

SUC WELCOMES VIETNAM PEACE AGREEMENT

The Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Centre of India has issued the following statement to the Press on January 27, 1973 :

"The Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Centre of India welcomes the Peace Agreement, reached in Paris on Saturday, the 27th January on ending the US war of aggression in Vietnam.

"The Central Committee hails the valiant patriotic people of Vietnam, who, by their historic courage and determination, have not only withstood, for over a decade, the most barbarous aggression ever in history perpetrated on them by the mightiest imperialist power in the world, the USA, but also, by their sustained and determined struggle, have ultimately been able to force the US imperialists to sign the withdrawal of US troops from the Vietnamese soil.

"At the same time, the Central Committee cannot but note with regret that, had the leadership of the Soviet Union the leading and mightiest State in the world socialist camp, abandoned their weak-kneed policy of capitulation to US nuclear-blackmailing and come out to fulfil their declared international obligation by extending all-out military and political support to the Vietnamese people and desisted from pressurising the Vietnamese—directly or indirectly—to grant undue concessions to the US imperialists, then this war would have ended in an outright victory for the Vietnamese people. It is this policy of the Soviet leadership, the Central Committee feels, that has not only encouraged the US imperialists—isolated as they were from their allies outside and the people within the country on the question of Vietnam War—to carry on unceasing aggression against Vietnam, but also allowed them a breathing respite on the face of abject defeat at the hands of the Vietnamese people.

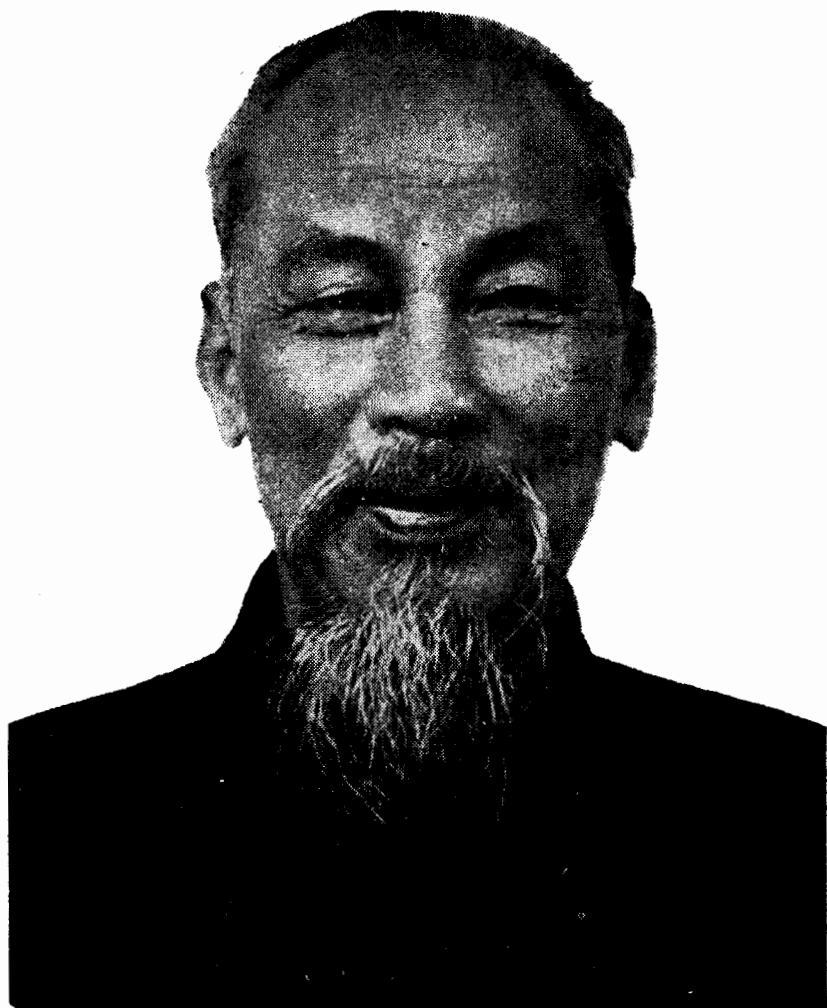
"The Central Committee observes that the US imperialists, taking full advantage of this situation, are still carrying on their imperialist designs, even after the agreement is reached, to frustrate the Paris Peace Accord by propping up its puppet Thieu regime in Saigon as also by its move to remobilise its forces in Thailand and by retaining its fleet in and around the Vietnam waters.

"The Central Committee calls upon the peace-loving people all over the world in general and the Vietnamese people in particular, to remain ever vigilant against this US perfidy and to resist any attempt of the US imperialists to thwart the implementation of the provisions of the Peace Agreement. The Central Committee is confident that the valiant Vietnamese people will keep unceasing vigil against any US move to backstab the Peace Agreement, and will not cease their struggle till they wipe out the puppet Thieu clique—the last foothold of US imperia-

lism in Vietnam—and march victoriously towards complete freedom and national reunification.

