area (Acres)
Upto 1 acre	2521	1047
1 to 5 acres	2618	6471
5 to 20 acres	862	7391
above 20 acres	61	2187

If we work out the land that each class of land holders has to part with under the levy as provided by the Land Ceiling Act, we get the following results (figures in thousands):

Class of land holders	Rate of Levy acquired	Land to be acquired
Upto 1 acre	nil	nil
1 to 5 acres	1/20	323
5 to 20 acres	1/20	739
above 20 acres	1/6	358

It is necessary to state that landholders above 20 acres are also liable to ceilings under which they are expected to contribute one and half lakh acres of land. Hence the net result of this Act would be that the land holders falling above the ceiling line, would contribute only as much land under the ceiling as well as the levy, as the poor peasants owning between one and five acres of land would do under the levy.

A further breakup of the land holders falling between 5 to 20 acres category shows that those owning between 5 to 10 acres would contribute 4,40,000 acres of land, while those owning between 10 to 15 acres would contribute about 2 lakhs acres of land.

Thus taking the result of the ceiling as well as the levy provision together we find that the landlord class i.e., those owning above 15 acres of land contribute a mere 4½ lakh acres of land whereas the peasants i.e., those owning less than 15 acres contribute nearly 6½ lakh acres of land.

Such is the patent pro-landlord and anti-peasant character of this "novel and courageous" Legislation of the Bihar Government for which Jaya Prakash Narain has chosen to shower praises on it.

The grievance of the Bhoodan leaders is that the withdrawal or scuttling of the levy would leave practically no land in the hands of the Government with which to assuage the extremely strained feelings of the agricultural labourers.

The other political parties and groups appear to be divided and vacillating between these two extreme positions—the landlords' position of total abandonment of the Levy without any amendment of the ceilings and the extreme Bhoodani position of retention of the Levy in its present form also without any amendment of the Act.

Tirade Against Kisan Movement

"If the problem of landlessness is not solved", they say, "then today or tomorrow such a storm will break out which will uproot not only this Government but all of us together". (Bhoodan Yagna, June 1, 1962).

A section of the Bhoodan leadership has been pleading with the landlords to voluntarily donate a part of their land if they want to escape confiscation of the whole at the hands of the "Communists." U. N. Dhebar, for example is reported to have told a meeting of the Bihar legislators "that had Acharya Vinoba not launched the Bhoodan movement, then nobody knows how far the flames of Telengana's violence would have spread in the country." (Bhoodan Yagna, April 27, 1962).

This tirade against the so-called "Telengana violence", is in effect an opposition to any real distribution of the landlords' lands among the landless through the power of the organised mass movement. For, it is well-known that the Bhoodan leaders are opposed not only to the "path of the sword" (i.e., of organised peasant movement), but also to the "path of the law" (i.e., of an effective ceiling legislation), because that also would impose a measure of compulsion on the landlord class.

Hence, this alternative is the "path of pity" through piteous and pitiful voluntary gifts of land by the landowners in the form of "Bhoodan", "Gramdan" and "Katha-dan".

Crisis Of Bhoodan

Experience of the last ten years should be enough to demonstrate the utter futility of this so-called "path of pity" in bringing us any nearer the solution of the land problem. It is well-known that out of the nearly 22 lakhs acres of land collected through Bhoodan during the last ten years, only 9 lakh acres have been found cultivable and only 2½ acres actually distributed amongst the landless.

But during this same period, the "piteous" landlords have evicted the peasants from 12 to 15 lakh acres of good lands under the latter's cultivating possession by resorting to all manner of violence—from the lathi to the bullet. Moreover, even the Bhoodan leaders had to take shelter of the "path of the law" by having the "Bhoodan Yagna Act" enacted and the Levy provisions incorporated in the Land Ceiling Act.

It is understandable, therefore, that the prospects of the withdrawal of the levy, has brought them practically to a dead end and has left them rather bitter, frustrated and confused. A section of the Bhoodan leadership is now advocating a total abjuration of

the "path of law", while another section is trying to work up various kinds of pressures on the Government to retain the levy even in an amended form.

The State Executive of the PSP is reported to have dispersed without adopting any resolution on this pressing and crucial issue, due to internal differences.

Socialists Communists Oppose

Only the Socialist Party and the Communist Party have come out with clear-cut positions on this controversial issue. The Socialist Party has demanded the exemption of uneconomic holdings (i.e., those below 6½ standard acres) from the operations of the levy. The Communist Party has demanded the exemption of the working peasantry from the levy and simultaneously radical changes in the ceilings itself so as to secure enough surplus land for distribution among the landless.

In a resolution adopted on May 22, the Bihar State Executive of the CPI has characterised the latest move of the Bihar Government as "a new step to divide the peasants from the agricultural labourers in order to serve the interests of the landlords." Exposing this policy of disruption, the resolution states that whereas, previously the Government sought to set the agricultural labourers against the peasants by justifying the imposition of the levy as a substitute for proper ceilings, now it is trying to set the peasants against the agricultural labourers by justifying the withdrawal of the levy without radically amending the ceilings.

"Hence," the resolution states that "while supporting every step of the Government to exempt the peasantry from the levy, the CPI is determined to resist every attempt of the Government to exempt the landlords as well from the levy on the ceilings".

For Radical Changes

Hence, while demanding the exemption of the working peasantry from the operations of the levy, the resolution simultaneously demands radical changes in the ceilings by— making the family in place of the individual as the basis for ceilings;— fixing a ceiling of 15 standard acres for such a family of 5 persons;

- annulling all fictitious partitions etc., since 1955;
- removing the various exemptions from ceilings granted in the present Act;
- distributing all the surplus land among the landless and only then encouraging them to voluntarily join into co-operatives;
- granting proprietary rights to all Bataidars and other sub-tenants after allowing for a limited right of redemption to the peasants.

Appeal For Unity

Finally, the resolution appeals to all the peasants' and agricultural labour organisations, the Left and the Democratic parties, the Bhoodan Samiti and progressive Congressmen interested in the distribution of landlords' surplus lands among the landless, to their forces in a broad, powerful and united mass movement to force the hands of the Government to introduce radical changes in the Land Ceilings Act.

It was on the basis of these slogans that Communists and Kisan Sabha workers joined hands to observe the Land Reforms Day on June 18 by holding meetings and demonstrations at various centres in the State.

... And Its Prospects

But this is yet a small, indeed, a very small beginning. There is the need, as well as the possibility, of establishing a broad unity in action, of various forces interested in giving land to the landless, despite certain ideological and political differences. And the basis for such unity exists. All these elements are committed to the introduction of proper ceilings. Both the Congress and the Bhoodan Samiti are committed to the exemption of peasants below 5 acres of land from the levy. Hence, agreed slogans can be evolved if genuine efforts are made to this end by all concerned. Communists are taking the initiative in this respect and hope that others too will respond.

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JULY 8, 1962

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE OF THE C.P.I. PAYS HOMAGE TO K. M. ASHRAF

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT DELHI, JUNE 28

THE Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of India records its deep sense of grief at the demise of Com. K. M. Ashraf, a veteran Communist and scholar who played an outstanding role in the freedom movement of the country.

