

M A N I F E S T O
OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS
FOR MAY DAY 1950

Working Men and Women,

On the occasion of International Labour Day, May 1st, 1950, the World Federation of Trade Unions, sends warm fraternal greetings to all working men and women.

Mighty in their unity, the workers will make May Day 1950 a world-wide day of active expression of the working peoples' desire to establish a stable and lasting peace throughout the world.

Responding to the appeal of the W.F.T.U., the working men and women of the whole world will sign on May Day, in huge numbers, the solemn declaration of the World Committee of Defenders of Peace, which, at its last meeting in Stockholm, called for:

- The total banning of atomic weapons, which are arms of aggression and of mass extermination of whole populations;
- The establishment of strict international control to ensure the implementation of this ban;
- The outlawing, as a criminal of war, of the Government which first dares to use this terrible weapon.

Thus International Labour Day will also be an international Peace Day.

Forward for Unity

Unity of the workers is more necessary than ever in the struggle against poverty, want and hunger, still prevalent among so many sections of the population in capitalist and colonial countries.

Through unity we shall win the just and lasting peace so ardently desired by the peoples.

Workers' unity is being ceaselessly attacked by the people's enemies and by these servile agents of capitalism, the splitters in the ranks of the unions.

When they wish to make an attack on wages, the employers seek to smash workers' unity.

When they wish to weaken the power of the trade unions, the employers and capitalist governments engineer division among the workers.

When they wish to restrict the people's political and democratic rights, to imprison and execute the people's best sons, the reactionary governments attempt to line up the workers against each other.

When they prepare a war of imperialist aggression or carry on colonial wars, the imperialist forces organise splits among the workers, hire and subsidise those who act as their agents and betray the unions.

The scab International of strike-

The Scab International of strike-breakers, which is a special organisation in imperialism's struggle against the I.F.T.U., bears the stamp of the betrayal of the interests of the working class.

The success of the campaign for working class unity, and the fraternal rallying of the workers in their trade unions, can only be guaranteed and protected by the public, forthright and categorical denunciation of the acts of treachery committed by all those who have attacked or who are attacking the unity of the workers and the just defence of their interests and of peace.

Created by and for the workers, the trade unions must be run by the workers themselves.

On May Day, the workers of the whole world will affirm their uncompromising condemnation of all the criminal acts of the imperialists and their trade union agents of the Scab International against peace, unity and the welfare of the peoples.

Working class unity is a precious possession; it must be constantly defended because its opponents, who well understand its value, constantly seek to destroy it.

Unremitting Action in Defence of Peace

Peace-loving peoples are realising that the Marshall Plan, the Atlantic Pact, the attempts to organise a Pacific Pact, as well as point 4 of the Truman programme, are all part of the policy of the American imperialists' mad drive to dominate the world.

The imperialists refuse to admit that the two worlds, the world of established or growing socialism and the world of capitalism, can peacefully co-exist or carry on peaceful competition, and they are driving towards a third world war.

But the rising pressure of the peoples, already the strongest barrier in the way of achieving this diabolical aim, will push them back.

The working class is firmly resolved to put a stop to the preparations for imperialist war. It stands in the forefront of the struggle. It is uniting with all the active progressive and democratic forces throughout the world in the World Front of Defenders of Peace.

The World Front of Defenders of Peace is open to all, men and women, old or young, who in their hearts and minds desire world peace, peace for the peoples still suffering from the aftermath of the second world war.

But peace is something which has to be won. The peoples will win peace; but to win it, it must be desired and it must be fought for.

In many capitalist countries which are being used as bases for aggression the workers are fighting against the production and transport of arms.

Those who do this have the right not only to the gratitude of ordinary people throughout the world, but also to their effective support.

Every honest person considers with disgrace and shame the leaders of the Scab International who have declared themselves in favour of war preparations and the handling of arms. These agents of the warmongers have even set up Vigilance Committees charged with recruiting gangsters so as to succeed in the tasks which their imperialist governments propose for them and in order, through their strong arm men, to break the courageous activity of the workers fighting for peace.

The workers will intensify

The workers will intensify their action. They will set up and make effective Peace Defence Committees at their place of work.

The net work of these committees must grow until it covers every country in the world.

War budgets are an unbearable burden for the peoples; instead of increasing expenditure on food, unemployment relief, public health, social insurance, housing and education for young people, the imperialists are pouring the money extorted from the people into an arms race unprecedented in history.

War is already raging in a number of colonial countries. Terror and persecution is striking down thousands of men, women and children in those regions.

At the same time, Chiang Kai-Shek's American planes are bombing the peaceful civil population of Shanghai, spreading death among the people who long only to be able to carry on constructive work.

By organising effective solidarity in accordance with the decisions of the Pan Asian Trade Union Conference of Peking, and by backing these decisions, the workers of all lands will be contributing to the defence of world peace, inseparable from the liberation of subject peoples.

Every people has the right to take its future and that of its country into its own hands. Colonial oppression is the running sore of imperialism.

The Free Peoples Build a New World

It is an historic fact that in the many countries where the workers, peasants and intellectuals have taken the future into their own hands, a new and happy life is being built.

In these countries the trade union organisations have grown considerably, and the extension of their role and power in the State constitutes one of the elements of true democracy. These trade union organisations honour the W.P.T.U. by according it their fraternal and friendly support.

In the great Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, that bastion of peace, the exploitation of man by man has long been abolished, and the fruits of their labour belong to those who toil. The U.S.S.R. has rapidly recovered from the aftermath of the war and continues to develop with energy its planned economy and to ensure a steady rise in its peoples' cultural and living standards.

The foundations of socialism are being laid in the People's Democracies. The great Chinese people, closely united, has torn internal and foreign reaction to pieces and had set up a People's Republic.

The German Democratic Republic has been created and is now developing its strength.

The Korean People's Republic has been created and is now developing its strength.

The Viet Nam Democratic Republic is stubbornly carrying on the battle for the total liberation of the country.

The peoples of these countries, who represent one-third of mankind are facing the future with certainty and confidence. They constitute a powerful support for the world forces of democracy and progress.

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are fighting against poverty and hunger, and for
democracy and peace

In striking contrast, in the capitalist and colonial countries, although the crisis is only just beginning, there are already over 45 million totally unemployed and tens of millions of partially unemployed.

The workless and their families are in a terrible situation: undernourished, ill-clothed, their health being daily further undermined, these millions of human beings are living under a regime incapable of ensuring them a future.

To defend and increase their profits, and in spite of unemployment, the capitalists are seeking to apply speed-up leading to still greater exploitation of the workers.

In many countries the workers are obliged to resort to strike action. Their wages are insufficient; the cost of living is steadily rising while the employers' and capitalists' profits grow higher and higher, thus aggravating the intolerable contrasts between capital and labour.

In these great strike movements the workers only too often encounter savage repression. Police open fire on strikers. Since last May Day the list of working class martyrs has grown, a measure of the increasingly bitter struggle between the workers and their age-long exploiters.

The W.F.T.U. pays tribute to the memory of all these working class martyrs and greets those workers today languishing in prisons, assuring them that the cause for which they are fighting remains in good hands.

The increasing exploitation of the workers, the preparation for imperialist war, the repression of the working class and the attacks on democratic rights, the enslavement of economically weaker peoples, the persecution in colonial and dependent territories, these are the signs of the internal crisis of capitalism. These social crimes and evils of capitalist society enable the workers to appreciate the true worth of that "Western democracy" of which American imperialism is the champion. And the Scab International which tries to adopt the role of a defender of democracy is in reality one of its most corrupt by-products.

It is trying to detach the workers from the solid bloc which the W.F.T.U. constitutes and to associate them with the policy of poverty and war preparations which is being carried on by the imperialists.

The action of the Scab International and its traitorous activities will be denounced by all the workers who must, in order to defend their own interests, their rights and their future, link themselves still more closely each day to the W.F.T.U. and daily take a greater part in its general activity.

The workers in the capitalist and colonial countries must unite, help each other, develop working class solidarity and strengthen their links with their brothers in those countries where the workers have already taken their destiny into their own hands.

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workers, set up by workers themselves to defend
their interests

Despite the split, despite the sabotage by the reactionary forces of its activities on behalf of working men and women throughout the world, the W.F.T.U. is growing. It is still at the head of the organised workers throughout the world because it is the workers' organisation, created by the workers themselves. They give it their backing even when forcibly enrolled into the Scab International, as is the case in the U.S.A., Great Britain and the Scandinavian countries.

Reaction's attempt to isolate the W.F.T.U. has been a failure just as was the attempt to dissolve the W.F.T.U. in January 1949.

The forces and membership of the World Federation of Trade Unions have grown since May Day 1949. New trade unions have joined its ranks; twelve Trade Unions Internationals (Trade Departments of the W.F.T.U) have been set up. The W.F.T.U. has defended the workers' interests with all the means at its disposal and has given active solidarity to all those fighting for their demands. Within the United Nations (U.N.O) the W.F.T.U. has spoken in defence of trade union rights, against unemployment, forced labour, national and racial discrimination, for equal pay for equal work, and for workers' social insurance.

The W.F.T.U.'s programme and activity serve as a basis and guide for the activity of workers throughout the world. Women and young people find in the W.F.T.U. the natural ally and firm defender of their demands. The workers in the towns and great industrial centres are uniting more and more with the peasant classes and intellectuals in the struggle against their common enemy.

WORKING MEN AND WOMEN!

UNITE IN THE W.F.T.U. WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF NATIONALITY, RACE, COLOUR OR RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL CONVICTIONS IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE, DEMOCRACY, BROTHERHOOD BETWEEN THE PEOPLES AND LIBERTY, FOR HIGHER LIVING STANDARDS, FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS, AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT FOR A COMPLETE SYSTEM OF SOCIAL SECURITY, AND FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF "EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK".

DEFEND YOUR TRADE UNIONS AGAINST THE EMPLOYERS' AND SPLITTERS' ATTACKS, AGAINST ANTI-LABOUR LEGISLATION AND REPRESSION!

BACK THE COLONIAL PEOPLES' FIGHT FOR LIBERATION!

UNITE UNDER THE BANNER OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS!
FIGHT WITHOUT RESPIRE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION UNITY!

UNITE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE, DEMOCRACY AND WELL BEING FOR THE WORKERS!

LONG LIVE MAY FIRST, RALLYING DAY OF THE FORCES OF THE WORLD WORKING CLASS!

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE GENERAL COUNCIL

of the

ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

(Bombay, February, 26-27, '50)

ON LABOUR RELATIONS BILL

The Labour Relations Bill introduced by the Government of India is a fascist measure aimed at completely suppressing the militant trade union movement and all working class struggles.

At a time when mass unemployment and starvation has already assumed colossal proportions, when capitalists are making desperate efforts to overcome the determined resistance of the workers and carry out their schemes of mass retrenchment, the bill proclaims that the employers have the unrestricted freedom to retrench thousands of workers and throw them out of employment.

In order to carry out this ferocious offensive, the Bill totally denies the workers the basic fundamental right to strike. It outlaws and illegalises all strikes and all resistance of the workers.

Having been unable to suppress the militant trade unions, which refuse to betray the workers and surrender workers' vital interests and lead their struggles, the Bill seeks to put them outside the pale of law. Fascist Unions, on the model of Hitler's Labour Front, are sought to be imposed on the workers.

Having failed in its attempts to win the working class from the path of struggle, having failed to secure any support of the working class to the discredited capitalist agency, - the INTUC Unions, - the Bill seeks to bolster them up by fascist methods. The nefarious deals and agreements of the INTUC with the capitalists, which have been repeatedly rejected and repudiated by the workers in every centre, are being sought to be sanctified by law as collective agreements binding on all workers.

It is no Labour Relations Bill. It is a Criminal Law Bill - one more deadly weapon in the armoury of repression against the working class. Under it, the exercise of the most fundamental right to strike and freedom of organisation are made criminal offences and any worker daring to exercise the fundamental rights becomes a criminal.

The General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress denounces this fascist measure - known as the Labour Relations Bill and demands its withdrawal.

On the one hand, the Bill leaves the employers absolutely free to attack the workers at any time and in any way they please. But it prevents the workers from resisting these attacks.

Under the provisions of the Bill relating to negotiations, the workers should first submit to the employer in writing any dispute with the employer and patiently wait for a week for the employer to answer. They must then carry on negotiations for fourteen days. Even after these 14 days they cannot go on strike but should give another 14 days' notice of strike.

While the employer can go on mounting his attacks, in the meanwhile under Clause 96 of the Bill, any strike which has not been preceded by this notice and negotiations is declared illegal.

Today, the determined and

Today, the determined and immediate strike and resistance of the workers to every attack of the capitalists is the powerful weapon in the hands of the workers, before which employers find themselves powerless to attack the workers and are often compelled to retreat. All their fond schemes are getting dashed on this solid rock of workers' resistance. These provisions of the Bill which seek to legalise the spontaneous resistance of the workers, aim at disarming the workers and at enabling the employers to mount attacks as they please, without fear of resistance.

But even after all this, workers cannot go on strike once the dispute is referred to a labour court or tribunal for adjudication, by the Government or employer.

Faced with the decisive rejection of compulsory adjudication by the working class, which had fought heroic strikes in defiance of these awards and often smashed them, the Bill seeks to impose compulsory arbitration on pain of imprisonment. Under Clause 115 of the Bill, any person who "commits a breach of the order of a labour court or of an award" shall be punishable with 6 months' imprisonment.

Not only does the Bill seek to impose compulsory arbitration with six months' imprisonment, but under Clause 96 it declares all strikes, whatever be their purpose, - even if one arose out of an entirely different and fresh dispute, even if one had nothing to do with the points covered by the award, - are declared illegal during the period when an award is in operation.

The Bill repeatedly declares that "discharge of workers surplus to the requirements of the employer" is not within the purview of even the labour courts and industrial tribunals. By thus defining retrenchment as falling outside the scope of trade disputes, the Bill outlaws all strikes against retrenchment. It thus gives a guarantee to capitalists that the entire machinery of state will be made available to them to crush workers' resistance to the capitalists' offensive of mass unemployment and retrenchment.

The determined resistance of the workers before which the schemes of the capitalists and Government to increase workload and force the workers to do double their present work, is further being sought to be overcome by declaring that "go-slow" policy would be deemed to be an illegal strike. Clause 99 of the Bill declares, that "Go-slow policy shall include any policy on account of which there is an appreciable fall in productive capacity... or there has been a marked deterioration in the articles produced".

And in addition to the punishment of imprisonment for illegal strikes, Clause 100 further declares that "any employee who commences, continues or otherwise acts in furtherance of a strike, which is illegal under this act, shall forfeit his claim to wages, leave, bonus if any, the contribution payable by the employer to the Provident Fund, if any and other concession for the period of strike".

Thus if any labour court declares that workers have been following a policy of "Go-slow" in any month, workers will forfeit their wages, dearness allowance and all their rights, in addition to facing criminal prosecution for illegal strike.

This is how the schemes of rationalisation and increase of workload - four sides in the textile mills, the recommendations of the Railway Inquiry Committee and other schemes worked out by the "job analysis" experts and "time and motion study" experts - are being sought to be imposed on workers, by declaring them to be on illegal strike, by threat of forfeiture of wages and by imprisonment as criminals.

Having thus prohibited

Having thus prohibited all strikes and resistance of the workers, the Bill further viciously attacks the fundamental rights of rat organisation in order to ensure that there will be no organisation of workers which will rally the workers despite all the fascist repressio

In the very definition clause the Bill declares, "dismissal of any employee from service for good cause shown shall not be deemed to be a labour dispute". Thus the employer has only to state some reason for dismissal and all strikes against it will automaticall become illegal. Victimisation of trade union workers and militants is thus legalised and a powerful weapon placed in the hands of the employer to be used to beat the workers into submission.

In the name of conferring on the workers the right of bargain- ing the Bill seeks to thrust the discredited INTUC on the workers forcibly and makes it the arbiter of the destiny of the workers.

Under Clause 33 of the Bill, there shall be only one bargaining agent "in respect of any establishment in any local area. The bargaining agent shall be either (a) a Federation of Trade Unions, having a membership in good standing of not less than 15 per cent of the total number of employees employed in that establishment or that class of establishments" or (b) a registered trade union having a membership of not less than 30 per cent of the total number of employees in the establishment or class of establishments in that area or (3) the representatives of the employees elected in the prescribed manner".

Clause 34 declares that there shall not be more than one bargaining agent and that " a registered Federation of trade unions shall have preference over a registered trade union and a registered trade union over the elected representatives of he employees".

Every worker knows how the employers and Governments have bolstered up the INTUC and how they have shown fictitious membership and made it the "representative" of the Indian working class in international bodies like the International Labour Organisation. These clauses mean that if the INTUC shows a membership of 15 per cent of workers in any area, which is very easy to do with the help of the capitalists and their funds, it will become the sole bargaining agent. It alone will have the right, under the Bill to conclude collective agreements with employers; it alone will have the right to represent the workers in the labour courts and tribunals.

Clause 87 declares that such "collective agreements" are binding "on all employees who were employed in the establishment at the time of the agreement and on all employees who subsequently become employed".

To fortify this, Clause 115 declares that "any person who commits a breach of any term of any collective agreement shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to six months".

Any possibility of resistance and repudiation of these collective agreements, is sought to be prevented by providing in Clause 96 that any strike during the period of the operation of a collective agreement is illegal. Further-more, Clause 95 declares that the bargaining agent - and the INTUC will be registered as the bargaining agent everywhere - alone can even give notice of a strike. And any strike that takes place even after giving notice by all the workers in an establishment is illegal.

Thus, the INTUC despised and spurned by the workers everywhere, whose agreements with the managements have all been torn to pieces by the workers everywhere - even in Ahmedabad which they claimed to be under their influence - and such bogus "federations" are sought to be made the sole arbiter of the workers' fate. Workers cannot reject these "agreements" concluded by the INTUC with the Government and the capitalists. They can do so only on peril of being sent to jail.

Militant trade unions cannot do

Militant trade unions cannot do anything against these agreements. Any activity of theirs against these deals of the INTUC and such federations is declared an illegal activity under the Bill.

Thus the Bill seeks to declare illegal all the activities of the AITUC and the militant unions affiliated to it, which refuse to betray the workers and which are mobilising the workers for determined all India strikes and struggles to defeat the ferocious offensive of mass unemployment and starvation and for securing the basic demands of the workers.

Workers and trade unions cannot even agitate against the principle of compulsory arbitration and the denial of the basic right to strike. Following the notorious American Taft Hartley Act, Clause 82 of the Bill makes provision for proceeding against persons and organisations for contempt of these courts and for punishment with six months imprisonment.

With all these, the Government is not sure of crushing the workers. It, therefore, declares in Clause 98 that all strikes in sympathy with any other strike are illegal. It further declares that any strike "which has any object other than or in addition to the settlement of a labour dispute which has arisen" is illegal. This means that all protest strikes, all political strikes are illegal.

By thus illegalising sympathetic strikes, the Bill aims at preventing the growing unity and solidarity of the working class and at crushing the strikes and struggles, that are bound to take place despite all these fascist measures and brutal repression, in isolation.

By illegalising political strikes, the Bill seeks to disarm the working class in its struggle against the regime of repression and oppression, to prevent it from leading the struggle of all toilers against oppression and exploitation and thus to protect the tottering rule of capital.

The Bill is thus a total denial of all rights to the working class. The worker is denied even the right to struggle against poverty, unemployment and exploitation.

It is a fascist measure completely depriving the workers of the most fundamental rights of the working class - the right to strike and the right to organise.

It seeks to crush the militant trade union movement and to fortify by fascist methods the agency of the capitalists, the INTUC modelled on Hitler's Labour Front.

It is a Charter of slavery to the working class. Its enactment would reduce every worker to the status of a bond-slave.

Its enactment would mean that every right that the working class has won by countless struggles and priceless sacrifices, are to be taken away from the working class. It is a charter of complete freedom to the capitalists to exploit the working class as they please. It means that the offensive of rationalisation, retrenchment, and mass unemployment, of wage-cuts and intensification of exploitation is to be pushed through and all workers' resistance is to be crushed with bullets, machine gun and rifle.

Against this grave danger that threatens the working class, against the danger to the job of every workers, to his right to organise and fight, against mass unemployment and for better conditions, against the grave danger to all the gains that the working class has won by countless struggles and tremendous sacrifice, the General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress calls upon all workers, irrespective of whatever political opinions they may hold, to unite together in a mighty united front of struggle.

The General Council calls upon

The General Council calls upon all Trade Unions to rally all the workers against this Black Bill and compel the Government to withdraw it.

The General Council calls upon all Trade Unions to observe April 3, 1950 as "ANTI BLACK BILL DAY" and hold meetings, processions and other demonstrations denouncing the Black Bill and demand its withdrawal.

ON PEACE WEEK

The General Council of the AITUC greets the mighty forces of Peace throughout the world, headed by the Soviet Union.

In the brief period of ten months since the World Congress of Peace was held in Paris in April 1949, events of world historic significance have taken place, strengthening the world peace front.

The establishment of the democratic Republic of China, the birth of a peace-loving Democratic German Republic, the conclusion of the Sino-Soviet Pact of friendship and amity - all these signify a tremendous accession of strength to the camp of Peace, Democracy and Socialism.

The bases of colonial imperialism, which represent a grave threat to peace, are crumbling throughout the world, before the powerful assault of the peoples fighting for their liberation.

The Peace Congresses held in many countries, the great rallies of the working people and toiling masses throughout the world on the International Peace Day, all witnessed the tremendous strengthening of the forces of peace.

The great rally of one lakh of workers and toiling people and of over two thousand representatives of working class and toiling people's organisations in the Calcutta Peace Congress, showed that the Indian people are united with the millions of the partisans of peace throughout the world, and are determined to unite all forces of the working and toiling people of India and defeat the machinations of imperialism and of the ruling circles in India to unleash a third world war against the Soviet Union and the countries of peoples' democracy and China and involve India in the war.

The General Council of the AITUC recognises that these victories of the peace camp provoke the ever-growing fury of the war-mongers, who, caught up in the gigantic economic crisis are feverishly preparing to find a way out through a war. The increasing military budgets of the capitalist countries, the feverish rearming of Western Europe, the recognition by the United States and Britain of the puppet Bao-Dai regime in Viet Nam and the military and financial aid being rushed to carry on the colonial war waged by French imperialism against the people of Viet Nam, the hysterical propaganda for war, the desperate search for the Hydrogen Bomb and other weapons of mass destruction more deadly than even the Atom Bomb, all testify to the desperate preparations being made by the Anglo-American imperialists for a war against the Soviet Union and the Peoples' Democracies and China and sharply underline the war danger.

The recent Colombo Commonwealth Conference, the refusal of the Government of India to recognise the Republic of Viet Nam, headed by Dr. Ho Chin Minh, its intrigues in Tibet against the democratic Republic of China, its refusal to support the Soviet resolution to expel the representative of the Kuomintang clique from the U.N.O.C. all these have further underlined the Nehru Government's collaboration with the war plans of Anglo-American imperialists under the cloak of neutrality.

The General Council of

The General Council of the AITUC, therefore, fully supports the decisions of the All-India Peace Committee to intensify and strengthen the campaign for peace.

The General Council calls upon all trade unions to form peace committees in every factory, workshop and mill, in offices and in working class areas and carry on the ceaseless campaign, exposing the war plans of imperialism and its satellites. It calls upon them to firmly unite the workers against war and for peace.

The General Council further calls upon all trade unions to conduct a signature campaign, as directed by the Peace Committee, for peace. It calls upon all workers to pledge themselves to firmly fight all attempts to drag India into a war against the Soviet Union and the countries of people's democracy and China and to fight always on the side of the Soviet Union, the first land of Socialism.

The General Council of the AITUC fully supports the proposals made by the World Peace Committee in its address to every elected Assembly the world over, viz.,

1. That an end be put to the armaments race, which is creating wide poverty and destroying all hope of prosperity. This can be achieved by the reduction of military estimates and armed forces
2. That an end be put to the terrible threat of atomic attacks. This can be achieved by the banning of atomic bombs.
3. That an end be put to the wars of intervention directed against the peoples of Indonesia, Malaya and Viet Nam. This can be achieved by the opening of immediate and direct discussions under international auspices.
4. That an end be made of all repressive measures directed against the defenders of peace, which aim to break popular resistance and to leave the field clear for war preparations.
5. That an end be put to the war of nerves and confidence be restored. This can be achieved by the signing of a peace pact between the great powers within the framework of the United Nations.

The General Council demands the Government of India to support these proposals in the United Nations.

With a view to strengthen the campaign for peace, the General Council decides to observe the week following the first anniversary of the World Congress of Peace, from April 23rd to 1st May as "THE PEACE WEEK".

The General Council calls upon all trade unions to hold meetings and rallies and other demonstrations during this week in cooperation with all other democratic organisations and rally the working class and the toiling masses in support of these proposals.

The General Council is confident that the peoples forces are far strong enough to enforce their will to peace.

ON UNEMPLOYMENT

The General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress strongly protests against the policies of the Government which have already led to colossal growth of unemployment and have inflicted starvation on millions of working class and middle class families.

In the textiles, already over one lakh workers have been thrown out in the streets due to complete and partial closure of mills and measures of rationalisation. Most of the mills in the Madras Province are working only for three weeks in the month, thus forcibly inflicting unemployment and wage-cuts on 50,000 workers.

In the jute industry 12½ per cent of the looms have been sealed from April 1949, throwing out over 25,000 workers. Since July 1949, all the jute mills in the country have been closed for one week every month, thus rendering 3 lakh workers unemployed for one week every month.

Over a million handloom workers have been unemployed for months.

In the Railways, thousands of workers have already been retrenched. Gangmen are forced to work four miles instead of three miles of Railway track, and thousands of workers have been thrown out as a result. Hundreds of clerks and workers from every department and workshops have been thrown out of their jobs. All new Railway construction work has been stopped, throwing out tens of thousands of temporary and casual workers out of employment.

Thousands of workers have been retrenched from every department of the Central and Provincial Governments. Thousands have already been retrenched from the ports of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

Many engineering factories in the country have been closed completely or partially and have retrenched thousands of workers. Oil mills have been closed in U.P. and fifteen thousand workers are unemployed. Thousands of workers from the leather industry, tanneries, printing presses, beedi industry, cigar factories - from every industry have been thrown out.

One fourth the compliment of workers has been reduced in Scindia's ship building yard in Vizagapatam.

The number of unemployed workers is already over 20 lakhs.

Thus with the bursting of the capitalist crisis, closure of mills and factories, short-time work, closure of departments, rationalisation and retrenchment are the order of the day in every industry and department of Government.

But with all this the capitalist crisis gets still more intensified, instead of being solved. And with the further intensification of the crisis, the capitalists and the Government are making desperate and determined efforts to inflict still more unemployment and starvation on the working class with a view to transfer the burdens of the crisis on to the shoulders of the working class. Plans of retrenchment and rationalisation are being sought to be pursued with still greater vigour.

The Government of India, thus not only refuses to undertake its elementary obligation to find work and employment for the workers and all the citizens, it is on the other hand actively pursuing a policy of unemployment.

While it reduces taxation

While it reduces taxation on the richer classes and capitalists, it maintains a huge military expenditure and announces plans of further retrenchment with a view to balance its budget. At the same time, it closes public works, irrigation works and other construction work.

With a view to enable the capitalists to carry out their schemes of inflicting still more mass unemployment and retrenchment and crush the resistance of the workers, the Government is enacting legislation which sanctions retrenchment and illegalises all strikes against retrenchment.

Having thrown millions of workers out of employment, the capitalists seek to use the unemployed workers, who are in a helpless condition, as a pressure against those in employment, to effect wage-cuts, to increase workloads and to further worsen their already unbearable conditions. Further, they attempt to use the unemployed as a reserve to break strikes and thus to emasculate the class struggle of its strength.

The fight against unemployment has, therefore, become urgent and of supreme importance. Every worker and his family is faced with starvation and death. The trade union movement, faced with the menace of struggles working-class struggles being weakened.

The General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress, therefore, calls upon all trade unions to pay immediate attention to this urgent problem.

The General Council reiterates the demands of the unemployed made in the 23rd session of the All-India Trade Union Congress, viz.,

1. Every unemployed must be given a job according to his capacity in artisanship
2. Till such time as the unemployed is given a job, he be paid unemployed allowance equivalent to Rs.80 as minimum wage per month and dearness allowance at a rate that will fully compensate the rise in the cost of living
3. Provision of cheap grainshops for the unemployed where essential articles of livelihood be sold at 50 per cent their market price
4. Free school and college education to the children of the unemployed and free boarding and lodging arrangement for them at the expense of the Government and the employers
5. Provision of houses for the unemployed to live in
6. Proper arrangements throughout the country for registration of all unemployed.

The General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress directs all trade unions to immediately start Unions of unemployed workers in every place and rally the unemployed workers for struggle to achieve these demands.

It calls upon them to organise meetings, demonstrations, conferences and marches of unemployed workers and start a vigorous campaign in support of the above basic demands of the unemployed workers

The General Council further calls upon all Trade Unions to rally all the employed workers in support of the demands of the unemployed workers, by means of meetings, processions and strikes and other demonstrations and to coordinate the struggle of the employed and unemployed workers.

ON AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

The General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress warmly greets the agricultural workers throughout India, who, inspired by the heroic struggles of the urban industrial working class, have awakened to class consciousness and fought most heroic strikes and struggles during the last two years.

The agricultural workers of India are the most exploited sections of the people in India. Their wages are incredibly low, ranging between two annas to eight annas per day. They are forced to work for twelve to sixteen hours a day. Forced labour, known as begar or yetti, is common throughout India. In most places the agricultural workers are yoked to life-long usurious loans to landlords in return for a paltry sum loaned out to them. Their conditions border on slavery.

In addition to this terrific economic exploitation, the agricultural workers in most of the parts of the country are the victims of cruel social and caste oppression. They are dubbed as "untouchables", "scheduled castes" and are denied even the right to use public roads, tanks and wells.

Against this unbearable exploitation and oppression, agricultural workers have fought heroically in every province.

In U.P., Maharashtra, Bengal, Tamilnad, Andhra, Kerala, Gujerat, Bihar and in the states, they have fought wide-spread strikes for higher wages and won victories. Often these strikes have been district-wide, as in Tanjore in Tamilnad and in Ballia in U.P.

In many places, as in U.P. and Maharashtra, they have fought against the unbearable debt-load and often compelled the sabukars and money-lenders to write off the unjust loans. They have fought for their right to use public tanks and wells, for fishing rights in tanks, for the right to cut firewood in the forests. They have fought against social oppression and caste tyranny, and asserted their human rights.

Not only have the agricultural workers fought for their own rights, but they have also fought in support of the struggles of all toiling peasants against eviction, against the unjust procurement measures of the Government officials, who attempt to deprive the toiling peasants of all their food grains. They have fought as in Kakkwip for the distribution of land to the tillers.

Just like the urban industrial workers, in these struggles, the fighting agricultural workers have been facing the most unprecedented fascist repression let loose on them by the Congress Government. Thousands of them have been arrested and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment on false charges. Many have been sentenced to death in Andhra, Malabar and Tamilnad on false charges. Scores more are facing trumped up charges of murder.

Their meetings and processions and demonstrations have been banned. Their organisations have been illegalised in Madras, Tamilnad, Andhra and in the United State of Travancore and Cochin. Countless have been the lathi-charges on their processions and meetings. Scores of agricultural workers have fallen martyrs in the numerous firings resorted to by the Congress Government's police.

Undaunted by this brutal fascist repression, the agricultural workers throughout India are fighting with ever more heroism and firm determination.

It is of great significance.

It is of great significance that in these struggles, the agricultural workers are emerging as the leader of all toiling peasants, fighting to end feudal exploitation and for securing land to the tiller.

The General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress fully supports the basic demands put forward by the Bengal and U.P. Provincial Conferences of agricultural workers, which include among others:-

1. Living wage of Rs.80/- per month and full dearness allowance
2. Seven hour working day
3. Six working day week, with one day of complete rest every week
4. Abolition of the Zamindari system without compensation
5. Land to the tillers
6. Cancellation of all debts of agricultural workers and toiling peasants
7. One month holiday with pay in the year
8. Full employment and full wages and dearness allowance for any period of enforced idleness
9. Complete abolition of forced labour.

The agricultural workers throughout India have seen in their struggles, the real face of the Congress ministries as the firm supporter and protector of exploiters - the rich peasants and landlords, the money lenders and the black marketeers.

Under the Zamindari Abolition Bills of the Congress ministries, the agricultural workers and the poor peasants do not get land. On the other hand, the Congress Ministries only seek to secure property rights and freedom to exploit the agricultural workers and poor peasants to the rich capitalist farmers, by buying out the Zamindars on payment of hundreds of crores of rupees as compensation. Not only are the crushing burdens of rack-renting not lightened to the slightest extent, but the burden of this huge compensation is also to be thrust on the shoulders of the toiling peasants and agricultural workers.

These Zamindari abolition Bills, thus, perpetuate and intensify the exploitation and to the already existing crushing burdens of feudal exploitation are added further burdens of bourgeois exploitation of the capitalist landowners.

The procurement measures of the Congress ministries deprive the toiling peasants of whatever little food grains they have, and leave the village hoarders and land-owners free to black-market and loot the agricultural workers and toiling peasants. The Congress ministries refuse to assure a minimum quantity of food to the agricultural workers and toiling peasants, who are thus thrown to the mercy of the black-marketeters.

All their policies have only led to acute famine over large areas of Tamilnad (Madras), Malabar, Maharashtra, Saurashtra and Rajasthan. It is clear that the Congress ministries representing the bourgeois-feudal combine and out to protect its interests, cannot solve a single problem of the people.

The continuation of this bourgeois-feudal regime will only mean hunger, poverty, unemployment, famine, brutal repression and death to the vast majority of agricultural workers and toiling peasants.

The struggle of the agricultural workers for their basic demands is therefore part of the struggle of the working class and toiling masses to end the regime of bourgeois-feudal combine, and replace it by a people's democratic government based on workers, peasants, and oppressed middle classes.

The decision of the Conference of agricultural workers of Bengal and U.P. to affiliate the Unions of agricultural ~~workers~~ with the All-India Trade Union Congress

India Trade Union Congress is of great importance. The General Council warmly welcomes the trade unions of agricultural workers inside the All-India Trade Union Congress. The cementing of the fighting unity of the urban industrial working class and the agricultural workers will immensely strengthen the common struggle against the exploitation by the capitalists and landlords, against mass unemployment and starvation and for a living wage and full employment.

The General Council calls upon the agricultural workers throughout the country to organise themselves in trade unions of agricultural workers and strengthen them and to prepare for district-wide, province-wide and country-wide strikes and struggles against mass unemployment and starvation and to win their basic demands of a living wage and full employment.

The General Council further calls upon them to unite with the toiling peasants and lead the struggle of all toilers in the country-side. In the coming months when acute famine in the countryside is being aggravated by the procurement measures, the agricultural workers should lead the battle of all toilers in the countryside for food and against unjust procurement measures.

The General Council further calls upon the agricultural workers to form broadbased elected committees of Action with fighting agricultural workers, as part of their preparation for these struggles. Such democratic committees with fighting workers alone will protect their struggles enable them to fight the fascist repression of the Congress Government, and ensure victory to the struggle.

