

the oppressed worker and peasant is sure to realise with ever-increasing force that this is but a mortal struggle to remove the accumulated debris of a thousand years. The common man is sure to understand, as time passes and events move on, that Naxalism is, fundamentally speaking, revolutionism, and that the CPM-brand 'Marxism' is, equally fundamentally, counter-revolutionary petty-bourgeois opportunism.

## Andhra Pradesh

### Conspiracy Case Diaries

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

**D**URING September-October 1970 the Revolutionary Communists operating in Warangal-Khammam districts issued a leaflet addressed to police personnel. After enumerating the job conditions of the inferior police services, the leaflet pointed out that they were no better off than the masses; most of them were from poor peasant and working class families; the present struggle would help them as much as it would their own down-trodden families and the guerillas were not interested in killing them so long as they behaved well. The leaflet, it is said, had a demoralising effect on the police.

The morale of the officers is no better, for other reasons. Though more men are detailed to provide them security than is normal the officers as a rule do not believe in leaving the warmth of a rest house or camp bungalow to chase an unseen enemy. Even if they move out during the day, by sunset they are in a hurry to get back to camp and down a few quick drinks—enough to induce sound sleep. The commies can go to hell—seems to be the motto after sundown.

Unfortunately, most of the valiant communist leaders of Srikakulam have been despatched to hell in the course of "encounters". A few who

escaped the "encounters" are now in jail, facing trial in the Parvathipuram Conspiracy Cases. The prosecution has filed numerous personal diaries, papers etc. seized from various people as evidence. This police evidence gives the true clue to the mystery of the "encounters".

The first major upset for the Srikakulam movement was the loss of Panchadi Krishnamurthy, popularly known as PK, and six others. The six had gone to receive PK arriving by train at Sompeta railway station. They and PK were arrested and shot dead.

"...that day along with Comrade PK, six other valuable comrades were arrested. They were Thammada China Babu, Bayanapalli Papparao, Donnu Gopala Rao, Niranjana Rao, Ramachandra Pradhan and Sringavarapu Narsimhulu. Except Sringavarapu Narasimhulu all the other comrades were young revolutionaries aged between 12 and 20 years. Even these people were shot dead one after another by the reactionary forces. At the time when the reactionary forces had lined them up for killing, amidst the earth-shaking slogans given out by other comrades, Comrade PK said the reactionary forces who think they can stop the great revolutionary movement by shooting us, are mistaken. They cannot stop it. They cannot stop it. There is no force on earth which can stop your decay."

[Parvathipuram Conspiracy Case Vol X—N 12-P. 55. A cyclostyled pamphlet issued by Sompeta Area Committee of the CPI(ML) dated 27-5-70. The handwriting is that of Appala Swamy].

"Comrades, on Feb 4 (1970) Comrade Gummidu Latchayya was taken into custody by the enemies in the Chapara area. Latchayya was subjected to inhuman torture by the enemies for 15 days. Even then, not one secret could the enemy learn from him, not even his name. Eventually, they poured petrol on our valiant comrade and burnt him to death."

"On 21-11-69 at Matalabpet village, Srikakulam Taluk, comrades

Bhaskara Rao and Ganapathi were arrested along with two other comrades, Sanyasi and Krishnamurthi. These people were taken away...and without even a vestige of enquiry shot dead on the very next day...But the other party, the exploiting class, can never speak the truth. That is why, after arresting and killing Bhaskara Rao and Ganapathi and in Srikakulam town itself, they spread the news that they were killed in an encounter at Karasingi Hills near Tekkali..." [We will carry on the wishes of the martyrs Dr Bhaskara Rao and Ganapathi, issued by the District Committee of the CPI(ML) and District Ryotanga Samithi].

"At Engursingi on Dec. 22, 1969 police raid: six comrades arrested and shot dead, Subbarao Panigrahi, Ramesh Chandra Sahu, P. Nirmala, Saraswathi, Ankamma, Ummarao" [Parvathipuram Conspiracy case Vol X-OZ—A pocket diary maintained by Dr Mallikarjunudu and others].