Self-Made Man

Coming from a poor peasant family, Ashraf in his younger days faced extreme hardships. But with his remarkable courage, grit and capacity, he managed to educate himself and became one of the most-distinguished students of the M.A.O. College, Aligarh.

National Fighter

On his return to India in 1931, Ashraf plunged into the national struggle and also joined the Communist Party of India. He soon came to occupy a very important position in the Indian National Congress and was looked upon at that time by the masses of Indian people as a Nationalist Muslim leader in stature and importance only next to Maulana Azad. Despite his tremendous

Due to his outstanding academic merit, he was given a scholarship for studying abroad by the Government of the Alwar State.

In London, he soon came into touch with the Communist movement and became one of the founders of the first Communist students' group in England. While in England, he also distinguished himself as a scholar of medieval Indian history and his thesis for Doctorate on "Social and Economic Conditions of the People of Hindustan from the year 1000 A.D. to 1526 A.D." is still considered to be the best work on the subject and is prescribed for post-graduate studies in many Indian Universities.

National Fighter

He joined the non-cooperation movement and left his studies at the age of 19 and soon came to occupy a leading position among the mass of Muslim youth who were drawn into this struggle. After the collapse of the movement, he rejoined the Aligarh University and became the leader of the nationalist section of students of the University.

With a revolutionary and restless mind, he read extensively about freedom struggles in other countries and began to be drawn towards the ideas of socialism.

mass popularity as a national leader, Ashraf remained a humble and loyal worker of the Party. When he was called upon by the Party to leave the Congress, he did so without any hesitation and took up the work of editing the Party's Urdu weekly at the Party Headquarters in Bombay.

Ashraf also played a prominent role in the building of the Kisan Sabha in the earlier stages. With his rich experience of national movement, Ashraf made very valuable contributions to the development of various mass organisations in the country.

After the 2nd Congress of our Party, Ashraf began to suffer from indifferent health and became a victim of T.B. in the stomach. In 1949 he went to England for treatment and lived there for a few years but could not regain his health.

Therefore, on his return to India in 1953, he decided to withdraw himself from active political work and took to academic life and research. Even in this field, Ashraf remained a loyal member of the Party, and formed teachers' and students' groups to propagate Communist ideology.

Last year he was invited by the Humboldt University in Berlin to occupy the Chair

of Indian History which he did with great distinction. Ashraf has left behind him thousands of men and women who had admired and loved him during his life time as a brave and honest man, a great patriot,

a revolutionary and a good Communist.

The Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of India sends its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

MIAN IFTIKHARUDDIN

THE Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of India mourns the sad demise of Mian Iftikharuddin who played a leading role in the struggle for freedom and progress and whose memory is dear to the people of Pakistan and India.

From the beginning of his political life, he fought tirelessly for liberation and Hindu-Muslim unity. As the President of the Punjab Congress Committee, he supported all progressive causes and identified himself with the workers' and peasants' movement. He was the pioneer who took the national message to the Unionist landlord-ridden Western Punjab despite the terrorist conditions. He championed united front of all

patriotic elements including the Communists.

After partition, he raised aloft the anti-colonialist banner in Pakistan and against all odds, boldly espoused the cause of world peace. He sunk his fortune in establishing an independent, fearless and truthful Urdu and English press in Pakistan which was suppressed and confiscated under the martial law regime.

He continued to suffer and sacrifice under the dictatorship and the inhuman strain led to his premature death.

The Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of India sends its respectful condolences to the bereaved family, and the good people of Pakistan who have lost a noble patriot and a wise leader.

REVENUE ENHANCEMENT PROPOSAL POSTPONED IN ASSAM

From MADHUSUDAN BHATTACHARYA

SHILLONG, June 24.

FACED with stiff opposition both inside the House and outside, Assam's Finance Minister Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed had to retrace his step and announce Government's decision to keep in abeyance the proposed enhancement of land revenue, albeit for the time being. The Finance Minister made this announcement while winding up the general debate on the Budget in the State Assembly.

The opposition to the new taxation proposal of the Finance Minister was initiated by a senior Congress member of the House, the former Finance and Revenue Minister, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed himself said that the former Finance Minister was the "spearhead" of the opposition to the new taxation proposal.

It is admitted here that the former Finance Minister spearheaded the opposition to the new taxation proposal out of his factional interest, he is the present leader of the anti-Ministerial group.

During the debate on the Governor's address, this group assailed the Ministry on the score of Pakistani infiltration, accusing the present ruling faction, by implication, of en-

couraging this infiltration. This campaign was facilitated by the fact that two of the Ministers of the present Chaliha cabinet, the Finance Minister himself and the Minister for Agriculture etc., are themselves Muslims.

It was, therefore, quite easy for the anti-Ministerial group to rouse suspicion in public mind about the intentions of these two Ministers and exploit it to their advantage. When the Finance Minister, in his Budget for the current year, proposed new taxation, the anti-Ministerial group rightly gauged the deep resentment that this new tax burden roused among the people.

They did not miss the chance and seized upon it to assail the ruling faction. Though prompted by their factional interest, the anti-Ministerial group stood on a sure ground this time in as much as their opposition to the new taxation proposal had the backing of mass sentiment behind it.

Factional Opposition

The former Finance Minister is not known to be an opponent of the tea planters—both In-

dian and foreign, — at least his performance during his tenure of office does not encourage one to think that he has any bias against these exploiters of Assam. But this time he found it to his advantage to assail the Ministry for not tapping the resources of the tea planters by enhancing the rate of agricultural income tax which is paid mainly by this section.

While opposing the new taxation proposal of the Finance Minister, he suggested that the State's finances might be augmented by further enhancing the rate of agricultural income tax. Here too he was quite sure of mass support behind him. He thus could put the Finance Minister in the wrong and expose him as pro-capitalist and anti-people.

It is, however, noted here that the anti-Ministerial group opposed the new taxation proposal out of its factional interest, it represented the popular feeling on this score. Had the opposition come from the anti-Ministerial group only, the Government might not have retraced their step. Even the warning of mass movement against the new taxation from the members in the Opposition might not have made the Government feel so shaky as to re-

trace their step and announce at least a temporary relief to the people. But when they found that they could not enlist the support of even that section of Congress members of the Assembly that is known to be very loyal to the Ministerial group, the Government had to give a second thought to this question.

A cabinet meeting was held and it was decided that the proposal of enhancement of local rate of land revenue should be kept in abeyance.

The Government noticed that outside the House the Communist Party and the PSP raised their voice of protest against the new taxation proposal. In several places in the State many Congress members, some of them enjoying high prestige among the people joined with the Communists to voice their protest against the new taxation proposal.

Thus faced with an all-out opposition to the new taxation proposal and falling to enlist the support of even its own following, the Government had to beat a retreat.

The Finance Minister also had to assure the House that the Government would see to it that the increase of fare and freight of passengers and goods

carried by public motor transport and country boats that he proposed in his budget did not affect the rural people. Though this was only a verbal assurance, yet this is considered quite significant. It is believed that if there is vigilance on the part of the people, it might be possible to make the Government honour this assurance.

Additional Taxes

Some observers have noted that this experience indicated that if broad sections of people can combine on any issue, it is quite possible to make the Government yield and thus secure relief for the people.