AGAINST REPRESSION - FOR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

This meeting of the General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress condemns the savage fascist repression let loose on workers, peasants, students and the movements of the common mass of toilers, by the Congress capitalist Government.

During its reign of three years, the Congress Government has imprisoned without trial over 25,000 leaders of the toiling people of India. Thousands of leaders of workers, peasants and other common people from North Malabar, Telengana, Bengal and other places were prosecuted under false charges and convicted without allowing any facilities for their defence.

The ruling circles did not rest content with imprisoning the working class, peasant, student and communist leaders and fighters, but resorted to brutal lathi charges and firings in various jails, resulting in the death of several fighters and severe injuries to many.

During the last nine months, since the 23rd session of the AITUC, the fascist repression by the Congress Government on workers, peasants and common people has assumed far more serious proportions.

Firing inside jails which was began by the notorious B.C.Roy Ministry in Bengal in June 1949, went on mounting, culminating in the most barbarous and brutal firing in Salem Jail on February 11, and in Nasik on 6th February, when in Salem no fewer than 22 peasant leaders were mowed down dead and 103 injured by bullets and in Nasik one was killed and over 50 were injured.

Since June 1949, 32 prisoners have been killed in jail firings alone

In the period of nine months, even on

In this period of nine months, even on the basis of the far from complete reports in the bourgeois press, as many as 50 firings took place against demonstrations of workers, peasants and agricultural labourers. Between October 1949 and 4th February i.e. in four months alone, there were as many as 36 firings.

In these firings 38 workers', peasants', and student leaders were killed.

Thousands of peasants from Telengana were prosecuted on false charges, in special tribunals. All normal procedure of law was abrogated. Defence facilities were totally denied. After such farcical summary trials, 108 of them have been sentenced to death and many more are facing trumped up charges of murder.

Three workers' leaders of Textile workers from Vikramsingapuram were prosecuted and sentenced to death. Four agricultural labourers who fought the atrocities of landlords in East Godavari District have been sentenced to death and scores of peasants are facing murder charges.

Thousands of peasants and workers from Malabar, Tamilnad and Andhra have been sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. Inside jails these brave fighters are singled out for specially vindictive treatment and are forced to do the hardest labour and treated worse than the most hardened criminals.

In North Malabar, in several villages and towns of Madras Province and in Hyderabad State, an unheard of reign of terror has been let loose by the police, in which several peasants and workers and their families have already perished.

The intensity of repression can be seen from the fact that in the first week of August alone, the Madras Government arrested over 5,000 workers and peasants in Tamilnad. In Madura alone, 1,700 workers were arrested and 2,000 working class homes were raided.

In Assam, Railway workers' colonies were repeatedly raided and attacked. Workers were frequently fired upon, resulting in the death of several workers.

Working class and toiling peoples' leaders are being killed by the police. In Madura, Comrade Mari and Manavalan were shot dead in cold blood. In Palni Taluq, Com. Yillaivanam was similarly murdered.

Working class and toiling peoples' leaders are subjected to indescribable horrifying treatment in police lock-ups, before which the blood-curdling legends of Spanish inquisition pale into insignificance.

Inside the jails throughout India, repression and persecution are mounting. Denial of family allowance and transfers with the purpose of segregation and discrimination against working class and peasant fighters, treatment worse than criminals and denial of all rights and privileges as political prisoners, these are the shameless means used to suppress the spirit of detenus and political prisoners.

The detenus and political prisoners have waged heroic battles to end classification, to abolish discrimination against working class fighters and secure family allowance to workers' detenus. It is to suppress and crush these heroic struggles that innumerable lathi charges and firings have been resorted to in various jails, even when the political prisoners were on hunger strike. These attacks and firings have already taken a toll of 32 precious lives of brave fighters in the last nine months.

Not a day passes without some

Not a day passes without some news in the daily press of firing or lathi charges on processions or demonstrations of workers or peasants, or in some jail.

Today, every workers' strike has to be fought in the teeth of fascist attacks, arrests, lathi charges and firing. Every struggle of peasants against landlord oppression has to be fought in face of this brutal repression.

Having failed to suppress the working class, peasant, student and middle class employees' democratic movements and struggles through all this unparalleled repression, the Congress rulers have cast away all democratic pretensions and resorted to illegalisation of mass organisations.

In flagrant violation of the Charter of Human Rights of the United Nations Organisation to which they were signatories, in flagrant violation of even the I.L.O. Convention on Freedom of Organisation and Trade Union Rights, they have banned by executive decree over 80 trade unions of workers, representing over 2,00,000 organised workers, in Tamilnad, Andhra, Kerala, Karnatak, Madhyabharat and the United State of Travancore and Cochin.

They banned the Communist Party in these Provinces and in Bengal.

Mass arrests of workers in every strike has become the usual feature. As many as 800 municipal workers were arrested in the Bombay Municipal workers' strike, 3,000 railwaymen were arrested in 9th March Railway strike. All members of the Working Committee of the Delhi Provincial Trade Union Committee were arrested while in session. Thousands of industrial and agricultural workers in Bengal and Assam and U.P. have been arrested. Sixteen out of the thirty members of the Working Committee of the AITUC and more than 50 members of its General Council are in jail or driven underground.

One of the first acts of the Government after the inauguration of the new bourgeois fascist constitution on January 26th, was a summary order by the President, validating and continuing indefinitely all detentions without trial. All Provincial Governments are reenacting Public Safety Measures Acts, which are even more severe than the existing ones. The Central Government is coming forward with over-all legislations in order to more efficiently direct this repression.

Under these laws any person can be arrested and detained indefinitely without trial or indictment by a police officer. Any newspaper can be summarily suppressed without resorting to Court Procedure. Property of democratic and mass organisations can be confiscated by a fiat of the Executive.

All fundamental human rights and freedoms as laid down in the U.N.O. Charter, in the declaration of the Committee of Human Rights, and as are understood and accepted throughout the world, have been totally denied to the mass of workers, peasants and all toiling people

Today, there is no rule of law, even as is understood in bourgeois democratic regimes. Instead an open naked fascist regime exists.

With the happenings in jail and outside, with hundreds of peoples leaders killed, with refusal to release the 25,000 leaders of workers, peasants, students, women and common people, and with brutal firings on workers' strikes and demonstrations, the bourgeoisie and their Congress Government are out to drown in blood workers' trade unions, peasants' and student organisations that dare to fight the bourgeoisie that dare to fight against mass unemployment, misery and starvation.

Caught in the grip of a mortal econo

Caught in the grip of a mortal economic crisis, faced with ever greater and determined resistance of workers, peasants and the entire toiling masses, panicky before the determined workers who are counter-attacking and preparing under the banner of the AITUC, for a general strike for securing jobs for all and living wage to workers, the Congress bourgeois rulers are desperately trying to postpone their doom by resorting to ever mounting fascist repression. Through this repression they seek to physically exterminate thousands of our leaders now in jail.

Through mass arrests and firings, through banning meetings and declaring trade unions, kisan sathas and student organisations illegal organisations, they seek to disorganise and paralyse mass resistance so as to enable the capitalists and zamindars to transfer the burden of the crisis on to the shoulders of the common people.

The AITUC characterises this state of affairs as naked fascist rule, the like of which even the hated British imperialists dared not introduce even during the worst war crisis. This brutal fascist repression launched at a time when faced with the most ferocious offensive of mass unemployment and starvation, the working class is moving forward to determined strike struggles against unemployment and for living conditions, threatens the very existence of the militant trade union movement.

The struggle against this fascist repression and for smashing it, is therefore of vital importance in defending the vital economic and political rights of the working class and for protecting the great militant organisations they have built up with infinite sacrifice. To organise a countrywide struggle to achieve this, is the urgent need of the hour. The AITUC calls upon workers in all industries in India to prepare for country-wide struggles for the realisation of the following immediate demands.

1. Immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners, all those detained without trial in all the jails.
2. Withdraw the ban on trade unions in Madras, Andhra, Karnatak, Kerala, Madhyabharat and in the United State of Travancore and Cochin.
3. Withdraw the ban on the Communist Party in Madras, Andhra, Karnatak, Bengal and Hyderabad
4. Release every worker jailed, reinstate him in his job and grant him compensation equivalent to full wages for the period ~~xxx~~ he was detained.
5. Abolish classification and treat all politicals, whether convicted or detained as political prisoners and ensure minimum standard for their treatment not below the equivalent of present standard in Class I.
6. Family allowance equivalent to full wages of the workers detained.
7. Withdrawal of Public Security Measures Acts in Provinces and the Preventive Detention Act at the Centre
8. Full recognition, without restriction, of the right to organise, right to strike, freedom of press and freedom of speech.

The General Council of the AITUC calls upon workers in all industries to prepare for a decisive struggle for the realisation of the above democratic rights of the trade unions and of every mass movement of all toilers.

The General Council appeals to all democratic organisations outside the T.U.C. to join with the AITUC in organising a common united struggle in defence of trade union and democratic rights, to defeat the offensive of the capitalists and smash the fascist repression of the Congress capitalist Government.

The General Council

The General Council calls upon all trade unions to observe March 18 as "ANTI-REPRESSION DAY", to hold meetings, processions and other forms of demonstrations on that day and demand the repeal of the security acts, the release of all those detained in jails and condemn the regime of repression.

ON THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

The General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress declares that the new Constitution of India inaugurated on the 26th of January 1950, being a product of the conspiracy of the Indian capitalist class with British Imperialists, is an instrument for the perpetuation of the exploitation of the working class and the toiling people of India by the Indian bourgeoisie in collaboration with Anglo-American imperialists.

The constitution does not embody the sovereignty of the Indian people but its enslavement to the British imperialists and to the new exploiters - the American imperialists. It sells India's right to determine her own foreign policy and takes it into the Anglo-American war camp against the Soviet Union.

Under this constitution, the workers and the working people have no right - no right even to struggle against their poverty and slavery, while it guarantees the vested interests - Indian and foreign - the freedom of unbridled exploitation of the working class and the people of India.

By assuring the inviolability of profits, by declaring as a fundamental law of the constitution that the people of India have no right to confiscate the industries and assets owned by any profiteer, past, present or future, the constitution guarantees to the British and other foreign capitalists all their profits and the industrial and economic power they have accumulated in India by open robbery for centuries.

The constitution guarantee that the state shall not take over the property of the vested interests without compensation means that there would be no nationalisation of industries in the interests of the people.

By this guarantee, the feudal parasites, the princely zamindars and Jotedars are bolstered up and protected from confiscation of their land by the people. It thereby denies land to the tillers.

The Constitution shamelessly declares that the state shall have no obligation to secure to the citizens the right to work and to means of livelihood. It unashamedly denies any responsibility for providing the workers a living wage, unemployment relief, old-age pension or a higher standard of living and nutrition. It cynically refuses culture to the people or refusing to accept any enforceable obligation to introduce free primary education.

The Constitution denies the workers the most elementary right to form trade unions, by keeping in the Executive's hands the unbridled power to declare any organisation illegal without any proof or evidence. The right to strike and picket has been denied.

Freedom of the press is not even mentioned. It does not guarantee civil liberties. Under it the Executive is armed with power to arrest and detain without trial any one for any length of time.

The General Council

The General Council, therefore, denounces this Constitution as a Constitution for the Indo-foreign vested interests, against the Indian working class, Khet Mazdoors (agricultural workers) and peasants, against the oppressed middle classes and the progressive intelligentsia, against the whole population of the country.

The General Council pledges to ceaselessly rally the Indian working class against this slave Constitution. It calls upon the trade unions to rally the Indian working class for determined strikes and struggles in defence of their vital interests and thus forge the sanctions for a people's constitution which will embody the sovereignty and independence of the people, which will secure land to the tiller and living wage to the workers, which will nationalise industries and ensure the right to work and economic security to all and which will place power in the hands of the toilers and will ensure the alliance of the Indian people with the Soviet Union, China and Peoples' Democracies for peace, against war.

PREPARE TO IMPLEMENT THE BASIC DEMANDS RESOLUTION OF
THE TWENTYTHIRD SESSION

The General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress notes with grave concern the alarming situation created through-out the country by colossal unemployment that sweeps over the whole country and is engulfing thousands of workers and middle class employees every day.

In their attempt to shift the entire burden of the economic crisis on to the shoulders of workers, peasants and common people, the bourgeoisie has further deepened the crisis which is bursting forth everywhere.

Over one lakh of textile workers are thrown out of employment in the short space of one year.

Over two lakhs of Central Government employees in Ordnance and Clothing factories, Central Government's General Engineering Workshops and other establishments of the Government have been turned out of jobs in three years. Thousands of railwaymen are thrown out of employment.

Thousands of Metal and Engineering workers are turned out of jobs. Dock workers, Port Trust workers, Municipal workers, Post and Telegraph workers and workers in all establishments and handloom workers are unemployed in their thousands.

Clerks, teachers, professionals, bank and insurance employees all are victims of mass unemployment. At a conservative estimate over 20 lakhs working men and women wanting to work are without any job. This number of unemployed is rising at unprecedented rate.

Not only are the bourgeoisie and the Government callous and indifferent to these 20 lakhs of people and over a crore of their dependents who are facing literal starvation and death, but they are launching everywhere new attacks, by way of rationalisation, cut in dearness allowance and imposing fresh burdens on the toiling millions in the country.

Over and above the two million unemployed workers, nearly a crore of agricultural labourers are literally starving and dying. The Government does not accept any responsibility to help the unemployed. On the contrary it itself throws thousand and thousands of Government employees out of job and refuses to give any unemployment relief.

It does not confiscate or

It does not confiscate or take control of the mills and factories when the employers declare a lockout, but on the contrary it helps them to close more and more factories.

It does not arrest the ever rising prices but on the contrary its policies of relaxation and withdrawal of controls, only help the capitalists and merchants to increase the prices and loot the people.

It keeps at the disposal of the employers all its machinery to suppress every struggle of workers, suppress resistance in any form and shamelessly transfer the burden of crisis on to the shoulders of working people.

As a result of this situation mass unemployment and mass starvation and death is facing every family of the worker, of the middle class, of agricultural labourer, or poor peasant and of every common man.

Conditions of workers has become desperate. Under capitalist regime in the period of serious capitalist economic crisis workers in all industries and establishments are subjected to ever increasing exploitation.

Against these conditions workers in every industry are fighting with dogged resistance unparalleled in the history of Indian Trade Union movement. Textile workers, railway workers, Government employees, teachers, metal workers, bank clerks and workers in every establishment are fighting back with determination every attack of the employers. There is not a single industry where strikes against unemployment and attack on wages or increase workload has not taken place.

But the Government is crushing these struggles of workers with utmost ruthlessness separately and in isolation.

Immediate all-India united struggle of workers in all industries and departments and other establishments has become urgent and imperative. With such a coordinated action simultaneously workers will be able to defeat the offensive of the capitalists.

Immediate preparation for a united all-India struggle of all workers from every industry for living wage, jobs for all, and against all repression, for withdrawal of all repressive legislation, for release of all detenus and political prisoners, becomes our urgent task.

The General Council calls upon all provincial Committees, regional Councils and trade unions to conduct vigorous campaign for an All-India United Struggle and popularise the Basic Demands Resolution passed by the 23rd session of the AITUC.

Every Union should form united committees of action in every factory and department, rally inside the Unions overwhelming mass of workers in every industry, forge united front of all workers in every factory, department or other establishments and vigorously prepare for all India united action as stated in the resolution on basic demands of the 23rd session.

The General Council is confident that the Unions and Provincial Committees and Regional Councils will realise the gravity of the situation and immediately prepare for all-India action for basic demands, to end unemployment, to secure jobs for all and in defence of trade union and democratic rights.

ON MAY DAY

The General Council calls upon the Indian working class to observe May Day 1950 as a day of international working class solidarity of and fighting unity, as a day of fight for peace and against war, for the basic demands of living wage and security of service, full democratic liberties and trade union rights.

May Day 1950 sees the mighty advance of the world working class led by the World Federation of Trade Unions, to its cherished goal of peace people's democracy and Socialism. It sees the advance of the great Soviet workers towards Communism and of the working class of the People's Democracies to Socialist construction. In the creation of the People's Republics in Germany and China it sees mighty increase in the people's force of peace, which decisively changes the balance of forces in favour of the working people fighting for national liberation, people's democracy, peace and Socialism and against the warmongers led by Anglo-American imperialists.

Against this reality of growing all round prosperity in the Soviet Union and People's Democracies, stands another reality, the reality of the capitalist world of bursting crisis, of unprecedented mass unemployment and wage cuts, of growing famine, pauperisation and death for the toiling millions, of feverish preparations for the third world war.

Against this menace, May Day 1950, sees glorious traditions of fighting international working class solidarity as witnessed in the great general strike of the Canadian Seamen, of dockers in London and Australia, of the French Dockers in support of the war of liberation fought by the people of Viet Nam and so on. It sees the people's ever growing forces of peace led by the World Peace Committee, inflicting defeat after defeat on the war-mongers.

May Day 1950 sees the people of Asia, of Viet Nam and Indonesia, of Burma and Philippines, of South Korea successfully fighting their wars of national liberation.

More than ever before, May Day 1950 sounds the inevitable and early doom of capitalism the world over.

The General Council calls upon the Indian working class to renew this day its pledge of fighting for world peace, of strengthening still further the bonds of international working class solidarity of intensifying its struggle for winning national liberation, peace and people's democracy.

The General Council calls upon the working class of India to reiterate on this day the basic demands as laid down by the 23rd session of the AITUC, namely, (1) Minimum wage of Rs.80/- for unskilled workers and Rs.125/- for clerks and skilled workers; (2) Full dearness allowance neutralising the cost of living index; (3) Security of service and right to work; (4) Seven hours day and forty hours week; (5) One month's privilege leave with full pay, 20 days' casual leave with pay and old age pension; (6) All temporary and badli workers should be made permanent; (7) Guarantee against unemployment; (8) Four and a half months wages with dearness allowance as bonus for 1948-49 for workers in every industry (9) Right of trade unions work in the factories; (10) Immediate and unconditional release of all the leaders of workers, peasants, students, and women's organisations and of the Communist Party, Forward Bloc, Bahujan Samajwadi Party and all political prisoners, who have been arrested for participating in democratic struggles; (11) Repeal of all repressive legislation banning strikes and attacking trade union rights.

The General Council calls upon the working class of India to pledge on this day of international working class solidarity to intensify its struggle for these demands by forging impregnable bonds of working class unity in the country as the surest guarantee of its final victory.

The Council calls upon the workers and their trade unions all over the country to unitedly observe this great day in a fitting manner by holding meetings, processions and demonstrations and all other possible ways.

A. I. T. U. C. SPECIAL FUND

The General Council of the AITUC warmly greets the millions of workers throughout India, who, despite the brutal terror and fascist repression unleashed by the capitalist government, have rallied in ever greater numbers under the banner of the AITUC. It is their struggles and support that have enabled the AITUC to boldly and unflinchingly face the brutal repression and firmly defend the vital interests of the working class.

Despite all the repression and the determined efforts at disruption the AITUC alone has become the symbol of working class unity-- unity for struggle. Both nationally and internationally, it is recognised as the representative of the Indian working class, fighting for and defending the vital interests of the working class and leading them in the battle against capitalism. Thousands of new workers are daily looking to the AITUC and coming towards it for guidance and lead in their struggles against capitalist offensive.

The AITUC is chosen by the Government as the special target of its attack because, the AITUC and its Unions are an obstacle to their desperate attempts to transfer the burdens of the crisis on to the shoulders of the workers and inflict mass unemployment and starvation and carry out other attacks on the living standards and working conditions of the working class.

The strengthening of the AITUC is therefore of vital importance to the working class and its struggles. The strength of the AITUC is the strength of the Indian working class. The stronger the AITUC, the easier it is to smash the offensive of the capitalists and to win their basic demands of the working class.

The tremendous repression of the Government on the AITUC Unions, the illegalisation of over 80 of its Unions in the South and in Madhya Bharat - all these have told upon the finances of the AITUC, at a time when more funds are needed to carry on its activities in conditions of repression and to lead the struggle against the ferocious capitalist offensive and for winning the basic demands.

Confident that the workers of India will rally together to strengthen the AITUC - their sole central fighting organisation - in every way, the General Council hereby decides to constitute a Special Fund to be known as the "AITUC SPECIAL FUND" and to raise voluntary contributions from workers and all supporters of the AITUC.

The General Council appeals to all workers to contribute their utmost to the Fund.

The General Council calls upon all trade unions to raise collections from all workers and supporters of the AITUC. It calls upon them to enrol permanent donors who will regularly contribute monthly donations to the AITUC.

The General Council resolves to issue special May Day Flags on the coming May Day and to arrange for their sales to the workers through the Provincial Committees, Regional Councils and Trade Unions. It further resolves that the sale proceeds of the May Day Flags will be credited to the AITUC SPECIAL FUND.

GREETINGS TO THE SOVIET UNION

The General Council of the AITUC sends its warm fraternal greetings to the working class and to the people of the Soviet Union and the great Stalin, heading the world camp of peace, democracy and Socialism.

The great progress in the material well being and prosperity made during the pre-war years which brought about the irrevocable victory of Socialism in the U.S.S.R., the colossal sacrifice in men and material which the people of U.S.S.R. made to defend the peoples of all lands from fascist marauders and the rout of Hitler's armies; the unprecedented production triumphs of the post-war years which have brought about all round prosperity, which has led to such material well-being that it is enabling the people of the U.S.S.R. to take rapid strides towards Communism, when the capitalist world is languishing, when it is in the throes of a crisis, resulting in all round misery, destitution and unemployment; all these have created profound love and admiration and respect for the peoples of the Soviet Union.

These great triumphs conclusively demonstrate the complete superiority of the Socialist system over the capitalist system.

It is the Soviet Union and its Red Army that liberated the peoples of Eastern Europe and enabled them to establish the rule of People's Democracy and march to Socialism.

It is the Soviet Union that by routing the Japanese fascists created the conditions for the people of China to win their liberation from the American imperialists and the reactionary Kuomintang clique and for the final battle of emancipation of all Asia.

It is the Soviet Union that champions the cause of the oppressed peoples of Indonesia, Malaya, Viet-Nam and of all other colonial, semi-colonial and dependent countries in their struggle to overthrow the yoke of imperialism and native capitalists and landlords.

In the U.N.O. and other international bodies, it is the Soviet Union that has consistently fought for the rights of the Indians in South Africa and West Africa.

It is the Soviet Union that has consistently fought against the suppression of the Trade Union movement in Indian and other colonial countries and for upholding the trade union and democratic rights throughout the world.

It is the Soviet Union that has consistently unmasked the war designs of the Anglo-American imperialists. By its proposals to end the atom bomb and for the five power peace pact, it is the Soviet Union that consistently fights for peace and friendship among nations and cooperation among peoples.

These mighty moral and material achievements of the Soviet Union inspire the working class and toiling masses of India to fight with courage and determination against the regime of capitalist-landlord-imperialist exploitation and oppression and for the establishment of a people's democratic state which alone will enable them to firmly tread the path to Socialism and banish the pangs of hunger, poverty and unemployment.

GREETINGS TO CHINA

The General Council of the AITUC sends its warm fraternal greetings to the working class and people of China and their leader, Com. Mao Tse-tung, on the establishment of the People's Republic of China, signalling the final and irrevocable victory of the Chinese people against the enemies and enslavers of China - the American imperialists and the clique of Kuomintang reactionaries.

This great and historic victory of the Chinese people has sealed the doom of foreign imperialists and their native agents on the continent of Asia and opens the prospects of the immediate liberation of the people of Asia. It has changed the balance of forces on a world struggle against the imperialist war-mongers and colonial enslavers, for peace, democracy and Socialism.

The working class and the toiling people of India rejoice in this great historic victory of the Chinese people and see in it a decisive defeat inflicted on the common enemy of the people of the world - Anglo-American imperialism - which hastens their own liberation and has advanced the cause of world liberation. The historic struggles carried on by the Chinese people for twenty five years under the leadership of the working class and the great victory inspire the toiling masses of India to fight more determinedly and courageously their battle for ending the rule of capitalists and landlords and establishing the rule of People's Democracy.

GREETINGS TO VIET MINH REPUBLIC

The General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress sends warm fraternal greetings on behalf of the Indian working class to the working class and the toiling people of Viet Nam who, by their brilliant armed victories against the troops of the United States backed French imperialists and the traitor Bao Dai, have already liberated nine-tenths of their country from the yoke of colonial slavery. Even in the rest of the country, the tottering imperialist regime, which is totally isolated from and hated by the people, is rapidly losing ground to the advancing people's liberation forces. The complete end of French imperialist rule in South East Asia is not far off.

The General Council strongly condemns the policy of the Government of India, which, despite this reality, has so far refused to recognise the Republic of Viet-Minh, headed by Dr. Ho Chi Min. This refusal of the Nehru Government, completely exposes its professions of its interest of the freedom of the people of Asia. The General Council firmly holds that this refusal to recognise the Republic of Viet-Minh by the Government of India, despite all its mask of neutrality, is clearly dictated by the interests of the imperialist colonisers and Anglo-American war-mongers. It thereby helps the French imperialists backed by Anglo-American imperialists, in their bloody war against the entire people of Viet-Nam on whom they are desperately trying to reimpose their oppressive colonial regime.

The General Council demands of the India Government to immediately recognise the Government of the Republic of Viet-Minh, headed by Dr. Ho Chi Min, as the lawful Government of Viet-Nam.

The General Council assures the working class and the freedom fighters of Viet-Nam that the AITUC will strive to unmask the machination of the Imperialists and of the Nehru Government and rally our people to force the Government of India to recognise the Republic of Viet-Minh.

GREETINGS TO FRENCH WORKERS

This meeting of the General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress sends its warm fraternal greetings to the working class of France and in particular to the French dock workers, who, under the leadership of the Confederation General du Travail (Confederation of Trade Unions of France) are today waging a resolute and united struggle against the continuation of the colonial war waged by the French imperialists for the enslavement of Viet-Nam.

The Conference of Trade Unions of Asia and Australasian countries, organised by the World Federation of Trade Unions in Peking in November 1949, appealed to the workers of the United States of America, Britain, France and Holland for solidarity with and support to the oppressed peoples of South East Asia fighting for their national freedom and independence, and gave the clarion call for "immediate and unanimous intervention against these unjust wars".

The working class of France has nobly responded to this call and thereby carried forward its great revolutionary international traditions. The dockers of Marseilles, of Bordiaux, of Saint Nazaire, of le Havre and Dunkerque, by refusing to load munitions to Viet Nam, the heroic crew of "Pasteur" who delayed their ship leaving for Viet Nam, the arsenal workers of Toulon who refused to load arms on a ship, the workers of Dukal plant in Issy-Les-Mohineux who stopped production of tank parts, the railwaymen of Marseilles who stopped work for 24 hours - have all demonstrated to the ruling circles of France and to their American masters the determination of the working class of France to end the war in Viet Nam, to defeat all their plans, to crush the liberation struggle of the people of Viet-Nam, to force the return of the expeditionary corps to France.

At a time, when the French imperialists and their American masters are frantically attempting to prop up their running dog Bao Dai and stem the tide of liberation throughout South East Asia, this decisive intervention of the French working class has strengthened the bonds of international class solidarity of the working class and hastened the victory of the liberation forces of Viet-Nam. By these heroic actions, the French working class has struck a powerful blow at the war-mongering plans of the Anglo-American imperialists.

The General Council warmly greets these glorious actions of the French workers and assures the working class and the people of Viet-Nam that it will rally the Indian people to defeat the anti-Viet-Minh conspiracies of the ruling circles in India.

GREETINGS TO ITALIAN C.G.T.

In the name of the Indian working class, the General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress sends you its fraternal greetings. We are deeply shocked and indignant to hear of the brutal murder of six comrades at Modena and send to you and through you to the working class of Italy our sympathy on this occasion.

The savage murder of these six martyrs by the police of Scelba proved beyond all doubt that the Gasperi Government and their masters, the American imperialist war-mongers will stop at nothing in their mad drive towards war. It shows at the same time the might of the working class and toiling people of Italy who are determinedly struggling to defeat these war plans, to bring an end to the exploitation resulting from the Marshall Plan, to end American domination and to root out the ~~habits~~ of fascism from Italy.

In India, today the

In India today the working class, fighting under brutal repression launched by the Congress fascist rulers under the guidance of their Anglo-American masters have only recently lost in the same fight 22 brave sons of the workers and peasants - mowed down by fascist bullets inside jail in Salem.

We know that these massacres - in your country and ours - these firings, murders and assassinations are only proof of the fear of our rulers and their masters of the growing and determined opposition of the people, proof of their weakness and not of their strength.

We are convinced that your struggle in defence of your minimum living standards and against war is one with ours and important for the defence of world peace. And therefore the assassination of the six martyrs of Modena is an inexcusable barbarous act against the working class not only of Italy but of the whole world.

The unbreakable international solidarity which binds the working class of all countries so closely together in the common fight against fascism and war, in defence of living standards - these very bonds unite us today at the death of your six brave comrades.

In sending you our sympathy we pledge to you to fight decisively against our common enemy, in close cooperation with the working class of all countries, under the banner of the World Federation of Trade Unions, for the defence of peace, for freedom and Socialism - for a better life in a world of peace - and thus avenge the death of the martyrs.

SUPPORT TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

The General Council of the AITUC wholeheartedly supports the determined struggles waged by the Central Government employees against the India Government's vicious offensive of mass retrenchment, increased workload and attack on their trade unions and for winning their basic demands for a living wage and security of service.

Already from the Government of India's departments alone over a lakh and a half have been thrown on the streets. Not satisfied with this they have further planned to retrench no fewer than 60,000 railway workers and have refused to undertake any responsibility to confirm those tens of thousands who have been employed since September 1945. Along with this workload has been considerably increased for gangmen, workshop employees, loco shed workers and others. Not only their dearness allowance is not increased despite sharp rise in prices but actually a heavy indirect wage cut has been forced on them through very drastic cut in grain shop concession, making a mockery of these.

Along with the railway workers, thousands of post and telegraph employees as also thousands from other departments like the M.E.S., Central P.W.D., Central Ordinance Depot and the various Central Government offices all over the country are facing mass retrenchment and increased workload.

To force this offensive down the Government has intensified its repression, arresting union leaders en masse, issuing orders against their employees taking part in politics, withdrawing recognition of the militant unions as on the railways and by countless other devices.

The Socialist leaders everywhere are only playing the Government's game by perpetuating disruption and sabotaging joint action against the working Government offensive.

The Railway workers, the leading

The Railway workers, the leading and most organised section of the Central Government employees, have under the leadership of their fighting central organisation, the All-India Union of Railway Workers, decided to observe March 9 as All-India Railway Workers' Basic Demands Day. The General Council of the All-India Federation of Central Government Employees' Union, has called upon all Central Government employees to support this call through meetings and demonstrations.

The General Council lends its full support to and calls upon all Provincial Committees, Regional Councils and Unions to take every step in their power to mobilise other sections of workers to support the Railway workers and other Central Government Employees by means of meetings and demonstrations. For the battle the Railwaymen and Central Government employees are leading is not only the battle of all employees of the Central Government, but the common battle of all Indian workers against the common menace of mass unemployment and wage cuts and for a living wage and security of service.

ON RAILWAY WORKERS

This meeting of the General Council of the AITUC heartily congratulates the heroic Railwaymen who have been waging a heroic battle in the face of Fascist repression by Congress capitalist Government and the treachery and disruption by INTUC and the Socialist leaders.

The General Council fully supports the brave struggle of the Railway workers against retrenchment, wage cut, against increase of work load, against victimisation and for living wage and security of job to all and assures Railwaymen all assistance in their struggle against Railway Board and the Congress capitalist Government.

The AITUC strongly condemns the brutal repression let loose against Railwaymen by the Congress Government, it condemns the attitude of the Railway Board which made forty-five crores of rupees profit and at the same time has launched all round attack on Railwaymen by mass retrenchment, cut in wages, increased workload/victimisation.

and

The AITUC General Council calls upon all Provincial Committees and Trade Unions to rally all workers in support of railway workers Protest Strike struggle on 9th March, by holding meetings and demonstrations and by any other effective way of struggle.

ON TEXTILE WORKERS

This meeting of the General Council of the AITUC congratulates the brave textile workers of Bombay, Madras, Kanpur, Madhyabharat, Rajasthan, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Nagpur, Khandesh, Calcutta and other places for the heroic struggles they have been waging braving all repression and fighting back the attacks of the mill-owners by way of mass unemployment, rationalisation, wage cuts and similar other methods.

The General Council while strongly condemning the brutal repression let loose against textile workers by the Congress capitalist government and the mill-owners by way of mass unemployment and rationalisation and whole-heartedly supports the call of the All-India Textile Workers' Federation for an early General Strike all over India for realisation of the basic demands against unemployment, for security of jobs, for living wages, for end of repression and assures textile workers that the AITUC will do every thing possible to mobilise country-wide support to the textile workers' struggle.

The General Council calls upon workers in all industries, Provincial Committees and Trade Unions to rally behind the textile workers and compel the management and Government to stop repression and concede all demands of textile workers.

KHANDESH TEXTILE WORKERS' STRUGGLE

The General Council of the AITUC vigorously condemns the move of the mill-owners of Khandesh to close the mills for 13 days in a month only from the 28th of February and thus callously inflict unemployment and starvation on 10,000 workers for more than fifteen days in a month and demands the immediate withdrawal of this decision and full employment of the workers.

The General Council congratulates the textile workers of Khandesh on their decision to resist this offensive of mass unemployment by General Strike from the 28th of February.

The General Council fully supports their demands for full employment, living wage and security of service and calls upon all trade unions to support their struggle against unemployment.

BIHAR COAL MINERS' STRUGGLE

The General Council of the AITUC congratulates the coal miners of Bihar, who by their one lakh strong strike of November demonstrated their unity and determination to fight the offensive of coal mine owners, with the support of the Congress capitalist Government and to win their basic demands.

The miners have been facing the ever growing offensive of the mine owners. Several pits have been closed leading to unemployment of thousands of miners.

In several pits workers ^{are} given work only for three days in the week, thus inflicting unemployment for half a month.

The voluntary unemployment allowance that the miners were entitled to till 1948, has been taken away by the Congress capitalist Government.

Their rations have been cut. Even their bonus is denied to them. Hours of work have been increased in case of all monthly paid workers in workshops to 10 hours in complete violation of even the Factory Act. Their wages are appallingly low.

To enable the owners to carry through their offensive of retrenchment, the Government of India has constituted a Retrenchment and Rationalisation Committee.

The Congress capitalist Government has let loose a reign of terror on the mining workers. All the Trade Unions of the AITUC have been repeatedly raided and papers seized. All their office records have been seized. Hundreds of workers and office bearers of the unions have been arrested and detained.

Facing this brutal repression, the coal miners are heroically fighting and resisting every attack of the coal mine owners. They have put on the run the discredited strike breaking agency of the INTUC.

The Socialist leaders, true to their role everywhere, have repeatedly betrayed the struggles of the coal miners. In the face of the mounting offensive of mass unemployment they try their best to hold back the workers from strike.

The AITUC congratulates the miners, for breaking through these disruptive barriers sought to be created by the Socialist leaders and going over for struggle and strikes against the attacks of the coal mine owners.