"The Central Committee cannot but note with regret that, at a time, when the US imperialists are trying every trick to counterpose the rightful authority of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam with their puppet Thieu regime in Saigon, the persistent refusal of the Government of India to extend recognition to the PRG—in flagrant disregard to the anti-imperialist feeling of the Indian people—is virtually strengthening the hands of the US imperialists.

"The Central Committee reiterates its demand for immediate recognition of PRG by the Government of India and calls upon all the freedom-loving people of our country to build up public opinion and set up effective pressure upon the Government so that it extends recognition to the PRG of South Vietnam without further delay."



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RSP's Decision to join Rigged Assembly Helps Congress and Adversely Affects Left Movement

For obvious reasons the decision taken by the RSP to participate in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly has created a spirit of jubilation in the ruling Congress camp and the vested circle. We think that all left and democratic people should agree with us that the said decision of the RSP would help the ruling party to create confusion among the left and democratic forces and disrupt the unity of the left parties in the country.

Let us see what the RSP has stated in regard to its said decision of participating in the Assembly. Some days back the party issued a long statement to the Press

supporting its decision to participate in the Assembly. In that statement even the RSP has to recognise the fact that the present situation in
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President's Rule in Andhra Pradesh

Congress Cheated the People by its Slogan of Stable Govt.

At last, one of the many loud potilical claims of the ruling party that the Congress alone could provide stable governments in the states and, therefore, the broad masses of our country should vote the Congress to power so as to bring administrative stability necessary to usher in 'socialism' and 'progress' in all fronts has been proved to be a complete hoax.

With the promulgation of President's rule in Andhra Pradesh, the elected legislature led by the Congress now remains suspended and the legitimate democratic process is halted for the moment. Just from the period when the monopoly rule of the Congress was broken in the elections in 1967 and non-Congress ministries were formed in the different states, the Congress was desparately attempting to recoup its lost position by availing itself of any means, however unfair it may be, and taking to any political stunt which can attract the people towards it. But the Congress was subsequently divided into two parties, namely the Congress (R) and the Congress(O), owing to its own characteristic qualities. The Congress could not check its inevitable split due to groupism, intra-party rivalry, petty squabbles, clique and coterie rule, all marking heavy in-fighting among groups regarding slicing the loot of public wealth and jockeying for ministerial positions. When the same Congress, putting on a new garb, maintaining all the past evils, appeared before the people with the slogan, that Congress alone, if elected to power, can provide stable ministries in the states and at the Centre, then it was our party alone, under the correct guidance of our beloved leader and teacher and an outstanding Marxist thinker of the day, Com. Shibdas Ghosh, which could correctly assess the character of this 'new' Congress and came to the conclusion, that despite all its 'progressive' gimmicks, the Indira Congress was the

same old Congress with a new look, "the old wine in a new bottle". So, if the people again would allow this party to come to power then greater misfortunes alone would await them. Subsequent events have proved our note of caution to be true. Just as the real aim of 'progressive' and 'socialist' measures pursued by the Congress led by Mrs. Indira Gandhi is now clear to the masses who have become still more pauperised as against further strengthening and consolidation of Indian monopoly capitalism, so also the slogan of stable government and the one-party character of the Congress have become illusory as evident now to the people. The intra-party

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rivalry and groupism within Congress which took an acute shape just before the last elections in the different states simply on the issue of selection of party candidates for the various contituencies (craze for power and pelf, rather than principle characterised this in-fighting among the warring groups within the Congress) have further aggravated within the Congress in all the states since it assumed governmental power. These factional feuds within the Congress, growing in intensity with each passing day, have brought about instability of the governments run by them. Even a cursory glance on the events that took place in Andhra Pradesh on the controversy over Mulki Rules will reveal this truth.

The Supreme Court judgement in October last upholding the Mulki Rules sparked off agitation

both in Telengana and Andhra regions. The agitations in both these regions are being led by the same Congress which has divided itself on the regional basis, posing a hostile stance to each other, fanning up parochialism and even advocating separation of this state. In this bloody endeavour of the two Congress groups to decide which group shall hold sway over the state politics (Mulki Rules crisis is simply adding fuel to this power politics raged within the Congress) about 40 precious human lives have already been lost, several hundred people have been injured and the unity of the people of Andhar Pradesh has been severely jeopardised.

As the Central Congress Government deliberately kept the controversies open and did not provide any rational solution to it for months together since the latest Supreme Court judgement, the tempers of Congress leaders on both sides were allowed to be frayed. The 5-point formula proposed by Mrs. Indira Gandhi for a solution of the Mulki Rules crisis could not, however, satisfy her own party men. Taking advantage of the present unrest created by the Supreme Court judgement over Mulki Rules (in a previous article, in **Proletarian Era**, dated 15th Dec. '72, we have shown, that whatever solution of this issue might be arrived at, it cannot be a substitute for the actual way of remedy of the appalling problem of unemployment among the people of both Andhra and Telengana regions), the two warring groups of Congress in Andhra Pradesh were rolling up their sleeves with the sole motive to dominate over the ministry.