However, it has also been noted that though in the face of a total opposition the Government had to retreat now, the Finance Minister disclosed that he had more taxation proposals up his sleeves. He said that the State must raise additional internal resource by taxation to the tune of Rs. 33 crores for its share of the Rs. 12 crore 3rd Plan of the State and otherwise, he threatened,

PAGE TEN

NEW AGE

* SEE PAGE 12

PAGE ELEVEN

UNITY BUT NO AUCTIONS

Says PALMIRO TOGLIATTI,
General Secretary, Italian Communist Party

The shifting of the political axis from a position where the Centre is supported by the Right to one where it is supported by the Left means a change which brings in new elements, means a starting point for a more advanced political struggle.

The present shift, which was achieved after all preceding government manoeuvres had proved unavailing and after a crisis inside the Christian Democratic Party which threatened to wreck that party.

In this situation the pressures and the struggles of the masses for certain set objectives—such as nationalisation, the abolition of share cropping—became decisive factors, and these things that we have been fighting for years had been put on the agenda.

We are happy to see that it is not only the Socialists but other political forces too who see the necessity for these objectives.

Had No Illusions

We have never had any illusions about the leadership of the Christian Democratic Party. Its new proposals were necessary to avoid political catastrophe, but the Christian Democrat leaders at the same time insisted that their past policies had always been just and correct and that the aim of the new proposals was to break the unity between Communists and Socialists, and to draw the Italian Socialist Party inside the so-called "democratic area".

What happened over the election of the President confirmed us in our analysis. The fact that the leading group inside the Christian Democratic Party had to ask aid from the fascists to their candidate elected (and this after they had announced their intention to break with the fascists and the rightists) showed the real state of affairs.

What must we deduce from all this? If the little that has been achieved is the consequence of the struggle of the masses, it is up to us to carry forward this struggle and to mobilise the people for these aims which are on the agenda. And if all the claims put forward are satisfied by this Government of the centre-left—well and good!

ASSAM BUDGET

*FROM PAGE ELEVEN

the Planning Commission might not give its promised share of Rs. 87 crores to the State. This was an ominous indication.

He also opposed the suggestion for augmenting the State resources by further taxing the tea industry which, he said, could not bear further burden. According to him, any further taxation of the tea industry, would adversely affect the efficiency of the industry and the wages of the labourers engaged in that industry.

It was, therefore, obvious that unless the people could unitedly resist, the Finance Minister would again come out with fresh taxation proposals in no distant future and that taxation would hit the common people rather

because it puts forward the vital claims of the masses, struggles for them, makes itself one with the need of the workers' and of the country.

Our roots are deep in the people and we can appeal to the unity of all those forces which are really striving for democratic victories. And this is the line which allows us to talk about "the Italian road of socialism".

It means the rejection of the simple theory that in order to attain a society founded on justice we must follow the same road as was followed in situations and under conditions which were very different from those we have here. (And this does not mean that should there be civil war, as in the Soviet Union in 1917, the Communists would be unable to make their choice and to play their role).

But having won a democratic system, let us go forward along this road, working out the steps to be taken, gaining ever new victories to break the power of monopoly and to change the composition of the power bloc which today holds sway.

Now let us look at our relations with other political forces, with the Republican Party and with the Socialist Party. The opinion is widespread inside these parties today that there can be no progress in social justice and reform without the Communists.

It is no accident that a Government member from the Republican Party has written an article asking the Communists to take part in the struggle for the nationalisation of the electrical monopolies.

On certain issues the position taken up by the Socialist Party towards the centre-left coincides with our position; but all the same we have some criticism to level at the right wing of the Socialist Party.

In the first place, it should not be forgotten that the actual swing—be it a serious move or not—was arrived at by means of joint struggles. If we abandon joint struggle we shall not gain even that little that is possible.

In the light of this I think we must criticise a good many of Comrade Nenni's statements on TV when he attacked so-called "frontism". Now, putting aside considera-

tions regarding the past, "frontism" meant unity, the clear affirmation of the united will of the people to make their weight felt, to drive forward towards socialism.

And so, when confronted with a hypothetical question on the formation of a majority in conjunction with the Communist Party, Comrade Nenni doesn't have the courage to give a clear and precise answer as to what the Socialist Party would do, we must criticise. Indeed, Nenni's response brings up another question: Does the socialist party want, or does it not want, to achieve Socialism? And if it does not want—with whom would it like to achieve it?

Does Nenni consider goodness only knows what other forces, certainly forces without socialist aims, preferable to the Communists?

We give a clear answer to these questions. We go forward to socialism, united with all socialist forces, along the road to democracy. Our line is unity with all those who understand that the main task is to break monopoly power. Isolate the Communists—and you can make no advance.

CHOLERA EPIDEMIC

*FROM CENTRE PAGES

tions are removed every day. Moreover, many of the vehicles still in service are in a dilapidated condition, and they leave behind a long trail of garbage on the streets.

The fly nuisance is serious enough to threaten the city's health because of decomposing garbage, inadequate cleansing of the city, etc.—in short, deplorable condition of environmental sanitation. This year, however, the nuisance has assumed particularly serious proportions.

Another Cause Of Epidemic

Another important cause of the epidemic is the condition of the sewers for discharging the city's storm-water. There are no underground sewers in 17 sq. miles or 46 per cent of the city's total area of 37 sq. miles. The open drains, stinking with rotting refuse and sludge and breeding flies and mosquitoes, are a standing menace to public health in these parts.

The underground sewers in the remaining 54 per cent parts of Calcutta are steadily silted up. About 40 lakh cubic feet of silt have already accumulated in them! As a result, their capacity for carrying the storm-water has decreased by about 70 per cent. This explains why after even a moderate shower of rain, large parts of the city are submerged under water and ground floors of houses in low-lying areas are flooded.

The attitude of the ruling Congress party in the Corporation has been, to say the least, one of criminal callousness. Corporation Councillors belonging to the left parties tried, at the civic body's weekly meeting on June 22, to draw the Congress members' attention to the imminent danger of an outbreak of the epidemic and to persuade

them to take necessary measures.

But the Congress members ridiculed their contention as "unreal". Within less than four days, cholera had to be declared epidemic!

The United Citizens' Committee which is composed of leftist and progressive-minded councillors, had submitted a memorandum to the Mayor on May 11 last. The memorandum had suggested several concrete measures to prevent the outbreak of the epidemic. But these suggestions were ignored by the ruling party.

Since then, "emergency" meetings have been called, "high-level" consultations have taken place and "directives" have been issued. But not a single effective measure to save precious lives has been taken till now.

Even the most elementary steps are yet to be taken. For instance, only 13 lakhs out of the city's population of 30 lakhs have been inoculated so far. Drinking water cannot be properly chlorinated because the Corporation does not have sufficient quantities of chlorine. Even bleaching powder to disinfect affected houses and bustees is in short supply!

The Corporation's ambulance service for transporting cholera cases to hospital is extremely poor. Most of the 26 ambulances are in a very bad condition and constitute a menace on the roads. If, on an average, only 10 of them are put on the road in a day, it is due mainly to the zeal of the staff to maintain a semblance of service.