The General Council fully

The General Council fully supports their struggle for a living wage of Rs.80/- per month, for full dearness allowance, for full employment and against mass unemployment.

The General Council greets the growing urge of the coal miners for general strike in order to smash this offensive of unemployment and for winning their basic demands.

The General Council calls upon the coal miners in every pit to sink all differences and form a united front of struggle for their general strike, which alone can smash this offensive of unemployment.

The General Council calls upon them to form Committees of Action with rank and file fighting workers, to lead them in their struggles.

It calls upon them to intensify their resistance to every attack under the leadership of these committees and thus prepare for general strike.

The General Council assures the coal miners of its fullest support in their struggle against unemployment and for their basic demands.

ON PUBLIC SECURITY MEASURES

This meeting of the General Council of the AITUC strongly condemns the various Public Security Measures Acts enacted by the Congress capitalist Governments at the centre and in the provinces and demands their immediate repeal.

Through these measures the Congress Government seeks to suppress every opposition by naked fascist methods. Under these Acts unlimited powers are given to the police to arrest and detain any person without trial for an indefinite period; every kind of freedom of thought, speech and press is suppressed.

These Acts are aimed at suppression of workers, peasants, middle class, students and every movement of the common people and their organisations to ensure capitalist loot and to enable capitalists to transfer the burden of the deepening economic crisis on the backs of common toiling people.

The fact that 25,000 leaders of workers, peasants, students and common people are imprisoned and detained without trial and brutal fire and lathi charges are opened on these comrades who bravely fought against disruption, and killed several and injured hundreds, show the fascist character of the Congress bourgeois Government.

The enactment of these measures exposes the bogus character of the Constitution introduced by the bourgeoisie and proves to the hilt how not even the semblance of democracy and any single democratic right of the common people exists under that constitution. The enactment of these measures denying any single right to people only shows how the Government of the bourgeoisie has lost all support of every section of people and how the Government is trying to maintain its power only by suppressing common people by brutal fascist terror and by no other means.

The General Council of the AITUC calls upon all Trade Unions, peasants and the student organisations and all democratic organisations in the country to forge mighty united front of workers, peasants, the oppressed middle class to organise a country-wide determined struggle to compel the Government both at the centre and in the provinces to withdraw the Public Security Measures, to release immediately all comrades arrested and convicted under these measures, and for unrestricted democratic rights of all common people.

The Council salutes the memory of the brave 32 martyrs who defied police firings in the jails of Calcutta, Cuddalore, Trivandrum, Sabarmati, Nasik and in the last and the most ghastly massacre in Salem, to assert their supreme right to be treated as political prisoners, to end all discrimination against worker and peasant detenus, to demand open trial or release.

The General Council salutes the memory of the heroes who were martyred in Congress jails during epic battles of hunger strike which they fought in defence of their rights as political prisoners and against the fascist Government's efforts at discrimination.

The Council salutes those countless heroes, men and women, workers, peasants, middle class employees and students, who in defence of their struggles for basic demands and against repression, in defence of the struggles which their jailed comrades and leaders were waging, in repeated waves, all over the country, in cities and in the country-side, defied police bullets and smashed the Congress rulers' game to drown their struggle in blood and terror.

The Council salutes the memory of comrades like Com. Abbasi in Bombay who fell martyr on January 26, demonstrating against the fascist Constitution and who thus expressed the deathless determination of the working class and the toiling people of India to resist the Constitution with all their strength.

The General Council vigorously condemns these countless firings, regular firings inside jail which even the hated foreign rulers dared not order. In the name of the martyrs it demands an immediate, open, unofficial inquiry into each one of these firings and other atrocities that have resulted in these deaths and adequate punishment for all those guilty of these murders. It demands full compensation to the families of these martyrs and above all a definite end to this fascist policy of physical extermination of the workers and toiling people's leaders.

The General Council respectfully salutes these martyrs. They died because they resisted the hated Congress rulers' effort to drown in blood the toiling people's struggles for a better life, for freedom and democracy. Their death has only further steeled the working class and other toilers to struggle to unite and close their ranks still further. The General Council pledges to relentlessly strive still harder to forge this fighting unity under the banner of the AITUC and rally our people to force the Government to end this rule of repression, immediately and unconditionally release all detenus and political prisoners and guarantee full democratic and trade union rights to the toiling people.

ON DEATH SENTENCES ON TELENGANA COMRADES

The general Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress condemns the fascist measures of the Government of India and of Hyderabad in sentencing 108 leaders of the toiling peasants of Telengana by Special Tribunals and demands that they be immediately cancelled and the prisoners released.

These savage sentences, the Council holds, are deliberately planned to drown in blood and terror the peasants' struggle for land and liberty, although even 16 months' of ceaseless military operation failed to crush. They are planned to force the peasants to once again accept the hated oppressive feudal yoke of the Deshmukhs and handlords.

The special tribunals, the

The Special Tribunals, the fantastic charges of murder against the leaders of the peasants, the abrogation of all normal legal procedure and the shocking refusal of all legal facilities and the death sentences have all been undertaken only as a measure of reprisal against these brave peasants of Telengana.

Through a vigorous nation-wide campaign effectively supported by powerful democratic opinion throughout the world led by the World Federation of Trade Unions, World Peace Committee, World Federation of Democratic Youth, Women's International Democratic Federation, International Union of Students, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, the AITUC and other organisations of the toiling people have forced the Government temporarily to stay the executions of 13 of these 108, which were planned for January 22-23.

The General Council calls upon the working class of India to further intensify the campaign, through mass signatures, by holding meetings, processions, demonstrations, and other ways open to them and thus compel the Government to cancel the sentences forthwith and release the prisoners. The Council further calls upon them to demand the immediate withdrawal of all military and armed police from Telengana, release of all the arrested peasant leaders and fighters and full democratic rights to the toiling people of Telengana.

The General Council welcomes the formation in Bombay of the "Telengana Defence Committee" consisting of the representatives of the AITUC, Students' Federation, Progressive Writers' Association, the Indian People's Theatre Association and other organisations. The Committee appeals to all trade unions to help the Committee in the collection of the funds and in all other ways, in the fight to save the lives of the 108 leaders of the brave Telengana peasants.

FIRING IN BIHAR SHARIFF

The General Council of the AITUC strongly condemns the brutal and murderous firing on the demonstration of workers of the Mica factories of Jhummi Tallia (Bihar) on strike on 12th January by the Bihar Congress Government's police killing in cold blood 12 workers. The General Council condemns this atrocious brutal murder of a worker by Debi Dayal, owner of mica factory and condemns the Bihar Government which has not cared even to institute an inquiry and refused to prosecute the murderer Debi Dayal.

The General Council also condemns the firing on Biri workers at Bihar Shariff by Shet Kumar, a capitalist and landlord on 20th December in which workers were shot dead and wounding many.

This cold blooded killing of workers by the Congress police once again unmask the fascist character of the present Government.

The AITUC congratulates the brave workers of Jhummi Tallia who defended themselves against the brutal firing and demands immediate impartial public inquiry into the firing and prosecution of the police officers and Debi Dayal on charges of murder. The General Council demands of the Bihar Government to immediately order inquiry and also pay compensation to the families of workers who were killed in this firing. The AITUC salutes those martyrs and pledges to carry on with greater determination the struggles to end the regime of fascist repression and establishment of the rule of workers, peasants and the oppressed middle class. The General Council calls upon all Provincial Committees, Regional Councils and trade unions to condemn this firing and demand inquiry.

ON DEATH SENTENCES ON VIKRAMSINGAPURAM AND EAST
GODAVARI COMRADES

The General Council of the AITUC strongly condemns the death sentences on three brave textile workers of Vikramsingapuram, Madras Province and on four peasant fighters of East Godavari in Andhra.

These textile worker comrades stood in the forefront of the textile workers' struggle against the British mill-owner for the basic demands of the workers and in fighting the mill-owners' goondas who were let loose to terrorise the fighting textile workers.

The brave peasant comrades of East Godavari stood in the forefront of the struggle of the agricultural workers and toiling peasants in resisting the inhuman sadistic atrocities committed by the landlords and the special armed police that was let loose by the Madras Government to suppress the movement of agricultural workers and toiling peasants.

The General Council of the AITUC demands of the Madras Government the cancellation of these barbaric death sentences and their unconditional release.

GORAKHPUR LABOUR CAMP

The General Council of the AITUC denounces the Government of India for the organisation and running of a slave labour camp, known as the Gorakhpur Labour camp, in the mining areas of Bihar.

The Gorakhpur Labour camp was a military labour corps organised during the war, of unskilled workers which was used to work in the coal mines due to the war-time shortage of labour.

The Government of India have handed over this entire camp to the mine owners. Workers in this camp are under military discipline. They are forced to work 12 to 14 hours a day, on pain of being imprisoned if they desert. All mining regulations have been thrown to the winds. No trade union organisation is allowed to work. Their wages are the lowest.

The maintenance of this slave labour force and the extraction of forced labour are a shamefaced violation of fundamental human rights. The slave labour force is maintained only for the purpose of being used as a black-leg force for breaking all strikes of the coal miners, who are fighting with unparalleled heroism the attacks of the coal mine owners.

The AITUC condemns these fascist methods and demands the immediate disbanding of the slave labour force.

The AITUC further demands that all the workers in this labour camps be immediately employed as free labour, with all Trade union and fundamental rights.

ON FILLING UP VACANCIES

In view of the situation created by depression, it is hereby resolved that all vacancies in the General Council arising out of detention, arrest and other causes, may be filled up by circulation among members of the General Council.

REPORT ON THIRD JANUARY STRIKE

On 3rd January through barbarous repression and on the strength of the police, the capitalist Congress Government succeeded in preventing the strike of Ahmedabad Textile workers. But the reception given to the 3rd January movement by the Ahmedabad textile workers has shown that the beginning of the mental change among the Ahmedabad textile workers which will lead to many a strike like this, has been made. Ahmedabad workers have once more experienced the fascist character of the Congress Government and the truth has been brought home to them that even the smallest struggle for bread and employment will have to be carried forward by fighting the repression of the capitalist Congress Government and that only Red Flag is capable of leading these struggles.

In Ahmedabad, since a long time, the mill-owners have started an all-out offensive against the workers in the form of lock-out, mass unemployment, rationalisation etc. Under one ~~xxxx~~ pretext or other, during the last one year only the figure of retrenched workers has reached to 7000. Besides, lockouts have unemployed 25 thousand more. (It is not clear whether the figure written is 25 or 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 5).

On this question of life and death of the workers as well as on every single question affecting the life of workers, the character of the Mahajan as capitalist agents, was understood by the workers. That is why as soon as the news came that all India Textile Workers' Conference was being held in Bombay to achieve the basic demands of the workers and to beat back the unemployment offensive, there was tremendous enthusiasm among the workers here. Workers elected their fighting delegates, from various localities and sent a big delegation of 45 militant workers to participate in the conference. The textile workers' Conference showed them the correct path to come out of the deadening grip of the economic crisis. The worker ~~delegates~~ delegates returned enthused with the call that there is no other way to achieve basic demands except through general strike and to prepare for it "Organise strike on 2nd January". And to implement this call, they began an all out propaganda work among the workers. The Ahmedabad Textile workers took up the work of preparation for the 2nd January strike with unprecedented tempo and enthusiasm. The index of their militant spirit began to rise.

The Ahmedabad textile workers began the preparations for this strike in the midst of several difficulties and severe repression. Section 144 was imposed since August itself to crush the wave of indignation in the working class at the murder of Comrades Jayanti and Modi and the atrocities perpetrated on the beloved leaders of the working class. Cases were pending against several militant workers for leading processions and demonstrations. But unswervingly the workers continued their preparations.

As soon as the Textile Conference gave the call, the Mill Kamdar Union brought out leaflets. ~~xxxxxx~~. In the leaflets brought out to protest against the ban on Communist Party and trade unions in Madras, against the death sentences on Telengana comrades, in connection with the 22nd December unemployment Day and in the leaflets specially brought out in connection with the 2nd January - besides in the leaflets brought out in connection with individual mills - Monogram, Vijay, Ramkrishna etc - thus the propaganda was carried on regarding the 2nd January through about 20 to 25 thousand leaflets.

On 11th December in the over filled Premabai Hall the delegates from Bombay gave their report "Organise strike on 2nd January" slogan resounded every where. In the meeting Rs.80/- was collected for the strike fund.

In the meeting held in Premabai Hall on 15th together with protesting against the unprecedented repression in Madras, speeches were made about the 2nd January strike.

With the expiry of the ban on meetings and procession on the 17th, the workers seized the opportunity and the strike movement gained greater speed. On the one hand through the chawl meetings and the procession of children the slogan of "Strike on 2nd January" resounded in every locality, and on the other hand, through huge mass meetings and processions and torch processions. The working area was humming.

On the 18th a huge meeting was held in Kamdar maidan. Workers came in procession from Naroda Road, Rakhiyan Road etc. It was 4000 strong, and protesting against the Congress Government's unprecedented repression and against the death sentences on Telengana comrades, a call was given for strike on 2nd January.

A big procession was taken out on 19th and moved about in the working class area and in the city. On 21st 4000-5000 strong meeting was held to celebrate Stalin Day. In this meeting greetings were sent to Com. Stalin the leader of the world working class and a call for strike on 2nd January was given.

On 22nd December there was the anti-unemployment day meeting with full force and enthusiasm. Again the workers filled up the Kamdar maidan with thousands. At the end of the meeting about 500 workers took out a torch procession and staged a demonstration at the offices of anti-working class Majur Mahajan, Mill-owners' Association, Congress House and Collector's office. The entire working class and the main roads of the city right upto Bhadra resounded with the slogans against unemployment and for 2nd January strike for achieving basic demands.

During this time the work of poster and street chalking of the slogan of "Strike on 2nd January" in every locality on walls and inside mills, was continued. Besides through out the campaign the collection of strike fund was organised on a big scale and thus the call for "Strike on 2nd January" reached every single area of the working class. By contributing Rs. _____ (this is kept blank - S) for the strike fund, the Ahmedabad workers expressed decidedly their feelings for the strike.

Frightened at this rising tempo and militancy of the textile workers under the fighting leadership of the Red Flag the Congress Government made mass arrests of the worker leaders on the 23rd and 24th December. The arrested were Coms. (Abdul Razak is not legible - S) the working Committee member of the All-India Textile Workers' Federation, the well known leaders of the mill Kamgar Union Coms. Ramswarup, Zulfikar, the militant leaders of the Honggram workers Coms. Mohammed Bengali, Rashid Mehboob, the leader of the Ahmedabad students Union Com. Ahsan and the leader of the Hotel Kamgar Association Com. Karimbhai. By effecting these arrests the Ahmedabad mill-owners and their Congress Government had hoped to prevent and smash the growing enthusiasm for the 2nd January strike. But the fighting workers of Ahmedabad, already inspired with the heroic struggle of Sabarmati Jail comrades and the martyrdom of Coms. Jayanti and Modi and having learnt to combat the police repression challenging the atrocities committed in the Congress jail, were suppressed with this repressive attack.

On the contrary the workers replied back by organising a mass meeting unprecedented in its huge attendance by taking out a torch light procession - 800 strong, the like of which was never before seen in Ahmedabad. In spite of the fact that their experienced and trusted leaders were arrested, new militant

than 5000 workers in the mass meeting on the 25th and celebrated anti-repression day and thus showed to the capitalist Congress Government that the slogan of "Strike on 2nd January" was the echo of the very rank and file worker's heart and hence he himself had taken up the work of the preparation for the strike. The torch procession following the meeting moved in all the workers' localities and made the slogan of "Strike on 2nd January" more resounding in every locality. The 25th meeting and torch procession increased the confidence in the militant capacities of the workers and Red Flag many fold. The enemy was flabberghasted. The workers making fun of the armed police lorries at the meeting and following the procession, kept on shouting anti-Nehru-Patel slogans. This rising tempo and the revolutionary spirit of the workers was truly reflected in the speech of the mother of the two arrested comrades. She said "Today the Government has arrested my two beloved sons, but from today you all are my beloved sons like Zulf-Ashan. Till the hardships are overcome and till the final victory of the working class, I will be with you".

Not only this, but like the exploited mass all over the country, the working class here too was beginning to understand that there was only one way to beat back the repression and that was resistance to the repression. The Ahmedabad working class is no more prepared to suffer police repression peacefully. The resistance of Coms. Zulfikar and Ashan's mother and sister at the time of their arrests, the resistance put up by Com. Ramswarup at the time of his arrest and the way he beat up the C.I. D. dog (~~I cannot say make out whether the god dog is meant literally or it is meant as an epithet~~) and the resistance of the militant workers even after their arrests on 25th clearly shows that Ahmedabad working class is adopting fighting forms and is taking rapid strides towards beating back repression. The same is reflected in the fight put up by the militant workers of Ahmedabad against the police while demonstrating their protest against the slave constitution on the so-called Republic Day.

By now the scale of the propaganda for strike and the feelings for strike had become so wide-spread that workers themselves started saying "There will be strike" ("Strike Hogi") Not one worker was heard speaking against the strike. Every body was in favour of strike. Mahajan was losing its influence and the seeds of the militant unity of the workers were being sown.

Such was the anger of the workers against the capitalist mill-owners that the notorious strike breakers - Mahajan and Socialists - dared not do any anti-strike propaganda. The Mahajan leaders habituated to haranging the workers not to "fall a prey to instigators" dared not hold a single meeting or issue a single leaflet against the strike. As on 9th March, the Mahajan supplied the list of militant workers to the police and got them arrested. As for Socialists, they dared not even show their face.

Hence finding it impossible to break the strike through their agents, the capitalist mill-owners resorted to the use of force, police and the power of their Nehru-Patel Government. The opportunity which workers got to hold meetings and processions for a week - from 17th to 25th - was too much for them. The barbarous repression let loose by the Congress Government has parallel only with that of the 9th March Railway strike. Section 144 was again imposed on 26th. Ban was imposed on every kind of propaganda such as processions at night, slogans, street-chalking, chawl meetings, use of loud speakers, etc. Even the legally printed leaflets were taken away. Arrests were made. From the Mill Kamdar Union leaders to the leaflet distributors and even the slogan shouters were arrested. Between 25th and 2nd, 24 more comrades were arrested. Obviously there was no question of the right of picketing.

The 2nd January being a holiday, the Mill Kamdar Union had called for strike on 3rd January. From the midnight of 1st itself, the police took possession of the mill areas. At every single mill there were armed police for 24 hours. These were withdrawn only after 3rd. Armed police lorries began to patrol the mill areas. Inside the mills the Mahajan representatives took up the work of the police. They continued to spy and threat the workers.

The 'discipline' inside the mills was strengthened. No worker was allowed admission inside the mill without showing the printed card. Before the strike itself, the militant workers were driven out e-g. Arvindx, New Commercial and Gujerat spinning Mills. Besides by giving ~~xxx~~ false promises of employment, the owners had kept ready through the jobbers and masters, the unemployed workers and these were taken inside the mills.

Thus besides attempting to instil fear through the violent Congress methods, several direct and indirect means were adopted. During these very days, the mill-owners started vigorous propaganda through newspapers that eleven more ~~xxx~~ mills will be closed down due to the shortage of cotton. Even Manda himself joined in it. The Mahajan leaders engaged themselves in this capitalist propaganda to prevent the workers from going on strike by threatening more unemployment and spread the propaganda that if you go on strike for one day, all the mills will have to be closed down for four months.

It is only by resorting to unprecedented repression that the capitalists and their Congress Government have succeeded in preventing the strike on 3rd January. But with this repression their mask of democracy is torn off. Every worker was saying "This Congress Government rules on the strength of bayonets only". This fascist character of the Congress Government has been recognised not only by militant Red Flag workers but by the entire working class. The workers have realised that this Congress Government which resorts to such fascist repression to break one day strike, will not ~~anyx~~ solve a single problem of theirs. Simultaneously, the workers have also seen the weakness of the owners and the Congress Government. The owners are no more able to prevent the workers taking the path of struggle, on the strength of the Mahajan. It has become more and more necessary to resort to lathis and bullets instead of Mahajan. And this fact itself shows that there is a growing anti-Mahajan feelings among the workers and tremendous prospects are opened up to rapidly built up the militant unity of the Ahmedabad working class under the fighting policy of the Red Flag.

The most important reason for there not being any strike anywhere in spite of the fact that the movement for strike on 2nd January was so wide spread, was that the necessary organisation to beat back the mad repression let loose by the Congress Government after 29th December was not built up. The Ahmedabad workers have learnt this bitter lesson. An organisation to give day to day guidance to the revolutionary fighting capacity of the working class was indispensable. And such an organisation means the militant Mill Committees elected by the workers themselves. In two or three mills such as Manogram, Sarangpur Cotton, such Committees were formed but in name only. As soon as the important members were arrested, the remaining members became nervous and on 3rd January instead of taking leadership of the strike and bring out the workers from their mills, they themselves took leave and did not go to the mills at all. In other mills, the mill committees were not formed at all.

The experience of the Ahmedabad mill workers have taught them that without such fighting mill committees, the fascist Congress repression cannot be fought back in today's situation. It was not enough for the workers only to understand the necessity to fight the repression and to fight it on their own when the occasion arises. With the deepening economic crisis, the Congress

police repression is becoming more and more severe and to successfully fight it back means to make preparations before hand following the path of Calcutta to carry forward the struggle and to combat the lathis and bullets. This lesson has also been learnt by the Ahmedabad workers from their experience on 3rd January. And if this had been done then the Ahmedabad workers could have been brought up from the stage of "there will be strike" ("Hdtal Hogi") to that of "we will organise the strike" ("Hartal karenenge") This is the basic foundation of successfully fighting back repression. The workers have clearly realised the necessity of forming the mill committees in every mill ~~px~~ composed of truly experienced and militant workers and elected by the workers themselves.

The Ahmedabad workers and their only militant organisation the Mill Kamdar Union will definitely assimilate the lessons of the 3rd January. In order to build up a fighting unity of the working class in the class war against the capitalist owners and its stooge Government. The workers will form the united fighting committees in every mill and department and in very near future will carry towards to victory the struggle of textile workers for basic demands by smashing through all repression and by beating back the capitalist offensive.

* stenographic notes of the meeting of the working committee held on the 26th at 9 A.M.

The working committee met at 9.30 A.M. under the presidency of Com. Chakkarai Chettiar. He made a short introductory speech;

"The presence of so many members of the W.C. from different parts of our country in this meeting, in spite of the terrific repression that has been let loose on the working class and its militant organisation, the AITUC show the great interest our comrades have in the cause of the working class. I do not want to speak on the present situation of the working class as it is well known to you. We have seen that armies of violence and intimidation cannot cow down the working class. Such intimidation is not seen even under foreign rule. We have today to take stock of the situation, how to meet this offensive.

"The Government of India has introduced a new bill in the Parliament, under the name and title of Labour Relations Bill, which is the negation of the fundamental rights of trade unionism, which seeks to outlaw all militant trade union movement. ~~xxxx~~ Our Government has completely identified with the capitalists ~~xxxx~~ and they want to drown the militant working class movement in blood.

"In my own Province there is severe repression. Papers are not publishing our statements and news at the dictates of the Government. But the public ~~consciousness~~ is becoming conscious of the violation of human rights. There is wide agitation against Salem firing. It is because of this that they have instituted an inquiry into it. The so called enquiry is to be conducted by retired Judges and collectors, who do not represent public opinion. Two of them are well known to me, being personal friends ~~xxxx~~ but I know they cannot be trusted. Moreover this enquiry is to be held in camera. I do not expect much from this Tribunal. We have made clear that unless there is going to be a public enquiry we are ~~not~~ going to boycott this enquiry. We should take steps to see that such atrocities are not repeated.

"You must have seen the recent legislation, the Detention Bill. It completely taken away the civil liberties of our people. It seeks to take away the few rights that are still remaining. All these are matters which we are going to discuss. The present Government is not going to yield to any public agitation.

"We have to see that many of our comrades are either arrested or underground. So we have to make relaxation in the rules regarding quorum etc. We have to think how best we can carry on the work. This is not a time when we can have rigid application of these rules.

"I am one of these people who do not become pessimistic soon. I think there is more optimism in me than what is warranted by my age. We are going to succeed in the long run in spite of this repression. In my Province, as I have told you, there is terrible repression; things are going on as in Nazi Germany under Hitler. Inhuman atrocities are perpetrated by the police. I do not know about the other Provinces except what appears in the papers and from the communication of the AITUC central secretariat. In spite of this repression we shall do our best. I hope we will have a successful session".

The attention of the W.C. members were drawn to the flags presented to the AITUC by the Chinese Federation of Labour through Com. Vikramsinghe.

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*Here and there, in a few cases some sentences could not be taken down by me as I have lost touch with short hand for some time. But about 90 per cent of the speeches, verbatim is taken, without overlooking the main notes.

The minutes of the last working committee were read out by Jeevan and unanimously adopted.

Com. Baxi presented the accounts with a short speech in Hindustani. He spoke about the repression on the working class and how the treasurer who was elected at the time of the session was arrested and detained. After that, he said, he was elected at the time of the last meeting of the working committee held at Madras.

Bankim Mukherjee: The accounts show that the balance with us is very meagre. We are in a critical financial position and we should, in my opinion, devise ways and means of strengthening the financial position of the AITUC.

Chakkarai: Apart from the affiliation fees, I think we should appeal to individual workers on a particular day. We will be able to get some money by this. Particularly we will be able to get some money from Unions which are banned and make up the loss on account of illegalisation of Unions (The resolution to ~~xxxxxx~~ collect Special Fund for AITUC was received after this discussion in the W.C.)

Com. Newaskar proposed that the accounts could be adopted and it was seconded by Phatak. The accounts was unanimously adopted.

Chakkarai: Since the question of banned Unions in Madras has come up incidentally in our discussion, I would say something about it. Apart from the Communist Party, you know that 19 Unions are banned in Madras. About the ban on the Communist Party we are not concerned here at the present. The Trade Unions in Travancore and Cochin are also banned. For some time we were feeling that ~~xxxxxxxx~~ that we should take it to a court of law and challenge the decree. Our lawyers in Madras have been considering about it. After the new Constitution came into existence, our lawyers say there are good chances of our succeeding in getting a favourable decision. Our lawyers are young enthusiastic men, who are in full sympathy with our organisation. Even though I am not a practising lawyer I know ~~xxx~~ the rudiments of law. I had a good deal of discussion with them and we finally decided to take it up in a court of law. The day before I left for Bombay I filed a petition in my name, as the president of the AITUC, challenging this order. I do not know what is going to happen. Going through the constitution, I find that freedom of association is given; at the same time it is sought to be restricted. Trade Union organisations are legal bodies, recognised under the law of the country. As a legal association, it has rights incidental to any organisation to carry on its activities. There is a section which says that organisations, which are in the opinion of the government detrimental to the interest of public can be restricted in its activities. But it cannot be banned. In our opinion the previous Criminal Law Amendment Acts which could ban organisations is ultra vires under the new constitution. ~~you may place restrictions~~ Even if some of the members are communists, they cannot ban the organisation. I am told that the government of Madras is perturbed by the petition. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ The Chief Secretary summoned the public Prosecutor, the High Court under whom it will come up for hearing and held consultations. I do not know what will happen.

Under ban it has become impossible for us to carry on our activities. We have formed work Committees in S.I.R. We have some form of organisation like this among the workers in other industries also. Recently we had a successful conference of S.I.R. workers. Do not think that our work has come to a stand still because our Unions are banned. We are watching the situation.

are registered should have filed the petition.

Chakkarai: This is a point which I myself raised with our lawyers. They said that you are the elected representative of these trade unions. You are also the president of the YPTUC. So they said, I can represent these Unions. If the High Court rejects it on that ground, then individual Unions can take it up and if a favourable decision is made in regard to one Union it will apply to all. The secretaries of almost all Unions are detained or underground; but members of Unions can file it.

Joglekar: Can it not be done simultaneously.

Chakkarai: I will take this into consideration.

Bankim Mukherjee: Apart from this, our old practice of starting new Unions in place of old Unions should be tried. Day today activities, collecting subscriptions, keeping contact with Unions, etc should be continued in this way, till the case is decided upon. From the AITUC point of view this is important. It is very likely that bans will come in other provinces also. So we have to think seriously about this.

Joglekar reverted to accounts and said that a committee of the Working Committee may be set up to check the accounts. But it was over ruled on the ground that our accounts are audited.

A Credential Committee consisting of Bankim, Shanta, N.R. Nevaskar and Joglekar was elected to go into the applications for affiliation.

It was pointed out the many of the unions have not paid th their dues, but we send it to them. So it should be made voluntary so that we need not send to Unions which are not paying and which cannot make use of it due to language difficulties

Bankim: It cannot be done in that way. It should go to all Unions since we are publishing it and news regarding Trade Union movement and the AITUC are published in it. We should make a drive to get the subscriptions from Unions.

Com. Bankim's suggestion was accepted.

Then ~~xxx~~ the resolutions were taken up.

Shantabai suggested that we should publish a pamphlet in various languages regarding the Labour Relations Bill, taking it clause by clause.

Joglekar: The resolution on repression is full of repetitions.

N.R. Nevaskar: It is good to have some repetition. If there is any objection it can be raised.

Joglekar: But it makes dull reading. Also points about Bareilly firing, repression in Calcutta in the form of ban on organisations have to be mentioned.

N.R. Nevaskar Amritsar firing should be mentioned.

Bihar representative: Goonda attack on workers should be mentioned. This is an indirect attack. Instances of this should be mentioned.

Chakkarai: In Madras also there has been instances of this. ~~XX~~ In Vikramasingapuram goondas attacked our comrades. Our comrades resisted and it led to the death of some goondas, agents of capitalists. It is for this that three of our comrades

Bengal. There are instances where Unions are not banned but their functioning is made impossible. Any comrade who goes and opens the office will be arrested.

Chakkarai: This happens in Madras also.

U.P. Pabhak: This is true in our case also.

Bengal: This is worse than banning. workers cannot go and have any functioning of the office.

Newaskar: We should print a leaflet on it.

Bengal: We should have a special resolution ^{on} it.

Joglekar: Facts regarding illegalisation are very few in the resolution. It should be added.

This suggestion was accepted.

UNEMPLOYMENT RESOLUTION

Joglekar: There are figures in the Times of India of yesterday's date. It should be incorporated in it.

LABOUR RELATIONS BILL

Joglekar moved an amendment to the operative part of the resolution. The amendment is to invite other labour organisations for a joint conference to consider the bill and to decide the action to be taken. (The text of the full amendment is attached herewith.)

Joglekar: We wish to include all people who are prepared to protest against the Bill to join us. If the socialists are prepared to come, if at least some of them are prepared to come, it will be good. If some of them come against the wishes of the socialist leaders we will be able to break them away from their leadership. In the same way we will be able to break some INTUC Unions from their leadership. We should call a Conference of these people and proceed for a general strike. We should leave the date to be fixed by the conference. They have been accusing us that we are dictating our views on them. In fact AITUC has been very accommodating and in spite of that their leadership take advantage of the prejudices against us ~~among~~ among the backward working class. A large portion of the working class is away from the AITUC. So we should expose these people and show to the workers that they are the people who are standing away. For exposing these people we have to say that this step is taken in the most democratic way. We should leave the date etc. to be fixed by a conference to be called. The rank and file will go in the same way as the AITUC proposes. The AITUC will be able to break reactionary opposition. This should be the first step to break them. Without the class unity of the working class we cannot achieve anything. Working class must forge united action. In the present conditions of disruption ~~and~~ we should call for a United front. The Bill cuts at the very fundamentals of the working class. Even the ranks of the INTUC workers, Socialist workers have great hostility for this bill. We should utilise this in a proper manner. It is our historic duty as the representatives of the AITUC to give ~~them~~ a correct lead. We should give an opportunity for everybody to participate. ~~Through this we should be able to break reactionary~~ Resistance to this bill is the common basis ~~on which~~ on which unity can be built up.

Rankin: I think that last paragraph, i.e. the operative part requires a little more

character. It is threatening the very existence of AITUC and the working class. Such a measure can only be successfully fought by the united strength of the working class of India. The danger is of our being wiped out. We must bring about the most effective action of the entire working class against this bill. We want unity through our Unions; we want all workers and organisations to protest against this bill. If we can raise a storm, then spontaneous upsurge will compel the vacillating organisations to unite. Joglekar says we should invite other organisations. The Communist party as the biggest group is not able to accept Joglekar's proposal. ~~xxxxxx~~

Newaskar; We do not agree with Joglekar. The AITUC is always giving the lead. The amendment is to avoid and bypass it. United front of Joglekar is a call for the meeting of leaders while we want united front of the working class. This slogan of United front as suggested by Joglekar is to deceive. We have given a call in the resolution for united action. Those who object only because we moved first are not to be taken seriously. (Newaskar spoke in Hindi)

Bihar comrade; We want united front. But we saw in Railways what the Socialists and INTUC have done. United front with the workers must be so powerful as to smash their influence. ~~xxxx~~ The working class fighting under AITUC banners is compelling and bringing other workers to the fold of fighting united front. (Hindi)

R.V. Patil (Jalgaon) Marathi; There is contradiction in Joglekar's amendment. He ~~xxxxxxx~~ says he wants to smash reaction in the working class movement. But to carry out this he wants to call ~~the representatives of~~ a Conference of reactionary leaders. Joglekar said that the workers in the Socialist organisations and INTUC are discontented. What this? Because workers see the lead given by AITUC. That is why J.P. ~~xxxx~~ was forced to issue a statement about Salem.

Ahmedabad: (Hindi) Socialists are losing in Ahmedabad today. Working class knows what the Socialists are. Therefore we must strengthen united front of workers by action.

Malini Mukherji: (P.B. Joglekar's group, Hindi) The amendment is not moved with the purpose ~~for~~ ^{for} action. In Kanpur disruption is rampant. There are three or four organisations in every factory. If we fail to launch united front we are doomed. WFTU and Peking Conference given a call for uniting other organisations (Interruption from other comrades) The Black Bill is very dangerous. Other organisations are also considering like this. Now we have the opportunity to invite and show our broad mindedness and expose the leadership and build U.R. with rank and file to smash the Black Bill. It will shake the government. The Revolutionary consciousness in the rank file worker of the Socialist and INTUC is still there. We have to mobilise it.

Baxi (Hindi); We want to unite workers not the leaders. We had earlier given a call to leaders before. But no result.

Bengal: (Hindi) United front conception without the reactionary leaders. We must see the fighting forces against the fascist regime. We have to unite and lead these forces. There are many splinter groups in Bengal. They are the agents of the capitalists. Joglekar wants to call a conference of these people. In Bengal the ~~xxxx~~ workers panchayat secretary wants to join AITUC. This has come through our ~~united~~ militant action. Now is the time to forge working class unity by action and not through such conferences.

Joglekar asked the president permission to speak so that he may clear some misunderstandings. So Chakkarai allowed him to speak.

Joglekar: I have ~~xxxxx~~ moved the amendment to call all sections and not the leaders. Our cominform journal ~~xxxxxx~~ has asked us to appeal to all sections of workers, even the Catholics. Criticism is levelled "This is to run away from action". This is slander.

President: I have given permission for Joglekar to clear some misunderstandings and not to speak on his resolution. He has done it once and I think no useful purpose would be served if he again goes on speaking at length.