The Congress Ministry in Andhra Pradesh, led by Telengana Chief Minister, Mr. Narasinha Rao, who was himself brought in to assume the office by the Congress

High Command, by forcing out his predecessor, Mr. K. Brahmananda Reddy, hailing from Andhra region, in the wake of agitations in Telengana during his time received its first setback when ten Congress Ministers from Andhra region tendered their resignations from Narasinha Rao's Ministry. While Mr. Narasinha Rao was busy in inducting fresh Ministers into his Cabinet and assuring all the time the Central Congress leadership that everything went all right, the Andhra Congressmen formed an action committee, called Andhra Congress Karya-charana Samiti with its President being the former Deputy Chief Minister, Mr. V. Suba Reddy and began to serve ultimatums to the Central Congress leaders one after another, to immediately concede to their demand of a separate Andhra State. The first ultimatum of 16 Andhra MPs at Vijayawada that they would resign from the party if separation of the state is not proclaimed by January 26 was followed by another ultimatum given by Andhra Congress Karyacharana Samiti that all elected representatives, both MLAs and MPs would resign from the party if the demand for a separate Andhra was not conceded before January 20. The Samiti claimed the allegiance of 100 MLAs out of 141 Congress MLAs in the Andhra region.

Despite the separatist stand of Andhra Congressmen which clearly violates the unanimously accepted resolution in this regard in the recently concluded AICC session in Calcutta and goes against the professed view of the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi that she would not allow any separation of State in Andhra Pradesh, these men still belong to the ruling party as 'devout' Congressmen. (On Jan. 25, 85 MLAs, 28 MLCs and 181 Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samity chiefs have tendered resignations from the party for Centre's rejection of their demand for a separate

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Some Aspects of the Demand for Nationalisation of Education

Agitation by teachers in recent period has assumed an all-India character with Punjab, Haryana, Bihar, West Bengal witnessing mighty state-wide movements by teachers to realise their various legitimate demands.

Among the different demands that have been highlighted in these movements, some are highly important and possess a general and universal nature affecting the whole country.

At present the financial aspect of education in general and of the educational institutions in particular is highly precarious. On the one hand the ill-paid teachers in different states for legitimate reasons are fighting for upward revision of their pay-scales and on the other hand, in a large number of academic institutions being on the verge of getting down closed due to financial reasons a large section of teachers who are at present not getting their emoluments regularly are apprehensive of a still worse situation in future when the payment of their monthly salary might be permanently stopped.

In such a situation, for obvious reasons, the teachers have raised the legitimate demand that the government should come forward and bear the entire financial responsibility of education.

The other important demand that has been highlighted is the demand for the security of service of the teachers.

The security of service is a serious problem that the teachers are facing. This problem is long-standing and at present it has become more acute as witnessed in some places. The teachers serving in the educational institutions run by private managing bodies, controlled by trusts, registered societies etc., have had to bitterly face the problem and thereby are feeling insecure in regard to their service.

We wholeheartedly support the legitimate demands of the teachers and urge upon the left and democratic people of the country at large

to stand behind the fighting teachers engaged in their struggle against the powers-that-be for realising their long standing justified demands.

Now we would like to draw the attention of our readers to a very important aspect of a particular demand raised by a section of teachers in certain states like Punjab, Haryana, Bihar etc., in their recent movements. A section of teachers in the above states have raised the demand for nationalisation of education on the plea that their security of service would be

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guaranteed and the financial condition of education would improve if the educational institutions are taken within the purview of governmental control through nationalisation of entire education.

The demand for nationalisation of education is not a new one. For sometimes past a section of teachers, educational workers, a section of educationists attached with big left parties like the CPI and the CPI(M) are raising the slogan for nationalisation of education as if the establishment of the governmental control on education is the panacea for all ills the education system is at present suffering from. Apart from this, we have observed that the big left parties like the CPI and the CPI(M) have, from time to time, raised the said demand. Very recently at Chandigarh the CPI (M) in the meeting of its Central Committee had passed a resolution demanding nationalisation of all private educational institutions.

We, however, are strongly opposed to the establishment of governmental control over education irrespective of the composition or colour of the government. On many occasions before, we have repeatedly put forward our views in regard to the nationalisation of education and once again we would like to reiterate our views.

Before entering into a discussion of the socio-political implications of the demand for nationalisation of education, let us see whether the demand for nationalisation of education is inseparably linked up with the object of freeing the education from the present crisis or whether the said demand, if implemented, would at least help the fighting teachers in realising their just demands.

Let us draw our attention to the issue of saving education from the financial crisis, in the background of the demand for nationalisation of education.

In our country, even twenty five years after independence, the financial side of education is still mostly depending upon private initiatives. In this respect the situation has practically remained the same both before and after the independence of the country. For obvious reasons, we strongly affirm that in any civilised country the financial responsibility of education should entirely lie with the government. The government should bear the full burden of the financial aspects of education vis-a-vis educational institutions. But any sensible man would agree that this has got nothing to do with nationalisation of education. Some people hold the opinion that if the government would have to bear the financial responsibility of the educational institutions then obviously, it would like to look into the financial affairs of the institutions so that proper utilisation of

funds are guaranteed. We do not object to that. When we state the government should take the entire financial responsibility of education we, of course, mean that proper methods of checking and supervision of accounts should be introduced to guard the possibility of any kind of misappropriation of public money. But at the same time it should be clearly realised that under no circumstances this should be treated as a plea for curtailing the autonomous rights of the academic institutions and thereby establish total governmental control over the educational institutions by nationalising education.