The headquarters of the ambulance service receive about 100 cholera calls a day, mostly from bustee areas. Since such cases are third on the priority list—accidents come first and then maternity cases—the delay in answering calls is not surprising. An ambulance driver advised a patient's relative to look for a push cart, because "it will

get the patient to hospital earlier than by ambulance, which will take at least three hours to reach him!"

Such is the "efficiency" of the Corporation authorities. Yet their response to offers of help to meet the emergency from outside agencies is definitely cold. It is this "none-of-your-business" attitude that is primarily responsible for the delay in pooling the city's resources to combat the epidemic.

The State Government is no less responsible than the Corporation authorities for the present state of the city's public health. The scourge has visited the city year after year. But during the 15 years it has been in power, the Government has not taken a single effective measure to eradicate the scourge.

Even this year, the Government at first allowed matters to drift. It is only now, when the epidemic threatens to assume a more virulent form, that the Government has decided to issue a directive immediately to the Corporation, asking it to complete certain specified tasks within ten days.

The directive will cover, among other things, clearance of garbage and inoculation of the city's population. The Government will help the Corporation to carry out the specified duties.

The Union has appealed telegraphically to the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the All India port and Dock Workers Federation and other Port and Dock Unions in India. Besides, Goa Mining Welfare Union from North Goa and Goa Mine Workers Union from South Goa, have expressed their fraternal solidarity with the Union.

The Shipping Agents and stevedores are adamant and not prepared to discuss the issue with the representatives of the Union, in spite of the sincere efforts made by the

E. M. S. NAMBOODIRIPAD from Front Page

PROTEST WILL GROW

privy purses to former princely families).

Despite these differences, however, they are all united in giving expression to the discontent of the common people on whom heavier and more unbearable burdens are being imposed by the Congress Governments. They are joined in this by sections of the ruling party as well.

Members of Parliament and of the various State Legislatures belonging to the Congress gave expression to this sense of discontent during the course of the Budget debates. Several units of the Congress organisation, and allied organisations like the INTUC, also came out against the new burdens that are being imposed on the common people.

The extent of the discontent can be seen from the fact that the combined total of votes polled in the last general elections by the parties which launched these campaigns comes to over 40 per cent of the entire votes polled. If to this were added the large mass of Congress sympathisers whose feelings were reflected in the speeches of Congress MPs and Congress MLAs, it will be clear that the overwhelming majority of the people are opposed to the taxation policy of the Central and State Governments.

Nor is this surprising. For, the policy pursued by the Government is such that the common people cannot but protest against it, resist it. The policy, as was clearly stated in the Third Five Year Plan Report, is one of "taxing consumption through indirect

taxation over a wide range". This is frankly stated to be unavoidable, since "the total resources required cannot be raised without it".

The Report itself admits that "indirect taxation along these lines tends to raise the price to be paid by the domestic consumer" and then argues that "this is a sacrifice that has to be accepted as part of the plan."

Plan Alibi

Such a policy is accepted by the Government on the ground that, again to quote the Third Five Year Plan Report, "there is no escape from the fact that, in a country like India where the bulk of the people are poor, resources on an adequate scale cannot be raised without calling for a measure of sacrifice from all classes of the people".

The question, however, arises: Is any measure of sacrifice being called for from the big landlords, capitalists, high-salaried officials etc? It will be clear for all who have eyes to see that they do not make any sacrifice; they, on the other hand, are enabled to get themselves richer and richer. Various official reports of the developmental activities like the Community Development have made it clear that the benefits conferred on the people by these activities are all seized by a handful from upper layers of society; the lot of the common people is only to pay for them.

Do they think that, in launching the anti-tax campaign and organising meetings, demonstrations and peaceful picketing on this issue, the opposition parties are "opposing for the sake of opposition"? Or, do they think that the feelings given expression to by all the opposition parties, and a section of the members of the ruling party itself, are of such a magnitude that serious note should be taken of them and taxation policy reconsidered?

So far as the Communist Party is concerned, it has repeatedly made its position clear. The question, according to it, is not whether resources are to be found for the implementation of developmental plans and projects; they should, of course, be found.

The question on the other hand, is: who should bear the burden of development—whether it is a handful of big landlords and capitalists who control the major part of our resources, or whether it should be the large majority of the common people whose living standards are already extremely low?

The Union has made it clear that it is not prepared to refer the case to the Labour Officer Leao Pinto, appointed during the Portuguese regime. The workers have no faith in the Portuguese fascist laws, which Pinto wants to implement.

The three main demands of the Union are: 1) Reinstatement of sixty dismissed workers immediately and assurance that there will be no further retrenchment and dismissals. 2) No wage cut and the maintaining of the wages at the old level. 3) Medical facilities.

The Union is prepared to continue the strike indefinitely if the above three demands are not met. (As we go to the Press, news have reached us that the strike has been called off. Editor)

If this assessment of the developmental activities undertaken, and the taxation imposed, by the Government were to be challenged by the leaders of the ruling party, there is a simple way open for them to disprove the case made out by the opposition.

It was suggested by the leader of the opposition in the Punjab State legislature, Choudhuri Devilal. He challenged Minister Kairon to put the question of tax increase to a plebiscite of the common people. The challenge was, of course, not accepted. He knew that, if it were accepted and the people given an opportunity to give their verdict, he would have to give up his policy completely.

Whether or not the Punjab Chief Minister is to accept this particular challenge by the leader of the opposition in that State, the campaigns launched by the opposition parties all over the country have squarely posed the question before the all-India leaders of the ruling party: Do they claim that the policy of increasing the burdens of taxation—that too of indirect taxation which tends to depress the living standards of the common people—has the support of the common people?

The Soviet note is a reply to the note of the British Government, received on June 14, which attempts to justify the increasing U. S. interference in the home affairs of South Vietnam.

The Soviet note points out that the Government of the USSR is concerned over the situation in South Vietnam "which has developed as a result of the violation by the United States of the 1954 Geneva agreements."

Military Alliance

"The report of the International Commission on Vietnam stresses that the military measures taken by the U. S. in South Vietnam bespeak of a factual military alliance between South Vietnam and the U. S., which is prohibited by Article 19 of the Geneva agreements," says the Soviet note.

"It is surprising that in touching upon this report of the International Commission in its note, the Government of Britain ignored this important provision." The Soviet note says further: "In this light, the efforts of the Government of Great Britain to somehow justify the actions of the U.S. in South Vietnam and to make out that the U.S. does not seek to obtain bases or other military advantages in that country are utterly untenable."

The note recalls that the authorities of South Vietnam, with the support of the United States, began carrying out brutal repressions against former members of the resistance movement shortly after the signing of the 1954 Geneva agreements, embarking right away on the road of violating Article 14 of the above-said agreements.

On the other hand, the alternative policies suggested by the Party are adopted, it would release the enthusiasm of the people who would thereby be prepared to make the utmost sacrifice in the cause of national development.

The protest demonstrations organised by the opposition parties, and sympathised with by large sections of the Congress sympathisers themselves, are an indication that the warning issued by our Party is correct.

The sooner the leaders of the ruling party realise the futility of their efforts to suppress the growing discontent of the people, the better for the ruling party itself and for the country as a whole.