So comrades I will narrate the case. It is for you to accept or reject it. One thing to clear to us. We are opposed to this Bill root and branch. There shall be no compromise with any party or any section on this Bill. This Bill cuts at the very root of our organisation and Trade Union movement. The whole Bill is permeated by hostility to our organisation. During the last two years no other organisation except we have launched a strike. The Socialist Party and the INTUC have never launched upon any strike. They are safe in their own obscurity. They have nothing to fear from this Bill. We should not have any truck with any organisation.

Now how are we going to organise resistance to this Bill. ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ You are agreed that we should reject this bill in toto. After hav'nt said this, I want to know what are we going to do about this. How are we going to appeal to the working class as a whole. All workers should join in the protest. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ If the Socialists and INTUC joint with us in our demonstrations etc. we have no objection. In the amendment it is said that we should call a conference of other organisations or sections. Well what is the situation. Either they will come and join the Conference or they will not. In my own opinion they will not. Suppose they send their representatives. They may want to put off the date of the struggle. Suppose they put off the date and we oppose it, then there will be division. They will try to raise all kinds of objections and water down our opposition. The INTUC have nothing to fear from the Bill nor the Socialists. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ the Socialists and INTUC are agents of the capitalists. The Socialists have broken every strike by the workers. They have moved in police vans and betrayed the working class leaders and acted as police agents. Has any leader of the INTUC or Socialists raised their voice of protest against this Bill. Have they come out with any programme of resistance. Neither the Socialists or the INTUC want any militant trade union movement in the country. They are traitors to the working class. Do you ask me that I should trust them. How can I trust them? They are engaged in confabulations with the capitalists and government. They are I say a set of gangsters, traitors to the working class cause. The president of the INTUC is not prepared to invite them and sit in Conference with them. I am not ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ a boy. I speak with all the seriousness that I can command. Our comrades in Madura have wiped out these traitors. They have betrayed one of the underground leaders there. And they have correctly acted. What is the use of inviting them? Have they invited us on any occasion. They will make our objective impossible to attain. We will carry on as a single body and if they join, well let them come. In Calcutta I was invited ~~xxxxx~~ by them. I consulted our comrades there and they asked me not to go. It was correct.

The amendment was put to vote and lost.

Com. Bankim was asked by Chakkarai whether he wanted to stand by his amendment for amplification of the operative part. Bankim withdrew his amendment.

REPORT ON THE PEACE MEETING

A meeting of the Peace Committee was held on the 28th February, 1950, at 11 A.M. at the Bombay Peace Committee office, 48, Senhalm Null Lane, Birgaon. Com. Chakkarai Chettiar, president of the Peace Committee presided. Members of the Committee from Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Madhyabharat, Delhi, Ahmedabad, U.P., Bihar and representatives of various democratic organisations like the AITUC, FSU, AISE, IPTA attended the meeting.

The president in his introductory remarks referred to the situation relation between India and Pakistan and how we are to organise for peace and against war.

~~Resolution proposed by Com. Pathak (UP) supported by Com. Shirali (FSU) (Resolution attached herewith)~~

The minutes of the previous Committee and the report were presented. Com. Pathak (UP) proposed that it could be adopted and Com. Shirali (FSU) seconded it, and was unanimously adopted.

A resolution proposing the names of the office bearers was moved and adopted (Resolution attached herewith)

Then reports of peace movement from various Provinces were called for.

The Bengal Comrades submitted a written report and also their expenses in connection with the Peace Conference. (Both these documents are attached herewith)

Com. Pathak (UP): The Provincial Peace Conference was held in Lucknow on 26th and 27th January. Squads who went about the working class area for propaganda were arrested. Representatives of mass democratic organisations such as trade unions, kisan Sabhas, IPTA, FSU numbering with a membership of 40,000 attended the Conference. An IPTA play composed for the occasion was banned. District Conferences were held in Kanpur, Agra and Lucknow. In the Provincial Conference 140 delegates attended One third of the delegates came from working class and the remaining from other mass organisations.

Indore: In Ujjain, Gwalior and Indore we had mass rallies. In Indore, where Provincial Conference was held, was attended by 6,000 people. The Conference was held on the 18th and 19th December. 300 delegates attended. Of this 80 came from textile Unions from Ujjain, Bhopal, Beawar etc. The President of the Conference, Bhagwanbha was arrested immediately after the Conference.

Delhi: Our Conference was held before the Calcutta Conference. It was attended by 90 delegates and about 4 to 5000 people in the open session. Half of the delegates were elected directly by the people, in student meetings, in railway and textile workers' meetings etc. The remaining delegates were nominated by the respective working committees of the organisations. We did good propaganda. The Conference was held at a place where we are not strong. In spite of that 4 to 5 thousand people attended. After the Calcutta Conference the decisions of the Conference were reported back by the delegates. In the Stalin Day meeting there was an attendance of 7,000. On the 22nd November about 10 comrades were arrested. We are preparing for their legal defence. On the 5th January the entire working Committee of the PTUC was arrested. It was a great blow to us. In the Lenin Day meeting our main emphasis was against the Indian Constitution. Before the anti-constitution day a large number of arrests took place. We have not yet been able to recoup from it.

Com. Sankaran Nair (Madras): In November under the auspices of the Madras TUC a Peace Preparatory Committee was formed. Civil Liberties Union, Progressive Writers' Association, Trade Unions and other mass democratic organisations sent their representatives. Before Calcutta Conference many of our comrades were arrested. 1500 people attended the meeting after ~~xxxx~~ the meeting of this Committee. We have not called a meeting of the Provincial Committee. We will do it in the next month or so.

Chakkarai: In the various workers' Conferences held recently we have passed resolutions on peace. It was passed in the Railwaymen's as well as in the Textile workers' Conference. On the Stalin Day we passed a special resolution on peace. These meetings were well attended. In Madras city we have done good work. But unfortunately in Madras city we have been compelled to hold hall meetings only since the Government do not allow us to hold meetings on maidans. In the maffasils, at Ramnad we had a peace conference. The police interfered and large scale arrests were made. Most of our bigger trade unions are banned. So it is left to the people of Madras city to take the lead. We are making efforts to collect mass signatures. Big working class centres like Coimbatore and Madura ~~xxxx~~ are closed to us. In these places terrible repression is let loose. ~~Sxxxxxx~~ After this meeting we will try to start our work there.

Ahmedabad: Before the Calcutta conference much could not be done. After the Conference we have formed a Preparatory Committee called Gujerat Peace Conference. We have held several working class rallies to popularise the cause of peace. These meetings were attended by thousands of people. Just before January 2, Government attacked trade unions and about half of the members were arrested. So work of the peace Committee came to a stand still. At the time of the Stalin Day observance, we held a big meeting and led a torch light procession. On the Anti-Constitution day about 60 people were arrested. Many of our comrades are forced to go underground. We hope to call a Provincial Peace Conference at the time of the Bombay PTUC Conference scheduled to be held in Ahmedabad.

Bihar: at the Patna Peace Rally 9,000 to 10,000 people attended. No Procession was allowed. The rally was lathi charged. Many were injured and arrested. We observed Stalin Day. At ~~xxx~~ Bhagalpur we held a meeting for popularising peace. 1,000 people attended. There were 5 to 6 arrests.

AISF: Just before the Peace Conference we gave a call for the observance of November 7 as Peace Day, through strikes and demonstrations. In Calcutta our girl comrades brought about a strike. In Allahabad and in other places also there were strikes. In Calcutta and Allahabad students clashed with the police. After the Peace Conference in Calcutta in our Central organ apart from reports of the Conference we have carried on a campaign to popularise peace. In Student Conferences, particularly in U.P. and Rajasthan there were detailed discussion on peace. Resolutions were adopted. On 21st February last, which was observed as International Day of Solidarity with Youth Fighting against colonialism, we gave a call for agitation and protest against the intervention in S.E. Asia by imperialists and the Nehru government. We have also asked to start peace committees in schools and colleges. Apart from this our constituents have taken part in Stalin Day observance and Lenin Day observance. On January 26th the students took part in the Anti-Constitution demonstrations. On the 24th there were a large number of school meetings. Although no all-India strike took place, there were strikes in a large number of schools and colleges. A number of comrades were arrested. On January our comrade Abbassi was beaten up in the demonstration and later on he died in police custody.

Apart from this major all-India actions a large number of inspiring reports from various provinces are reaching us. For instances in Ahmednagar district in a small village school, when children saw the appeal to observe 7th November, they met and came out on a strike. Since there was no body who could make a speech, Mashal report was read out. This is the way in which students react to our call for peace. This shows how much more can be done with proper mobilisation.

Commander in Chief Karhappa has been going about in various places speaking in meetings. In Aligarh our student comrades decided to boycott the meeting. As the decision came known, the visit was cancelled. In Allahabad students came out against compulsory military training. They had to pay extra fees for uniforms. Student Federation called a meeting and explained the real meaning of this training.

We have to fight against the propagation of war ideology in schools and colleges, which the authorities of some universities and schools are bent upon to do. In a school in Bombay students were asked to write a letter to their father saying how the communist students create mischief. Question papers are set in such a way as to propagate war ideology. We have given a call to students to fight against this fascist indoctrination of students.

We have to do much in connection with peace campaign. Bengal comrades have immediately to campaign against riot mongering is one of the forms against war. ~~xxxx~~ wherever Cariappa goes we have to organise protest demonstrations. So also in the meetings of the American roving Ambassador Jessup and Sukarno of Indonesia. Concrete exposure wherever such people go to open schools and inaugurate meetings etc. should be made. The starting of a journal under the auspices of the Peace Conference is very important. The Journal may be started in the form of a bulletin.

Mrs. Bhandarkar: The first Bombay Peace Conference was banned. It was held in August in Thana, 30 miles away from Bombay city. Even then we did good propaganda, badges were sold. 400 delegates including 50 women attended the Conference. Following this the resolutions of the conference were popularised. The October 2, the International Day of Struggle for Peace was celebrated. 20,000 people including a large number of working women attended the mass rally. This meeting was followed by the Bombay Peace Conference. Delegates from various centres of Bombay Province attended and ~~xxxxxx~~ from where they could not come, messages were sent. The open rally was attended by 10,000 people. On the return of delegates from Calcutta, they reported back to their organisations through meetings. Stalin Day was observed under the auspices of the Peace Committee. A big procession was taken out to the aerodrome to welcome Prof. Juliet Curie. But unfortunately, he came earlier and had left the aerodrome. So a delegation of 50 to 60 went to receive him the Taj Mahal Hotel. Later he addressed ~~xxxxxxx~~ some meetings in Bombay, including the one held at Kamgar Maidan. Following this a public reception was given to Prof. Bernal, vice-president of the World Peace Congress at Napoo Gardens. We have decided to collect signatures. But due to mass arrests, especially that of our Secretary Gavankar, our work is much dislocated. We are trying to put things alright.

IPTA: We have actively participated in all the Peace Conferences. About 40 members of the IPTA are arrested so far in connection with our campaigns. We have issued from time to time various circulars to our constituent bodies regarding dramas, songs, etc., in support of peace. In Bengal we have got Shadow Plays in support of peace. In Bombay also we have prepared one drama. Our centres especially in Lucknow and Delhi are very active in the campaign for peace.

It was decided to authorise the Secretary to draft a resolution protesting against the arrest of Com. Gavankar and against repression.

Pathak U.P. A constitution drawn up for the Peace Congress.

A ISF: There should not be any rigid constitution. There should be representatives from organisations such as AISF, AITUC, apart from those allotted to Provinces so that we may allocate work for organisations and they can speak in the name of their organisations. ~~xxxx~~ Of course, there will be overlapping.

Bengal: We should try to make it as broad based as possible; all those people who are against war and for peace should be brought into the organisation. So this organisation is a very big organisation. So I suggest that the present Committee should be constituted as a General Council and a Working Committee should be elected from these General Council members.

Chakkarai: A minimum number may be allotted to all India organisations with powers to add. We may add to the number when activities increase.

AISF: There are many provinces in which provincial committees do not exist even though these provinces might have been represented at the Calcutta Conference through delegates. When they start Provincial organisations, the whole representation of that particular province should be reconsidered. We should have a maximum and a minimum number for the Provinces.

Decision: It was decided to substitute or change, increase or decrease the number on the recommendation of the Provincial Committee or all India organisation.

The Working Committee can take decision to expel a member subject to the confirmation by the General Council.

It was decided to fix 5 as minimum for organisations and ten for Provincial Committees.

It was decided to ~~xx~~ call a meeting of the Peace Committee after the 30th March and elect the Working Committee. By that time, i.e. by 31st March all vacancies that exist on the Committee should be filled up.

One of the functions of the head office in Bombay is to provide news bulletins to progressive papers. (It was pointed out by the Bengal comrade that they did not receive the text of the speech of Juliet Girie.)

Bengal comrades: We are going to publish a peace bulletin in Bengal under the auspices of the Bengal Peace Committee. We have to raise funds for the running of the bulletin and also for running the bulletin.

Indore: When the Provincial Conference is held we will be able to give something.

Suggestions like shows of Soviet films, dramas etc. for peace fund was made.

Pathak (U.P.): We are going to have fight for peace ~~xxxx~~ in a different form. So Bombay should take up the responsibility of collecting funds.

Ahuja (Bombay) In that way Bombay ~~xxxxxxx~~ is also going to fight in a different manner.

Chakkarai: voluntary quota show ~~xxxx~~

Pathak (U.P.): During the peace week we should collect funds.

Jalgaon: If we had printed the Calcutta report, it would have fetched money.

Chakkarai: We may publish in the various progressive papers appeal for funds for Peace Committee. It should be in the name of the General Council.

This suggestion was accepted.

It was decided to fix 20,000 rupees as the target. Voluntary quotas were taken.

Bengal comrade: We must see that the collection is made in the light of the peace movement. We take a quota of Rs.2,500 before May and Rs.500 before March 31.

Madhyabharat: Rs.500 before May, Rs.150/- before March 31st.

Gujarat: Rs.300 before May, Rs.100/- before March.

Bihar: Rs.500/- by May, Rs.100/- before March 31.

Delhi: Rs.300/- by ~~March~~^{May}, Rs.30/- before March 31

Khandesh: We have a Conference. We will fix it up there.

Bombay: 3,000 before May. Before March, the responsibility of running the office.

Bengal raised its quota to Rs.3000.

Madras: Rs.1,000 before May, Rs.100/- before March 31.

U.P. I will take my quota after consulting our comrades. Let it be Rs.500/- by May, Rs.100/- before March 31st for the time being.

Peace week: AITUC Resolution was presented for the observance of peace week, with a request to accept it.

Bengal Comrade: We must go in ~~independent~~ deputation to Congress leaders during the week. Our main problem is war mongering against Pakista.

Ahuda (IPTA): A resolution should be adopted since the vested may try to unleash communal riots in other Provinces also.

The suggestion was accepted and the secretary was authorised to draft the resolution.

Bengal comrades: We must ask all progressive papers to bring out peace supplements. In Bengal during the peace Conference many papers published peace supplements.

This suggestion was accepted.

During the peace week all Provinces should bring out their own badges and leaflets. It was decided to print the five Points Programme of the WPC on the reverse side of the badge.

It was decided to draft a resolution inviting the Peace delegation to India to synchronise with the Peace week. The Secretary was authorised to do it.

It was also decided to ~~draft~~ redraft the Peace Signature appeal in the light of the new world developments.

AISF: The appeal should be as short and rousing as possible.

Delhi: Apart from this, we should in the ~~sign~~ signature propaganda make concrete suggestions in the light of the Indian situation.

This was accepted.

done.

AISF: We should ~~not~~ make an attempt to publish in progressive Journals articles concerning peace. To provide them with matter, we should start a Bulletin.

The suggestion was accepted.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ It was decided to invite the peace delegation to synchronise with the Peace week.

Bengal Comrade: We must invite the next peace Congress to India.

It was decided to leave it to the secretary to consult the organisations and decide.

Com. Chakkarai made a short introductory speech appealing to the comrades to carry on the work for peace vigorously.

PRACTICE REPORT

Howaskar: The TUC fraction has sent us a questionnaire and we have to answer it. Our T.N. document has put the objective of general strike before us. Towards that goal we have to strive and raise the tempo of the workers. We are going to observe three days. In certain industries as textiles the situation is maturing. Fraction wants to know what is ~~the~~ our position organisationally in various provinces. It will be good if we answer them by item.

I would also like to know your reactions of the general council. So we shall answer the questionnaire first.

Report from Bengal

1. This campaign we took very seriously. By Lenin way we fixt we were given a quota of 20,000 membership by ~~the TUC fraction~~. At the Bengal PTUC meeting comrades took a quota of 40,000. (approx.) Our comrades did vigorous propoganda in every industrial centre and factories. I cannot give the exact figures, how much membership we have been able to enrol. I have no doubt that the figure given by the ~~the TUC fraction~~ has exceeded.

2. On the eve of the anti-constitution campaign we took this matter up in a systematic manner. ~~Exakt~~ before that there was a general call. But there was no system or regular efforts. Our main effort was to draw in as many militants as possible into the Committee. Almost all the factory committees are ^{now being} composed of worker-militants & worker comrades.

~~There are committees in workshops~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ itself. There ~~is~~ it is not possible we hold meetings of workers in the factory and elect work committees, we nominate such committees and try to popularise their names through meetings etc. The objective is to elect such committees in a general meeting of the workers. But in days of repression it may not be always possible in certain cases to have a general meeting of the workers and there too discuss and elect members.

3. We try to bring about strikes in answer to ^{every} ~~the~~ attack of the police and the owners. General strike calls have not materialised so far in a big way. We adopt other methods, like cheroos, ie occupying managers' offices, surrounding him, sit in strike etc. Our active workers take a lead in this. ~~This form is particular to west Bengal.~~ Every day there are some cheroos. There is no regular volunteer corps according to factory or industry. We are trying to pay attention to this. On the 26th January ^{campaign} we have ~~built up some form of~~ ^{such} volunteer organisation on ~~former~~ basis.

4. List of Unions functioning: Almost all the unions affiliated to the AITUC barring one or two are functioning.

5. I will give a report only of the recent campaigns. They are anti-constitution campaign, political prisoners' campaign, present anti-riot campaign. Anti constitution campaign was carried on in a vigorous way and we put out full strength into it. Professors, teachers, scientists, ~~who are sympathetic to~~ ^{and others} ~~we~~ were mobilised, they were given mandates to report to the working class areas. Calcutta was divided into five zones. In 15 days the entire area was covered. The main perspective was to bring about the maximum unity of the working class on the occasion and also to build up solid working class organisation so that we can in the course of this campaign find material to build up strong working class solidarity. In factory gates, inside every bustee, inside the villages from which workers come, our ~~comrades~~ went and contacted the workers, singly and in groups, made friendship with them ~~and thereby built up working class unity.~~ On the eve of the campaign we called a strike on the 25th. 20 to 25 thousand workers were on strike ^{either partially or fully} though the response was not great, there was considerable amount of sensation. A lot of literature was sold.

Political prisoners' release campaign; ~~being absorbed in the anti-constitution campaign, we could not do much at the time of the firing.~~ But when our comrades in the presidency jail were fired on we came out in demonstrations and in ~~xxx~~ processions in every part of the city. In Calcutta we have mass support. Bank- ing on this support, we began to answer to the government's attack in jail through demonstrations. The first three or four demonstrations were big gatherings. We could mobilise quite a large number of workers and other sections for these demonstrations and meetings. Every day clashes took place. We were subjected to brutal attacks by the police and the goondas. We resisted them all. After the peace conference we have a central volunteer corps consisting of workers, students, etc. In such meetings we ask the volunteer corps to guard the meetings, to be ready with sticks etc. As soon as the police attack we disperse in groups. We do not attack before the police attack us. When they attack we attack in groups. This was before the anti-constitution day demonstrations. After the anti-constitution campaign we took up this campaign with the same vigour.

Campaign against riots; Our comrades are working with death defying courage. ~~xxx~~ Mohalla committees are built up especially in places where the minority community stay. Upto now about 100 comrades are arrested 2 two killed.

6. I cannot say

7. Very few Union offices are kept open and functioning regularly. Even our BPTUC office, which we had determined to run at all risks is not functioning regularly. For the last so many months one comrade go and open the office and sit there two hours in the morning and one our in the evening. The Tramway Union office, which is a very important union, ~~xx~~ cannot run their office. One comrade go to the office one time a day and collect dak. All Union activities are done from outside. This is due to severe repression.

8. I have dealt with this in previous portion.

9. This also I have answered.

10. Both spontaneous and organised. Wherever strikes take place, we try to give it a political and militant form. In all places of strike we have strike committees. In joint strikes as in the Corporation workers case, we build up separate strike committees with even rank and file INTUC workers as distinct from the INTUC Committee. All such strikes are under the direct leadership of the U.G. fraction. There are delays in contacting the U.G. centre, but in that case Coms carry on on their own initiative

11. I cannot give the number. I cannot give even the approximate proportion. There are at least one or two in ~~xxx~~ each factory. They are leading.

12. March 9, we do not know how far we will succeed. On February 28th, and March 9th we will at least bring the Socialists into complete disgrace. That is the main perspective of the campaign. Considerable number of our ~~xxx~~ are working in the campaign. On 9th March we are going to show to the ~~xxx~~ the real face of the socialists. But I do not think there will be any strike in a large scale. About 18th March I cannot say. Possibilities are that owing to the ~~xxx~~ riot ~~striking~~ tension, local meetings and demonstrations may take place. I do not think it will be possible to bring about a strike on the 18th March. on April 3. If by March 18th we will be able to turn the tide, then big meetings and demonstrations are possible on April 3. We have taken a quota of 3,000 collection during the peace week for the running of the central peace office. We will be having demonstrations and meeting during the peace week. But meetings in working class areas and local demonstrations will always be there.

Fraction report is concerned I have not read it now do I know that there is such a report. About other comrades I am unable to say. TUC session report was discussed. If we continue in the same way with the police officers upon the unit 14. I do not know. It is a good thing. It must change our tactics. Instead of going to offices we should concentrate on points 15. We are sending reports

16. Nothing to offer at present. When office bearers of unions are selected bosses try to check them out from factories. If they do not succeed in this, they get them arrested by the police. The bosses themselves invite INTUC people. When INTUC do not succeed, they attack us with the help of dharwans and goondas.

KHANDESH

1. Our Unions are functioning. But our union work is made difficult due to arrests and dismissals from mills.

2. We are starting new Unions in Chaligaon and Phusval.

3. Now there are no Committees. But there are comrades of our Unions in the factories.

4. We conducted a strike for one month against the false Government indexes. Because many of our workers are dismissed we cannot carry on the strike with vigour as before. 100 militant workers are dismissed. In Gannalal Mill, Jalgaon, about 20 days before we conducted a successful strike and the owners were compelled to reinstate the dismissed workers. When work load is increased etc. we resist and go on strike.

5. In Jalgaon, Dhulia and Amalner and Khandesh the Unions are functioning.

6. Regarding peace, Lenin Day, we held meetings, TUC week was observed.

7. We pay our affiliations regularly.

8. We keep our offices open and workers go there regularly.

9. We try to resist every attack. Other Unions have no hold on the workers.

10. In mill alone, Gannalal Mill, we have now got a factory committee after the strike. This mill will close today and we have given a call for general strike. In other mills there are no factory committees.

11. The leadership of the strikes are Red Flag. Work is always done in relation to U.S. fraction.

12. In Gannalal Mill there are P.M.C. and they are in the Action Committees. In Jalgaon there are about 20 to 25 P.M.C.

13. I do not think there will be strike on the 9th March. On 18th March 18th and April 3rd we will be able to take out processions and meetings. If the present strike is successful (i.e. in protest against the closure of Gannalal Mill, Jalgaon) then there will be strike on 18th March and April 3.

14. In Jalgaon 5 TUC. I do not know about the other Unions.

15. We sent reports in Marathi.

16. The INTUC Unions report to the owners about our comrades and militants and then the owners remove them from the mills.

(in Madras city)

They report also about the Union office functionaries and they are arrested. It is now difficult to function our offices. If we continue in the same way with the Union offices open, the Union work will come to a stand still. We must change our tactics. Instead of Union offices we should concentrate on Khatta Committees.

Our Jalgaon Girni Kamgar Union's registration is cancelled. Most of our strikes have failed. Our leaders and workers are thinking how to fight and get our demands. The present strike will be fought in a revolutionary way, beating goondas blacklegs etc.

TAMILNAD

1. Almost all our Unions are banned ~~except gambian, and Nadhavaram Tannery Unions and MPTUC~~.

2. Mill and factory Committees are there where we are strong. They are not properly functioning. In railways we have formed gang committees. These committees are called workers' defence Committees. We have formed such committees in Arco and other places. In the Committees ~~xxxxxx~~ number of workers are from 5 to 8. In Golden Rock we have formed committees in 10 shops out of the 21 shops. In Coimbatore and other galls places similar committees are formed. But we have not get any reports of their working. Even though the Unions are banned we are functioning illegally. Functions of the Unions are done by factory Committees. In the Tramway, where our Union is banned, the membership subscription has increased by Rs.100/- after the imposition of the ban. In the South Indian Railway ~~xxxxx~~ we have formed S.I.R. Zonal Committee of the AIURV and a conference was held. In textiles also we have formed another committee, called Provincial Textile Committee. In other ~~xxxxxx~~ industries also we have formed committees. In Buckingham and Carnatic mills, where we had no Union and Anthony Pillai was running the Union, we have discredited Anthony ~~by our campaigns~~ union and we are getting good response. We are now concentrating in B & C to capture the Union or to form a new one.

3. We are resisting. The response to the calls for general strike has not been considerable. We have called a strike against partial closure of the mills; ~~workers are getting 3 weeks work in 4 weeks~~. It was not effective. The 2nd february strike was not very successful. There were some strikes here and there, some local actions.

(in Madras city)

4. Almost all the Unions are functioning but illegally. All the offices are closed and sealed by police except MPTUC. From 2nd to 6th January, MPTUC office was also closed. Other offices are functioning from MPTUC. Nadhavaram Union office is also not functioning, even though the Union is not banned. ~~The Union is running from workers' houses.~~ The union office is being run from workers' houses.

5. Stalin's ~~xxxxx~~ Strain Day, Anti-constitution Day. Leaflets were issued ~~on both the occasions~~ on both the occasions. Anti-repression Day on 24th february. We have no reports so far about this. Feb. 27, we gave a call for railway strike. There were partial strikes. We have conducted campaigns for the release of Telengana comrades. We have prepared ~~xxxxx~~ memoranda in Tamil and English and are collecting mass signatures for their release. In the same we are collecting mass signatures for the cancellation of the death sentences on Vikramasingapuram comrades.

6. We have no ~~xxxx~~ idea

7. Already said. We have filed a case against the closure of the Union offices.

8. Our workers are ~~xxxxxx~~ xxxxxx

9. We cannot say how many mills have factory committees. In some parts of Arcot District we have line committees on Railways and we are regularly functioning. These committees are guided by U.G. fraction.

10. We organise strikes. The general strike calls have not materialised so far. This is because the comrades put in charge of these strikes proved to be reformists and some of them have turned traitors. On January 2, our organisers failed to turn up at the critical point. Now militant workers are coming forward and we will have good response. Some times strikes are also spontaneous. In Wimco Match Factory there is only one comrade. The whole workers in the factory came out on strike against the Salem firing. There was a spontaneous strike in trunways recently.

11. In Buckingham and Carnatic Mills there are two members. In Golden Rock there are ten to fifteen members. In Trichy District all P.M.s and sympathisers are under arrest. The Government is fabricating a conspiracy case against 146 comrades in Trichy. One Narayanswamy who attended the Calcutta Conference of Railways turned a deserter. He died a natural death, due to shock. ~~We are charged with murder and these comrades are involved.~~ *Police are trying to involve some comrades charging them with murder.*

12. We have brought out several leaflets for 9th March. Half a dozen comrades are purely engaged in taking these to districts and branches. We can bring about a strike on the 9th March among gangmen. In workshop we are not sure. It will not be a general strike because our entire P.C. secretariat is arrested. March 18th, and April 3 we cannot say definitely but there will be some partial actions.

13. AITUC fraction report was not discussed but studied.

14. TUR we are taking 250 copies.

15. We are sending reports regularly in English.

We have given a call to demonstrate against the railway Enquiry Report. ~~We have given a call~~ It is followed by some local action.

REPLIES OF S.N.PATHAK FROM U.P.

Before making my replies to the questions, I would like to state firstly, a comprehensive report covering the whole T.U. position of the Province is being prepared and shall be sent here by a special courier shortly. Secondly, I am in the Provincial office only for the last four months and thirdly due to abnormal situation I could come into contact with ~~with~~ this short period with only few districts and that too only on a few occasions. With these limitations I answer these questions numberwise in brief.

1. Besides local meetings in some districts, on the Provincial basis Textile Conference, Railway Conference, Khet Mazdoor Conferences and UFTUC Convention were held aiming at building and strengthening mass organisations. Though the last three conferences have been attacked and broken by the police. The reactions of the Railway Conference and Khet Mazdoor conference have been good and we have immensely gained organisationally. The UFTUC Convention was attacked only yesterday and I feel this clash too would enhance and strengthen our unions in the Province.

2. The formation of mill committees have been our perspective and emphasis on it have been laid in the T.U. fraction (provincial) circulars but I cannot say how far we have succeeded.

14. So far none by UPTUC
15. Reports have been regularly sent by UPTUC to the AITUC office.
16. If funds and conditions permit AITUC should bring out TUR in Hindi and in the same manner in other provincial languages.

MADHYABHARAT

I am herewith furnishing you with the information which I have in the light of the questionnaire. A complete and more detailed report will be sent to you later on.

We collect monthly union subscriptions - now through our Mohalla Committees. The Textile Unions in Indore, Ujjain and Gwalior are functioning regularly. After illegalisation of Ration Mazdur Sabha, we have not been able to set up a legal functioning Union in the textiles over there. However, collections ~~are~~ are ~~being made~~ to be made and function the illegal union. But due to lack of cadre and repression, we have not been able to set up proper functioning of the Union and put in on mass basis. Our Union collections in Indore, Ujjain and Gwalior are nearly Rs.200, 125, and 70 per month. In Ujjain on bonus payment we collected Rs.1000/- as Union subscription in December and January. In Indore we collected nearly Rs.500/- on bonus payment. It is very difficult to run the office openly at Indore. Any one who attends the office is picked up by the police. It has its effect on the workers, who are reluctant to visit the office. In Ujjain the police took possession of the Mazdur Sabha's office, illegally and forcibly. We mobilised our militants. One day took out a morcha, broke open the lock and took over the possession of the office. Police did not do anything. They however launched proceedings against some of our militants. In Bhopal our Mazdur Sabha was banned, all our TU militants were arrested and detained, we have not been able to set up new Unions or even illegally start functioning of the Union. Now we have started work. So far we have not made any serious efforts to build up factory and mill Committees. But now we have begun work in that direction.

We have taken the bonus issue, throughout our Province and had organised a textile Conference in May last and had given a call on 2nd June to observe demands day and anti-repression day throughout ~~the~~ Madhyabharat. We conducted campaigns, led morchas and held meetings on the issue of bonus, especially at Indore laying emphasis on the rejection of savings certificates in lieu of cash payment and we have been able to defeat the employers and the Government plan to ~~impose~~ impose the scheme in Madhyabharat. Secondly, in Ujjain we conducted campaigns and struggles against payment of Bonus in two instalments. There was protest strike in two mills for a day and ~~clashes~~ clashes with the police on 20, 25 and 29th of December. When the police tried to break our mass meetings ~~which~~ which had an attendance on an average of 2,000 gathering, to arrest the leaders. Ultimately we forced the Government to pay bonus in a lump sum in Ujjain. We observed the unity week. Also the anti-certificate week in all the major centres in Madhya Bharat. We gave lead through our militants to resist attack of employers, who are now going rough shod with their schemes of retrenchment. We give workers' call to resist by sit down strikes, not leaving the khatas, organise demonstrations, morchas etc. But so far sit down strike in factories have received little response. On the bonus issue we have taken out a demonstration of workers which came in clash with the police. We have been able to take out nearly 5000 workers on protest strike on the 5th December on bonus issue.

So far affiliation fees are concerned Ujjain centre has been very prompt and regular in payment. Indore and Gwalior have also cleared previous dues to some extent. In Indore they have started sending monthly amounts regularly.

We have transferred C.I. & R. TUC office to Ujjain. It is functioning regularly.

We organise strikes, ~~xxxxxx~~ though there are spontaneous strikes too taking place. We try to lead the spontaneous strikes. So far this technique of formation of action committees and strike committees have not been adhered to. We take the lead, ~~xxxx~~ with U.G. fraction through our T.U. fraction and militant cells we keep close contact. Our main difficulty has been that some of our present so called militants in factories do not take the lead in actions in the mills and factories owing to fear of losing the job. They usually give some excuse or other in not leading the strikes.

On the 9th March we will have a strike amongst gangmen of the B.B.A C.I. Katlam District where we have regular functioning Union. Besides ~~xxxxxx~~ this centre we have no unit on railway in our Province. Meetings, leaflets etc will be in sympathy with 9th March will be observed in textile centres.

We hope to have strikes in Ujjain, in two mills in Indore. In other centres we will have meetings, leaflets parties, Mohalla meetings etc. ~~xxxx~~ on the 18th March - Anti depression day. On the 3rd April we hope to have strike action in Indore (in some mills, in Ujjain and Gwalior Mill). We have already given call for strikers on May 1st in all centres of Madhyabharat and are preparing in that direction and hope we will be successful in bringing workers on strike and hold demonstrations on May 1st throughout the Province. Pe ace week will be observed - in better results than before.

So far no enrolment of members for TUR. Our provincial office and Union send reports from time to time to AITUC office

We had explained the TU documents to all our militants in almost all major centres.

Our criticism and suggestion with regard to functioning of TUC office and PTUCs and the fraction will be sent to you by Fraction Secretary.

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

The General Council started at 3.30 P.M. on 26th Feb. with Com. Chakkarai in the chair. Chakkarai made a short speech welcoming the G.C. members.

"It is gratifying to see so many members of the G.C. have come in spite of repression. It shows the vitality of our organisation and that we are fighting with determination and courage in spite of severe odds. I do not know through what storms we have to pass but I am fully confident that we are going to triumph. Our cause is just and it has triumphed in various parts of the world, where feudalism and capitalism of the worst type prevailed.

"I have to draw your attention to the Black Bill which the Government of India is going to pass into an Act. It is directed against our organisation. The INTUC and the Socialists are not going to be affected. We must put the stoutest opposition to it in every conceivable way.

"We are witnessing some of the most sadistic outrages on the working class. Hundreds of our comrades are rotting in jails and they are subjected to terrible repression, the kind of which we have not witnessed. Unless we are up and doing, we are not going to put an end to this repression.

"The massacre of Jallinwalla Bag pales into insignificance when compared with Salem firing. We have demanded a public inquiry into it. The Government have been compelled to institute an enquiry into it. But the Enquiry Committee consists of toadies, retired judges and collectors. Moreover it is going to be conducted in camera. We have protested against it. The tragedy of Salem is an eye opener to us. People who are apathetic or pro-Congress have been shaken. Even reactionary newspapers have been compelled to demand a public enquiry.

