

# Communist Party Calls:

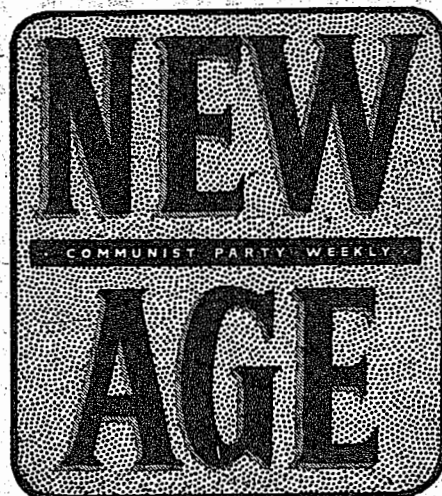
1 The Secretariat of the Communist Party of India in its meeting in Delhi from May 30 to June 1 briefly reviewed the situation in the country, specially with reference to the severe economic burdens heaped on the people and growing discontent that the masses had begun to show against them. The Secretariat came to the conclusion that it was necessary now to shift the emphasis of our work to the defence of the day-to-day interests of the people, especially the working masses, from the stage of criticism to that of concrete prospects of mass actions.

2 The National Council in its meeting in the month of April had already protested and drawn the attention of government to the rising prices, the high taxes, the new imposts on people's earnings, such as compulsory deposits, surcharge on low income-tax payers which were making life for the ordinary people extremely difficult.

3 In the new situation ushered in by the budget and the new manoeuvres of the capita-

foreign trade to begin with. The advantages of nationalising these three sectors of our economic activity are obvious. Parts of these sectors are already nationalised to some extent. But unless the process is completed to embrace all the banks, all the foreign private refineries and oil distribution and all bulk trade in important lines, such as machinery, jute, tea, minerals, etc., the full benefits of the people's economic activity will not accrue to the nation and the perpetual crises of internal and external resources, difficulties of planning production and distribution according to national needs, cannot be overcome. The inevitable result is growth of monopoly wealth, corruption and theft of national resources, burdens on the toiling people and increasing misery and discontent. The two million members of the families of the unemployed goldsmiths are a sample of the methods of so-called "social revolution" attempted by the economic policies of the government.

8 The discontent of the people is already showing itself in various ways. Workers and middle-class employees have recently demonstrated in lakhs, demanding the nationalisation of banks. Thousands of workers have had to resort



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★ ***mobilise and sign in millions the great petition to parliament!***

lists and landlords to utilise the situation for their own selfish enrichment, prices were rising even more swiftly than was warranted by the increased taxes and even then there was scarcity of supplies of commodities like rice, sugar, etc. The government had failed to hold the price line and organise distribution of essential commodities by firm action against the hoarders and monopolists.

4 Additional heavy taxes on essential commodities, the compulsory deposits from those whose earnings are above Rs. 125 per month and

to strikes to demand higher wages or dearness allowance and change in working conditions. Their mood of irritation is shown in many places by actions on even smaller issues flaring up into big struggles. The fixed salaried office and government employees not only of the lower rung but of the higher grades also are feeling the direct attacks on the standard of living more acutely than before.

9 The ruling Congress Party, which has sanctioned these burdens and has so far refused doggedly to change its line on political and eco-

beneficial results for our country's economy or our people.

But those who realise this are not able or willing to act effectively either within or without the Congress, because of the strong grip that the Rightwing among them, backed by the big monopolists and landlords, has on the apparatus of their party organisation, the governmental machinery, the press and financial organs. Under such conditions, the ruling party has to be shaken by mass opinion from outside, while not neglecting to note the sympathies of those in-

★ ***scrap the laws that heap misery on the people!***

the heavy surcharge affecting low income-tax groups and certain land-revenue payers imposed in the name of finding money for building the defences of the country and to further its economic development have rendered the situation still more serious.

5 The Communist Party and certain other parties and individuals while not denying

conomic matters, has had some jolts in the results of the recent byelections to Parliament and some groups among them are raising doubts about the correctness of the line pursued by their top leadership. The debates in Parliament on the budget, particularly on the compulsory deposit scheme and surcharges and exposure of the shady deals and behaviour of the monopoly groups as revealed in official inquiry commissions, show that

side who are critical of their entrenched Rightwing.

10 We have, at the same time, to remember that all those who speak in the name of the masses and criticise the government on the question of high prices, taxes and other burdens, are not necessarily on the side of the toiling masses. Parties like the Swatantra and Jana Sangh are critical of the Congress but will not

★ ***prepare for the march to delhi!***

the needs of defence and development hold that the nation can meet these needs without heaping these burdens on the people. They have shown alternative sources of raising money for the above purposes, such as nationalisation of banks, the oil industry, the foreign trade, etc. Some would want the sugar, jute, tea and textiles also to be added to the list in view of the failure of the owners of these essential commodities to satisfy the needs of the people and the country, their enormous loot of the people and running away with the earnings of foreign exchange by various subterfuges.