USSR Rejects British Charges Against North Vietnam

Moscow, July 3

USSR Rejects British Charges Against North Vietnam

"The Government of the USSR resolutely rejects as groundless the assertions of the Government of Great Britain that the Democratic Republic of Vietnam is allegedly the source of current disorders in South Vietnam," says the note of the Soviet Government to the Government of Great Britain, forwarded to the Embassy of Great Britain in Moscow today.

Naturally, the Vietnamese, residing in the north of the country, entertain feelings of ardent sympathy and fraternal solidarity towards the population of South Vietnam and express support to their just struggle.

The Government of the USSR, as a co-chairman of the Geneva Conference, the note says, "supports the chapters of the International Commission's report which were unanimously adopted by all the members of the Commission, and believes, as before, that the ending of the dispatch to South Vietnam by the United States of arms and military supplies, the immediate withdrawal from South Vietnam of the U. S. military personnel and the liquidation of the American military command in the territory of this country, are urgent measures needed to normalize the situation in South Vietnam, to ensure Vietnam's development along the road of peace and independence."

The Soviet Government renews its proposals to the Government of Britain to send an appropriate message to the U. S. Government in the name of the two co-chairmen.

The note points out that the Government of the USSR fully supports the statement by the Polish representative in the International Commission, and holds that his statement reflected the actual state of affairs in South Vietnam.

The Soviet Government also supports the position of the Government of the DRV with regard to the report of the International Commission, as set forth in its statement of June 4, and in the letter sent by the Foreign Minister of DRV to the two co-chairmen on June 20.

GOA HARBOUR STRIKE

From Our Correspondent

GOA, July 2

The strike of seven thousand workers of Mormago Harbour has entered its third day. All the ten ships, which had come to take Iron Ore, are idle in the Harbour. The busy harbour of Mormago now looks like a haunted place.

The strike is very peaceful, in spite of the provocations and intimidations made by some companies.

There was a mammoth rally of 10,000 people, despite rains, at Vasco da Gama yesterday. The meeting decided to continue the strike indefinitely until the demands were conceded by the companies.

The Union has appealed telegraphically to the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the All India port and Dock Workers Federation and other Port and Dock Unions in India. Besides, Goa Mining Welfare Union from North Goa and Goa Mine Workers Union from South Goa, have expressed their fraternal solidarity with the Union.

The Shipping Agents and stevedores are adamant and not prepared to discuss the issue with the representatives of the Union, in spite of the sincere efforts made by the

JULY 8, 1962

NEW AGE

PAGE TWELVE

NEW AGE

PAGE THIRTEEN

PROTESTS AGAINST RISE IN RAILWAY FARES

From Page Three

for lathi charge. At Itarsi also about 2,000 persons witnessed the volunteers led by Sushila Devi squatting on the railway track.

At Bhopal the anti-tax campaign began with a public meeting on the night of June 30 which was converted into a big procession. The procession staged a demonstration under the leadership of Govind Prasad Shrivastava in the midnight of June 30 and July 1. Next day at 8 a.m. a batch of 11 satyagrahis led by Mohini Devi, leader of the Communist group in Bhopal Municipal Committee, stood before the Delhi-bound Janata Express and raised slogans against the increase of Railway fares and other central taxes.

Police thereupon arrested volunteers under the Section 124 of the Railway Act. Another batch led by Savarkar and Wahid Ali Bange staged satyagraha at 11 a.m. This batch was also arrested.

At Bhopal, Shakir Ali Khan, MIA also handed over a memorandum to the Station Master to be forwarded to the Railway Minister, Swaran Singh.

Demonstrations were held and satyagraha offered at Ujjain under the leadership of Joglekar, at Saugar under the leadership of Komal Chand Jain, at Itarsi under the leadership of Mahendra Bajpayee, at Damoh—Shyam Choubey and at Nagda under the leadership of Kanak Singh.

Besides offering satyagraha and staging demonstrations the Party also held public meetings, street corner meetings and distributed pamph-

lets to educate the people about the anti-democratic un-socialistic and anti-people taxation policy of the Government.

At Gwalior, the Communist Party also held demonstrations. Hundreds of people joined the demonstration. 15 Communists were arrested. Harinarayan Upadhyaya, Secretary Member of the Madhya Pradesh Council of the CPI was arrested at Raipur. S. K. Tiwari and a few women satyagrahis were also arrested.

INDORE

INDORE observed July 1 as a day of protest against the increase in Railway fares. The Madhya Pradesh State Committee had instructed all the branches to observe the day.

A huge meeting was held in Janata Chowk to give send-off to satyagrahis. A batch of 44 satyagrahis was honoured; and then a procession went to the Railway station. It was raining heavily and everyone was wet from head to foot. The demonstration was 2,000 strong.

On reaching the Railway Station a mammoth meeting was held and addressed by Homi Daji MP explaining the meaning of the protest day.

After the meeting the satyagraha jatha led by Daji entered the railway station. Thousands of people followed them.

The whole platform was full to capacity. There were people on both sides of the railway track for about half a mile. When the train started, the

first batch, led by Homi Daji came on the track with red flags to protest against the increase in Railway fare.

They were forcibly removed by the police. Immediately the second batch came on the track dodging the police. In this manner the train was detained for more than an hour and 44 satyagrahis were arrested.

Among those arrested were Hari Singh, a veteran trade union leader of Indore and Ramlal (both members of Municipal Corporation), Vijayram, Badriprasad from Mhow and Rana Padamsingh from Dipalpur. After the arrests again a mammoth meeting was held outside the station.

Homi Daji in his speech before his arrest, warned the Government that this was only a beginning. If the Government did not yield to the public pressure a regular mass movement will force them to accept the people's demand.

When the train was stopped

for the fourth time, police losing temper, lathi-charged the people, injuring two. One of them, Shriram a factory worker was admitted to the M. Y. Hospital.

BHAVANAGAR

Ten thousand people thronged round the railway station, broke police cordon and rushed to witness the "stop engine" satyagraha performed by nine satyagrahis led by the CPI District Secretary, Subodh Mehta. Other satyagrahis to take part in this unprecedented event of city life were Hemu Bhagwan, Ramlal Baraiya, Jam Singh, Jiyubha, Moka, Mavji, Dayal Nanji, Babu Govind, Chandhu Bachubhai and Chandrakant Parekh.

Satyagrahis clang to rails when Okha train engine whistled, wherefrom police forcibly and bodily lifted them and kept them in clamp till the train passed away.

A huge mass rally was held in Gantlav before the sat-

yagraha, where call was given to people to march to the railway station, which was splendidly responded, hundreds marching through the city to the station.

Similar satyagraha was offered at Paltana railway station led by Batuk Vora, where thousands witnessed satyagraha at the station, wherein other satyagrahis to take part were Manibhai Trivedi, Natvarlal Upadhyaya, Kikabhai Rajballi, Abdul Razak, Hiralal Ravji, Bashir Ahmed etc. Train passengers who witnessed this satyagraha at Paltana also could witness the Bhavnagar satyagraha as their train reached Bhavnagar, when satyagraha of Bhavnagar was to begin.

Preparations to offer such satyagraha at Botad next week is well under way. At Botad due to railway freight increase, quarry owners will be cutting down production, thereby throwing out hundreds of workers. So quarry owners and workers both will join this campaign.