"We have to take ~~afix~~ stock of the situation in the country. We have to take cognisance of the Black Bill, which if passed into law, will make trade union movement a farce and not a fighting organisation as it ought to be. We are all interested in what is going on in other provinces. I do not know what is happening in other provinces than Madras except from news papers and letters from the AITUC central secretariat. So the comrades here will have to speak on this. We shall have to do justice to two points in particular, repression and black bill. These are the two important things that will engage our attention.

"Many of our comrades are in jail. We have to fill in vacancies caused by their absence. There are other things also of such formal character as affiliations etc.

"So Comrades I extend to you a hearty welcome to this most important and momentous meeting of the General Council".

The report of the Credentials Committee was presented and accepted. Affiliation was granted to four Unions (list enclosed attached herewith).

The resolution to fill in vacancies of the G.C. by circular was moved by Pathak. Joglekar raised a point of order that the usual practice has been to fill in vacancies by common consent. He said, if we circularise the names for approval it will go into the hands of the C.I.D. He said these are revolutionary times and there is no meaning in having such formal resolutions.

Swamy (EBCI) said that it was true that we were passing through revolutionary times but that was the very reason why we should have this provision in the constitution. In the revolutionary period

when class struggle was becoming intense, many people might let us down. There we must have such a provision in the constitution.

Babubhai Bhatt (F.B.) tried to justify Joglekar.

The resolution was put to vote and carried.

Baxi presented the accounts with a short speech. (Accounts already sent to you)

Chakkarai: We cannot function without sufficient funds. The average expense comes to, I am told to Rs.500/- I am not in a position to suggest ways and means of strengthening our finances. I, therefore request you to take this matter seriously.

Bankim: The money we have at present will not last for more than two or three months.

Pathak (UP) suggested to observe a day. Kashiram from Gwalior supported it. Bengal comrade suggested that we should fix a date and ask Unions to pay up a portion of their dues by that date. On May day we may make a drive for mass collection in our meetings. To fix a day for funds alone is not correct. Babubhai (F.B.) suggested that we should give a final warning to Unions that unless they pay up their arrears by a particular date their names would be struck off from the list of affiliated Unions. Shantabai said that even if all Unions pay their dues, it would not be sufficient for carrying on the work. Apart from collections in public meetings, we should collect from progressive individuals also as donations. It will not be good to fix a date for this alone as it will give an opportunity for our critics to say that AITUC is a charity organisation. Bapat (Bombay) suggested that a portion of such collections should go to the provincial Committees. It was finally decided to leave the matter to the central secretariat of the AITUC.

The president moved from the chair the resolution on china and greetings to Soviet Union.

Swamy (BBCI) moved two resolutions together Greetings to Viet Nam and C.O.T.(France). He emphasised ~~xxxxxxx~~ the task that devolve upon us in passing these resolutions. American imperialism is plotting against the peoples of S.E.Asia and its satellite, the Nehru Government is sending armies to Burma and Malaya to crush the democratic movements there. Even though Nehru has not recognised Bao Dai, unless we are up and doing he may recognise it and send armies to his aid. We have to see that this is prevented and that democratic Viet Nam is recognised.

Chakkarai at this stage pointed the attention of the C.C. members to the terrible repression let loose in pondicherry, a settlement of French imperialism in the South. There trade union movement is crushed and savage repression is let loose. A price of Rs.1000/- has been placed on the veteran trade union and Communist leader, Subbiah. Goondas with the aid of the police attacked trade union offices and smashed property worth lakhs of rupees. The nationalist press is blacking out the news.

The president moved from the chair resolutions on martyrs and Italian C.G.T.

The resolution on repression was then moved by a Tamilnad comrade, Ramalingam, with a rousing speech in Tamil. The president gave gist of the speech in English. In Vellore where some of our important leaders are detained, several lathi charges and firing took place. Even though there were no deaths, our important leaders have been injured seriously. Nambiar, Communist MLA has lost ~~xxxxxxx~~ the sight of one of his eye due to firing. In Cuddalore there has been firing. In Kallipalayam, where there is agitation among kisans, severe repression is let loose and one comrade is killed. In Salem jail, as you know, our comrades were demanding treatment as politicals. Firing took place resulting in the death of 22 comrades and injury 103. Chakkarai

added that the bodies of the dead were not handed over to the relatives but buried by the police. The relatives do not know where they were shot, whether the deaths were accidental or intentional. Kalayansundram, one of the most respected leaders of the movement in Tamilnad, who has been arrested recently, has been subjected to inhuman torture. The present rulers will have to answer before the people for these murders. Therefore on 18th March should be made successful and we must put up resistance in every conceivable way.

Belose (Bombay) supported the resolution. He referred to the firings in Naik and Salem jails. The working class will not be crushed. The only way to force the government to retreat is resistance.

Newaskar Though not to the same extent as in Calcutta and Madras repression is heavy. To attend Union office is the way to jail. *in Madras*

Gujarat: On the eve of the 2nd January terrible repression esp. in Billimora. Military was brought. 50 to 60 arrested on 23rd January. Workers resisted. Firing in air. Gate and street corner meetings continued. Taluq kisan conference was held in a small village. 1500 people attended. Big bosses of the C.I.D and police were present. Seeing the mood of the kisans they retreated. Bhavnagar strike for 4 days.

BBCI Rayman (victimised worker) We must prepare workers to take our places when we get arrested. When one is arrested ten should come forward to take the place. We are collecting subscription and preparing for 9th March. We struck for three days. The boss asked where is your Union. We said "We will show you! We said we are not your employees but your enemies. We will not sit with you without honour and on equal terms. Without resisting the police even with our blood, we cannot win. Along with this strike we must take the offensive.

Bengal: Repression is increasing every day. After the Peace Conference we have organised counter-offensive to meet this repression. Authorities dare not impose 144 because they know it will not be observed. Repression in jails also intensified. In Presidency jail a comrade was beaten. 350 protested against this. 600 police came to the scene. 3 hours struggle, tear gas firing, beatings of horrible nature. 125 arrested in demonstrations in sympathy with this. On 26th January there were big demonstrations. The 500 armed police who were on the scene was reinforced later on by another 500. There was six hours battle. There was firing and 45 were arrested. Innumerable injured. In jail warders were given liquor to molest women and girl comrades. Ratan Brahman resisted for two hours in his cell. At a meeting of the Mahila Atma Raksha Samiti, Dalhousie Square, 2 men were arrested, locked up and beaten till they were unconscious. Students are arrested from classes and clerks from offices. The owners of halls are threatened not to give halls to us. In Sardar Patel meetings a large proportion of the audience consisted of armed ~~workers~~ goondas and police in plain clothes. In the recent ~~no~~ goondas were arrested. Comrades are arrested for pasting posters.

But people are resisting; if one is arrested, 50 come forward. Swadhinata appear daily since the hunger strike and the police are helpless. In Dalhousie Square there are no offices without our contacts. When owner refused 3 days pay for closure due to riot, workers captured factory. We do not give up an inch to the enemy. In Midnapur one area is liberated. People's militia is being formed. In 24 parganas also there are liberated areas.

To arrest one man 500 policemen are to be mobilized.

On 26th January on Congress procession people on both sides of the street ~~beat~~ *beat*

a meeting in Calcutta.

On account of the hunger strike and the brave fight put up by our comrades, the transfer of detained comrades was ~~xxxx~~ abandoned.

Children of Meminsingh are parading in uniform. Hundreds of villages are being liberated like Telengana. Every day thousands are participating in the struggle and they are getting steeled.

Pathak (U.P.): We are not far behind Calcutta and Madras. U.P. is rising up. In the recent provincial Railway Conference the General Manager bribed goondas and CIPS to attack us. The Conference was lathi charged. The delegates to the provincial ~~xxxxxx~~ Student Federation Conference ~~xxx~~ were all arrested. Bills were refused to these comrades. In Bareilly two students were beaten up. All students resisted this. There was firing. All people resisted. Some policemen resigned. Lucknow police refused to go to Bareilly. So military had to be called. There is strict censorship of the press. Editors are asked not to publish any news and not to disclose censorship. In Kanpur no office secretary can work for more than a week. More than 12 office secretaries of the Mazdoor Sabha are arrested. INTUC and Socialists are quarrelling among themselves. Workers come in groups to enquire about Com. Yusuf. Workers have completely lost their illusion about the fascist regime. There is severe repression on individuals and mass organisations. But no mass organisation is crushed. We will drive away the police from Kanpur.

Bihar: Bihar is not lagging behind. Students are arrested for posterizing. Union secretary arrested for anti-retrenchment handbills. Workers struck work to get him released. We would have marched ahead but for our leadership. In Khelari Cement factory there was strike. Workers beat up charginman. Union office was handed over to INTUC by the police but workers refused to give in. Women were molested and children robbed of their food. In Biharishariff we have a Union for the last ten years. There are 4000 bidi workers who are mostly in the Union. The rent ~~xxxxxx~~ was increased but the workers refused to pay. Meeting was called to protest against this. police lathi charged the meeting and the office records were burned. Biharishariff was turned into a military camp. Curfew is imposed.

At Bhalagpur, kisan leaders were arrested but the kisan went to their rescue. Firing took place in which one fell martyr. Likewise in many places firing took place and many have fallen victim. In Tatanagar socialist got our leaders arrested. Ordinary Trade Union movement is impossible. Every struggle turns into a battle scene like Bengal and Telengana. In jails Com. Jwala was dropped from a height. Another comrade was severely beaten up.

Baxi: Martyrs of Bombay laid the foundations of the Trade Union movement. Soviet Union showed the light. Jail firings are a new record in brutality. In Salem unheard of brutalities took place. We will not be contented if 10 jail officials are dismissed. The Madras ministry must quit.

Chakkarai:--rights-between-workers-and-capitalists-cannot
~~xxxxxx~~
~~xxxxxx~~
~~xxxxxx~~
~~xxxxxx~~
~~xxxxxx~~

27th FEBRUARY 1950

The report of the activities of the AITUC was presented to the General Council. Com. Shanta Mukherji proposed that the report could be adopted. Madras comrade supported this. He said that 100 unions are banned in the country. The government is trying to crush our movement ~~ix~~ and to push ahead INTUC. Practical methods must be adopted to counter attack the offensive of Government and the INTUC. In order to bolster up INTUC bogus Unions Government had brought forth Labour Relations Bill. We are going to challenge the validity of the order banning trade unions in Madras. If we fail in the high court we will go to the Supreme Court. We must prepare for active resistance. After the banning of the Unions we have formed committees

PUBLIC SECURITY MEASURES ACT

Phatak: These measures are legal weapons of the government to crush and eliminate all democratic movement in the country. Safety measures should be called safety razor for cutting the throats of working class movement. Secret agents are planned in our Unions who act as informers. ~~gx~~ We are arrested on their report without any proof, investigation. It also puts ~~xxxxxxx~~ strict and rigid censorship on newspapers.

Nalini Mukherji: Every day we find in newspapers victims of public Security Measures Act. On 18th March we must mobilise all our forces to condemn the Government's repressive measures and Acts. In Bengal Section 144 cannot work. The British often resorted to firing in the air but now bullets and human lives are cheap.

Peer Mohamed: The promises of August 15 1947 are all broke n. 25,000 leaders of the working class, peasants, students and other democratic movements in the country, men and women, are arrested and detained ~~x~~ without trial. The public safety Measures Act is not in the interest of the public but in the interests of the vested interests.

LABOUR RELATIONS BILL

Newaskar: This Bill nullifies all rights of working class and reduces him to the position of a bond slave. Treatment of workers ~~ix~~ envisaged is worse than animals. The banning of the right of workers to strike is virtually to ban the right to live. It has taken away all rights of the workers and given a free hand to the capitalists. Legalisation of retrenchment is provided in the bill. It cuts wages for the strike period and imprisonment for 6 months. Such Bills were introduced only in Nazi Germany. It gives bargaining rights to the INTUC. In Gwalior, only 400 to 500 workers out of 8,000 were allowed to participate in the election to works committees. The workers boycotted and did not allow it to function. But even then ~~xx~~ 28 representatives out of 30 were elected from Mazdoor Sabha (our Union). So the authorities decided not to have any pretence of democracy. ~~xxxxxx~~

~~xxxxxx~~ One M.L.A. of Bihar suggested to issue licenses for Trade Unionists. We must tear this Bill to pieces. It is not sufficient to pass a resolution but we must take direct action. This Bill is a charter of slavery for the workers.

Why is this Bill introduced now? Because of intensification of economic crisis. ~~xxxx~~ Repression could not alone put an end to the resistance of the working class. Hence the Government wants to bound the working class, hand and feet. Strike is the only weapon of the workers which is dreaded by the employers and that right will be completely taken away by this Bill. Workers are not considered as human beings. No political strikes are allowed. "illegal strikes" are sought to be punished by rigorous imprisonment. It gives all sorts of freedom to the employer - to introduce rationalization, no appeal against retrenchment. INTUC to be ~~xxxxxx~~

There is no auditing of the accounts of Majdur Mahajan according to the Trade Union Registration Act. Leaders threaten the workers that expenses are more and they say we get them through "Nandaji". Recognised Unions require 15 per cent membership. All these measures are aimed to legalise INTUC. In our locality no INTUC leader dare to go without sufficient number of his men with him in working class area. These measures are worthy of Hitler and Truman.

Even this Bill is considered incomplete by congress KLAS. They want to issue licenses to trade unionists.

We must resist this bill in every conceivable way, through strikes, demonstrations etc. We must smash the bill and we must not allow the Government to impose the Bill. Third April must be organised on a big scale.

M.S. Bakshi: What this Bill is brought forth by the Govt? There is not a single place in the country where our trade union workers are not arrested! But in spite of repression working class is going ahead under the banner of the AITUC. Peasants of Telengana are also marching ahead. Bill in my language is a shelter for the rat but in India the rat of capitalism can no longer remain safe. If we hesitate to resist this Bill we will be betraying the working class. Third April must open the eyes of the rulers that they are mistaken about the working class.

RN Joglekar moved his amendment. He said that agrees with all points. The dangerous character of the Bill should have been explained more clearly. Capitalism wants to maintain its regime by resorting to extreme fascist measures. We see the crisis of capitalism on a world plane in India. In 1938 a similar bill was introduced. Through Socialists betrayed, even collaborationists like Amberker and Jannadas opposed. Today Amberker is in the Government. In the extreme capitalist crisis there is no way out for the capitalists but to crush the working class. Similarly we have no way out but to crush the capitalists. The dreadfulness of the Bill is not made known to the people. Prejudices of the people must be removed. Illusion of Socialist Nehru must be shattered.

In order to counteract this Bill, we must forge a united front. We alone cannot do this. The operative part of the resolution is too weak in the present day situation and is not corresponding to the national and international situation. To remove weakness all sections of peoples must forge a united front as in 1938. This Bill is not only against the AITUC but against all organisations of the working class, against spontaneous actions and all forms of struggle. All the revolutionary sections are not inside the AITUC. Demonstration is too weak and too small an action considering the dangerous nature of the Bill and the danger that we face. WFTU gives a call for united front with workers of all sections, even Catholic Unions. We must mobilise all workers paying attention to their weakness and prejudices. The duty to form a united front is ours and we must take this first step.

Malini Mukherji (F.B.) I do not consider this bill too lightly when the life and death issue of the working class is involved. We want not the Socialist leaders but all sections of the working class. We have been giving calls for general strikes but there has been little response.

Samy (EBCI) I oppose the amendment as it is postponing and abandoning action. Againxx the amendment slanders the AITUC policy for two years as leading to disaster. I want to know the provisions in the bill regarding Government servants.

Dankim: This Bill is for a total...

Civil servants are singled out, in order to keep them away from the movement. When employers register their conditions of work if we do not object then for a year no objection can be raised. Strikes are made illegal. Till the government guarantee living wages, they have no right to pass this bill. This is a satanic bill. Collective bargaining is put at a discount. Negotiating rights are given to Unions having a membership of 30 per cent membership or 15 for federation. No strikes are possible in the name of collective bargaining. In colonial countries not more than 10 per cent membership in the Unions. It goes up and comes down. Even ~~xxx~~ INTUC will be affected by this. Organisers can be failed. No provision against retrenchment. We cannot protest against retrenchment, no political strikes are allowed, no sympathetic strike is allowed under this Bill. We have to rally all workers irrespective of their opinion. No sectarianism should be tolerated; we must have a united front. Jaiprakash dare not oppose united struggle. Regarding Joglekar's amendment no body will come if formally send a letter. We must build unity from the bottom - that is the real united front. We must carry on propaganda about the real character of this black bill. Only unity of workers can throw this Bill. petty bourgeois section is to be approached. All tailing sections should be approached. This Bill shows to what extent the Government can go and it also shows their strength. I request Joglekar to withdraw this amendment.

Pathak: (HMT backyard) disruption among workers is no new discovery. AITUC is the united front. Make it strong. This amendment is to invite disruptors. They even stoop to take money from owners. We cannot cooperate with these people. Honest worker is coming to us through struggle. This Bill takes away all rights of the workers. We know workers will come in struggle against this. Every section will resist it. Struggle against Black Bill will be the united front.

Ahmedabad: In our demonstration against the constitution, in ~~xx~~ spite of our weakness we made it a success. United front can come only through struggles and not by conference. When we go forward workers will come with us. I oppose this amendment.

Pathak (B.F.) The paragraph in the amendment to call a conference is slanderous to the working class. It insinuates that the militant working class of the AITUC has no strength. Because of workers' resistance Government had to bring this Bill. The General Council must throw away this amendment.

Bihar: This amendment is to betray the coming struggle. To invite the enemies of the working class is to disrupt. We must fight against this tendency. Resolution is clear on the united front. Under the banner of the AITUC alone can the united front be built.

Bombay (Bengal): This resolution should not have been allowed to be moved. If we pass this amendment we will be going against the very fundamentals of AITUC and the militant working class movement. I do not for a moment think that Socialists and INTUC are going to suffer from this Bill. The Bill give the Socialists and INTUC more ~~xx~~ chances for disruption. AITUC is gaining strength because of its leadership in the struggle. Socialist and INTUC pretend to launch struggle to keep their position. Our heroic struggles have isolated the Government from the people.

Samarth: Real unity of the working class can come only through AITUC which alone is the fighting organisation of the working class. By successful demonstration we can form a united front. We always support struggles and lead it. This amendment waters down our call for action. On 3rd April we will prepare for strike.

Dulia: I oppose this amendment. Firing in Amalner exposed the fascist character of the Congress Government. Government sponsored the INTUC. 25,000 leaders are in jail. Socialist unions bank on big capitalists help and goonda support. We know that Socialists do not fight for the workers. They are against militant action.

Ambutai: (Joglekar's group): I know Bombay working class. Workers want united front. Ashok Mehta is a traitor but workers are not. Without united front victory is not possible. AITUC sacrifice our aim. Not blood shed but establishment of our rule should be our aim. We do not support terrorists. Without united front struggle is not possible. On 2nd January 75 thousand workers were on strike but the Socialists can bring one and half lakhs on strike.

Kheruddin:GIP: In 1948 there was a unanimous decision of the workers taken through ballot for strike, in which workers of INTUC and Socialist party and others participated. But workers were cheated by the Socialists. Our membership is less due to repression. In the present conditions no body can go for membership collection.

Newaskar: The amendment waters down the AITUC call for resistance. By misquoting Stalin and Lenin and by running away from the struggle, Joglekar has discredited the AITUC. Socialists also play the same trick. AIRF whenever talk about strikes say that we are not united and so struggle is not possible. This was their trick to postpone struggles. Only through struggle can unity be forged. By resisting the government's offensive we are marching forward to unity. Joglekar has said that the working class is helpless in his amendment. This is nothing but slander. Workers are on their march. They have occupied factories and going to a higher stage of struggle. Who are ~~xxx~~ to be invited into this Conference, the socialists and others who oppose the struggle. They are betrayers of struggles. If we invite them it will be sabotaging our work and not going forward. We have to unite workers through action and go forward. We have to ~~xx~~ to form action committees. Only AITUC can lead the action.

Chakkarai: As long as there are classes, there will be class struggle. What is the position of the Government of our country today. It is not a position of impartiality. The State and the capitalist class have become one and the same. The State to be an impartial arbiter, between the working class and the capitalists, is, to use a colloquial expression, mere bunkum. The whole bill is going against the very roots of the working class, against its interests and organisations. Therefore, there shall be no truck or compromise on this. We are opposed ~~xxxx~~ to this Bill, root and branch and it is impossible for our organisation with its past traditions and great struggles it has led, as some members here suggested, to have any compromise.

For arbitration we have to pass through many hurdles according to this Bill and before we reach the goal, we will break our neck. We have to pass through various processes and steps. What is the use of a bill like this. That we are going to ~~pose~~ this Bill, there is no doubt. How to oppose this Bill must be our prime consideration. We have to raise our voice of protest and carry on vigorous agitation and paopaganda against this Bill. We must oppose it in every conceivable way.

I want to say a word about the amendment. We have to present a united front. Now what are the conditions of the united front? Is there any common ground between our organisation and the INTUC and the Socialists? So far there is none. We must remember the melancholy experiences of our Round Table Conference. The ~~xxx~~

of the Socialists and the INTUC. It is impossible for me to agree with them. It is diametrically opposed to us. How many leaders of the Socialist Party and the INTUC has come out with a statement opposing this Bill? They have not raised their voice of protest at all. They are going, I say, to submit to the provisions of this Bill. Strike weapon is the only weapon for the working class. If you take out this, it is like a lion without its teeth and claws. Socialists and the INTUC have never led a strike in the last two years. They are blowing hot and cold. One day they say the government is fascist and the other day they collaborate with them. This is the Socialist policy. The Socialists and the INTUC are the disruptors of the working class. Do you say that I should hob-nob with them and try to bring about a via media on this question? Suppose we call a Conference. The INTUC and the Socialists are given six representatives each and we also 6. The decision will be taken by a majority. Then they will proclaim that the majority is not in favour of a strike. Our action will be rendered ineffective. I do not think any Conference or united action is possible with them. You will see in a few days that the INTUC will swallow the Bill without a protest. The Socialists may make some statements against it, but they will also do the same. The Socialists are like the Labour Party in Britain. I have seen a statement by the Socialist leaders saying that the Labour party of Britain has won a glorious victory. This is the sort of people with whom it is impossible to work. We have bitter experiences of the teachery and betrayal of the Socialists and the INTUC. Whenever there is a struggle, the Socialists go in police vans and betray our ranks to the police. In this circumstances, it will be criminal on our part to call them to a Conference; it will not be consistent with the dignity of the working class organisation of the country. "

The amendment was put to vote and lost.

The resolution - as carried.

BASIC DEMANDS RESOLUTION

Belose: We must build up factory committees to attain these demands. Strength of the working class is invincible.

GORAKHPUR LABOUR CAMP

Pathak: Fascist repression of Prasad's Bihar and Jawaharlal's Uttar Pradesh is a guide for other provinces. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ We can see slavery in all its nakedness here. Here 8500 workers are recruited for the II world war. They are deported in wagons with armed escort, asked to work for 12 to 14 hours. But workers no longer tolerate. General strike and firing.

CONSTITUTION

Balia Kisan Conference. Firing 2 injured, 1 young comrade Subhash Mukherjee was killed.

ANTI COMMUNAL RIOTS

Rose: (Bengal) The Communal riots were started to disrupt the working class struggles. There are no stabbing as no public support is there. Some working class areas are non-bengali. Hence they also play on the Provincial feelings of the workers.

TELENGANA

KNJoglekar: When revolutionary movement of Telengana Kisans was spreading all over Hyderabad and capitalist Government saw the danger to their rule and undertook police action. Agrarian revolution has a great significance in India. We have to fight lies and prejudices against these fighters.

The president said...

SECRETARY'S REPORT TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL
OF THE ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

I have great pleasure in submitting the report of the work done by the All-India Trade Union Congress during the period of 8 months since the 23rd Session of the AITUC was held from 27th to 29th May last year.

Before I start reporting the activities of the AITUC during these eight months I offer my respectful and humble salutation to the memory of Com. Kasim Naqvi, a member of the General Council of the AITUC and the great martyrs, leaders of workers, peasants and common people, men and women, who laid down their lives in the glorious struggles inside the various jails in India like Salem, Cuddalore, Vellore, Bombay, Nasik, Sabarmati, Calcutta, Delhi, and jails in U.P., C.P., East Punjab, Bihar, Madhya Bharat, Assam. These brave comrades gave their lives in defence of the rights and privileges of the working class and political prisoners to be treated as political prisoners, against the vindictive discrimination against worker and peasant fighters, for immediate and unconditional release, for family allowance and other rights. These heroic battles have created unparalleled glorious traditions of class struggle and demonstrated the determination of workers and peasants leaders to continue battles against all exploitation, for ending the rule of capitalism, from wherever they may be. The AITUC, and the working class led by it, will carry forward the goal for which these comrades laid down their lives and will complete the unfinished task of ending the rule of capitalism, the task of establishing peoples democratic states of workers, peasants and the oppressed middle class which will put an end to all exploitation.

I pay my respectful and humble homage to the memory of the hundreds of brave fighters of Telengana who defended peasants' land against the landlords, the jagirdars and their Nizam Government, to the brave working class, and student fighters, men and women who died in class battles against the bourgeois Government, against the bourgeoisie, the landlords, and all exploiters, in defence of workers and peasants' rights and interests, for a living wage, for security of job, for an end to all exploitation. By their brave and determined battles they have immensely inspired workers, peasants, students and all toilers who are waging a determined struggle against the capitalists and their government, with confidence in the success of their cause.

This report covers a period when the AITUC organisation, its provincial and regional branches and its affiliated unions have had to function in face of unheard of fascist repression by the Congress capitalist Government. and in face of continued and shamefaced attempts by the Socialists and INTUC leaders to disrupt and disorganise the working class movement. It is a matter of pride that the All India Trade Union Congress, wedded to the policy of relentless class struggles against capitalism, has not only withstood all these attacks and defended the working class movement, but has marched forward to greater strength and influence. Today the programme and path shown by the AITUC, have become the programme before workers in all industries. It is a matter of pride to the AITUC that while the bourgeoisie and its agents, the Socialist and INTUC leaders, are doing their worst to disrupt and disorganise the working class movement and the bourgeoisie is shamefacedly trying to transfer the burden of the ever deepening economic crisis on to the shoulders of workers, peasants and the toiling middle class masses, it is the AITUC that is boldly organising and leading workers' struggles for living wage, for security of employment, for ending exploitation.

No organisation in the country would have been able to withstand such an attack as the AITUC has done. It is because of the great support appreciation and confidence in the programme put forward by the AITUC, for all sections of workers that the AITUC has been able to withstand the fascist onslaught and hit back and mobilise workers for a decisive struggle against capitalism. This was possible because the policy and programme of the AITUC and its unions are based on the principle of class struggle and relentless battle against capitalism. Today, under the banner

Today under the banner of the AITUC and its Unions, the working class of India is boldly marching forward for the decisive all India struggle against capitalism and their Government, for a living wage, for full employment to all, for ending all exploitation, against repression, against unemployment, for defence of democratic rights, for a decisive All India General Strike of workers in all industries.

Crisis burst forth

Since the last session of the AITUC in May 1949, the economic crisis has sharply deepened. It has burst out in the textile industry. Every day thousands more are turned out of jobs. Mills and factories are closing down. In the countryside exploitation of agricultural labourers and poor peasants is intensified. They are on the verge of starvation and death.

The AITUC session last year had clearly warned against the rapidly deepening crisis and the all round worsening of the conditions of the toiling masses. The bourgeoisie, the imperialists, the landlords, the princes, attempt more and more to pass the burden of crisis on to the backs of the masses, because they seek to protect their profits in face of decline in production, to protect their rights and interests in the face of deterioration of agriculture, at the expense of workers and peasants and the middle classes. These attempts by the capitalists to transfer the burden of the crisis on to the shoulders of the workers further deepened the crisis and it has now burst forth with growing intensity.

Menace of unemployment is harassing every working man and woman. Its extent can be seen by the fact that as many as 20 lakhs working people who sought to secure employment through the employment exchange had to go without jobs. At the end of December 1949 it was found that in that one year alone their number at the exchanges was over 10 lakhs.

Besides these there are lakhs of jobless who do not go to the employment exchanges. This colossal figure of unemployed obtains today which is growing every day. The extent of unemployment in different industries can be seen from the following facts.

Every day brings the news of closure of some textile mill or another in some textile centre. In Bombay Province alone so far 13 mills are completely closed, 21 mills have closed their one shift. This is what Mr. Nanda, the Labour Minister of the Bombay Government had to admit.

The Sholapur mill is closed for 5 months now and over 13,000 workers are kept to starve. The same story of closure of more and more mills is received from every province.

Even at a conservative estimate not less than one lakh textile workers are out of employment today. Under the plea of shortage of cotton, accumulation of stocks of similar reasons the mill owners are closing down the mills and throwing workers out of jobs from mills in every textile centre.

Various schemes of rationalisations are introduced each one of which results in increased work-load and more and more workers being turned out of jobs.

In South India, managements have closed down mills for 10 days in one month, thereby rendering 60,000 workers unemployed for 10 days in the month. In the Jute Industry from April, 1949, the Government sealed 12½ per cent of the looms which meant unemployment for about 37,500. From July, jute mill owners forced compulsory unemployment for 10 days in a month on every worker.

The handloom industry has been practically ruined in most of the cities and towns and thousands of handloom weavers and their families are starving. Bangle industry in Ferozabad has been ruined. Oil mills have been closed leaving 20,000 workers out of employment.

Thus the menace of unemployment and increase in workload through rationalisation is harassing workers in every industry and their jobs have become absolutely insecure.

Government Departments

Government ^{department} have been subjected to heavy retrenchment ever since the war came to an end. This is what the Government Labour Year Book (1947-48) says. (Page 4).

"Following the cessation of hostilities in 1945, the employment figures for 1946 showed a fall of about 7 per cent below peak level of 1945 consequent on retrenchment in Ordnance factories, army clothing factories, etc., and the cancellation of contracts for certain types of goods needed for the war effort. The main reduction was recorded in minerals and metals, engineering and skins and hides besides those in ordnance and clothing factories. Bihar showed the highest percentage fall in employment, namely 17.5. There were however further reductions in employment in Bihar, the Central Provinces and Berar, Delhi and the United Provinces... An industrywise analysis of the figures for 1947 shows that there were further reductions in employment in the ordnance factories, clothing factories and the Government-owned general engineering workshops".

Today, all these departments which were the worst sufferers from the continuous attacks of retrenchment are further faced with heavy retrenchment throwing out of employment hundreds and thousands from General Engineering workshops, Central P.W.D., Ordnance Depots and other departments.

In the post and Telegraph a large number of workers have already been turned out of jobs and thousands face retrenchment on the ground that they were employed as temporary hands.

In Railways already several thousands of casual workers, temporary gangmen, workers employed on construction work have been turned out. Managements of various railways have issued orders to retrench workers employed after 15th September 1945. Recently Gopalswamy Iyengar expressed in the Parliament his inability to guarantee against retrenchment of those in service since after 15th September 1945. In fact he had to admit that over 4600 have already been retrenched. "That his statement means can be understood from the fact that since 1945 September nearly 2 lakh workers have been employed. For instance in 1947-48 there were 8,28,000 workers on Indian Railways and in 1949-50 there were 9,12,000. That means these 84,000 engaged during these two years face the threat of retrenchment.

The Railway Enquiry Committee has declared that workers do not put even four hours of work out of their eight duty hours and that there are 34 per cent (or 32,000) workers surplus in workshops and 6,500 surplus in engineering departments and thousands more from the Railway grain Shops.

While the Government of Bombay, Madras and other provinces have openly declared that they are going to effect heavy retrenchment to make up the budget deficit all the Central Government departments have planned general retrenchment. Thousands of temporary clerks and other employees are thus faced with retrenchment. The same story comes from banks, Insurance companies and commercial firms.

The bourgeoisie and their Government seek to solve the economic crisis by attacking workers' wages, by throwing out of employment thousands and lakhs of workers, by increasing work-load and adopting similar other methods.

The Ambedabad mill-owners have declared a reduction in dearness allowance at Rs 18/- per worker. The Government of India and its statisticians are declaring a systematic fall in the cost of living index which will mean a direct cut in the wages of all workers while actually living has become ~~increasingly~~ ~~decreasing~~ ~~by~~ ~~city~~ ~~day~~.

Workers Fight Back

Against the continuous and growing offensive of the management and the Government there has been country-wide resistance by the workers in every industry. ~~Its successful record of resistance is shown in the~~ ~~report on the industry of workers.~~

Along with this report we have enclosed an account of some of the strikes that have taken place between October 1949 and end of January. This is a far from complete account, collected from the daily news papers. But it will show how workers are using confidently the weapon of strike as the only effective weapon for smashing the offensive of the capitalists and for securing their demands. Some of the instances to which we refer below will show how both in their tenacity and militancy workers are showing unparalleled heroism.

The pottery workers of Calcutta fought tenaciously for six months against victimisation of workers. The Congress Government came to the assistance of the management, imprisoned several workers, lathi charged and tear-gassed workers on strike and in the end shot down two including the secretary of the Union. But workers refused to submit to this terror.

Kanpur Victoria Mill Workers numbering 4,000 fought from November to January against attempts of the management to introduce rationalisation. Several arrests were made. Workers were lathi-charged but they refused to submit.

In October

/ Kolar Gold Field workers fought bravely for increased wage and bonus despite several arrests. For two days workers had remained in the pits without food.

Bombay Municipal workers fought for wage increase, weekly holidays, reduction of hours of work for 5 months. As many as 800 workers were arrested, firing was opened.

In Vijaypur, Rajasthan, workers of the Textile Mill fought for 11 months and despite repression continued their strike. Tirupur Ashar Textile workers were on strike for a month for wages for extra work. Their anger was demonstrated in a militant manner.

3000 Jam Mill workers in Bombay went on strike for two months last year against increased work load. And today they are on strike. 4000 workers from the Spring Mill, Bombay, are on strike since January 28th against increased work load through rationalisation.

Travancore bus workers went on strike in October for wage increase for one month. There were several arrests, lathi charges and every kind of repression, but workers fought bravely.

General Strike of 45,000 workers in Hyderabad for wage increase was fought bravely despite repression, arrests and disruption and betrayal by the Socialist leaders.

24,000 Municipal workers of Calcutta were on strike for 8 days in October. Hundreds of workers were arrested and yet the strike continued.

75 days old strike of Jamshedpur workers was fought bravely despite brutal repression, arrests, lathi charges and firing.

On January 2, 75,000 textile workers in Bombay went on strike at the call of the Textile Workers Federation in support of the main demands of workers for security of service, end of rationalisation schemes and basic living wage.

In addition to these strike struggles innumerable strikes have taken place in all parts of the country, in Indore, Bawar, Delhi, Lucknow, Patna, Assam, Madura, Coimbatore, Khandesh, Solapur and various other places. There is not a town or city where workers have not gone on determined strike for defeating the offensive of the management.

Innumerable demonstrations have taken place on E.I.R., B.N.R., G.I.P., B.B.C.I., S.I.R., E.P.R., and other railways. Whenever a management has tried to make direct onslaughts workers resisted and did not easily submit to the attack. In many instances workers have forced the management to withdraw.