"On 21st (December 1969) night I chalked out the sentry time-table. From 4 to 5-30 a.m. Ramanna and Nirmala were on duty. In the den we were 16 including 5 women. As it was a wintry morning some people were warming themselves near a fire and some sleeping. At about 5-45 a.m. police raided the place. We do not know what the sentry was doing. All of a sudden the police came and beat the sentry. Some say it was the tribals, and some it was the police, entered the den. Those warming themselves tried to run away. Awakened by the noise, even the people sleeping tried to get up and run away—that same evening we heard in the AIR local news bulletin that Subbarao Panigrahi, Ramesh Chandra Sahu and four others had been shot dead". (Parvathipuram Conspiracy Case Vol. IX M. 4. Note-book maintained by PUC Appa Rao.)

Over two months after this "encounter", the guerilla squads were able to arrest one of the tribals who was suspected to have led the police to the hideout. A people's court was

held and the proceedings are an eye-opener.

"...a People's Court with 80 villagers from 10 villages was held. During the proceedings, Latchanna told us that he was bribed by the police who gave him Rs 200, one bedsheet and one dhoti. 'I agreed to show the den. Along with me Sari Narasinga, Sucha and Yanga of Kummari-kunta came. The police and we at midnight reached Bona. At 5-30 a.m. we raided the den. In the raid two guns, one bag of bombs, one radio, utensils were seized. We took S.R. Panigrahi, Ummarao, Ramesh Chandra Sahu, Nirmala, Ankamma and Saraswathi to the Rungmattia hills. They were asked to walk in front and shot dead. Wherever they fell, two bombs were exploded. I asked them why they were doing it. They said it was to prove that they died in an encounter'...Latchanna was released." [Parvathipuram Conspiracy case Vol XI S2-P. 143. A note-book of Urlam Malleswara Rao alias Jaganadha Rao].

"On 14-6-70 Comrade Umapathi was arrested. At once he was taken to Uddanam and shot dead. According to police circles, however severely Comrade Umapathi was beaten and tortured, except the word 'Mao Zindabad' he did not utter one word, not even 'father'; 'mother.' (Parvathipuram Conspiracy Case Vol X-01—A pocket diary maintained by Dr Mallikarjunudu).

Kanagala Krishnamurthy turned approver. In his statement before Sri K. Kosal Ram I.A.S., Subdivisional Magistrate, Parvathipuram, he said, "The police version of encounters is false. The Girijans usually have plenty of M.L. guns. They are taken away by police during raids. Immediately after a person is shot by the police, one gun is placed by his side and the story of 'encounter' is fabricated."

"One Naxalite was killed and some others received bullet injuries in an exchange of fire with police yesterday at Dhamslapuram forest about seven miles from Yelandu" (*Indian Express*: 11-8-71). This is another

typical case of encounter. According to knowledgeable sources, the actual fact was that a tribal, Bathakayya, was asked to pick up a few articles which a certain lorry driver would bring to a certain spot to be handed over to the extremists' squad in that area. The lorry driver turned traitor and carried in his lorry armed police—dressed as labourers. When the lorry stopped at the agreed spot and Bathakayya stepped out of the forest to take over the articles he was riddled with bullets. It is learnt that Bathakayya, who had still life left, refused even to divulge his name and died with his lips sealed. He was not even armed with a stick.

This is the story of "killed in encounters" for which more police officers have been awarded the President's medal for gallantry during the course of two years than the number of gallant Indian army heroes awarded Victoria Cross during the two world wars. The bag of the presidential awardees includes three unarmed women and a few boys aged less than 15 years. What heroism! what gallantry!

PLACE A REGULAR ORDER  
FOR YOUR

FRONTIER

Subscription Rates

INLAND

Six Months	..	Rs. 8.25
One year	..	Rs. 16.50
Five Years	..	Rs. 75.00
Seven years	..	Rs. 100.00
Foreign AIR MAIL Rates (One Year)		
Europe:	Rs. 120 or 15 dollars	
Asia:	Rs. 88 or 11 dollars	
America:	Rs. 168 or 21 dollars	
By Surface Mail		
All countries:	Rs. 40 or 5 dollars	

Long-term Subscriptions will  
help the weekly