People Of Andhra Pradesh Demand :

"NO REVENUE INCREASE"

★ From V. HANUMANTHA RAO

HYDERABAD, July 3 MOUNTING opposition to proposed increase in land revenue is expressing itself throughout the length and breadth of the State.

Thousands of people poured out onto streets on 24th of last month in response to call of the Communist Party and expressed their opposition to the increase.

In scores of villages, taluq and district headquarter centres, peasants gathered in surrounding villages, marched to local Tahsilardar or Collector's offices and submitted memoranda demanding withdrawal of this measure.

Meetings and demonstrations did not stop on 24th itself. A continuous campaign was undertaken and message of the Party to oppose this draconian measure is being taken to villages by volunteer squads.

Wide Support

Besides writing caustic editorials about proposed increase, wide publicity is being given in the columns of all newspapers to agitation. Special articles and features against this increase are appearing in the daily press.

Advocates Associations in a few places have analysed the Bill from the legal point of view and passed resolutions calling upon Government to halt this step.

Appeals are being issued in various districts under signatures of prominent personalities of all parties and in some cases, local Congressmen too calling for continued agitation.

Pradesh Kisan Sabha which met in emergent general body meeting on July 1 chalked out a detailed programme calling upon the peasants to rally on 24th of this month to express their resentment in an organised, peaceful and determined manner.

Appeals signed by leaders of all parties in Andhra Assembly including, Deputy leader of the Opposition Nagi Reddy, Swatantra party leader Lachanna, Praja Party leader Viswanatham, Independent Group leader Bal Reddy, Independent Gandhian, Vavilala Gopalakrishna etc., was issued criticising indecent haste with which this measure was being hurried through.

Congress members of the Assembly, who perhaps due to a whip issued could not speak against the bill, found themselves free when general discussion on the budget started and quite a few of them openly criticised the contents of the Bill.

A Veritable Storm

There was a veritable storm inside the Congress legislature party last Sunday when speaker after speaker attacked the proposals as stabbing peasants' "backbone of the Congress" "unjust," "as suicidal," "as cutting our feet with our own hands" and so on. One Congress member wailed in the meeting that he was receiving threatening letters saying that when he comes back to the constituency he would be greeted with black flags, and

that the red flag was already going round.

In Hyderabad city itself Mohalla and bustee meetings addressed by prominent leaders like Sundarayya, Maqdoom, Rajbahadur etc., warned public that any increase in land revenue might push up prices of foodgrains further and therefore urged upon them to join hands with peasantry for united action.

Thousands of application forms have been printed on which it is proposed to collect signatures on a mass scale all over the State.

First rumblings of mass upsurge already put treasury benches on defensive, for which, reply of the Finance Minister to general debate in the Assembly was an indication. He appealed to legislators to help Government in finding adequate funds. There is talk that Government is having second thoughts on this issue and may modify its proposals.

The movement is gaining momentum. The State is on the eve of a mass upheaval.

Please Note

From this issue of New Age the Editor is E. M. S. Namboodripad.

MOSCOW PREPARES FOR DISARMAMENT CONGRESS

From Masood Ali Khan

The stage is set in Moscow for the greatest ever rally of the peace forces of the world. Final preparations for the world Congress for General Disarmament and Peace are in full swing in all countries of the world and the news reaching the offices of the Committee of the Congress from practically every country on the map of the world speak of an unprecedented mobilisation of the widest sections of awakened humanity.

AND the pulse of this world-wide upsurge for peace and human survival can be felt at the old villa at number 12 Rozhdestvensky Boulevard where typewriters rattle and telephones ring constantly as calls are taken from far away countries. The sound of many languages, is heard as people rush for the last hour preparations to be completed before the great world assembly opens.

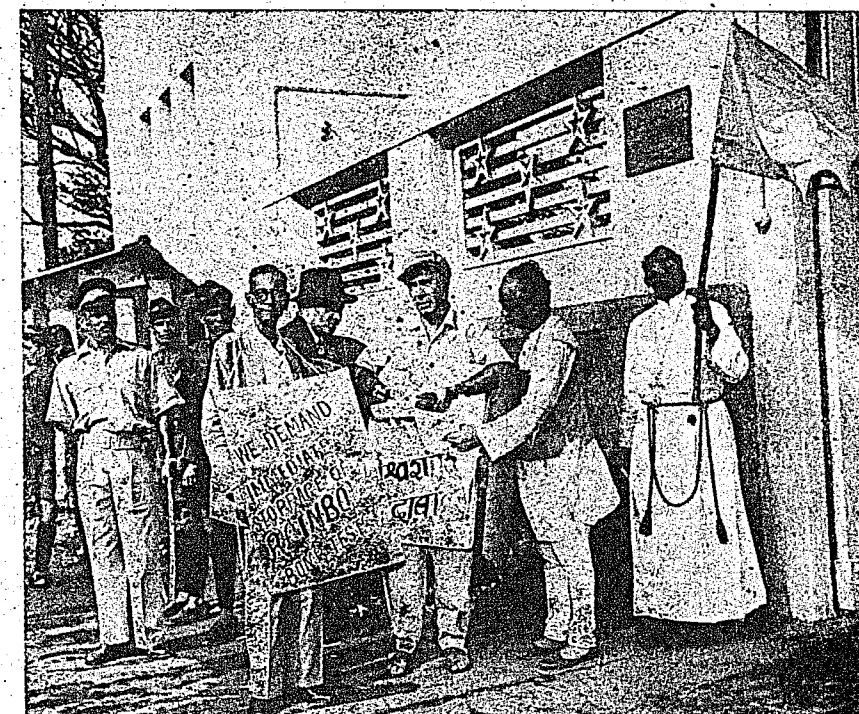
Grand Picture

According to the information received here during the last few days a grand picture emerges of mass campaigns in 117 countries of the world for support to the aims and objects of the Congress.

In Japan, innumerable mass demonstrations have been held demanding the evacuation of American bases and supporting Moscow Peace Congress.

In France huge meetings are going on all over the country in which thousands have voiced their sympathy with its aims. National Congresses for peace and disarmament have been held in more than 30 countries, such as, Italy, France, Poland, India, Britain, Mexico, Japan, Indonesia and others. A big Congress was held in the Soviet capital recently. Many national and international organisations have given their support and have decided to send representatives or observers to the World Congress.

More than a hundred countries have already informed the Committee in Moscow of the composition of their delegations. The over 150 strong



Peace Vigil on June 27 in front of U. S. Embassy at Bombay to protest against U.S. Rainbow bomb tests. Pic. shows (Right to Left) Father Williams, Dr. Mulk Raj Anand, Balraj Sahani and S. S. Mirajkar.

United States delegation will include well-known churchmen of different denominations, outstanding University figures, representatives of Women's organisations and youth and students' associations, members of various peace groups and organisations and businessmen.

France, Japan and Brazil and India will each send delegations about 100 people. 70 are expected from West Germany, 20 from Australia, 30 from Sweden. The French delegation includes five ex-Ministers and some Deputies and representatives of Municipalities.

From Britain also about 100 people are coming the greater part of them representing local peace organisations and various trade unions. They also include a group of observers from the campaign for nuclear disarmament led by Canon Collins and Kingsley Martin.