Similarly, teachers, clerks, rikshwalas, tongawalas, have fought bravely against every attack. Strikes of Municipal workers throughout the country only show how the strike slogan has become the very consciousness of the workers.

In addition to strikes for economic demands workers have gone on strike and staged very powerful demonstrations against repression. Country-wide demonstrations on 26th January against the bourgeois constitution, strikes and demonstrations in support of hunger strikes in jails, strikes and demonstrations against firings, demonstrations all over the country on 2nd October in support of hunger strikes in jails, strikes and demonstrations against firings, demonstrations all over the country on 2nd October in support of struggle for peace, the peace conferences, celebration of the 32nd anniversary of the October Revolution on the 7th November and pledge to fight against warmongers who are plotting for a war against the Soviet Union and the world democratic forces, are the indication of the political consciousness of the workers throughout the country and their realising that a successful battle against poverty can be fought by only by a successful fight against the rule that is responsible for the poverty.

Another very important feature of the workers struggles is the valiant struggles of Agricultural labourers in Andhra, Bihar, in U.P. Bengal, and East Punjab. The agricultural labourers have been bravely fighting against the attacks of the landlords and have compelled the landlords to concede many of their demands. Today the agricultural labourers are fast heading towards a general strike.

GENERAL STRIKE FOR BASIC DEMANDS THE IMMEDIATE TASK

The AITUC at its 23rd session in May 1949 had very correctly called upon workers in all industries and of all views to forge a mighty united front for a nationwide struggle for the realisation of their basic demands.

Events of the last 8 months have proved beyond doubt that a general strike in each industry, and a general strike in all the industries for basic demands have been placed on the agenda. Everywhere workers have unmistakably fought every attempt of the capitalists and their Central and Provincial government by way of mass unemployment, wage-cut, increase of work-load, etc.

The imperative need of the hour is therefore a most vigorous preparation for a general strike in all industries for realising the basic demands of all workers, for a living wage, for security of job.

It is a matter of pride that during the last 8 months as before AITUC and its unions alone organised and led the workers in face of the most ferocious repression and open and shameless betrayal of strike struggles by Socialist and INTUC leaders. Workers through their own experience are getting convinced that it is only AITUC and its unions that attack the vested interests of their interests against the bourgeoisie and their Government.

Draconic Peasants Repression

Never before in the history of the Indian Trade Union movement has such a reign of fascist repression been let loose against workers, peasants, agricultural labourers and middle class people, as in the period of the last eight months. Firing on workers', peasants, students' demonstrations has become the order of the day. Hundreds of leaders of workers, peasants and students, men and women have been killed in these firings. Unable to withstand the onslaught of the determined resistance of the workers and the toiling masses the bourgeois Government is trying to suppress the working class movement with such unprecedented repression.

During these nine months even according to the far from complete reports in the bourgeois press as many as 50 firings took place against demonstrations of workers, peasants and agricultural labourers. On 10th October 1949 and 4th February i.e. in four months alone, there were as many as 36 firings, and 38 workers' and peasants' leaders were killed.

From June 1949 to 11th February police opened fire more than ten times on working class and peasant detenus and political prisoners in various jails and killed as many as 32 leaders of workers, peasants, students, men and women and wounded a few hundreds.

Arrests, lathi charges, firings and death have become the common pattern of bourgeois repression against workers, peasants and the toiling people.

Thousands of peasants from Telengana were prosecuted on false charges before special tribunals. They were even denied the usual facilities for defence and a farce of a trial was staged. 108 peasant leaders were sentenced to death. These textile workers from Vikramsingapuram were prosecuted and sentenced to death. Four agricultural labourers from East Godavari District, Andhra, have been sentenced to death in connection with the agricultural labourers struggles against landlords. Nine Railway workers including three women were killed at Dibrugarh while holding a peace conference. Several peasants were killed in Bihar, Ballia district, (U.P.) and other places in police firings on their demonstrations.

The intensity of the repression can be seen from the fact that in the first week of August alone the Madras Government arrested over 5,000 workers and peasants in Madras province. In Madras alone, as many as 1,700 textile workers were arrested and 2,000 working class homes were raided by the police.

Mass arrests of workers in every strike has become the usual features. As many as 800 Municipal workers were arrested in the Bombay Municipal workers' strike, 3000 railwaymen were arrested in the course of preparations for 9th March strike. Over 1,700 textile and other workers were arrested in Madras in Madras Province. All the

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members of the working Committee of the Delhi Provincial Trade Union Committee were arrested while in session, hundreds of workers in Bengal and Assam, hundreds of agricultural labourers in Bengal, Bihar and Assam and Bihar have been arrested. 16 out of the 30 members of the Working Committee of the AITUC have been arrested, or driven underground. More than 50 members of the General Council of the AITUC are either in jail or driven underground.

Arrests, detention, lathi charge, fire and killing this has become the usual pattern to suppress the Trade Union movement. The AITUC is singled out for this repression because it is the AITUC alone that organises and leads the workers in action, against the ever increasing attacks of the capitalists and their Government.

But this total repression has failed to suppress the resistance of starving workers and peasants. Steeled in this resistance and led by AITUC workers are fighting back and counter attacking with militancy.

Having failed to suppress workers' resistance the Government resorted to wholesale illegalisation of workers and peasants' organisations. As many as 80 trade unions affiliated to AITUC from Madras, Kerala, Andhra, Karnatak, Travancore and Cochin, Madhya Bharat have been declared illegal. 34 branches/offices of the S.I. Railway Labour Union, branches and head offices of all the 80 unions were sealed by the police, their property confiscated and records taken away. Such were the fascist methods used for suppressing the trade union movement.

Throughout Madras, Kerala and Andhra workers and agricultural labourers meetings are banned. Section 144 is introduced in almost all these places and in a number of places throughout India. AITUC mail is withheld.

For all practical purposes the Trade Union movement which dares to oppose the attacks of the capitalists and the Government and organise and leads workers into action for a living wage and security of job, is attacked. The overwhelming majority of detenus and political prisoners in jail today are workers and peasants. This alone shows how severe had been the attack of the bourgeoisie and their Government against workers and peasants.

But even these measures failed to suppress the workers' and peasants movement. The Public Security Measures Acts giving unlimited powers to the police to arrest and detain anybody indefinitely and without any reasons were aimed at the Trade Union and peasant movement throughout India and thousands of leaders of workers, peasants, and middle class fighters were put in jails.

Now the Government has come forward with a new bill called Labour Relations Bill which illegalises all strikes, imposes severe punishment against strikers, restricts and suppresses every militant working class movement. It is in fact a Criminal Law Bill- one more deadly weapon in the armoury of repression against the working class. Under it, exercise of the most fundamental right to strike and freedom of organisation is made criminal offences and any workers daring to exercise their fundamental rights becomes a criminal and is convicted.

The Bill allows employers absolute freedom to attack workers in any manner they like, while it punishes workers if they tried to resist the offensive.

While there is no restriction of any kind on the owner attacking the workers the latter have to wait for 14 days for negotiations and then another 14 days for giving a strike notice which means that only after one month since the owner launched an attack can the workers think of a strike.

If any dispute it does not include discharges of 'surplus' staff -is referred to adjudication or tribunal then any strike during the pendency of these proceedings is declared to be illegal.

Any strike taking place during the period an award of a Tribunal is in operation, is illegal.

Any sympathetic strike in support of workers in other department or industry is declared illegal.

If workers resist attempts of the owners to introduce increased work load by way of rationalisation or job analysis it is declared to be 'go slow' policy, workers who resist rationalisation will be considered as following 'go slow' policy and as such will be considered as having gone on illegal strike and punished.

In the name of conferring on the workers the right of "collective bargaining" the bill seeks to thrust the discredited INTUC on the workers and make it the arbiter of their destiny. Under clause 33 of the Bill there shall be only one bargaining agent, in respect of any establishment or class of establishments in any local area. The bargaining agent shall be either a federation of Trade Unions, having a membership in good standing of not less than 15 per cent of the total number of employees employed in that establishment or a registered trade union having a membership of not less than 30 per cent, of the total number of employees in the establishment or the representatives of the employees elected in the prescribed manner.

If an agreement between such a federation or a trade union and an employer is brought about, it is to be binding on all workers in that establishment. Should the workers commit breach of this agreement then they will be punished, with imprisonment extending to six months.

Thus under this Bill all strikes are in practice banned. Employers have full right to retrench thousands of workers declaring that they are surplus. Arbitration is compulsory. Only Government sponsored INTUC Unions will be recognised as representatives of workers and agreements arrived at between them and the employer will be binding on all workers who must then carry out these agreements or face imprisonment for six months. Workers in one factory must not go on strike in support of workers in other factories. They must not resist any rationalisation or attempt to increase workload. Punishment for breaches under this bill is six months imprisonment, loss of wages and of all privileges. Full scope is given for INTUC puppet unions to function and an all out attack is made on all Unions who organise and lead workers in a struggle against unemployment and for living wage. Under this bill, workers are deprived of the right to strike against repression, or on any political issues, unless every time they risk imprisonment.

Such is the all-out attack contemplated in this measure which is the climax to the anti-working class policy of the Congress bourgeois Government.

In the face of the greatest economic crisis of capitalism, the bourgeoisie and their Government are making the most desperate attempts to solve it at the expense of the working class. In order to succeed in this attempt they have gone over to open fascism, rule by naked force, terror against the working class and the toiling people. Shamelessly they are throwing away the last vestige of even formal democracy and openly coming forward to wipe out the trade union movement.

The working class is faced with a great menace, which threatens the jobs of every worker. Unemployment and starvation face every worker and his family. All the rights that they had won by countless strike struggles and tremendous sacrifices are sought to be taken away. They are being denied even the right to struggle against poverty, unemployment and starvation, and sought to be reduced to the status of a bond slave to the capitalists.

This grave menace can be fought back and defeated only by the united strength of the working class. All-India General Strike has therefore become the imperative need of the hour. In order to beat back this fascist offensive on their jobs, living standards and organisations, indeed on their ~~every aspect of their lives~~.

The path shown by the 23rd session of the All India Trade Union Congress is the only path that the working class of India can tread. It is fully confirmed by the events of the last eight months. The slogan of the 23rd session of the AITUC ~~has~~ the greatest validity today.

The working class is unmistakably showing that this is the only path. These are the only slogans they are learning to accept and follow. The preparations now being made by the textile workers, railway workers, Government employees, jute workers, by workers in every industry for All India strike show clearly that the working class of India is enthusiastically according its support to the lead given by the 23rd session of the AITUC.

This consciousness and growing realisation by workers in many industries of the imperative need for an All India strike as the only way out, is creating panic in the camp of the bourgeoisie. They are moving rapidly to forestall these preparations, crush the working class and drown its movement in blood.

It is, therefore, necessary that the working class in every industry and every centre intensify their preparations to fight back the Government's and capitalists' offensive. The preparations for the All India strike of different industries must be quickened and the All India strike launched soon.

These industry-wise All India strikes should soon merge in the All India General strike of all industries to smash the owners' offensive, assert our basic rights and the basic demands.

The workers in every factory and workshop should therefore forge unity with all workers. They should immediately form committees of action in every workshop with fighting workers in the lead and make preparations for the general strike. They must fight all disruptors and build the mighty united front of struggle.

At a time when the broadest unity of workers in every factory and industry for a general strike is an immediate need of the hour, the Socialist and INTUC leaders are opposing general strikes, disrupting working class unity, openly helping the bourgeois Government and the capitalists and acting as strike-breakers. These traitors and their machinations must be unmasked in every struggle and workers who are still misled by their anti-strike and disruptive propaganda won over. We must appeal to the ranks of the Socialist and INTUC organisations to join with the rest of the workers for common struggle against the capitalists and their Government, for a general strike for basic demands. Already the ranks behind the Socialist and INTUC leaders are dissatisfied with their policy of opportunist treachery to the cause of the workers. The more we boldly lead the struggle and appeal to them to join the coming struggles, the more their disruption will be routed and real fighting unity of all workers will be built up. This task should be considered of utmost importance. The AITUC Unions should carry out this task as champions of the unity of all workers and go forward to a general strike for winning the basic demands and in defence of Trade Union and democratic rights.

There might is great and the capitalist offensive can be smashed.
FORWARD TO THE GENERAL STRIKE, TO SMASH THE CAPITALIST OFFENSIVE, TO WIN THE BASIC DEMANDS.

FORWARD TO THE FIGHT AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT, AGAINST WAGE CUTS, AGAINST RATIONALISATION AND FOR A LIVING WAGE AND SECURITY OF SERVICE.

A

FORWARD TO THE ALL INDIA STRIKE TO SMASH FASCIST REPRESSION AND THE FASCIST BLACK BILL.

report of the work done by the A.I.T.U.C, during the period of 8 months since 23rd session of the All India Trade Union Congress

Since the last session of the AITUC was held at the end of May 1949 the AITUC had to function in face of fascist repression creating all manner of difficulties and obstacles in its work. During these 8 months hundreds of members of our affiliated unions, and thousands of supporters of the AITUC from all over the country, were arrested and jailed or detained without trial. More than half the number of members of the General Council and sixteen members of the Working Committee of the AITUC were either detained without trial or driven underground.

During this period the AITUC was subjected to unauthorised police searches, its statements unlawfully withheld by the police, its mail deleberately delayed or tampered with. The AITUC was singled out for special repression with a view to paralysing its activities.

During this period the AITUC unions had to face unheard of repression. Not only thousands were arrested but several union offices were attacked and sealed by the police, their properties confiscated, record either burnt or taken away. In the end more than 80 AITUC Unions representing over two lakh workers in Madras, Kerala, Andhra, Karnatak, Madhyabharat, Bhopal, Travancore and Cochin, were banned.

The Government arrested the entire working Committee of Delhi Provincial Committee of the AITUC, arrested fifty active workers of the Mill Kamdar Union Ahmedabad while in the meeting, entire executive Committee of the Gold Mine Workers' Association of the Kolar Gold Field was arrested, and several active workers and office bearers of the PTUCs of the Bombay, Bengal, Madras, United Provinces etc. were arrested.

Despite this severe repression and these determined efforts at the suppression of the AITUC and its affiliated Unions by the Government, despite the efforts of the Socialist and INTUC leaders to disrupt the working class unity, the AITUC has grown immensely in strength influence and organisation. Today the AITUC is the only organisation of the Indian Working Class that leads them in battle for their basic demands and in defence of their vital interest, against the ever growing offensive of the capitalist and their Government who are unscrupulously trying to transfer the burden of the crisis on to the shoulders of the workers peasants and the common mass of toilers.

PROGRESS IN ORGANISATION

During this period of 8 months the AITUC organisation has spread to all parts of the country. Today it has well functioning provincial trade union Committees and regional council offices at the following places:-

Bombay, Madras, Bengal, Bihar, Assam, United Provinces, Delhi, East Punjab, Madhyabharat, Rajasthan and Hyderabad.

P.T.U.C. offices have started functioning recently at Kerala, Nagpur, Orissa and Andhra. Provincial T.U.C.s and regional councils are in regular correspondence with AITUC central office. There has been better coordinated work and despite repression provincial committees are showing greater efficiency and resourcefulness making serious efforts to implement the directives and suggestions sent from the headquarters from time to time.

Through many campaigns against repression, in support of the struggle for peace, mobilising workers on every important issue, the PTUCs are becoming the real rallying centres of working class struggles, in defence of their living standard and their democratic rights against unemployment and attack on wages.

WORK DONE BY THE AITUC HEAD OFFICE

During this period the A.I.T.U.C. Head Quarters addressed 200 letters to various provincial and regional committees, 54 letters to the World Federation of Trade Unions, 20 to the World Peace Congress. It issued 67 circulars to all PTUCs, 12 to members of the working committee, 12 to railway unions, 5 to all Textile unions and 5 to all Unions. During this period the AITUC issued in all 45 statements vitally affecting the working class in particular and the toiling masses in general.

CAMPAIGNS

In these 8 months the AITUC directed various campaigns of great importance. The peace campaign, working class solidarity week, campaign to save the Kelengana fighters from the gallows, anti-constitution demonstrations, anti-repression campaigns, and campaigns for the release of the detenus and in support of their struggles inside the jails are some of the important campaigns initiated and conducted by the AITUC and its provincial centres.

PEACE CAMPAIGN

At the call of the World Peace Congress the 23rd session of the AITUC decided to conduct a countrywide movement for peace and against the war machinations of the Anglo-American imperialists and their Indian agents.

On June 26th the Bombay city and suburban peace conference was organised with the participation of about 25 organisations like the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union, the Railwaymen's Unions, the Mahila Sangh the Students Federation, and other organisations.

This was followed by several provincial and regional conferences organised in cooperation with other progressive organisations. In July the Assam Provincial Peace Conference was held at Dibrugarh attended by thousands of workers and other toiling people. The police opened fire on the gathering killing 9 people including four women.

At Jhansi in U.P. regional peace conference was organised in September. The West Bengal Provincial Peace Conference was held at Calcutta in September where 60 organisations of workers peasants students women and other progressive sections participated.

On October 2nd a peace conference was held at Sholapur, 400 delegates participating. Peace conferences were held in Delhi and U.P.

The Bombay Provincial Peace Conference was organised on October 30 attended by over 100 delegates. 10,000 workers and other citizens participated in the open rally.

October 2nd, the International Day of Struggle For Peace was observed all over the country at the call of World Federation of Trade Unions and the World Peace Congress. In Bombay a peace rally attended by over 20,000 workers and other citizens was held. In Calcutta a big peace rally culminating in a procession of 6000. Similar rallies were held at Sholapur, Raigarh, Bhopal, Patna, Lucknow, Meerut, Gorakhpur, Raigarh and other places. During the working class solidarity week from October 31st to November 7th the call for an All India Peace Conference was popularised. On November 7th throughout India on the occasion of the celebration of the 32nd anniversary of the great October Revolution Indian workers and the toiling people pledged to rally behind the world forces of peace led by the Soviet Union.

This peace campaign culminated in a successful All India Peace Congress at Calcutta on November 24th to November 27th. The Congress was attended by about 3000 delegates including 1700 Associate delegates, representing 250 mass organisations with an aggregate membership of 2 millions men and women. Behind these two million organised toilers were millions of partisans in the struggle for peace, democracy and food. Among the 3000 delegates the industrial and agricultural workers

gether constituted about 75 percent. The mass rally of Peace Congress was attended by over 10000 people. At this Congress a permanent peace committee was elected for the entire country.

Subsequent to this congress two more provincial conferences were organised in Madhyabharat and United Provinces.

WORKING CLASS SOLIDARITY WEEK.

The second countrywide mass campaign that was conducted by the AITUC its ITCs and Unions, was the working Class Solidarity Week from 31st October to 7th November.

Hundreds of meetings were held during this week in all industrial and mofusal towns throughout the country, where thousands of workers participated. Every day of the week was dedicated to some vital issue before the workers. The eight days were celebrated as anti-repression day, demands day, anti-unemployment day, mass union day, etc. culminating in the celebration of 32nd Anniversary of the October Revolution on 7th Nov

During this week workers in all industries rallied in large numbers under the banner of the AITUC, expressing their firm determination to fight against capitalism in defence of their living standards and democratic and C.G. rights to fight for ending the rule of the bourgeoisie and in defence of peace.

On 7th November tens of thousands of workers from all industries and trades, assembled in Mass meetings and rallies and greeted the great Soviet Union and first Socialist State and champion of independence of all peoples, a defender and protector of world peace. Workers in their meetings firmly declared their determination to fight on the side of the world peace front of democracy freedom and socialism led by the Soviet Union against the Imperialist war mongers led by Anglo-American Imperialists and their helpers the Indian bourgeoisie and the bourgeoisie of other colonial countries.

SAVE TELANGANA FIGHTERS CAMPAIGN

The AITUC, its provincial committees, regional councils and trade unions conducted a sustained and vigorous save Telangana fighters campaign.

Under the direction of the Nehru Government unheard of atrocities were committed by the Hyderabad Government on the brave Telangana fighters who liberated 2500 villages in Telangana from the yoke of Zamindars and Zagirdars, Deshmukhs and rich peasants.

The brave Telangana fighters who defended the people against the Nizam's Razakars and against the atrocities committed under the rule of Congress military Governor of Hyderabad were subjected to unprecedent torture murder and loot. In the end, in the instance 7 leaders of these peasants were sentenced to death and later 100, by staging a farce of trial.

The AITUC conducted a vigorous country wide campaign to secure the release it moved the World Federation of Trade Unions, the World Federation of Democratic Youth, the Permanent Committee of World Peace Congress, the International Union of Students, International Association of Democratic Lawyers and the entire working class and democratic movement of the world, in support of this demand.

All these organisations launched a vigorous protest with the Nehru Government, against these death sentences. The Peking Conference of the WFTU demanded the stay of the executions and release of the prisoners. A countrywide campaign was conducted by the AITUC, the All India Women Federation, Women's organisations and other progressive organisations of people. In face of this campaign the Hyderabad Government was forced to retreat and although temporarily, was compelled to stay the executions.

As a result of this campaign facilities for their legal defence which were so far completely denied to these fighters have now been allowed.

Despite their obvious limitations the AITUC is determined to leave no stone unturned to save these fighters. It has initiated and formed a Telengana Defence Committee in cooperation with All India Students Federation and organisations of Progressive writers artists, and arrange for their proper legal defence in the higher courts. These efforts are hampered by formidable obstacles by the fact that the entire legal proceedings so far have been very badly vitiated by all kinds of illegal practices. The AITUC is trying its best to organise proper defence and to pursue this campaign to a successful conclusion.

ANTI-CONSTITUTION CAMPAIGN

The Congress Bourgeois Constituent Assembly introduced a constitution of the Indian Republic. This constitution guarantees every right to the capitalists landlords, to the princes and the foreign capitalists to loot and exploit the people. It not only denies right to work, right to land, right to organise, right to strike, it has given unlimited powers to the police and to the executive to suppress the people. The bourgeoisie paraded this constitution as democratic when it does not have even the semblance of democracy.

The AITUC called upon all its committees and unions to demonstrate against this constitution. Thousands of workers, peasants, students and the common people rallied in these anti-constitution demonstrations in spite of the ban against them imposed everywhere. On this day while the Government was organising lavish festivals it was also opening fire on people who demonstrated against it, at Bombay, Calcutta, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Allahabad, Beharapur, Midnapur, and many other places they lathi charged and arrested hundreds of workers and common people.

On this day under the leadership of the AITUC the working class and the toiling people demonstrated their determination to fight this constitution and fight for a real peoples constitution which guarantees all democratic rights, living conditions to all, and put an end to all exploitation.

ANTI-REPRESSION

During the last 8 months, atleast 50 times the police opened fire on workers demonstration, against peasants, students and women. More than 50 people were killed in this firing while hundreds were wounded. Thousands of workers, peasants and students were jailed, several organisations were banned.

Against this fascist rule of terror the AITUC conducted a vigorous campaign through out the country. The angry mass of all toiling section of people was mobilised under the banner of AITUC to record its protest and denounce this repression. This anti-repression campaign has unmasked the fascist character of the Congress Government and brought home to the workers the important lesson that the struggle against poverty has to be fought as a struggle for power.

The masses of toilers, the workers peasants, the students and the common people are determined to move forward and put an end to this rule of repression and secure the release of 25,000 of their leaders who have been jailed.

STRUGGLE FOR THE DEMANDS OF THE DETENUS AND POLITICAL PRISONERS

This period saw great battles being fought by valiant the leaders of workers peasants, students and women inside the Congress jails. Having detained without trials thousands, having convicted thousands more by staging most farcical trial, the Congress bourgeois Government at the centre and in the provinces let loose a reign of sadistic terror inside the jails. They treated them worse than criminals, purposefully tried to discriminate against working class fighters tried to segregate workers and peasant detenus from the rest, denied all of them family allowance and imposed on them most humiliating restrictions. In this way the Government transformed the Congress jails into Nazi concentration camps.



Against these inhuman conditions, against segregation, classification and discrimination thousands of detenus put up, heroic fight in all the jails. Hunger strikes extending over 100 days were fought in many Jails in U.P. and Assam, about 90 days in C.P. prolonged and repeated hunger strikes in jails in Bengal over two months in jails at Vellore, Cuddalore and others in the South, hunger strikes in Bombay jails, these struggles are unparalleled in the history of the Indian peoples struggle against repression.

The Fascist Government opened brutal firing more than 10 times in three months killing 33 detenus and political prisoners inside the jails and wounding hundreds more. The Government resorted to firing inside the Calcutta jails, in Vellore, Cuddalore, Salem and Madras, the climax of which was reached on February 14, 1949 in Salem jail in Madras Province, police firing took the unprecedented toll of 22 dead and 103 injured. Apart from this there have been countless lathi charge and tear gas attacks in most of the jails against the prisoners. Through these atrocities the Government only revealed its plan to exterminate the leaders of the workers and peasants.

Against these brutal atrocities the AITUC and its units and all trade unions conducted a vigorous campaign through out the country and called the people in protest against these. Through these demonstrations was unmistakably shown the peoples determination to fight against this repression and the regime that is based on it.

-----ALL INDIA ORGANISATION-----

The AITUC helped in every possible way the railway and Textile workers to function their all India organisations.

In cooperation with the AITUC the All India Textile Workers Federation took steps to organise the All India Textile Workers conference in Bombay in November 1949. This conference adopted a charter of basic demands and took the decision to prepare for an All India General Strike of textile workers. Its call to observe December 27th as unemployment day was taken up by AITUC and directions were accordingly sent to all unions. Provincial textile workers conferences were held in Bombay, Tamilnad, U.P. and Ahmedabad.

On January 2nd at the call of the All India Textile Workers Federation, textile workers in many centres went on strike in observance of the All India Textile Workers Protest Strike. In Bombay 75,000 textile workers went on strike against unemployment and attacks on the wages and for winning their basic demands.

On the initiative and under the direction of the AITUC in September 300 representatives of militant unions of Railway Workers, all over India met in conference in Calcutta and formed All India Union of Railway Workers to rally and lead them into battle to win their basic demands. This conference creating a new fighting organisation to meet the needs of workers on the eve of one of the biggest Government offensive against the jobs and wages of railwaymen had been of great importance. Over 1 1/2 lakh of railway workers are already rallied under its banner.

Provincial conference of railway workers has been held in U.P. and Madras. Today under the leadership of this organisation Railway Workers all over India are preparing for the new battles.

AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS ORGANISATION

One of the important steps taken by the AITUC and its provincial units is in respect of organising agricultural labour. Under the auspices of the Bengal P.T.U.C. a successful conference of agricultural labourers was held at Calcutta and Khat Mazdoor Union was formed. Under its leadership a number of struggles of agricultural labourers are today being conducted in the country side of Bengal.

Another successful conference of agricultural labourers was organised in U.P. at the end of January which was attended by 25,000 agricultural labourers.

Thus along with the industrial and handicraft workers, dock workers and Government employees, railway workers and tramwaymen, with Textile workers in the forefront, the rural proletariat is rapidly rising all over the country to fight against the extreme poverty and pauperisation against virtual starvation, for land and living wage.

CONTACT WITH INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS

The 23rd Session enjoined upon the P.T.U.C.s and the unions to take it as their "formost task torrally the working class of the country behind the international working class movement organised in the World Federation of Trade Unions". During this period AITUC has taken prompt action on the directives of the WFTU and also sent them regular reports on all major issues and events in India. Full details were sent regarding the Tolengana death sentences which led the world wide campaign for the cancellation of these sentences and the release of these comrades.

The AITUC could not send delegates directly from India to the WFTU Milan conference as Com. Chakkarai Chettiar the AITUC President and Com. Zahoor the other delegate elected at the session were refused passports. Com. Chakkarai was also refused pass port to attend the conference held at Peking of all Asiatic and Australian Trade Unions.

A full report was however sent to the Peking conference and the AITUC was represented at this historic conference.

Under the guidance of the WFTU the AITUC expressed its fighting class solidarity with the glorious strike of the Canadian Seamen. Its contribution to their fund was however not allowed to be sent by the Government of India. The AITUC expressed solidarity with the strike of the miners of Australia. Further it expressed solidarity with working class partisans of peace in Brazil and Argentine who faced fascist assault in defence of their right to fight for peace. Steps were taken to lodge protest with the Greek Government and the U.N.O. against the death sentences on Greek liberation fighters and demand their cancellation and the release of the prisoners. The arrests of the T.U. leaders of the Lebanon and the firing on the Nigerian miners were condemned and protests sent to the appropriate quarters. The AITUC extended its support of the resolution on unemployment and full employment placed before the General Assembly of the U.N.O. by the W.F.T.U.

The A.I.U.R.W. and the AITWF have affiliated themselves to the respective trade union internationals of the WFTU and steps are being taken to affiliate likewise the other All India Unions of Industrial workers.

In December Mr. George Fisher head of the Economic and Social Section of the WFTU arrived in India to attend the meeting of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. at Mysore. Com. Chakkarai Chettiar attended the I.L.O. meeting as a co-delegate with him and as no opportunity was given to them to speak on the suppression of trade union rights in India they presented a joint memorandum on the subject. In Bombay comrade Fisher was acquainted with the conditions of the Working class in India and of the work carried by the AITUC.

During this time Com. Joliot Curie the President of the Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress arrived in India to attend the Science Congress. He was given rousing reception at the AITUC office and by the workers of the city. Reception was also accorded to Com. J.D. Bernal vice president of the World Peace Committee.

T.U. RECORD AND T.U. BULLETIN

Despite all difficulties caused by repression such as arrests of the editors, warrants against others, locking up of 4000 rupees by way of deposits and similar other difficulties the Central office succeeded in

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resuming publication of the Trade Unions Record and the Trade Union Bulletin in November. Since then three issues have been brought out. Even today the publication has not become very regular though we are struggling to make it regular.

STALIN'S BIRTH DAY

In December the A.I.T.U.C. called on all P.T.U.C.s, R.C.s and Unions to celebrate 70th Birth Day of Com. Stalin the leader of the International Working class and to send greetings to him. The President Com. Chakkarai Chettiar sent a warm message of greetings and another was sent from the central office from Bombay. From all provinces messages poured into the office and notably so from the workers whose Unions were banned such as S.I. Railway Workers, and from the workers and peasants fighters in various jails particularly Salem, Cuddalore, Vellore and Yeol Camp. Every message greeted Com. Stalin as friend and liberator of all toiling people and pledged to strengthen the working class solidarity, and ceaselessly struggle against all exploitation, and defeat all plots to organise war against Soviet Union and the Peoples' Democracies.

CLASS WAR POLITICAL PRISONERS RELIEF FUND

The A.I.T.U.C. took up the task of organising this fund. A managing Committee was formed with Com. Chakkarai Chettiar as Chairman and its first meeting was held in Bombay. While some Provincial T.U. Committees have set up detenus Aid Committee and taken up the question of their demands. The work of collecting fund has not been yet properly organised.

Such is brief is the account of the work done by the AITUC during the months since the 23rd Session of the A.I.T.U.C. in May 1949.

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STATEMENT OF THE A.I.T.U.C. ON THE LABOUR RELATIONS BILL

(Submitted to the Indian Labour Conference, New Delhi)
March 20 - 21, 1950

LABOUR RELATIONS BILL: ANTI-STRIKE LAW

The Labour Relations Bill introduced by the Congress capitalist Government in the Indian Parliament is an open fascist measure, aimed at suppressing all resistance of workers, outlawing workers' strikes, illegalising trade unions, banning working class solidarity actions, banning political strikes and demonstrations and penalising workers and their unions for participating in strikes.

The Bill is aimed at openly helping the capitalists to carry through their offensive of mass unemployment and further attacks on wages, at protecting their profits and ensuring their inhuman exploitation of the toiling masses.

The Bill is introduced by the Congress Government at the dictates of the Anglo-American imperialists who want to establish their firm grip over India by suppressing all democratic movements and outlawing the militant trade union movement, so that they can safely use India as a base for their war operations and as a field for investing their capital for the free and unobstructed exploitation of the Indian masses.

Passage of this Bill will result into the banning of every strike, of every resistance to the capitalist offensive, into the outlawing of the militant trade union movement and transforming it into something like the Nazi Labour Front.

While suppressing all militant trade union movement, the Bill simultaneously bolsters up the Congress and capitalist-controlled puppet organisations - the INTUC and its company unions.

At a time, when lakhs of workers are without jobs, when mills and factories are closing down every day, when workers are boldly and doggedly fighting life and death struggles against capitalists and their Government, this Bill is brought forward to suppress all militant Trade Union movement, which is a formidable obstacle in the path of the bourgeoisie carrying out their offensive of transferring the burden of the economic crisis on to the backs of the workers.

The All India Trade Union Congress most vehemently condemns this Bill. It characterises it as an open bourgeois fascist measure calculated to suppress all trade union movement and demands its immediate withdrawal.

OBJECTS AND REASONS

This characterisation of the Bill stand fully confirmed by the objects and reasons of the Bill. These state:

"Among the other special features of the Bill may be mentioned the provisions relating to retrenchment, go-slow policy and the exercise of control over certain categories of undertakings in certain circumstances. Retrenchments can be effected only after the prescribed notice is given and gratuity paid- A go-slow policy, whether on the part of employers or of employees, if proved before a Labour Tribunal, will be deemed to be an illegal lock-out or strike and dealt with as such".

Clearly therefore the Bill

Clearly therefore the Bill is openly aimed at legalising the capitalist attacks of mass unemployment, legalising every scheme of increased workload and rationalisation, at declaring resistance to rationalisation or increased work-load as policy of go-slow and treating it as illegal strike. What the Bill aims at is to offer open legal protection for mass unemployment and other attacks.

The objects and reasons leave nothing ambiguous when they state:

"A serious drawback of the Industrial Disputes Act 1947, is the fact that the provisions contained in it for the enforcement of settlements and awards are too weak to be effective and that persons entitled to relief find it very difficult to enforce their rights. The Bill seeks to remedy those defects. The penalty for breach of a settlement, collective agreement or award has been substantially increased and amounts due from an employer may be recovered as if they were arrears of land revenue *..... Employees are liable to forfeit their claims to bonus and the employer's share of the provident fund and to be dismissed from service. Trade Unions are liable to forfeit their registration and recognition and certified bargaining agents, their certificates."

The Bill is thus openly aimed at legalising mass retrenchment, at suppressing every trade union that organises and leads workers' resistance to retrenchment and rationalisation. It declares every strike against retrenchment illegal, any resistance to rationalisation illegal, imposes drastic punishment for enforcement of awards. Any opposition to them is made illegal. It declares that workers will lose their jobs, bonus and provident fund, and unions will lose their registration and recognition.

To call this Bill a Labour Relations Bill is outrageous. It should be aptly called "Trade Union and Strike Suppression Bill".

How these aims and objects concretely take the shape of far-reaching provisions for suppressing any trade union movement and workers' strikes, is clear beyond doubt if one peruses the 132 clauses of the Bill.

RETRENCHMENT LEGALISED - RESISTENCE TO IT ILLEGALISED

The explanation to Clause 59 says:

"For the purpose of this section 'labour dispute' means any labour dispute relating to any matter which is not specified in the Second Schedule, but does not include the termination of service of an employee who is surplus to the requirements of the employer".

Under the excuse that there is no market, that stocks have accumulated, mills and factories are today being closed down. Even on a most conservative estimate, the number of unemployed has exceeded 20 lakhs. These workers are being turned out of jobs on the plea that they are surplus to requirements.