6 But these suggestions are not to the liking of the government, who refuse to curb the power of the big monopolists, even for the sake of defence and development. Trying to develop the country by fleeing the toiling masses and enriching the monopolists cannot lead to a strong nation nor a happy people.

7 The Communist Party and friendly groups and trade unions gave recently a call particularly for nationalisation of banks, oil and

even sections of Congressmen have begun to feel that all is not well with their ways of handling the country's affairs.

They have begun to realise that Congress policies now are giving more and more strength to the Right reactionary forces outside the Congress, which in turn feed their class brothers of the Rightwing inside. It has led to the unseemly spectacle of high Indian dignitaries and govern-

agree to the slogans of nationalisation that the masses and their organisations propose. They want the problems of resources to be solved by mortgaging the country's foreign and internal policies to the imperialist bloc led by the USA, and making India the leader of the counter-revolution in Asia and Africa. The masses certainly cannot go with such parties, however, critical they may be of the Congress leadership

★ ***unite and win!***

mental leaders trekking one after another to ask for aid from the Anglo-American imperialists, even when they make humiliating demands on us to hand over Kashmir as a price of their "free aid" and want to make India as their base against the peoples of Asia and Africa. In the name of solving the crises of the Plan, the Congress government is giving more and more concessions to foreign private capital, without any

or successful in some elections. These parties in fact strengthen those very forces in the Congress which push forward policies of the exploiting interests.

11 There are parties, groups and individuals who are highly critical of the Congress, attack the monopoly vested interests, support

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# COMMUNIST PARTY CALLS

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nationalisation and demand the reversal of the internal economic policies of the Congress government in favour of the people. They even speak of common united platform. But to many of them the purpose of unity is to isolate the Communist Party to foment anti-communism and a bigger war-hysteria than even the Congress would do, which obviously again plays into the hands of Right reactionaries, both in foreign and internal policies, and has repercussions contrary to their own professed intentions. Such, for example, is the behaviour of the PSP and some leaders of the Socialist Party.

## UNITY

**12** The Communist Party wishes to build a united front of all those forces who wish to defend the country, without selling it to the imperialist bloc or fomenting war-hysteria but by following a policy of nonalignment; anti-colonialism and peace, consistent with national honour and integrity and with forces who work to defend the people's interests against the attacks of those big monopolists and landlords who want to enrich themselves at the expense of the country and the toiling people. But the attitude of the leadership of these forces in relation to our Party compels us to act on our own. Hence we are issuing this call to the people to act in defence of their own interests and of the nation, on the basis of certain clear slogans and to take peaceful forms of action suitable in each sphere and through such common organisational steps as would build unity of all those who are suffering.

## THREE POINTS

**13** The three points on which discontent is concentrated are: (i) the high prices; (ii) the high taxes; (iii) the compulsory deposit cut and surcharges. There are, of course, many other grievances and basic demands affecting different sections of the people. But we choose for the present the above three which are common to all. These three affect the workers, the peasants, the middle-class salaried employees, the small traders, the artisans, etc.

Prices can be controlled and scaled down and supplies of sugar, cloth, etc., can be found for the people. The taxes on the people can be reduced and their direction changed towards the profits of the rich. The compulsory deposit and surcharges can be done away with if the people act and the government heeds the will of the people.

**14** We must argue with and convince the people, who naturally will want to know how the government can find resources if the above three slogans are agreed to, that it can be done without causing any great upheavals, that many newly-independent countries smaller than ours have done it.

Finance for defence and development can be found by nationalisation of (1) banks, (2) oil and (3) foreign trade.

If industries like sugar and textiles do not submit to honest control in favour of the people and national economy they also can be taken over.

Such drastic measures alone can save the country and the people.

**15** The government and some leaders raise the question of compensation to those interests and where to find money for the same. These very industries have enough reserves to pay them their compensation and can leave enough surplus, once they are taken over, as the experience of the nationalisation of the Imperial Bank (now the State Bank) and of the life insurance has shown in the past. We can argue the matter further in the campaign literature.

**16** These measures, when undertaken will generate a movement towards reduction of prices and also enable the government to reduce the taxes, the reduction being made up by the big surplus earned by these branches of the nationalised sector.