As the nationalisation of education is not a necessary pre-condition for the fulfilment of the demand that the government should bear the entire financial burden of education so our opposition to the former demand does never mean that the government should be relieved of its responsibility of bearing all the costs of education. It, on the contrary, presupposes that the government should bear all the costs of education ensuring at the same time full autonomous rights of the academic bodies. Let us discuss the issue of the security of services of the teachers.

We strongly feel that the nationalisation of education would in no way improve the service condition of the teachers. On the contrary, it might even impair the security of their services.

There is no doubt that at present a large section of teachers serving in academic institutions governed by trusts or other similar private managing bodies often face serious problems in regard to the security of their services. But who can assure that the situation would basically improve if the governmental control on educational institutions is established through nationalisation of education? Rather, we apprehend that in many respects the situation might

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Only the Vested Class is Cheered by RSP's Unilateral Violation of L.F.'s Decision

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the State, instead of having improved over what it was when the boycott decision was taken by the Left Front and its constituent parties, has further deteriorated.

It has been stated that during the last eleven months' Congress rule in the State, situation in the economic field has sharply deteriorated, the intensity of attack on democratic movements of the workers, peasants and toiling people at large, have greatly increased and the fascistic attacks and onslaughts launched by the ruling party on the left and democratic parties and the mass organisations controlled by them have also greatly increased in number. In such a situation it has become nearly impossible for the left and democratic parties to continue even their normal activities through normal democratic ways and means. In fact, the crisis of the capitalist economy in our country has deepened, and for obvious reasons the capitalist government being guided by the motive of safeguarding the crisis-ridden capitalist economy is pursuing the sinister policy to smother democracy and annihilate all oppositional views and democratic environment in the country.

If in such a situation, the RSP participates in the rigged Assembly, then would it not provide the ruling party with the approval of all those anti-democratic activities of the latter like the adoption of wide-spread malpractices including all sorts of rigging in the last election which crushed all the basic norms of democracy and thereby converted the said election into a mockery? Would it not help the ruling class to create confusion among the people in regard to the conclusion arrived at by the left parties from innumerable facts and incidents that the last election in the State was entirely rigged? Would any right-thinking

man disagree with the fact that, knowingly or unknowingly, the RSP through its decision of participating in the rigged Assembly would strengthen the hands of the ruling party engaged in perpetrating all sorts of heinous crimes against the left and democratic people of the country?

In regard to the issue of rigging in the last election, the position of the RSP as revealed in the said statement is also self contradictory. While stating that the last election was rigged, in another para of the same statement it has expressed the view that the left parties failed to check an all-out victory of the ruling Congress in the last election as they could not frustrate the latter's attempt to utilise the Bangla Desh crisis and the country's victory in the last Indo-Pak War in its petty party interest and the ruling party thereby succeeded to create a situation in its favour by confusing the people. Would the leaders of the RSP disagree with the conclusion of the Left Front and its constituent parties arrived at after considering detailed factual reports and incidents that the last election was entirely rigged and thereby it did not reflect the genuine verdict of the people? Rather, the RSP as a constituent party of the Left Front then was in complete agreement with the conclusion arrived at by the Front. Should we then understand that the party does no more consider that the ruling party secured an all-out victory by doing all sorts of rigging in connivance with the administration and the police in a well-designed way?

In its frustrated attempt to conceal its deviation from its former position the RSP has told a blatant lie in its statement where in it observed that what the Left Front decided was to boycott

the session of the Assembly and not the Assembly itself.

We think that the leaders of the party are well aware of the fact that in the resolution of the Left Front on boycott decision in which the RSP was also one of the signatories, it was clearly stated that the Front considered that the election was entirely rigged, the Assembly being constituted through a rigged election is a rigged legislature and for obvious reasons the Front decided to boycott the rigged Assembly. We think that any attempt to identify this decision with the question of boycotting the session of the Assembly would simply tantamount to travesty of truth. Left Front holds the opinion that, created at it has been out of an entirely rigged election, the existing Legislative Assembly is devoid of all the characteristic features of a democratic forum. But we are astonished to note that with a view to justifying its decision to participate in the Assembly, the RSP has even mentioned the rigged legislature to be the highest democratic forum in the State. In fact, our astonishment becomes deeper on the face of the fact that only a few days back the said party concluded that since the last general election the bourgeois democracy has exhausted and therefore, no question for the restoration of bourgeois democratic rights in our country can arise.

We are astounded to note that while on one hand the leaders of the RSP state that they do not consider the bourgeois legislature, the parliamentary elections or the judiciary of the bourgeois State to be sacrosanct, on the other when even the bourgeois class itself forcibly smother democracy and create a rigged legislature, they, with a view to justifying their decision to participate

in the said legislature, label it as the highest democratic forum and utter high sounding phrases like utilising the legislature for achieving the revolutionary objectives etc. etc.