Organisation for the Defence of Peace declared "for us Africans the struggle for disarmament is just as important as the national liberation struggle against colonialism".

The economic aspect of disarmament, he said, was very important for under-developed countries in their struggle against backwardness, ignorance and poverty.

On the 9th of July when the Congress opens at the Kremlin Palace of Congresses about 2,300 participants will be present. "The task that will face us all during the six days of the Congress is not easy" declares J. D. Bernal, President of the World Peace Council, in Pravda of July 1.

The work of Congress is planned in a very big scale by the preparatory Committee. Apart from the Kremlin Palace its Com-

missions and Committees will meet in the Hall of Columns, the Cinema workers' club, the House of the Writers and the Lummaba University—altogether in 31 halls in Moscow.

Bernal's Statement

"We must discuss all aspects of the problem of disarmament and try to reach agreement on the way which will be the most effective and correct for its achievement. We must study all methods by which we can help the Governments now negotiating disarmament and the United Nations in the fulfilment of their exceptionally important and responsible mission".

Apart from that, he says, it is necessary to come to an agreement on the specific common actions and cooperation of all organisations seeking disarmament to meet the colossal danger which faces the present civilisation and to find the most effective methods of putting into practice the determination to secure peace in a world without arms.

Professor Bernal informed the press on July 1, that until now replies have been received from Nehru, Prime Minister of India, N. S. Khrushchov, Harold Macmillan, Prime Minister of Great Britain to the letters sent to the 18 Government heads taking part in the Geneva Disarmament Committee.

Pravda also published a new poster designed by Pablo Picasso for the World Congress. It has a new Picasso Dove with an olive branch in its beak sitting on a heap of broken discarded arms with the sun shining on it all.

The newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda on July 1, published an article by the Indian writer Krishan Chandar addressed to the young people of the world calling them to make the fight for peace the duty of their life. Ilya Kopalin, the well-known Soviet film producer and Alekx Surkov, the poet have begun working on a documentary film about the Congress.

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Festival Of Films

A festival of Soviet and foreign films is being arranged and about four hundred works of Soviet pictorial art will be shown at an art exhibition which will open in Moscow in honour of the World Congress of Peace and Disarmament. Its main theme will be the struggle of the people for peace.

One of the highlights of the Congress will be the address of the Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchov, who has agreed to put forward the views of the Soviet Government on disarmament and peace.

The Congress Committee will be meeting in Moscow on July 7 on the eve of the opening of the Congress to examine the different aspects of procedure and work of the World Congress. Some of the delegates are already in Moscow, others are arriving hourly.

The papers are full of statements of world figures and Soviet writers, intellectuals, scientists and ordinary workers who support wholeheartedly the efforts of all honest men and women of the world for peace and liquidation of war for all times.

The Peace Congress could not have chosen a better venue for its proceedings. The best of luck to its efforts, say the Soviet people.



A part of the demonstration which was organised by Bombay Peace Committee to protest against U.S. Nuclear Tests in front of U.S. Embassy at Bombay on June 27.

Building The Party In Cuba

★FROM PAGE FIVE

get the right to join the party.

After these workers or a section of them express the desire to join the party, acknowledging Marxism-Leninism, the programme for the building of socialism and party discipline, they are accepted into one of the primary Party organisations. They become Party members.

In cases when old revolutionaries are, for unimportant and explicable reasons, not nominated as exemplary workers at the general meetings, the question is considered by the primary organisation and the Organisational Commission of the National Leadership of the Integrated Revolutionary Organisations, and the result reported to a general meeting so that these comrades, if they merit it, should also be accepted.

Such a method guarantees the creation of a party indivisibly linked with the masses and with production, the building of a workers' party whose ranks will include the very best working people, the most stable representatives of the revolutionary intellectuals, and the most tempered revolutionary fighters of the Cuban people.

Our recent frank acknowledgement of our mistakes and difficulties perhaps gave

satisfaction to our enemies. The U. S. imperialists and their hangers-on are not opposed to taking advantage of this. They are putting forward completely false and stupid interpretations and even calculating that within the Cuban revolutionary movement a struggle is developing between Communist and non-Communist, between the old and the young, between the "soft" and the "tough".

But the criticism was criticism among Communists, old and young together. It was criticism directed towards finding the right ways of overcoming mistakes, in order more speedily and more surely to bring about the complete defeat of our enemies, and the complete collapse of the aggressive plans of the imperialists and the complete triumph of socialism in Cuba.

This criticism clears the way to the creation of a Marxist-Leninist party, a genuinely revolutionary party, guided by the principle of democratic centralism, free from sectarianism and opportunism, from dogmatism and revisionism.

That is why no matter how the U. S. imperialists and their mercenaries may try, they will not be able to halt the triumphant advance of the Cuban revolution.

INDIA SENDS LARGE DELEGATION To World Disarmament Congress

★ From ZIA-UL HAQ

As the World Congress for General Disarmament and Peace assembles in Moscow, a fairly representative and large Indian delegation is either already in the Soviet Union or on its way. Among its ranks are forty elected representatives of the people including twenty members of Parliament, the rest being MLAs or corporators.

On the delegation are speakers of two State assemblies, namely Punjab and Kashmir. It includes India's well-known artists and writers like Pandit Onkar Nath Thakore and Mukl Raj Anand, Vishnu Prabhakar, Theruvath Raman (Kerala), Vivekananda Mukherji (West Bengal), Jivandam and Kodumudi Rajagopalan (Tamilnad).

There are eminent Indian scientists and scholars in the delegation as D. D. Kosambi, S. S. Sokhey and Tara Chand. The Assistant Secretary of the Gandhi Peace Foundation, O. P. Gupta, carries with him the documents of the Conference, recently held under Gandhian auspices in New Delhi on the question of disarmament and peace.

The oldest of the Babas from Punjab, veterans of the Ghadar movement, Karam Singh Cheema and Bhag Singh Canadian are members of the Indian delegation to the Moscow Congress. Among Kashmir leaders who are on the delegation are Bakshi Abdur Rashid and Pir Ghayasuddin.

S. S. Mirajkar, B. S. Dhume G. Mohiuddin and several other leading trade unionists of India, including some who are actual workers, are attending the Conference as delegates.

Rameshwari, Nehru and Anup Singh are representing the Indian Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity.

This big and representative delegation was made possible by the Government of India being more liberal than before in issuing passports and granting other facilities.

It was made possible above all by really extensive and fairly intensive activity which took the form

of State Conferences and sectional preparations like signing of declarations on Disarmament by eminent people in various walks of life.

State Conferences for Disarmament and Peace have been held in Punjab, Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Andhra and Mysore.

An All-India Conference for Disarmament and Peace as part of preparations for the World Congress took place in New Delhi in April last.

Among the declarations addressed to the World Congress, pride of place must be given to the one by the writers and artists. Over a hundred and fifty writers and over a hundred musicians and dancers from all over India, signed a joint declaration supporting disarmament. They published a souvenir on Indian Dance and Music which includes contributions by sixty Indian writers.

Parliamentarians For Peace

Sponsors of the World Congress were joined by 250 Members of Indian Parliament—the largest contingent of parliamentarians from any country—who jointly issued a declaration. Four hundred doctors of the medical profession from all over India became sponsors of the Congress.