The Railway Enquiry Committee has decided that 34 per cent of the workshops workers are surplus; thousands from the Engineering and other departments are declared surplus.

The ordinance factories, docks, clothing factories and all Government and Local Fund factories have turned out of job over two lakh of workers since 1945-46.

Metallurgical industry, Engineering

Metallurgical industry, Engineering factories, Banks, Insurance companies and every Government or commercial concern, all are today discharging workers as being surplus to requirements.

And at this time, the Government of India is enacting a legislation which declares that termination of service of an employee who is "surplus to requirements" is no labour dispute.

Right to discharge workers on the plea that they are surplus is legal; it is no labour dispute; therefore right to resist such a dismissal is illegal.

The Government has thus given the all-clear signal to the employers to go ahead with their plans of mass unemployment. The law the whole repressive machinery of the State will be at the disposal of the employer to protect his eternal right to turn out of jobs hundreds and thousands and cause misery, starvation and death to millions.

TERMINATION OF SERVICE IS LEGALISED

What is the protection to an employee against unemployment? None. What is the liability on the employer? Section 122 lays down that he should only pay one month's wages in lieu of notice of discharge, or discharge the employee one month after the notice of discharge is issued. Further that he should pay the employee a gratuity equivalent to 15 days' wages for every 12 months' service. This of course need not put the employer to any liability, as more than 50 per cent of the employees in various establishments are considered only as casual labour, or whose services are interrupted by frequent discharges and re-employment. Substitute workers in the textile, casual and construction workers in the Railways, contract labour, which is almost on a daily wage, all these lakhs are liable to be discharged at will by just declaring them "surplus to requirements".

Not only no protection against the present insecurity of service, but the irresponsible Government declares that the employer can discharge at will any employee.

RATIONALISATION LEGALISED

To-day the Government and employers are feverishly trying to carry out schemes of rationalisation. Through it they increase the workload and turn out of employment hundreds of thousands. They have therefore met with stubborn resistance from the workers who refuse to submit to intensified exploitation and unemployment.

In the textiles it may be working four-looms instead of two. In the Railways it may be doing four hours' work in two or doing heavy repairs in the time fixed for light repairs, etc. No matter what form it takes, the workers have rightly opposed it as meaning mass unemployment.

"Most of the industrialists", complained Birla's Eastern Economist recently "have been unable to carry out their schemes (of rationalisation) due to labour opposition".

The Congress Government, a Government of the Big Bourgeoisie, quickly acted and came out with a legislation illegalising all resistance to rationalisation as "go-slow policy".

Explanation to Section 99 says:

"For the purpose of this section, a go-slow policy shall, in relation to any establishment or class of establishments, include any policy or mal-practice on account of which:-

(a) there is an

- "(a)there is an appreciable fall in the productive capacity of that establishment or class of establishments, which the employees or the employer could have avoided if they so desired; or
- (b)there is a marked deterioration in the quality of the articles produced therein; or
- (c)there has been a partial or total breakdown of the machine parts in that establishment or class of establishments".

Appreciable fall in productive capacity is the usual complaint of the employers who charge the workers with deliberately doing less work and demand of them more production in the same amount of time. Government accepts the employers' complaints and legalises such exploitation.

When workers resist they complain that efficiency is going down. Government accepts this complaint and puts a legal stamp on it.

Thus, Government's definition of "go-slow" policy is another name for the owners' complaints against the workers. It declares such acts illegal, as illegal strikes.

The employers can now go to the industrial courts and tribunals, place the evidence of their "job analysis experts" and get a declaration from the courts that the workers are following a policy of go-slow.

Once such a declaration is got, the workers in the factory concerned will be considered to have been following a go-slow policy. As such they will be charged with having gone on an illegal strike and penalised with loss of job and imprisonment for six months.

COMPULSORY ENFORCEMENT OF AGREEMENTS AND AWARDS

It has been the workers' experience that most of the awards of various tribunals have been against the workers. These tribunals and their awards have been found to be sure means to carry through the plans of the Government and the employers to attack the workers. Every time such anti-working class awards were attempted to be thrust on them, the workers have resisted stubbornly.

Textile and other workers have fought against many unfavourable awards and forced changes in them. The employers today are bitterly complaining against this resistance and demanding stern action against them. The Government has, therefore, made necessary and sweeping provisions in the Bill for a still more rigid enforcement of these anti-working class awards.

Under Section 86, an award will normally remain in operation for one year. But "the appropriate Government may, before the expiry of the said period, extend the period of operation by any period not exceeding one year at a time, as it thinks fit. So, however, that the total period of operation of any award does not exceed three years from the date on which it came into operation".

Not only does the Government make it compulsory for workers to accept the awards unreservedly, but it has made provision by which the awards can remain in force for three years. Any action against the awards within this period is punishable with all the severity of the law, including six months' imprisonment.

Workers are thus to be bound hand and foot and handed over as slaves in Government owned or private factories.

But the full severity of this section can be seen only when we examine what kind of agreements there could be and between whom they will be arrived at.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING - OPEN TREACHERY

After having made all awards and collective agreements compulsory on the workers, the Government has set forth in this Bill a definite method by which to arrive at a collective agreement. It has framed its legislation in such a manner that none but the hardened agents of the capitalists will be empowered to make such an agreement, which then will be a legal one and binding on workers who may be opposed to it.

The Government can "declare any establishment or class of establishments to be appropriate for collective bargaining". Under Section 33, "certified bargaining agent" for workers in these establishment can be

- (a) a registered federation of trade unions having a membership in good standing of not less than 15 per cent of the total number of employees employed in that establishment or class of establishments in that area; or
- (b) a registered trade union having a membership in good standing of not less than 30 per cent of the total number of employees employed in that establishment or class of establishments in that area; or
- (c) the representatives of the employees of that establishment or class of establishments in that area elected in the prescribed manner.

Explanation: "For the purpose of this sub-section, a membership of a registered trade union or a registered federation of trade unions shall be deemed to be in good standing if such membership has not lapsed during the ninety days preceding the date of the application under this sub-section by the trade union or federation of trade unions, as the case may be".

Thus who can become a bargaining agent? In the first place, a registered trade union or a federation of trade unions. Which can be a registered trade union or federation of such unions? Those which include in their constitution clauses penalising workers if they go on strike without the sanction of the Union. Under the Trade Unions Bill, only such Unions which are directly opposed to any strike can get registration.

This means that bargaining agents can be only those who represent anti-strike unions, in the present case, the INTUC and its puppet unions.

But so as to allow no loop-holes, the Bill makes further provision to see that only INTUC Unions and Federations can have the right to become bargaining agents. A minimum of 30 per cent membership for an individual union and of 15 per cent for a federation of unions is necessary to secure the certificate of a bargaining agent.

With the exception of the INTUC, none of the trade unions are allowed facilities for functioning. The All-India Trade Union Congress and its affiliated Unions are singled out for ruthless repression. With thousands of organisers in jail, even the enrolment of members cannot be done except by risking loss of jobs.

Enrolment of members to the INTUC Unions is done directly with the aid of the employers. Under threats of dismissal from service, the management and its agencies compel workers to join INTUC unions. Besides bogus and inflated membership is shown, which no one is allowed to challenge.

Even today, despite the fact that it is

Even today, despite the fact that it is hardly possible for the INTUC Unions to hold a single mass meeting without the help of the police, despite the fact that these unions stand fully unmasked and exposed as strike-breaking agencies when workers have repeatedly shown that they have no confidence in the puppet of the Government and the capitalists, it is the INTUC that is considered by the Government as the representative organisation and has been specially favoured with four seats at this Tripartite Conference. The All-India Trade Union Congress challenges the representative character of the INTUC.

But under the Labour Relations Bill, the INTUC unions alone will have the right to become bargaining agents. They alone will get registration, because they alone will agree to expel workers who go on spontaneous strikes.

Thus those who are thoroughly unmasked as agents of the capitalists and their Government, i.e. the INTUC and its unions, alone will be certified as bargaining agents having the right to negotiate "agreements" on behalf of the workers, which will be binding on workers whether they like it or not.

SWEEPING POWERS TO CERTIFIED AGENTS

No wonder these certified agents are given sweeping powers. Section 35 (a) says:

"The certified bargaining agent shall immediately replace all other agents of the employees to enter into negotiations with the employer and so long as the certification of the bargaining agent is not revoked, shall have authority to bargain collectively on behalf of the employees in that establishment or class of establishments and to bind them by a collective agreement".

This provision is simply outrageous. It means that only such organisations as are Government's and employers' puppet bodies and which are enemies of the workers have the right to negotiate and conclude an agreement and bind all workers to it. The collective bargaining agent is, thus, in reality a licenced agent of the capitalists, legally empowered to conclude binding agreements with them and betray the workers.

This is how the Bill openly and shamelessly deprives the workers of their right to represent themselves and makes them slaves of the capitalists through the medium of the strike-breaking unions of the INTUC.

ALL STRIKES BANNED

So far we have seen how this Bill systematically takes away the basic trade union rights of the workers. But the climax is reached in its sweeping provisions which ban all strikes and resistance to the offensive of the capitalists and the Government. Through these it seeks to take away from the hands of the workers their only effective weapon, the weapon of strike, so as to completely emasculate them, make them helpless against the continued and brazen-faced attacks of the capitalists to transfer the burden of the crisis on to the shoulders of the working class.

Every chapter of the Bill has one single aim, namely, to deprive the worker of this weapon of strike and leave him defenceless before the attacks of the employer.

At the very outset, the Bill bans

At the very outset, the Bill bans spontaneous strikes against sudden attacks of the employers on the workers' standard of living and conditions of service. Section 26 (1) says:

"Where for any reason a labour dispute has arisen or is likely to arise between an employer and an employee, the employee or as the case may be, the employer may send a notice, in the prescribed manner, to the other party setting out the nature of the dispute and the specific demands that the other party is required to accept and requiring the other party to enter into negotiations, within seven days of the date of receipt of the notice, with a view to the settlement of the labour dispute".

Under Section 28 of the Bill, the negotiations are allowed to drag on for fourteen days. Even if at the end of these fourteen days no settlement is reached the workers cannot still go on strike. Under Section 95 they must give a notice of further 14 days and only at the end of these fourteen days, i.e. at the end of 28 to 35 days from the time the notice of the dispute was given, can the workers think of going on strike, while in the meanwhile the employer would have already attacked them and carried through his offensive. For nothing under this Bill prevents him from acting as he likes.

It is in resistance to the sudden attacks of the employers and the Government that spontaneous strikes take place. The employers alone are responsible for such strikes. Despite repression, mass arrests, lathi charges and firings, the starving workers have boldly, repeatedly and with determination resisted these sudden attacks, with spontaneous strikes which have today become a common feature.

It is only as a result of these prompt counter-attacks by the workers that the employers and the Government often find themselves unable to easily carry out their offensives of unemployment, increased workload, attacks on wages, etc. It is to prevent these effective counter-actions of the workers that the Government are now out to declare such strikes illegal.

NO STRIKE AFTER REFERENCE TO ARBITRATION

Even after all this, the workers cannot go on strike, once the Government refers the dispute to adjudication.

Section 96 of the Bill says:

"(1) No employee shall give any notice of strike or go on strike and no employer shall give any notice of lock-out or declare a lock-out for any reason whatsoever -

(a) during the pendency of any conciliation proceeding before a Board or Standing Board and seven days after the conclusion of such proceeding; or

(b) during the pendency of any proceeding before a Tribunal or the Appellate Tribunal; or

(c) during any period in which any settlement or collective agreement or award is in operation".

Thus, the Government has only to refer some dispute to the Tribunal for adjudication and then all strikes - whatever be their causes - even if they have nothing to do with the dispute that has been referred to or may have been adjudicated upon by the Tribunal become automatically illegal.

It will be seen that the Section

It will be seen that the Section prohibits also strikes during the period of operation of a collective agreement. We have already seen what these collective agreements are. They are agreements concluded by the enemies of the working class, by the strike-breaking unions, who are to be licensed under the Bill as "bargaining agents".

This means that if workers refuse to accept these collective agreements and go on strike, then they will be considered to have gone on an illegal strike.

STRIKES AGAINST RETRENCHMENT ILLEGAL

The Bill prohibits strikes against retrenchment. Section 98 (d) says that "a strike shall be illegal if... it has any object other than, or in addition to, the settlement of the labour dispute which has arisen in relation to the establishment or establishments in which the employees going on strike engaged."

Thus under this Section all strikes other than those in furtherance of a labour dispute in an establishment or establishments are prohibited. And what is a labour dispute, according to this Bill?

Section 96(2) states:

"Where Labour Courts have been constituted under Section 10, no employee shall go on strike.... in pursuance of any ~~labour dispute relating to any matter which is not specified~~ in the Second Schedule".

One may search the whole of the Second Schedule, all the fifteen objects enumerated therein, but one will not find there the subject "retrenchment". This means that retrenchment is not one of those subjects that can become a labour dispute; And therefore, a strike against retrenchment, since its object is not a "labour dispute" within the meaning of this Bill, is illegal.

In order to make the meaning absolutely clear, explanation to Section 59 states:

"For the purposes of this Section, 'labour dispute' means any labour dispute relating to any matter which is not specified in the Second Schedule, but does not include the termination of service of an employee who is surplus to the requirements of the employer".

We have already seen how the employers, when they retrench workers, always give the reason that these workers are 'surplus to requirements'.

Thus the Government after having legalised retrenchment, after having invited the employers to go ahead with their schemes of mass retrenchment and unemployment, after refusing any protection to the workers against mass unemployment and insecurity of service, goes further and deprives the workers of the one weapon they possess against these attacks, the weapon of strike. It proclaims that the workers have no right even to struggle against unemployment, that is they cannot struggle even for their very existence.

SYMPATHETIC STRIKES ILLEGAL

SYMPATHETIC STRIKES ILLEGAL

Afraid of the growing unity of the working class, the Bill prohibits all their solidarity actions and declares sympathetic strikes to be illegal.

Section 98 (e) states that a strike is illegal if "it is commenced or declared in sympathy with any other strike or lock out".

Today the solidarity of the working class has grown on an international scale. Deckers of London and Liverpool go on strike in support of striking Canadian seamen. The entire Indian working class rose in support of the Postal workers' general strike in 1946, when the Government tried to crush it. Before the might of the united working class the Government was then compelled to bend.

This unity of the working class is a formidable obstacle in the way of the employers and the Government carrying out their schemes of mass retrenchment, rationalisation and other attacks on the workers.

The Congress Government wants to destroy this unity of the working class. It is for this purpose that it has made sympathetic strikes illegal under this Bill.

POLITICAL STRIKES ILLEGAL

We have ~~already seen~~ that under Section 98(d) a strike is illegal "if it has an object other than, or in addition to the settlement of the labour dispute which has arisen in relation to the establishment or establishments in which the employees going on strike are engaged". This means that workers have no right to go on a political strike or to strike in defence of their political and democratic rights.

The Government has let loose a reign of terror on the ~~working class~~. Over 25,000 leaders of the workers and other toiling people ~~have already been arrested~~. Meetings, processions, demonstrations are freely banned. Trade Unions are constantly raided and even banned. Lathi charges and firings have become the order of the day. All trade union rights have been trampled under foot by this Government.

After all this, the Government says that the workers have no right to protest against these atrocities. They have no right to struggle in defence of their political rights and democratic liberties. The Government decrees that the working class shall not fight against repression, that it shall not fight for democracy and real freedom.

This is what it means by illegalising political strikes.

HEAVY PENALTIES FOR ILLEGAL STRIKES

After thus having declared all strikes - spontaneous strikes, strikes against retrenchment, strikes after the reference of a dispute to arbitration, strikes against the treacherous deals of the INPUC company unions, sympathetic strikes and political strikes - illegal, the Government goes on to provide for heavy punishments should the workers refuse to submit to this ferocious attack on their rights and standards. Section 112 (1) says:

"(1) Any employee who

" (1) Any employee who commences, continues, or otherwise acts in furtherance of, a strike which is illegal under this Act shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to one month or with fine which may extend to fifty rupees, or with both".

In addition to this, Section 115 states:

"Any person who commits a breach of any term of any settlement or collective agreement or order of a Labour Court or award which is binding on him under this Act, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both".

This means that workers who go on strike against unjust awards of the Labour Tribunals, will be charged on two counts, under Section 112 for going on illegal strike and under section 115 for breach of the terms of an award of the Tribunal.

Similarly workers who are declared by the Labour Tribunals to have adopted a go-slow policy will be charged on two counts, on the charge of illegal strike and also on the charge of breach of the order of a Labour Court or Tribunal.

Workers who refuse to accept the treacherous pacts entered into by the INTUC's company unions will also be charged under two counts, on the charge of breach of collective agreement, for which they can be sent to jail for six months, and also on the charge of going on illegal strike.

The Bill further provides for very heavy punishments for supporting the struggles of the workers. section 113 ~~states~~

"Any person who instigates or incites others to take part in, or otherwise acts in furtherance of, a strike or lock-out which is illegal under this Act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or with both".

This means that all trade unions that refuse to betray the workers, that defend the interests of the workers, are prohibited from acting in this direction. If they agitate against an unjust award, they will be charged with instigating workers to go on illegal strike. If they denounce the treacherous pacts concluded by the INTUC Unions and rally the workers to fight against their imposition, they will be charged with instigating workers to go on illegal strike.

This means virtually that all activities by unions other than the INTUC puppet unions are banned. Section 114 declares:

"Any person who knowingly expends or applies any money in furtherance of any strike or lock-out which is illegal under this Act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or with both".

Thus after having illegalised all strikes, the Government proclaims that even showing of any sympathy to workers who are on strike despite all these heavy odds, is illegal. It wants to crush the workers by isolating them from the rest of the working people. It wants to terrorise the working people so as to prevent them from showing any sympathy to workers on strike. It wants to terrorise the other workers, who are prohibited not only from going on sympathetic strike,

on sympathetic strike, but also from giving any help to the fighting strikers.

This is how, with these heavy punishments, the Government wants to crush all working class resistance to the growing capitalist offensive.

In short, the Labour Relations Bill, introduced by the Government of India seeks:

1. To legalise retrenchment by the employers who are now free to retrench thousands of workers on the plea that they are "surplus to requirements";

2. To legalise rationalisation and increase of workload on the plea that workers are adopting a "go-slow policy".

3. To carry through the offensive of the employers by means of treacherous pacts with the INTUC puppet unions, which are to be declared as bargaining agents, and whose pacts are to be stamped as collective agreements, binding on all the workers.

4. To bolster up these INTUC puppet unions and to outlaw all the activities of unions that refuse to betray the workers and instead lead their resistance to the attacks of the employers; and

5. To crush all resistance of the workers against the attacks of the owners. For this purpose the Bill declares as illegal:

- (a) spontaneous strikes of the workers against the sudden attacks of the employers;
- (b) strikes against retrenchment;
- (c) strikes after reference to arbitration;
- (d) strikes during the period a "collective agreement" concluded by the INTUC puppet unions is in force;
- (e) all sympathetic strikes;
- (f) all political strikes.

The Bill further seeks to impose very heavy punishments for refusing to submit to this attack. It imposes very heavy punishments for showing any sympathy to workers who fight against the attacks of the employers.

Thus the Labour Relations Bill concedes not a single right to the workers. It grants them no protection against the growing menace of mass unemployment. It gives them no protection against wage-cuts, rationalisation, increased workload and other attacks of the capitalists.

There is no law in this country guaranteeing the workers a living wage. There is not a single social security measure in existence. Unemployment benefits are simply unknown in this country.

Under these conditions this Bill not only legalises all the attacks of the employers on the workers - attacks of mass unemployment, rationalisation, retrenchment and wage-cuts, but it takes away the only weapon the workers have against the rapacious and unbridled exploitation of the capitalists - the weapon of strike. It seeks to destroy the unity of the working class, built with untold sacrifices over many years of struggle. Under this Bill, the very exercise of the fundamental rights of the workers as understood all over the world - the right to strike and to organise - is made a crime punishable with imprisonment.

The Bill therefore is an open

The Bill therefore is an open fascist measure, seeking to suppress working class struggles, to destroy their unity and organisation, so as to facilitate the capitalist offensive against them and thereby enable them to transfer the burden of the crisis on to the shoulders of the workers.

The All-India Trade Union Congress strongly denounces this measure and demands its complete and unconditional withdrawal. It further demands the unreserved recognition of the workers' right to strike and freedom of organisation. It demands that workers' right to a living wage and security of service be recognised unreservedly.

For the purpose of ensuring the above fundamental rights of the workers, the All-India Trade Union Congress demands the following steps to be taken immediately:

1. Repeal of the Bombay Industrial Relations Act, the Indian Trade Disputes Act and similar other Acts that restrict the right to strike.
2. Full freedom to organise trade unions, right to strike, right to hold political views and right to join any political party.
3. Full freedom to carry on trade union activity at work places, without any restrictions.
4. Guarantee against victimisation; for this purpose the right of the management to dismiss workers be taken away; the task of maintaining discipline be placed in the hands of a committee elected by the workers.
5. Full guarantee against unemployment; all mills and factories that may close down or have already closed down, to be taken over without compensation by the Government and run with the full complement of workers as before the closure.
6. Payment of full wages and dearness allowance as compensation to all workers who have been rendered unemployed as a result of these closures, and statutory liability of employers to pay such compensation.
7. Unemployment benefits equivalent to full wages and dearness allowance for all those who are forced into unemployment; the State to find them work according to their capacity.
8. Repeal of all Public Security Measures Acts and Preventive Detention Act under which thousands of trade union, peasant and student leaders are detained in jails; recognition of full democratic rights of the working people.
9. Withdrawal of bans imposed on Trade Unions in Madras, United State of Travancore and Cochin, Madhya Bharat and other places.
10. Release of all workers, peasants, students and other leaders who have been detained without trial and release of political prisoners convicted of various charges.

On this occasion, the All-India Trade Union Congress makes a fervent appeal to all delegates representing workers' organisations who are assembled here to join with the delegates of the All-India Trade Union Congress in demanding

Trade Union Congress in demanding the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Labour Relations Bill, which denies the workers their very right to strike, that is to struggle against poverty, unemployment and starvation. We appeal to them to realise the seriousness of the situation and the grave menace that is threatening the working class movement in the shape of this fascist measure.

The passage of this Bill will mean unbridled exploitation of the working class by the capitalists. It will mean unemployment for hundreds of thousands of more workers. It will mean intensification of the offensives of rationalisation and wage-cuts, that are already launched by the employers. It will mean that the workers will be reduced to the status of bond-slaves.

This Bill is a menace to all workers, whatever be their political persuasions. Under this Bill workers, whether they belong to the All-India Trade Union Congress or owe allegiance to the Hind Mazdur Sabha, will have to face the most ferocious attacks of employers and the Government. All of them will have to face fascist repression worse than before, when they fight against the attacks of the employers and in defence of their vital interests.

Under these circumstances, the All-India Trade Union Congress appeals to all delegates representing workers' organisations who are assembled here, and through them to all workers in the country, to present a united front against this Bill and demand its immediate, unconditional and complete withdrawal. The basic principle underlying the Bill is so very reactionary and fascist in character, that it does not admit of any compromise. No modification of a clause, here or there, will serve to alter the fundamental character of the Bill. The only demand the representatives of workers' organisations can make is for the total and complete withdrawal of the Bill. Such a withdrawal of the Bill, with legislation guaranteeing the fundamental rights of the workers and protection against unemployment and embodying the other demands as stated above alone will meet the needs of the situation.

The All India Trade Union Congress assures all workers that it is prepared for united action against this Bill and the Trade Unions Bill, prepared to fight shoulder to shoulder with all workers' organisations for the withdrawal of these fascist Bills and for the realisation of the basic demands of the Indian working class.

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STATEMENT OF THE A.I.T.U.C. ON THE TRADE UNIONS BILL
(Submitted to the Indian Labour Conference, New Delhi)
March 20-21, 1950)

TRADE UNIONS BILL - A CHARTER OF SLAVERY

The Trade Unions Bill introduced by the Government of India in the Indian Parliament is an open attempt to outlaw all trade union movement which organises and leads workers' struggles in defence of their rights and interests and against the growing attacks of the capitalists in the form of mass retrenchment, rationalisation and deterioration of wage standards.

Through this Bill, the bourgeoisie and their Congress Government are attempting to deny the workers their fundamental right to organise and strike, the right to hold political views and join political organisation of their choice, thus seeking to bind them down, hand and foot, to slavery.

The Bill makes open and shameless discrimination against Government servants and forbids them from joining any organisation of non-civil servants. It is thus an attempt at dividing workers by separating Government employees from the rest, preventing them from joining with the other workers in the common battle against capitalism.

The Bill denies all rights and privileges to trade unions fighting against the policies of the Government and the capitalists. It orders trade unions to include such rules and regulations in their constitution as will exclude from their management workers who boldly fight against the owners, leaders who command the respect and confidence of all workers. It demands the expulsion of such workers and leaders of the union who participate in spontaneous strikes.

The enactment of the Bill will result into hundreds of trade union, which are today organising and leading workers' struggle and which command their confidence, losing their registration and thus being transformed either into illegal organisations or organisations that will not legally have the right to speak on behalf of the workers or have any protection under the law. The restrictions sought to be imposed on the registration of a Union are only an alibi to the Government and capitalist-controlled puppet organisation, the Indian National Trade Union Congress and its affiliated Unions, to legally exist to the exclusion of all other Unions. It is the most shameless attempt to give to these 'Unions' the status of legally recognised representatives of workers and making it incumbent on all workers to submit to all the treacherous agreements signed between them and the managements.

The Bill denies and withdraws even the most inadequate and meagre right that workers had won so far, namely, to organise Unions of their will and choice. It thus virtually illegalises all trade union movement that is opposed to the policies of the Government and is organised on the principles of class struggle.

Faced with ever-increasing resistance of every section of workers and Government employees to their open and shameless plans to transfer the burden of the crisis on to the backs of the workers, and acting under the dictates of the Anglo-American imperialists to whom they have sold the country for exploitation, the Congress bourgeois rulers have introduced this Bill aiming at transforming Indian workers into bond slaves. The Bill fully unmask and falsifies all the claims of the Government that they have allowed the workers freedom of organisation and freedom to strike in defence of their interests.

While through the Labour Relations

While through the Labour Relations Bill, which is also being simultaneously rushed through, they seek to throttle the workers' right to strike and resist the growing attacks of the capitalists and to penalise workers by six months' imprisonment, through the Trade Unions Bill they seek to withdraw the very right of the workers to organise trade unions of their choice and will, and instead to thrust upon them the Government's puppet show, the INTUC and its Unions, which are always ready in the service of the owners and which are today acting as open strike breakers and agents of the Government and the capitalists.

Thus the Labour Relations Bill and the Trade Unions Bill are introduced to transform the Indian working class movement into a kind of Nazi Labour Front, so as to ensure the unrestricted exploitation of the people by the capitalists and their Government, to make India safe for exploitation by the Anglo-American capitalists and transform it into their base for a war against the Soviet Union, China, Peoples Democracies, the national liberation movements in South East Asia and the people of all lands.

The A.I.T.U.C. cannot but condemn this Bill most vehemently. It demands its immediate withdrawal and instead full recognition of workers' right to organise, right to strike, right to hold political views, right to join any political party they choose.

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Even a cursory glance at the objects and reasons of this Bill will bear out these statements:

At the very outset the Government declares: "In the interests of discipline, the armed forces and the police have been excluded from its scope".

This means that the Congress bourgeois Government is mightily afraid of facing the discontent of the armed forces and the police who are as much exploited as the rest of the working population under the rule of the bourgeoisie. Their wages are starvation wages, their condition of service is hard and hazardous. They have been freely used to suppress their own people against their will. The Government does not guarantee them any right such as living wage but instead puts all kinds of restrictions on them with a view to keep them away from other workers who are fighting against capitalism for a better living standard. The bourgeoisie has no justification whatsoever in thus debarring the armed forces and the police from organising their unions for securing living conditions.

The Government demands that the rules and bye-laws of the Union must contain provisions for taking disciplinary action against those who go on strike, not sanctioned by the Executive. It demands that the rules should mention:-

"The procedure for taking disciplinary action against members who go on strike without the sanction of the executive or the majority of the members of the trade union, or who otherwise violate the rules of the trade union" - Clause 6(1).

Resisting the growing and sudden attacks of the employers and the Government, workers both in private or Government service go on spontaneous strikes. Managements alone are responsible for such strikes. Despite repression, mass arrests, lathi charges and firings, the starving workers have, boldly, repeatedly and with determination, resisted these sudden attacks and spontaneous strikes have become a common feature of the present

common feature of the present day. It is only as a result of these prompt counter-attacks by the workers that the employers and the Government have often been prevented from easily carrying out their offensive of unemployment, increased work-load, deterioration of wages, etc. It is to forestall these effective counter-actions of the workers that the Government have declared such strikes illegal and workers are threatened with a penalty of six months' imprisonment, in addition to loss of job and wages.

But the Government is not satisfied even with this. It is out to penalise the Unions also and seeks to compel them to have a constitution under which workers will not be allowed to participate in spontaneous strikes. The Unions are thus being forced under this Bill to become strike-breaking agencies.

Should the Unions, true to the interests of the working class, refuse to have such an outrageous provision of servitude to the capitalists, they will not be registered at all or have their existing registration cancelled for refusal to implement such a rule.

The objects further lay down and the Bill demands that the constitution of a union seeking registration must contain "the procedure for taking disciplinary action against officers who contravene the provisions of this Act or of the rules of the trade union" (Clause 6 (j)).

First, make a rule in your constitution that the workers will not join a spontaneous strike. If workers defy this rule, then expel them from the Union. If any office-bearer supports or participates in a spontaneous strike, then expel him from the Union. These are the capitalist Government's dictates to the workers' trade union, the price it demands of a Union for securing or maintaining registration.

Expel workers if they resist the capitalist attack on their standards; expel workers if fascist terror inside the workplace or outside, mass unemployment and the like prevent them from regularly paying their union dues, else you forfeit your right to registration. That is the meaning of the new Bill.

But this is not all. It shamelessly attempts to disrupt workers' ranks, by forbidding the 20 lakh Government employees from joining any organisation of non-civil servants. With this aim of keeping the Government employees away from the general working class movement and thus emasculate their struggle for better conditions, the Bill has imposed several restrictions on them.

The objects and reasons of the Bill state in this regard as follows:-

"The Bill provides that a trade union of civil servants will not be entitled to compulsory recognition by the appropriate Government if it does not consist wholly of civil servants or if it is affiliated to a federation to which trade unions of persons other than civil servants are also affiliated".

It is thus clear that the aim of the Bill is to keep away these lakhs of Government employees from the central organisations of the Indian working class like the All-India Trade Union Congress or other organisations to which trade unions of all workers are affiliated.

The Bill imposes identical restrictions on organisations of workers in hospitals and educational institutions, as well as on other categories of workers such as the supervisory staff and the watch and ward staff. All these sections of workers are to be arbitrarily kept away from the common struggle of the Indian working class for their basic rights and demands. The Bill thus is an open attempt at disrupting the fighting solidarity of the working class with a view to suppressing their struggles.

The objects and reasons

The objects and reasons further state:

"The rules of a trade union should hereafter mention the rate of subscription payable by members, the circumstances, including default in payment of subscription, in which the name of a member shall be struck off the list of members."

Today even the normal activities of the unions such as collection of subscription etc. are to be carried on under conditions of dire fascist terror. Discrimination against and even dismissal of workers who join any union other than the one which is a lackey of the management (i.e. the Congress controlled union) is common story. The Government knowing full well these difficulties, which are the result of their own fascist rule, are now demanding this strict provision in the constitutions of the unions.

The aim is to see that through these measures the unions which really command the workers' confidence and are their real leaders are declared to be non-representative and instead puppet INTUC Unions, which forcibly collect subscriptions with the help of the management on pain of reprisals, are declared to be representative organisations having all rights and privileges to speak on behalf of the workers, that is, to betray the workers.

The same aim is further sought to be achieved by imposing the following conditions for registration of the union (Clause 6):

(g) "The rate of subscription payable by ordinary members which shall not be less than two annas per month, provided that in the case of employees employed in agriculture, cottage industries in rural areas, conservancy service or such sweated industries as may be notified in this behalf by the appropriate Government in the Official Gazette, a lower rate of subscription per annum may be prescribed;

(h) "the circumstances (including default in payment of subscription for a specified period) in which the name of member shall be removed from the list of members".

But the capitalist Government is not satisfied with imposing even these restrictions on its employees' trade union rights. It goes still further. The objects and reasons of the Bill state:

"Government employees, whether civil servants or not, will be debarred from contributing to political funds though there will be no such ban on members who are not Government employees".

The meaning is obvious. Railwaymen, post and telegraph workers, workers and employees in ordnance factories and engineering workshops of the Central Government, P.W.D., Secretariat, and similar other establishments of the Government, in all nearly 20 lakh employees, are not only to be debarred from taking part in any political activity but they cannot even contribute to any political fund. These lakhs of employees are not allowed to struggle for civil liberties and democratic rights, they cannot participate in any movement that seeks to fight against the capitalist rule. This is nothing but open and shameless denial to lakhs of workers of their right to hold political views.

With this aim in view the Government has demanded the inclusion of the following rule in the constitution of a union as condition precedent to its securing or maintaining registration. Clause 6(k) demands:-

"where the trade union consists, whether wholly or partly, of civil servants, the prohibition of its members from participating directly or indirectly in any form of political activity, and the removal of the name of any member who takes part in any form of political activity from the list of its members".

Intervention in the working of the Union

Intervention in the working of the Union

After having secured for themselves under this Bill the right to compel Unions to punish and expel workers for going on spontaneous strikes or face loss of registration, the right to prevent 20 lakhs Government employees from joining their forces with those of other Indian workers in the common battle against capitalism and for better living conditions, the Government have sought further powers to ensure their open and unashamed control over even the day-to-day functioning of the Unions, ensure their right to interfere any time in the activities of trade unions.

Section 15, Clause (1) states:-

"The appropriate Government may appoint as many Inspectors as may be necessary for inspecting the registered trade unions and for exercising such other functions as may be prescribed".

The meaning is obvious. The sweeping powers that the Bill gives to the bourgeois Government for emasculating the militant trade unions are to be exercised by and through these petty officers, to whom the unions of the working class are now sought to be subordinated. Under the hated Public Security Measures Acts, the police Sub-Inspector is given unlimited powers over the personal liberty of the workers and the toiling people. Under the Trade Unions Bill, this Inspector is given equally vague and undefined powers over the workers' and other toilers' class organisations.

It is this Inspector - whose powers are deliberately left undefined under the Bill - who will decide whether or not the trade union has servilely carried out all the dictates of the bourgeoisie and its legislation. Should he decide that it has refused to do the Government's bidding and instead has firmly stood by the working class, he can have its registration cancelled or denied altogether.

Not the masses of the workers concerned but this Government officer who will now decide how a trade union is to be conducted and how not. Not they but he will control their union. He is the all-powerful dictator whose orders the organisations of workers are called upon to obey. Failure means loss of registration, compulsion to work almost under conditions of illegality.