Any sensible man would agree that when the Marxists speak of utilising the bourgeois parliament for revolutionary purposes, one of the important objectives that they try to realise is to expose the undemocratic mask of the bourgeois rulers—and already this has been successfully done in the best possible way through the action of boycotting the rigged Assembly.

Secondly, another important objective that a true Marxist-Leninist party would try to realise when it participates in the legislature is that when in a particular situation, the left and democratic forces find it extremely difficult to develop democratic movement on different legitimate issues, when even the slightest opportunity does not exist outside to protest against the exploitation and oppression of the people by the ruling class and the vested interest, a situation might then necessarily arise at least for raising the voice of protest in the legislature. A similar situation developed in West Bengal just after the last election. Now, if any one had raised the issue of utilising the rigged Assembly (not as a democratic forum) for that particular purpose, then to a certain extent that could have been effective though in a very limited sense. But none of the partners of the Left Front then posed the issue in this manner. At present, however, no scope is left even for that.

The left and democratic people have wholeheartedly supported the decision of the Front to boycott the rigged Assembly, rallied in huge numbers to the call of the Left Front, even on the face of naked fascistic onslaught and terrorisation resorted to by the ruling

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Fictitious Logic of RSP

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party and thereby are actively helping to create an objective situation in favour of developing mighty democratic movement by organising the different sections of the working people-

Moreover, the RSP has raised the question of reflecting the democratic movement of the outside in the Assembly. Is this a relevant issue in the existing state of affairs? In this regard the pertinent question is to decide whether the movement that is to be developed within the Assembly would be supplementary to the movement existing outside. Now, when the democratic movement should have to be developed outside centring the basic decision of the Front of boycotting the rigged Assembly then would it not appear to be self-contradictory if the RSP proclaims that it would reflect the democratic movement of the outside, in the Assembly by participating in the rigged legislature?

So the decision of the RSP to participate in the rigged Assembly built on the graveyard of democracy even on the plea of strengthening the democratic movement outside through participation in the Assembly would on the one hand help the ruling party to find an opportunity to shield one of its heinous crimes like the raping of democracy in the country and on the other, would provide a powerful weapon in the hands of the ruling class to create a rift in the unity of the left forces. We are constrained to note that the RSP, behind its high strung revolutionary phrases, knowingly or unknowingly, is engaged in aiding the ruling class to realise its desired objectives.

The RSP, in its said statement has reflected a tone in unison with that often reflected by the bourgeois Press and politicians and stated that the issue of boycotting the Assembly by

the Front on the one hand and the participation of the constituent parties of the Front in the committees framed by the Government constituted through a rigged election on the other, would ultimately reach a logical culmination in the participation of the Front in the legislature.

The Left Front has boycotted the Assembly as it considers that the existing legislature possesses none of the features of the democratic forum. But at the same time, the Front holds the view that any available opportunity for thwarting the attack of the ruling class on the people for protecting their interests and rights should be utilised and for that purpose it might even be necessary to participate in various bodies framed by any government formed either through a rigged election or through the installation of the President's rule, both being equally undemocratic and anti-people. But still then none would consider the said bodies to be democratic forums.

The RSP has also stated that it does not believe in the creed of boycottism. We would like to remind the leaders of the party that the decision to boycott the Assembly should not at all be considered as to be derived from the concept of boycottism. The Left Front and its constituent parties through their decision of not participating in the Assembly are striving to highlight the demand for establishment of freedom of political activities of Left and democratic parties, restoration of normal democratic environment and the accepted norms of parliamentary democracy. In such a situation the unilateral decision of the RSP to join the rigged Assembly would only strengthen the anti-democratic activities of the ruling party.

Realising that its unilateral decision to

President's Rule in Andhra Pradesh

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Andhra State) Not only they remain as Congressmen but the Congress High Command, at least in this respect, did not fail to take a quick decision to pander to the wishes of these separatists whose real intention was to bring down the Ministry of Narasinha Rao, the Telen-gana Chief Minister.

Events then took a familiar pattern. The Congress President, Dr. Sankar Dayal Sharma, found it necessary to appoint a high-power committee, replacing the Ad-hoc Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee. It was

participate in the Assembly against the opposition of all Left parties, for obvious reasons, would create a reaction against it among the Left and democratic people of the state, the RSP from the necessity of keeping alive its left image has advanced certain irrelevant points. It has stated that unlike some other groups of Marxist parties, it does not believe in Khrushchevite theory of establishing socialism through the path of parliamentary democracy. (Nevertheless, it must reach its goal of socialism by any means; if necessary, even by joining a rigged legislature! As a matter of fact it professes to believe in the true Marxist-Leninist theory and thereby desires to establish socialism by overthrowing the capitalist state. It has decided to join the Assembly solely for revolutionary interest, for reflecting the democratic movement of the outside in the Assembly through revolutionary tactical means. We, of course, do not know whether any of the partners of the Left Front believes in the Khrushchevite thesis. Then why RSP has engaged in revolutionary phrase-mongering? Does the RSP want to shield its real image which on being viewed through the mirror has frightened the party?