Five hundred trade unions all over the country meeting in the general body or executive adopted resolutions wishing success to the World Congress, messages wishing suc-

cess to the Congress have also been sent by deputy leaders of the Congress Party in Parliament.

There have been several actions, many of them on a modest scale though, to protest against the U. S. tests. The latest—the vigil and fast in front of the U. S. consulate in Bombay against the Rainbow Tests held on June 27 by Balraj Sahani and others—attracted due public attention.

All these various forms of mobilisation in support of the World Congress for General Disarmament and Peace have in a measure brought out and sharpened the Indian people's great desire to bring the cause of disarmament to fruition.

More concretely, the deliberations in India have led to

the proposal of creating an atom-free zone in South-East Asia. The Indian delegation is expected, in Moscow, to take initiative in securing support of the delegations from the various countries of this region for the proposal. Together they shall, it is hoped, make it an issue of campaign in the whole of South-East Asia to see that atomic weapons are kept out of the region.

The Moscow Congress though initiated by the Peace Council has by now gathered support of all the diverse movements for peace and disarmament all over the world. Organisations which have recently come up and have gathered mass support in the United States U. K. and Western Europe,

besides those of Japan are all participating in the Congress. Most delegations attending are likely to be really national delegations. Despite the fact that some 2300 people are expected to gather, the Preparatory Committee has evolved a mode of work for the Congress which seeks to make it business-like and fruitful. It will be doing most of its work through Commissions.

The Congress will seek to arrive at agreed conclusions and decisions. It will strive to work out proposals which could form the basis of agreement among the Powers. For those active in the cause of peace throughout the world, the Congress will prepare a plan of action to secure disarmament.

HOW CONGRESS WILL CONDUCT ITS BUSINESS

The following summary of the decisions of the Preparatory Committee of the World Congress for General Disarmament and Peace agreed upon at its meeting in May will give an idea of how the Congress is proposed to be conducted. The Preparatory Committee meeting in Moscow on July 6-7 is expected to have given further shape to these proposals.

THE Programme and Procedure of the Congress were the subject of very full discussion. The following was noted as the consensus of opinions reached:

(a) The Plenary Sessions should be as few as possible, and as much time as possible should be devoted to meetings and commissions and groups.

Every endeavour should be made to restrict Plenary Sessions to within an absolute maximum of three days.

(It was noted that there should be two sessions—morning and afternoon—each day, and that it might be conve-

nient to divide a day between Plenary sessions on the one hand and Commissions and group meetings on the other, and that therefore this should be understood as not more than six sessions out of the twelve).

The first and last days were noted as among those on which Plenary sessions should take place.

(b) Commissions and Meetings

The value was noted of not only Commissions for study and discussion of various aspects of Disarmament, but of meetings of groups of persons with common professional or other interests for study and discussion of effective action to promote disarmament, within their respective spheres. Provision must be made for both types of meeting, and for the delegation of work by commissions to sub-committees so as to include not only large commissions of, say, up to 200, but also smaller groups.

Provision must be made for the following ground to be covered by the Commissions, and for the following groups to meet (should they so desire), either in connection with the work of the commissions as tentatively suggested here, or separately:

● Technical Problems of Disarmament (To cover problems of ending nuclear weapons tests and the danger of nuclear war, achieving total general disarmament under strict control without discriminatory advantage at any stage; zones of disengagement and atom-free zones; of explaining and popularising to the public the feasibility of disarmament and the obstacles to be overcome; including in these technical problems those of security in the world disarmed.

● Disarmament and its Economic Consequences (Including the raising of the standard of living, especially in less developed countries).

● Disarmament and its role in relation to the problem of national independence, including economic independence (covering within this field questions of bases and military pacts).

● Disarmament and its moral aspects (including opportunity for meeting of church and religious groups).

● Disarmament and its sociological aspects (including opportunity for meetings of group of doctors and psychologists, of lawyers, of teachers and educationists).

● Disarmament and its cultural aspects (including opportunities for meetings of writers, artists and architects, the film and stage professions).

● Action for Disarmament with particular opportunity for meetings of the following general groups: Women; youth; Parliamentarians; Trade Unionists. (Provision may also be made for a meeting of Scientists).

(c) Resolutions

The following broad principles emerged:

that in respect to any resolution to be voted on, there must be full opportunity for its discussion and, if desired, amendment;

that any record of conference proceedings must include due note of minority opinion.

It was generally the view, also, that if attainable, a resolution embodying agreement on some form or degree of common action or cooperation in work for disarmament would be desirable; and that there is no advantage in pressing resolutions liable to deep division among those participating.

It was noted also that, in view of the limited time available for the Congress, it may be well to keep the number of resolutions and votes to a minimum and only to record objectively the work of the commissions and the opinions expressed in them.

MOSCOW ON EVE OF DISARMAMENT CONGRESS

—See Page 15 For
Our Correspondent's
Despatch

BIHAR STATE CONFERENCE

N AGESHWAR Prasad, Advocate and an ex-judge of Patna High Court presided over the Bihar State Conference for General Disarmament and Peace held at Patna on June 22, in the Anjuman Islamia Hall.

In his presidential address he stressed the need of immediate stoppage of nuclear tests done by the Government of the United States of America as first step towards general and complete disarmament. Rameshwari Prasad Golwara, Mayor, Patna Municipal Corporation and Chairman of the Preparatory Committee welcoming the delegates said that—banning of nuclear tests and general and complete disarmament were the crying needs of the hour for stopping war for all times.

Rash Behari Singh, Advocate, Ramavatar Shastri, Secretary, Preparatory Committee, Jis Narain Jha, MLA,

Gitesh Sharma, Braj Shankar, former President of Bihar Hindi Sahitya Sammelan and editor of 'Yogi'—a Hindi weekly, and Promode Kumar Dubey, a Congress labour leader also addressed the conference.

Two resolutions, one on disarmament and India and the other on Nuclear tests ban were passed in the Conference.

The Conference gave a call for observing July 14 as Disarmament and Peace Day all over the State by holding meetings etc., in support of the decisions of the World Congress for General Disarmament and Peace to be held at Moscow from July 9 to 14.

In the morning delegates session was held presided over by Rash Behari Singh, Advocate, Patna High Court. About 60 delegates from Patna, Sohabad, Saran, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Bhagalpur and

Santhal Pargana attended the conference.

The Patna Branch of the Indian Peoples Theatre Association presented some peace songs in the Conference.

The Preparatory Committee which was formed for the success of the conference included a number of Congress and other members of the Bihar Assembly, Secretary of the Patna District Congress Committee, prominent literateurs, Doctors, Advocates and other publicmen of the State. Prominent among them were Shrinarain Sahay, a leading barrister of the Patna High Court, Budhadeo Singh MLA, Sheochandra Sharma MLC (Congress), Sitaram Kishri (Congress), Prof. Chandrashekar Jha MLA, Premchandra Mishra, MLA, Bateshwar Prasad MLA, Shayama Charan Barthwar MLA, Sunil Mukherjee MLA (CPI), Chhabinath Pandey and Phanishwarnath Renu, prominent Hindi writers, and Dr. A. K. Sen.