**17** A legitimate question and criticism is raised whether bureaucratic inefficiency and corruption, found in many of the nationalised sectors, will not reduce the expected beneficial results and only further tighten the grip of state power over the people. It is like asking whether private corruption and concentration of private monopoly power is not better than state corruption and monopoly power. Both are bad and represent the same bourgeois landlord classes. But a movement of the people to achieve nationalisation has to be combined with the demand for democratic control in various forms. Administrative corruption cannot be made the excuse to leave the arteries of the economic life of the people in the hands of private monopoly and private corruption and exploitation. Under the pressure of the people and democratic control, the state sector can organise national economy far better than the private, though both are part and parcel of the same capitalist economy.

**18** What are the actions that people can resort to in order to emphasise and achieve the five objectives outlined above?

## PROGRAMME

The Communist Party proposes the following programme:

In all those cases where the compulsory deposit cut is shown on the pay bill, the workers and employees should reject pay for one day as a protest. If sufficient response and unity is achieved in this, they should resort to one day protest strike. The biggest trade unions in Bombay have already agreed on this line and elected an Action Committee.

Though this action is directly linked with the compulsory deposit, it is meant to achieve all the five objectives.

**19** It is not enough to mobilise the workers alone.

Apart from the general attack of high prices and taxes, the compulsory deposit and surcharges affect very large sections of the peasantry

also. Side by side with about one million workers, thirty million revenue-paying peasants are affected, according to the study done by some people.

How can the peasants be moved to protest? How can the small traders, shopkeepers, etc., protest?

## PETITION

**20** The Communist Party proposes that a nationwide movement of a Great Petition to Parliament demanding scaling down of prices, reduction of taxes, abolition of the compulsory deposit and surcharges, nationalisation of banks, etc., and steps against corruption and for democratic control be launched. It should be signed by millions. Organisers of all parties, groups and individuals who would agree to move on these demands should either work jointly or separately to build up this great petition to Parliament. It must become something of a national protest, a national plebiscite of the common people, a loud organised voice against suffering and a mighty demand for necessary reform.

## MAMMOTH MARCH

**21** When this petition is ready, tens of thousands should join in a mammoth march to Parliament, to present the petition and to raise in person the mass voice of protest.

The protest and the petition cannot be delayed too long. It should take place by the end of August, the exact date to be fixed later in consultation with all.

**22** The Petition to Parliament and the March to Delhi are to be a movement and not a formal affair. It must educate and agitate and make millions of peasants in the villages and the millions in the towns conscious of what is really happening to us all and what is the way out. It is not a revolution we are promising them. It is some vital reforms, some relief that we are asking them to seek and fight for. If all of us can achieve even this much, the people and the country will have taken a step forward. All Communist Party units, all members along with friends and allies, along with even those who may differ with us on other things but agree on this limited objective should be brought into action to defend the people, their life and living from the attacks of the big merciless exploiters and their henchmen in the Congress governments and administration.

## UNITE, ACT AND WIN:

1. Against High Prices!
2. Against High Taxes!
3. Against Compulsory Deposit!
4. For Nationalisation of Banks, Oil, Foreign Trade!
5. For Democratic Control and Against Corruption!

# FOUNDATION DAY OF COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA

## Central Secretariat's Statement

The Secretariat of the National Council of the Communist Party of India issued the following statement on June 5:

WE have been receiving a number of enquiries from various quarters about the foundation date of the Communist Party of India. We find that somehow it has gone round that our Party was founded in May 1933. We have even received a message of greetings on the 30th

anniversary of our Party, obviously on the basis that the above was the foundation date of the Party. However, that is not correct.

We wish to inform all concerned that the Communist Party of India was founded in December 1925 at a Conference of Communists held in Kanpur.

Even prior to this there were some seven Communist groups which functioned in several parts of

the country and received guidance from the Communist International. But the party known as the Communist Party of India came to be formed at the above-mentioned Conference held in Kanpur in December 1925, which was attended by more than 500 delegates. Prominent among those who attended were Comrades Muzaffar Ahmed from Calcutta, S. V. Ghate, R. S. Nimbkar and J. B. Bagerhatta from Bombay, Abdul Majeed from

Lahore and C. K. Iyengar and Singaravelu Chettiar from Madras.

When the Conference met on December 26, 1925, both Comrade S. A. Dange and Shaikat Usmani were in jail.

The Party Executive met on December 28 and elected Comrade S. V. Ghate as one of the General Secretaries.

We received a similar enquiry a few years ago (in 1959) from the Indonesian Communist Party and the then Secretariat informed them that the Communist Party of India was founded in December, 1925. Present in that meeting of the Secretariat were Comrades Ajoy Ghosh, P. C. Joshi, B. T. Ranadive, S. A. Dange, Bhupesh Gupta, M. Basavapunniah and others.

## National Council Meeting

THE Central Secretariat of the Party at its meeting held in Delhi from May 30 to June 1, 1963 has decided to hold the next meeting of the Central Executive Committee on June 24 and 25 and the National Council meeting from June 26 to July 2.