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clear to everybody that it was merely a device to ease Mr. Narasinha Rao out of office. It was the only way to "revitalise the (Congress) organisational set-up in the State and carry on the work among the masses" as put by Dr. Sharma. Despite his pleadings, poor Mr. Narasinha Rao has to go as the split within Congress in the state cannot be avoided unless he quits his office. The expected line of recommendation by the high-power committee was quickly put into effect and President's rule was promulgated so as to improve deteriorating law and order situation in the state! Curiously, the CPM leader, Mr. Basav Punaiha as reported in the Press, has welcomed this move of the Congress for debunking the 'corrupt' Narasinha Rao Ministry in the State. The manner in which the Congress leaders resorted to this undemocratic, draconian measure and the real objective of the ruling party to repair its shattering party structure in the State have been overlooked by both the CPM and the CPI leaders.

Thus, the Congress pledge of presenting a stable government to the people of Andhra Pradesh was first fulfilled by instituting a Congress Ministry in the State by winning elections through various unfair means and practices and then, this stability had again to be restored by overthrowing the Congress Ministry and introducing President's rule in the State. A queer way of providing a stable government indeed! It becomes clear that the ruling party's assurance of presenting a stable government is all bunkum; it is also a clear indication that the Congress will not hesitate to smother the democratic will of the people who wish to be governed by a democratically elected legislature, by arbitrarily imposing a dictatorial authority through Central intervention.

State Must Bear All Educational Expenses

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then become worse. In the existing state of affairs, the teachers employed in privately managed educational institutions enjoy more freedom, greater democratic rights and obviously they can more easily stand firmly united against the authorities when the situation so demands. But if the institutions are nationalised then not only that the teachers would enjoy less freedom and their democratic rights would be substantially curtailed, but also they would feel it extremely difficult to stand united against the bureaucratic authorities—backed by the governmental power—to refrain the authorities from taking any unjust step against them. In this respect the plight of teachers serving in the government-controlled academic institutions in various states are well known to all of us. At present, the teachers serving in educational institutions managed by private bodies have to work at times at the whims of the managing bodies. In the new situation, the teachers would have to serve for all the time being at the mercy of the bureaucracy.

Moreover, we apprehend that if the educational institutions are nationalised then the teachers might have to face new problems. The teachers holding opinions or views opposed to that of the ruling party in the government, whoever it might be, would then have to face different sorts of ill-treatment in the hands of the bureaucratic authority backed by the government and the cases of political victimisation also might then be greater in number than that at present.

So it is our considered view that the nationalisation of educational institutions, instead of helping to assure the security of services of the teachers, would adversely affect the same.

The teachers serving in the institutions under the management of private

managing authorities have raised the demand for the abolition of private managements like trusts, registered societies etc. to be replaced by the controlling bodies comprising representatives of teachers in greater number, representatives of non-teaching staff and those of the students and educationists. While supporting the above demand, we would like to observe that so far as the question of security of service is concerned this would not be enough. We are of considered view that all over the country in different states, pressure should have to be mounted on the government by launching mighty movements for making suitable legislative enactments to guarantee the security of service. All these steps would, no doubt, help to improve the existing situation. But we should not forget that the creation of a healthy democratic environment on the basis of higher norms of the democratic life and the possibility of developing mighty democratic struggle of the teachers backed by the fighting people at large are the necessary pre-conditions for the realisation of the legitimate demands of the teachers, including their demand for the security of service.

For some time past we are observing that a section of people thinks that the nationalisation of education would at least help in freeing the educational institutions from the unholy influence of the corrupt members of the private managing authorities. For, on innumerable occasions it has been observed that a section of the so-called educationists controlling different educational institutions do not hesitate to adopt even unfair tactics to protect their influence on or safeguard their personal or group interest in the academic institutions. Different sorts of evils like cliques, coteries, vested interest etc, are

rampant in our educational institutions. But none should suffer from the illusion that the situation would basically improve if the institutions are brought into the purview of the governmental control. In fact, only the persons involved in those nasty affairs would change places. The bureaucratic officers of the government machinery would then substitute the so-called educationists who are at present dominating in the different controlling bodies of the educational institutions.

Our apprehension is not baseless. The existing state of affairs in the government-controlled universities in different states would provide ample evidence in support of our observation.

Now we would like to draw the attention of our readers to the socio-political implications of the demand of nationalisation of education. We think and hope that all sensible man would agree with us that the idea of establishing governmental control through nationalisation of education is antagonistic to the concept of preserving the autonomy of the academic institutions. Moreover, we firmly hold the view that the concept of autonomy of the academic institutions is inseparably linked up with the concept of freedom and democracy of the socio-political life.

In a class divided society like that of ours, like all other structures over the economic base, the education also cannot remain free from being governed by class interest. For obvious reasons, the ruling class always try to establish its control over the academic institutions and pattern education solely with the view to maintain, consolidate and strengthen its hegemony over the society. In our country too, we have observed similar attempts both before and after the

independence of our country. In the pre-independence period, any attempt of the imperialist British government to establish its control over the university was thwarted by our eminent educationists of that period, to whom, in that era of national liberation struggle the concept of preserving the autonomy of educational institutions was inseparably linked up with the struggle for independence and they not only wholeheartedly tried to safeguard the autonomous rights, or, in other words, the freedom of the academic institutions, but also struggled hard to establish educational institutions free from the influence of the then Government. The role of private initiative in establishing academic institutions free from the influence of the powers-that-be, has a long tradition in our country, and those eminent educationists of the pre-independence era might be rightfully honoured as the pioneers in this field.

Now, in the post independence period, when parliamentary democracy was in its early stage, when the people enjoyed comparatively greater democratic rights and when a wider democratic environment was in existence in the political field, the academic institutions used to enjoy greater autonomy and the tendency to establish governmental control was not strongly felt.

But the growth of monopoly capitalism, which eventually eliminated free competition from the economic field, has its corresponding effect in the political sphere which manifested itself in the curbing of the democratic rights of the people and gradual establishment of governmental control over education and educational institutions. At present, the Congress Government, representing the aggregate interest of monopoly capitalism is laying down the foundation of fascism.

In the academic sphere in conformity with its endeavour in
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Resist Attempt by Govt. to Curtail Autonomy of Educational Institutions

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social, political and economic fields to establish all-out fascism, this is being done by the ruling party, on the one hand, by establishing completely government-controlled universities throughout the whole country, where teachers and educationists have little or no scope to play any role in their functioning and, on the other, by gradually taking away the elements of autonomy from the academic institutions to impose governmental control over the academic world for bringing out regimentation of thought and fascization. The establishment of government controlled universities at Kalyani, Burdwan, North Bengal etc. in West Bengal on the one hand, and the promulgation of New Viswa Bharati and Aligarh Muslim University Acts and the supersession of all five universities in Bihar on the other, would furnish ample evidence in support of our contention. Those who have raised the demand for nationalisation of education should realise that in a capitalist state like that of ours, the establishment of government control over educational institutions through nationalisation of education means in other words the establishment of the hegemony of the ruling capitalist class over the academic world, for which the ruling class is aiming at. For, the nationalisation of education would entail with it complete curbing of autonomy of academic institutions and reduce educational institutions into appendages of the bureaucratic machinery, which then being one of the vital parts of the state machinery, controlled by the ruling capitalist class, would provide the ruling class and its government with the absolute power to pattern education in a motivated way so as to achieve regimentation of thought, a pre-requisite for developing conditions in

favour of the growth of fascism in the academic world.

Now, in such a situation, when the ruling capitalist class is earnestly trying to establish its domination over education, the slogan for nationalisation of education would only help to create public support in favour of the motivated and sinister design of the ruling capitalist class to establish its ideological hegemony over education.

So, we strongly feel that the demand for nationalisation of education should be given up once for all and, the fighting teachers all over the country along with the left and democratic people at large, should engage in an all-out struggle demanding, greater autonomy of academic institutions, replacement of private managing authorities by democratic controlling bodies comprising teachers, students, educationists, and educational workers, and urging upon the government to take the entire financial responsibility of education.

Last but not least, all concerned should realise that any attempt to bring educational reforms would be really meaningful if through our struggle we succeed to introduce truly secular democratic and scientific education.

A few more words before we conclude. We would like to state that we become utterly surprised when we find that both the CPI and the CPI (M), who consider themselves to be the champions for propagating the thoughts of Marxism-Leninism in our country, earnestly demand for nationalisation of education.

We are constrained to note that when the bounden duty of all left, progressive and democratic forces is to fight against all attempts of the ruling capitalist class at establishing the rock-bottom foundation of fascism these two parties, claiming

Green Revolution Turns Grey

At last the myth of green revolution has exploded and India will have to import two million tons, mainly wheat and coarse grain. The Congress Ministers at the Centre and the States have been waxing eloquent about the green revolution and stressing that at last India has achieved self sufficiency in food grain.

Even when the famine condition is prevailing in large part of the country and reports of starvation deaths are received from all over India, the Central Ministers have been presenting a false, rosy picture to befool the people and the so-called nationalist newspapers have been beating the drum of the Congress by carrying headline news and special features about the great achievement in the food front. But at last Mr. Chavan, the Union Finance Minister had to admit that the country was facing a "national calamity" and the Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi echoed the view by saying that the situation was "grave, but not so grave".

The extreme callousness with which the Congress Government handled the

themselves to be upholding the banner of Marxism-Leninism, are in reality raising the demand for nationalisation of education which would only accelerate the growth of a fascistic environment in the academic world.

Again, we have observed that while on the one hand they demand for nationalisation of education, on the other, they demand for and even publicly pledge to safeguard the autonomy of the educational institutions. We cannot understand, how can they reconcile the concept of nationalisation of education with the fundamentally opposite and contradictory concept of autonomy of educational institutions.

Will they ponder over this?

food problem has been criticised even by some monopoly controlled Press. The *Statesman* in one of its editorials dated 13th December last had commented that:—

"On August 26 at Hyderabad, Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, the Union Food Minister, said that "there was nothing to worry about the over-all food situation in the country"; there were some deficit areas; but others were surplus. This was fine and large, although in a matter of days Parliament was exercised not only over the excruciating and steady rise in the prices of essential commodities but also over reports of starvation deaths, which the Government seemed merely inclined to attribute to malnutrition. Meanwhile, there was talk of a possible need to import food, to supplement the Government's diminishing buffer stocks. At least one report said that Rs 100 crores in hard currency had already been set apart for food imports.....

"Four bumper harvests in a row had lulled the Centre into a feeling of confidence unsupported by crops.....

"The green revolution had apparently gone grey while urgent appeals from West Bengal, Gujarat, Bihar and some other States were being handled in Delhi with a bland complacency that all was well.....

"It is not too early to warn, New Delhi that pusillanimity over vital matters is not the best of policies, even politically."

Left and Democratic Forces Condemn RSP's Decision to Join Rigged Assembly

(Contd. from page 5)

If it would have really considered the issue of developing mighty mass movement to be a primary task then it would not have flouted the basic decision of the Front which is so vital for rallying the masses and consolidating Left and democratic mass movement, especially in the background of the naked fascistic attacks of the ruling party on the Left and democratic people in general and the Left parties, their cadres and mass organisations in particular. Moreover, the RSP could have discussed its issue of dispute within the Front, and if the Front would not have accepted its proposal, then it could have publicly ventilated its views to mobilise public opinion in its favour. But we think and any right-thinking man should agree with us that no constituent of the Front enjoys the right to violate and act against the decision of the Front which tantamounts to a gross violation of the (unanimously agreed upon) code of conduct too. Over and above this, the decision of the RSP would not only help to tarnish the image of the Front but also create a crisis of confidence in the same among the people. For, the people would get bewildered and lose their confidence in the leadership of the Front, when they would observe that the Front could not keep its unity in a firm and consolidated position as one of its constituent parties even decides to violate its basic legitimate and justified decision in a most undemocratic manner.

Lastly, we would like to state that all the Left and democratic parties in our country are passing through a very complex and critical period. The existing situation demands unity of all the

Left and democratic forces. At the present juncture, it is the bounden duty of all Left and democratic forces, to organise the different sections of the working people with a view to developing mighty democratic mass movement to realise their legitimate demands, to preserve and extend their democratic rights. All the Left forces should have to unite with the sole objective of developing long-drawn, sustained mighty democratic struggle for restoration, even in a relative sense, of democracy in the country. Those who would utter so-called revolutionary phrases, but in reality would actually deviate from the said path—history will not absolve them.

Massive Victory for DSO Candidates

DSO candidates have won 55 seats out of 60 in the students' union election of Muralidhar Girls' College, Calcutta. It may be recalled in this connexion that in this election Chhatra Parishad could not put up candidates in more than 28 seats and DSO candidates won 32 seats unopposed. Election to the remaining 28 seats was scheduled to be held on the 3rd and 4th January. But on the 4th January, Chhatra Parishad, being apprehensive of the overwhelming victory of the DSO, plotted to foil the election, forcibly entered the college premises, insulted and assaulted the professors and students and snatched away the ballot boxes and ballot papers, thus disrupting the election.

However, the absolute majority of DSO in the re-election proved that on the face of defeat Chhatra Parishad had taken recourse to the violent and fascistic means flouting the minimum democratic norms and principles.

RSP No More A Constituent of L.F.

Sri Jyoti Basu (CPI(M)), Nihar Mukherjee (SUC), Jyoti Bhattachaya (WPI), Sudhin Kumar (RCPI), Ram Chatterjee (MFB), and Robi Dutta (BBC) have issued the following statement:—

"We have given serious consideration to the situation created by the RSP's unilateral decision to participate in the West Bengal Legislature created by a rigged election. By implementing this wrong political decision the RSP has put itself outside the Left Front and therefore, is no longer a constituent of the Front.

"We consider this action of the RSP unfortunate and injurious. Nevertheless, we also want united mass-movements against the Congress Government and its anti-people policies. For the purpose of such united mass-movements and struggles conducted by the leftist parties and mass organisations, we are always willing to co-operate and combine with others on issues. We expect that the RSP and the mass organisations led by it will continue to co-operate with us in struggles of the people."

Trade Union Convention in Assam

Under the joint auspices of the Assam State Committee of the UTUC (Lenin Sarani) and CITU and other leading trade unions of Gauhati, an All Assam Trade Union Convention was held at Gauhati on the 21st and 22nd January, 1973.

A five-member presidium was formed which included Comrade Saradindu Biswas, who is the treasurer of the Assam State Committee of the UTUC (Lenin Sarani). Fraternal delegates from Meghalaya, Arunachal and Mizoram attended the Convention.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Comrade Prabhat Khatonear, Secretary, Assam State Committee of the UTUC (Lenin Sarani) and Comrade Udayan Ghosh stressed upon the imperative need of conducting a relentless struggle against the growing menace of economism in the trade union movement

in order to develop revolutionary class consciousness of the working class of the country as a whole. Strongly urging for developing united trade union movement both the speakers emphasised that special attention must be given to frustrate the divisive policies of the ruling class which have very recently caused much damage to the cause of working class unity in Assam. The Convention formed an 18-member Executive Committee for developing united working class movement throughout the State on the basis of 18-point demands.

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