Restrictions on office-bearers of trade unions -

To make union work difficult the Government through this Bill has put further restrictions on the office-bearers of Unions. Clause 24(1) lays down:

"In any registered trade union the number of persons who, without being employees in any establishment or class of establishments with which the trade union is connected, are entitled to be officers of that trade union, shall not exceed four or one-fourth of the total number of members of the executive of that trade union, whichever is less."

Thus leaders of workers who have all along led their struggles are now to be debarred from being leaders of the unions. This is clearly a measure aimed at depriving the workers of effective leadership of their struggle. But the real meaning of this clause is far more dangerous. What the Government intends to achieve is to keep out of the union even those militant worker fighters who while leading workers' struggles have been victimised. They are now to be kept out of the union on the ground that they have ceased to be employees. It is thus an open invitation to the management to victimise worker office-bearers of Unions. This clause thus directly aims at the trade union movement. It is an open attempt to prevent worker fighters from being in leading positions in their union and instead keep at the helm submissive elements from among the employees, with a view to be able to easily suppress workers' resistance.

"Unfair practices": a weapon to

"Unfair practices": a weapon to attack Unions:

But even after having put all these restrictions on the unions making it in every way difficult for them to have registration or recognition, the Government does not feel satisfied. It thus puts many more restrictions even on the maintaining of the union's registration or recognition. This is sought to be done through the clause regarding "unfair practices".

Clause 40 defines "unfair practices" as follows:

"The following shall be deemed to be unfair practices on the part of a recognised trade union, namely:-

- (a) for a majority of the members of the trade union to take part in an irregular strike
- (b) for the executive of the trade union to advise or actively to support or to instigate an irregular strike
- (c) for an officer of the trade union to submit any return required by or under this Act containing false statements".

By declaring participation in any spontaneous strike by the workers or support of such a strike by the executive of the Union as 'unfair practices' and therefore an offence, the Union is to be victimised.

On the plea that the Union is guilty of such unfair practices the Registrar or the employer may apply to the Labour Court demanding withdrawal of the recognition of the Union. This will show how fake and fictitious is the so-called recognition of a Union and how it can be withdrawn the moment the union concerned supports a workers' spontaneous strike. Even on finding a flaw in the statements submitted to the Government by the union, the Registrar or the employer can demand the withdrawal of its recognition.

Any office-bearer of a trade union whose recognition is thus withdrawn on the charge that the union was guilty of unfair practices will be barred from being an office-bearer of any union for a period of three years.

Registration and recognition:

First no Union can have registration if it does not have in its constitution provision for expelling its members or its office-bearers for having participated in a spontaneous strike or any other strike which is not sanctioned by a regular meeting of the executive. Unless the Union definitely sets its face against spontaneous strikes, unless it agrees to become an open strike-breaking agency it cannot claim registration.

Secondly, registered Unions alone have a right to be recognised. But the recognition so secured can be maintained only if the union concerned undertakes to give no support whatsoever to any strike struggle in any circumstances.

In short, what the Trade Unions Bill aims at is complete suppression of all Unions which stand by and defend workers' right to organise and strike, their right to go on spontaneous strike when the circumstances demand that they promptly retaliate against and halt attacks by the management. Under this Bill, Unions that are the real fighting organisations of workers are called upon to agree to oppose every strike, to punish their members for participating in strikes. Failure to carry out these shameful dictates will now mean that those fighting unions will lose their registration and will have to function almost under conditions of illegality, having no legal protection whatsoever.

Rights of recognised trade unions:

Having made registration and recognition of fighting trade unions impossible, the Government under Clause 35 have allowed the puppet unions certain facilities to function and made it incumbent on the employer to allow them facilities for announcing their meetings, etc.

Thus, while withdrawing recognition or registration of all trade unions if they do not agree to punish their members for going on spontaneous strikes, that is which do not agree to act as strike-breaking agencies, the Government is giving full facilities for work to puppet trade unions which undertake to do open strike-breaking.

In short the Trade Unions Bill introduced by the Government of India is an open attempt:

1. To suppress all trade unions which refuse to surrender to the capitalists and the bourgeois Government, and which organise and lead workers in their struggle for a living wage, security of service and for better living conditions, which resist every attack of the employers and the Government by way of mass retrenchment, continued attacks on wages, attempts at increasing work-load and similar measures;

2. To cancel the registrations of the existing Unions unless they agree to include in their constitutions rules to punish and expel from the Unions workers and leaders who participate in spontaneous strikes against attacks of the Government;

3. To grant registration and recognition only to those Unions that agree to spy on workers and punish them when they go on strike, and thus act as open strike-breakers and agents of the capitalists and the Government;

4. To intervene in the affairs of Unions so as to ensure their complete subjugation to the employers and the Government and compel them to act as opponents of all spontaneous strikes, as strike-breakers;

5. Under this Bill only INTUC Unions, which openly declare their policy to be one of opposing every strike and serving the interest of the bourgeoisie, will have the right to be registered;

6. The Bill thus seeks to register and recognises only the Government and capitalist-controlled unions of the Indian National Trade Union Congress as entitled to negotiate and effect settlements on behalf of the workers. In practice this means legalisation of the open betrayal of workers' interests by the INTUC and its affiliated Unions.

7. The Bill deliberately seeks to divide the lakhs of Government employees from the rest of the workers by preventing their Unions from joining the central organisations of the Indian working class to which non-Government employees' Unions are also affiliated. This is a deliberate attempt to disrupt workers' solidarity and weaken their common front against capitalist exploitation.

8. The Bill places heavy restrictions on Government servants, demanding that they must not hold political views or join any political party, thus trying to transform them into bond slaves always ready to support any policies of the capitalist governments.

9. The Bill discriminates against hospital employees, employees in educational institutions, the watch and ward and supervisory staffs, thus seeking to

staffs, thus seeking to weaken the common united front of all workers against the capitalists and their Government.

10. Unjust denial of even this heavily restricted right of organisation to the armed forces and the police, who also are, along with the rest of the working population groaning under the same dead weight of worsening economic conditions and starvation wages.

Thus the Trade Unions Bill concedes not a single right to the workers to freely organise their trade unions. Instead it seeks to withdraw even the most meagre facilities that might still exist and thus fetters the working class with unlimited restrictions attempting to transform them into bond slaves.

The AITUC characterises the Trade Unions Bill as a fascist measure seeking to control trade unions, while withdrawing workers' right to organise and strike. This Bill is an open attempt at establishing bourgeois dictatorship over the trade union movement. The AITUC strongly denounces this measure and demands its immediate and complete withdrawal, lock, stock and barrel.

The AITUC further demands that the following trade union rights be recognised unreservedly and measures to ensure the unrestricted functioning of trade unions taken immediately:

1. Full and unrestricted recognition of the right to organise, right to strike, right to hold political views and right to join any political party of their choice.
2. Full freedom to carry on trade union activity at work places, without any restrictions.
3. Guarantee against victimisation of trade union workers.
4. Repeal of the Bombay Industrial Relations Act, the Indian Trade Disputes Act and similar other measures that seek to restrict the workers' right to organise and to strike.
5. Repeal of all Public Security Measures Acts and the Preventive Detention Act under which thousands of trade union, peasant and student leaders are detained without trial in jails and recognition of full democratic rights for all toiling people.
6. Withdrawal of bans imposed on Trade Unions in Madras, United States of Travancore and Cochin, Madhyabharat and Bhopal.
7. Release of all leaders of workers, peasants, students, middle class employees and women, who have been detained without trial under the Public Security Measures Acts; release of political prisoners who have been convicted on various charges.

On this occasion, the All-India Trade Union Congress makes a fervent appeal to all delegates representing workers' organisations who are assembled here to unitedly demand withdrawal of the Bill which hits at the very existence of the trade union movement. The Government is using every method to suppress workers' struggle against continued exploitation by the capitalists. The seriousness of the situation should be fully realised by all organisations of workers.

The present regime considers it as its paramount duty to suppress workers' struggle and help the capitalists to push through their offensives. Thousands of workers, whether they belong to Unions affiliated to the All-India

Unions affiliated to the All-India Trade Union Congress or owe allegiance to the Hind Mazdoor Sabha, have been arrested because they fought against attempts of the employers to transfer the burden of the crisis on to the backs of workers when they were already groaning under the most inhuman conditions and were facing literal starvation and death. The Congress regime does not concede them a single right. It does not guarantee them a living wage, security of service or the right to work. At the same time, however, it guarantees full freedom for the capitalists to exploit workers to the maximum extent.

Workers who are fighting against poverty have to carry on their struggle in the face of unheard of fascist repressive conditions. But the Government has now come forward with two Bills, the Trade Unions Bill and the Labour Relations Bill, which are nothing short of open fascist measures seeking to destroy all freedom to organise and to strike and thus transform the workers into bond slaves.

Under the Trade Unions Bill and the Labour Relations Bill the Government seeks to penalise all Trade Unions which boldly organise and lead the workers against the attacks of the capitalists and their Government. All these trade unions are facing the danger of illegalisation. Every strike is sought to be banned, while full freedom is given to the capitalists to attack workers' standards.

In this situation we appeal to all delegates representing workers' organisations, and through them to all workers, to present a united front against the Bill and demand its immediate and unconditional withdrawal. The very basis of these Bills is such that there is no scope for their modification in the interests of the working class. Both these Bills must be withdrawn lock, stock and barrel. Instead full democratic and trade union rights for all workers must be recognised and guaranteed and all repressive measures withdrawn as demanded by the All-India Trade Union Congress.

We assure all workers that the All-India Trade Union Congress will be always ready to have a united front with all those who are ready to fight for the immediate withdrawal of these Bills, for the granting of full democratic rights to workers and repeal of all repressive measures as suggested by us.

We once again appeal to all workers' delegates to demand the immediate withdrawal of these Bills introduced by the Congress capitalist Government.

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R.L.Trust Building,
55, Girgaum Road,
Bombay 4.
21-3-1950.

The General Secretary,
The Hind Mazdoor Sabha,
25/2 Bhai Jivanji Lane,
Thakurdwar, B o m b a y 2.

Dear Comrade,

We have seen in the press a short report of the decision taken by your organisation to oppose the two Bills introduced by the Government of India - the Labour Relations Bill and the Trade Unions Bill - and to observe April 9th as a day of demonstration against these Bills.

The All-India Trade Union Congress has denounced these Bills as fascist measures, which aim at crushing the trade union movement and at completely depriving the working class of the most elementary and fundamental right to strike and the freedom of organisation.

A copy of the resolution passed by the General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress, which met on the 26th and 27th of February is enclosed herewith for your information. Since a copy of the Trade Unions Bill had not been received at the time of the General Council meeting, no separate resolution on it was passed. But it is obvious that both the Bills are openly fascist and have to be fought.

These two Bills taken together and severally, are intended to facilitate the most ferocious offensive of mass unemployment, retrenchment and rationalisation launched by the capitalists and the Government of India and to deprive the workers of their only weapon of defence, viz., the weapon of strike. Furthermore, they are intended to bolster up company unions and force the anti-working class agreements of these puppet unions with the owners on the workers under the stamp of "collective agreements".

They thus constitute the gravest menace to the very existence of the trade union movement. The jobs of millions of workers, their standards of living, all the gains that the trade union movement in this country had won by years of struggle and sacrifices are at stake.

The All-India Trade Union Congress believes that the Government has been emboldened to introduce such openly fascist Bills only because of the disunity in the ranks of the working class.

The All-India Trade Union Congress is firmly convinced that unity of the working class is the most urgent need of the hour in order to hurl back this ferocious offensive on the working class and compel the Government to withdraw these Bills.

Firmly convinced that at this hour of grave peril facing the working class movement it is the foremost duty of the trade union organisations to do everything in their power and to strain their utmost to build the broadest united struggle against these fascist measures, the All-India Trade Union Congress proposes to you that both our organisations should join hands and mobilise the entire working class of India in a nation-wide struggle against these Bills. It can be easily realised

It can be realised that only a sustained and determined campaign and struggle against these Bills, in which the entire working class is united, will compel the Government to beat a retreat.

We are confident that the total opposition to these Bills and the demand that they be completely withdrawn, affords such a platform on which all those desirous of protecting the vital and fundamental rights of the working class can cooperate.

Towards this end, we invite you for immediate conversations for working out the details of the platform and of the campaign against these Bills.

We would suggest that pending our joint talks and the working out of the detailed plan of the campaign against these Bills, our organisations should take immediate steps in our campaign against the Bills. Towards this end we should observe the days which we have independently called, viz., 3rd April and 9th April, as joint celebrations.

Such united opposition to the Bills from the very start will be a powerful factor in forging working class unity in opposition to the Bills.

We are fully alive to the fact that the proposals that we are making for a broad United Front of struggle against these Bills, fully correspond to the desires and needs of the broad masses of workers in the country, to whatever organisation they may owe allegiance. The broad masses of workers ardently desire unity in the struggle against the offensive of the capitalists and the Government.

On hearing from you the details of the place and time of the meeting between your representatives and ours can be fixed to suit our mutual convenience.

We would request you to treat this matter as urgent and let us know your reply early.

Yours fraternally,
sd. P.B. Rangnekar
Assistant Secretary.

1013.13
mass unemployment has already reached colossal proportions and is daily mounting. In the Railways, in the textiles, in jute, sugar, cement, engineering and in every other industry, hundreds of thousands of workers have already been retrenched. The offensive of intensification of work is daily growing under the name of rationalisation.

Wages and dearness allowance have already been cut and are being further cut in many industries. At the same time prices are daily rising. Inflation which started with the outbreak of the last war, still continues five years after the end of the war.

While millions of working people go without the barest necessities of life, stocks accumulate and there is talk of over-production. Mills and factories are closing down throwing still more thousands of workers out of employment.

Just as in the case of workers, the indescribable misery of India's peasant millions continues. The cruel exploitation of the peasants under a system of feudal landlordism continues and intensified.

The tailing middle classes like the working class suffer privations due to sky-rocketting prices and wage cuts. Along with the working class they face mass unemployment and retrenchment.

Three years after India supposed to have attained freedom, not a single problem of the people has been solved. The crushing burdens on their shoulders were not lightened at all, but on the other hand they have increased and are increasing.

Contrast these conditions with those in liberated China. Within a few months of their historic victory over American imperialism and its native servitors, the Chinese people have abolished feudalism for ever. Far reaching democratic transformations are taking place. Industries are being revived. Production is increasing. Prices are falling. Unemployment is rapidly being abolished. Progressive labour legislation has already been introduced.

All this was possible because the Chinese people, headed by the working class, won real national independence and all the working people have risen from their position of slaves to become masters of the state.

On the other hand, poverty, destitution and starvation intensify all-round in India because the freedom that British imperialism is advertised to have granted to India is no real freedom. Behind all its outward trappings, the interests of imperialism continue to be supreme and inviolable. The Congress rulers are faithfully carrying out the behests of imperialism.

The imperialists continue to be masters of India's jute mills, textile mills and other factories, of tea and coffee plantations, of Imperial Bank and other banks and dominate India's economic and political life. Their property representing over a century of loot of the Indian people has been guaranteed by the Congress rulers. So is their right to all future investments and profits.

Not a single industry of any significance has been started. India continues to be a backward agrarian country, because the imperialists do not want her to be industrialised.

At their behest, in faithful implementation of the decisions taken by the Anglo-American imperialists in Washington, the Congress Government devalued the Rupee and threw fresh burdens on the common people.

On their demand the Government reduces taxation on the big incomes of the imperialists and India's big business to the tune of 16 crores, while it refuses any relief to the workers and office employees.

The Congress leaders are the representatives of India's big bourgeoisie - of the Tatas and the Birlas - Panicky at the great revolutionary upsurge of the working class of the common people at the end of the war, panicky at

end of the war, panicky at the growth of the revolutionary forces of the people throughout Asia, these people have gone over to imperialism and become its collaborators, just as the feudal barons have always been. They have been placed in seats of power of imperialism to screen its continued domination over and exploitation of the people.

That is why Sardar Patel shamelessly proclaims that the jagirdars are the pillars of the state. That is why not a single agrarian reform has been carried out in any part of India. On the other hand, a regime of wholesale repression is let loose on the brave peasants of Telengana, who by their heroic struggle, drove out the landlords and carried out far-reaching agrarian reforms. For eighteen months now, the military and special armed police have been carrying out operations in Telengana to reimpose the exploiting regime of the feudal landlords. The brave leaders of these peasants are summarily tried and sentenced to death.

That is why India continues to be in the British Commonwealth and Pandit Nehru sits in conference with the butcher Malcolm MacDonald and the Nazi Molau.

That is why all the repressive laws which imperialism enacted to keep the working class and the people of India in bondage continue to operate and have been even worsened. In face of the determined resistance of the working class and the common people to their attempts to throw yet more burdens on their shoulders, the vested interests, both foreign and Indian, demand suppression of the working class and democratic movements. In the name of public security, which is the name for the security of the imperialists and the capitalists, yet more repressive laws like the Preventive Detention Acts are enacted.

Over 25,000 fighters from the working class, peasants, students and other democratic sections of the people, continue to languish in jails without trial. Trade Unions, provincial organisations of the Communist Party and other democratic organisations have been declared illegal. All democratic rights are being denied. Meetings have been banned, processions fired upon. Even in jails detainees and prisoners have been fired upon. Lathi charges, baton charges and tear gas attacks have become a daily occurrence. A regime of repression reigns in all the working class areas and in the country-side where the peasants carry on the fight for land and for agrarian reforms.

Unable to suppress the working class despite all this terror, the Government has introduced two Black Bills - the Labour Relations Bill and the Trade Unions Bill. Through these Bills it seeks to outlaw all strikes and all unions that lead the workers' struggles. It seeks to impose strike-breaking unions of the INTUC type on the workers and make their nefarious deals with the employers binding on all the workers.

Whatever meagre rights workers had won after years of struggle and sacrifice are being sought to be taken away. The most fundamental rights - the right to strike and freedom of organisation - are totally denied.

India is thus today truly an imperialist police state.

Despite all this repression the people's struggle continues.

India's working class is heroically resisting every attack of the employers whether by way of increase of workload, retrenchment, wage-cut, or victimisation, with immediate strike. Often their strikes have lasted for months together as in the case of pottery workers of Calcutta, Municipal workers of Bombay, textile workers of Kanpur, Tiruppur and Bombay. New leaders have sprung from their ranks to take the place of the arrested leaders and continue the glorious resistance. These struggles have often compelled the capitalists to retreat.

Despite the eighteen months of

Despite the eighteen months of repression by the military and Special Armed Police, the peasants of Telengana continues to fight for land and liberty! Not only has this struggle not been crushed, but it has inspired peasants in other parts of India - in Kalkidip in Bengal, Ahmednagar in Maharashtra, in Bihar, Tamilnad, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra - to fight for land. The struggle of the agricultural labourers and peasants continues to grow in sweep and militancy.

Workers of India! Last year witnessed the tremendous growth in the forces of democracy and Socialism throughout the world. Headed by the Great Soviet Union, the hope and beacon of all working humanity, they represent a force far stronger than the forces of imperialism and reaction.

The victory of the Chinese people and the struggles for national liberation of the people of Viet-Nam, Malaya, Burma, Indonesia, Philippines and South Korea have inflicted and are inflicting powerful blows on imperialism, which undermines its colonial hinterland.

The working class of Italy, France and other capitalist countries including the USA and Great Britain, fight stubborn strike battles against attacks on their standards. Never before had the world seen such a strike wave.

Through these struggles the working class of the world is getting united under the banner of the WFTU. Guided by it, their solidarity actions in support of striking workers, of colonial peoples' struggles for national liberation, against suppression of trade union rights and democratic liberties have grown and assumed a sweep never before seen in history.

Working Men and Women of India!

These great victories of the democratic forces have evoked the fury of the imperialists, headed by the American monopolists. Gripped in the coil of the crisis, and unable to find a solution to it, they are intensifying their preparation for a third world war. Their military budgets grow. They are rearming at an accelerated pace.

They are intensifying the barbarous colonial wars in the countries of Asia. American imperialism is arming the other imperialists and national reactionaries to persecute these wars.

The war-mongers are placing all their hopes in the atomic weapon, in its power of mass extermination of innocent people and on their ability to intimidate the people of the world through it. These cynics do not care for the lives of millions of innocent people.

For them war represents huge profits and the hope of establishing their uncontested domination over the whole world. But for the workers it represents untold sufferings, hunger and death, inconsolable sorrow of millions of widows and orphans.

India's ruling circles, faithful servitors of imperialism that they are, abet these war-designs under the cloak of neutrality. They provide the imperialists with all facilities to transport Gurkha troops to fight the people of Malaya. They allow them all air and sea port facilities to transport war materials to Malaya and Viet-Nam. They refuse to recognise the Republic of Viet-Minh, headed by Dr. Ho Chi Minh. They hatch with the colonialists to fight the liberation movement in Burma and provide their tool, the NU Government with a loan of over a crore of rupees.

They refuse to support the simple proposal to unconditionally prohibit the use of the atomic weapon and establish strict international control over the implementation of this prohibition.

They draw their military

They draw their military plans in close cooperation with and at the dictates of the imperialists, and impose on the people a crushing military burden, amounting to over 50 per cent of the budget.

Their attacks on the living standards of the working class, on their trade union and democratic liberties and on the organisations of the workers and toiling people are all part of the preparation for war.

In order to suppress the democratic movement and prepare the ground for using India's manpower and resources in a war against the Soviet Union and People's China, the imperialists and the reactionary agents are fanning the flame of communal warfare both in India and Pakistan.

Workers of India! The forces of peace have grown tremendously during the last year and can today defeat these war plans. The world-wide Peace Front headed by the Soviet Union, which took shape last year in the World Peace Congress grows in strength from day today. The working class of every country is taking the foremost part in rallying all people of goodwill in defence of peace and is increasing its concrete actions in its defence.

Last November, on the initiative of your fighting central organisation, the AITUC, partisans of peace in India held the All-India Peace Congress in Calcutta. The rally of over one lakh of people at the Congress showed the determination of our people to fight in defence of peace.

Today in face of the feverish preparations of the warmongers and their mad drive to war we must bend all energies and fight with all our resources this menace of war. Rally all people of goodwill, irrespective of their political views or religious persuasion, in the sacred battle for peace.

Sign the appeal of the Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress to ban the atomic bomb and get millions to sign it. Proclaim to the war-mongers that the Government which first uses the atomic weapon against any other country will be held to have committed a crime against mankind and branded as a war-criminal. Warn the atomaniacs of the retribution that awaits them should they dare to use this weapon of mass extermination.

On this day of international working class solidarity renew your pledge to fight the machinations of the plotters of war and that we will never fight against the Soviet Union, the land of victorious Socialism.

Resolutely fight against all attacks on your living standards. Fight all the assaults on your organisation and defend your fundamental trade union rights and the democratic liberties of the people.

Fight the flames of communal war and protect the minorities. Build the unity of the common people in common struggles and foil all the attempts of the reactionaries.

Working men and women of India!

The historic trade union Conference of Asian and Australasian countries, held last November in liberated Peking, under the auspices of the WFTU has pointed to the path that the working class of oppressed countries has to take. In its Manifesto it has reminded them: "You know that your own liberation is inseparable from your national liberation. To achieve a basic improvement in your social status and working conditions, it is indispensable that first and foremost you win genuine national independence, democracy and freedom for the mass of the people".

We in India know from our own

We in India know from our own experience that imperialist domination means never-ending poverty, unemployment, misery, starvation, communal and fratricidal war and the menace of world war.

The All-India Trade Union Congress therefore calls on you all to be in the forefront of this struggle. Remember that the broad masses of peasants who are waging the struggle to end feudal landlordism and for land are your allies. Support their struggle for land. Build and consolidate alliance with them.

Remember that the middle classes suffering privation are your allies. By your courageous struggles inspire them into action and build united front with them.

The AITUC calls upon you all to follow the glorious working class of China and forge a united national front under your leadership, comprising all those who are oppressed and exploited by imperialism and its collaborators, above all with the peasant masses, and wage a relentless struggle for national liberation.

The struggle for peace, for national liberation, for democratic and trade union rights and in defence of your living standards are indisclubly linked and form a single chain.

At the present time it is more than ever indispensable to consolidate the unity of the workers throughout the country and the world.

The history of working class movement demonstrates that the most effective weapon in the hands of workers is their unity. To allow this unity to be broken is to disarm the working class in its struggle against the enemy. It is this that the enemies of the working class have always sought to do.

The assaults launched on our standards and our trade union rights in India underline the urgent importance of forging unity.

The AITUC has always fought for unity of the working class. It declares that nothing divides the workers nationally or internationally. Their interests are common. Their enemy is common. They face common attacks.

The AITUC appeals to all workers to immediately forge this united front. Form joint action committees and resist every attack of the employers on your living standards. Form broad joint committees of all unions and defend your trade union and democratic rights.

On this May Day organise united demonstrations and rallies against the Black Bills and thus lay the foundation for organisational unity. Your united actions will surely smash the game of the disrupters and achieve firm unity.

Remember that the WFTU, created by the unity of the workers of the whole world fights for consolidation of the international unity of the working class and is a powerful factor in its battle for peace and for social, economic and political emancipation.

The British, American and Dutch labour agents of imperialism seek to disrupt this unity on orders of their masters. They have started a scab international consisting of the strike-breaking leaders from many countries. The leaders of the INTUC and certain leaders of the Hind Mazdur Sabha have joined them and are carrying their disruptive activities in India.

Remember that those leaders who seek to divide you serve a cause which is not your own.

The AITUC calls upon you all to fight

The AITUC calls upon you all to fight these disruptive attempts. Rally under the banner of the AITUC and strengthen the IFTU and thus consolidate the international unity of the working class.

*LONG LIVE THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS, THE EMBODIMENT OF INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS SOLIDARITY!

*VICTORY TO THE WORLD PEOPLES' STRUGGLE FOR A LASTING PEACE AND PEOPLES DEMOCRACY!

*VICTORY TO THE COLONIAL PEOPLES IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION!

*VICTORY TO THE INDIAN PEOPLE IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM!

*LONG LIVE ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS!

*LONG LIVE THE MAY DAY - THE DAY OF INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY OF THE WORKING CLASS!

(To be inserted on Page 1, after para No.6)

* The AITUC sends its warm fraternal greetings to the workers and the common people of Pakistan, with whom the working class and the common people of India have been united in bonds of common struggles against imperialism. It greets the growing struggles of the workers and peasants of Pakistan against the unbearable economic burdens imposed upon them by imperialism and its native collaborators.

In these militant struggles is being forged the unity of the working class and the common people of Pakistan, which will surely smash the machinations of imperialism and its reactionary agents who are planning to disrupt the democratic movement by means of communal and fratricidal war.

ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

PROV/20/50

R.L. Trust Building,
55, Girgaum Rd.
B o m b a y 4.
11th March 1950.

C I R C U L A R

To

All Provincial Committees and Regional Councils

Dear Comrade,

Press reports have already shown the enormous danger threatening the working class and other toilers' movement in the form of communal disruption and Indo-pakistan tension, unless we act extremely promptly and effectively and mobilise workers to foil the incendiary plans before they fructify. We must immediately hold meetings and demonstrations campaigning and organising workers and other toilers on the lines suggested here. If meetings are prohibited you should issue handbills, printed or cyclostyled, take out posters, hold indoor meetings. Send reports to the local press ~~xxxx~~ and to us. The main point is to counter effectively and early the bourgeoisie's and their Socialist agents' incendiary propoganda, by asserting the unity and integrity of the toiling people's struggles inside India and in both the states. This must be effectively popularised.

Please see that all Unions under your Provincial Trade Union Congress/Regional Council act swiftly on this and prevent this mad frenzy from disrupting our movement, which is the real aim behind this game.

I need hardly reiterate that the matter is extremely urgent and full of very serious and dangerous potentialities, more so since the Socialist leadership which has so far failed to disrupt workers' ranks effectively has openly joined in this drive for war hysteria.

Kindly acknowledge this statement and circular and let us know what steps you are taking.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,
P.B. Rangnekar
ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

P.S. IMPORTANT: The postal authorities in Bombay have informed us that it will facilitate and expedite delivery of telegrams if they are addressed to AITUCCONG, BOMBAY, GIRGAON instead of just AITUCCONG, BOMBAY as has been the practice hitherto. The extra word of Girgaon does not entail any extra payment. All PTUCs should note this and also inform the Unions of the same.

ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

R.L.Trust Building,
55, Girgaon Road,
Bombay, 13-3-1950

PROV/ 82/50

C I R C U L A R

To All Provincial Trade Union Congress Committees and Regional Councils

Dear Comrades.

On the 1st of this month we have despatched to you a copy of the monthly Information and Documentary Review of the World Federation of Trade Unions "World Trade Union Movement" No. 8 (December 1949) which contains a full review of the historic conference of Asian and Australasian Trade Unions convened by the WFTU, at Peking, reports of Trade Union movements in various countries of Asia and Oceania presented at the conference as well as the resolutions and manifesto adopted at this conference.

I have to call your particular attention to the Manifesto addressed to the working people of Asian countries. This manifesto should be immediately translated into provincial languages and made available to all Unions. It is very important that this manifesto should be widely circulated and explained to all workers. We are sorry we were late in sending this circular.

Please inform us of the steps you are taking in this regard. In particular please reply whether you received the copy of the WFTU Bulletin referred above. A copy of the Peking manifesto is sent herewith for ready reference.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,
P.B.RANGNEKAR
ASST. SECRETARY (AITUC)

MANIFESTO OF THE PEKING CONFERENCE

To All the working people of the Asian and Australasian Countries.

Working Men and Women of the Asian countries!
Brothers and Sisters,

1. We, the delegates to the Trade Union Conference of Asian and Australasian Countries, representing millions of workers in 14 countries of Asia, send you fraternal greetings.
2. Our Trade Union Conference was convened in accordance with the will and wishes of the workers of the Asian countries, to discuss the means of consolidating the links between the trade unions of the Asian countries and between these trade unions and the International labour movement and to discuss a problem which is causing deep concern among the workers of our countries, namely; how to end the imperialist yoke and exploitation and how to achieve genuine national independence and democratic freedom for the mass of the people; how to improve the living conditions of the workers and find the way to complete liberation.
3. Our Trade Union Conference of Asian and Australasian countries met in November, 1949, in Peking, capital of the People's Republic of China proclaimed by the Chinese people.

It is with immense satisfaction that the Conference noted the historical importance of the great victories achieved by the Chinese people. These victories are due to the fact that the Chinese working class, having united all classes, organisations, groups and individuals, who had been persecuted by imperialism and its agents, organised the united national front, formed a revolutionary army under its own leadership and, with the support of the whole people, first and foremost of all the peasants, waged a revolutionary war, defeating the combined force of domestic reaction and foreign imperialism.

4. On behalf of the workers of Asian countries, our Conference sends heartfelt greetings and congratulations to the Chinese working class and to all the heroic Chinese people, on the establishment of their People's Republic.

5. Far-reaching democratic transformations have been or are being carried out in a number of Asian countries where the workers have become masters of their own destiny. The imperialist and feudal yoke and exploitation have been abolished for ever or are being wiped out in the People's Republic of China, in the People's Republic of Mongolia and in Northern Korea. All the working people have risen from their position of slaves to become masters of the State and of society and are free to create a happy future according to their own will. In these countries, progressive labour legislation has been or is being introduced, the principle of "equal pay for equal work" is being implemented and the material and cultural condition of the workers is steadily improving.

6. The victory of democracy in these countries inspires all the oppressed peoples of Asia in their fight against the imperialist colonial regimes of enslavement.

The fact that the Trade Union Conference of Asian and Australasian countries has been convened in Peking is striking proof of the growth of democratic forces in Asia.

These forces are constantly growing throughout the world. The camp of peace and democracy is supported by the common people of all countries.

7. The world democratic forces are headed by the great Soviet Union, hope and beacon of all working humanity. The great example of liberty, equality and fraternity offered by the multi-national people of the Soviet Union is of world wide historical significance.

8. While welcoming the outstanding success of the already liberated peoples of Asia, the Conference particularly draws the attention of all the workers to the cruel yoke under which the workers of colonial, semi-colonial and dependent countries of Asia, deprived of every right, are leading an inhuman life. The Conference has thrown a glaring light on the ruthless exploitation carried out by the colonialists and has clearly shown the capitalism bears the whole responsibility for the wretched slavery and poverty with which the workers of oppressed countries are burdened.

9. In order to maintain and to consolidate their domination over the peoples of Asian countries, to squeeze still greater profits out of them and to find a way out of the economic crisis, which is already developing, the rapacious imperialists are increasing their economic, political and military pressure on the oppressed peoples of the Asian countries. At a time when these peoples were taking part in the Second World War, side by side with freedom-loving peoples of the whole world, they were promised their national independence. But British, French and Dutch imperialists have gone back upon their promise. They are carrying on an armed offensive against the national liberation movement of the peoples of Asia, American imperialism has taken the lead in this offensive and is arming the reactionary forces of Asia.

10. This looting, this barbarous cruelty of imperialism cannot but give rise to a determined resistance on the part of the peoples of the persecuted colonial countries of Asia for the defence of their national independence, in the same way as, during the Second World War, the peoples of France, of Holland and other countries of Europe fought back, arms in hand, against the Nazi invader who was colonising their countries and enslaving them.

11. The mass of the people in a number of oppressed countries in Asia such as, for instance, Viet Nam, Malaya, Indonesia, Burma, the Philippines and Southern Korea, unable to bear any longer the cruel yoke of imperialism, have taken up armed resistance, are organising popular units which fight partisan warfare, are setting up partisan areas and large or small liberated areas and are carrying on a relentless struggle against the onslaughts of the imperialists and their agents. The people of Viet Nam, in particular, have already achieved notable success in their struggle against the French colonialists. The conference expresses its admiration for the national forces leading a patriotic struggle to shake off the yoke of imperialism. This patriotic struggle is a just one, through which the peoples can achieve, under good leadership, at the end of all their efforts and sacrifices, their sacred aim: freedom and national independence.

The imperialists fear the development of the national liberation movement in Asian countries, which destroys the basis of their domination and they persecute with renewed fury and ruthlessness, the peoples of these oppressed countries. They send troops to these countries to attack the liberated areas and partisan units; furthermore, they support reactionary forces everywhere, so that the national traitors, under the protection of imperialist military power, may set up a bloody rule of a fascist type.

13. Wherever their military forces are in control, white terror is raging; all genuine trade unions and other democratic organisations are persecuted or wiped out and their leaders and active members are hunted and often executed.

In Malaya, under the reign of British imperialists, the Pan-Malayan Federation of Trade Unions has been outlawed and its leaders Veersenam and Ganapati executed.

In Indonesia, in the course of the last year alone, more than 25,000 patriots and trade unionists were imprisoned, and the leaders of the Central Trade Union Organisation, Harjono, Oei Gee Hwat and Darusman, have been shot.

In Southern Korea, well known trade unionists, such as Gven Din Thyak, Vice-President of the Union of Textile workers, and You Hen Sik, member of the Presidium of the Confederation of Labour, have been executed.

In Iran, many trade union leaders have been arrested and eight others, including Reza Roustra, President of the Central Council of United Trade Unions, were sentenced to death in absentia.

In India, tens of thousands of active trade unionists and members of other progressive democratic organisations have been imprisoned. The General Secretary of the A.I.T.U.C.S.A. Dange, member of the Executive Bureau of the W.F.T.U. has been languishing in jail for more than one year without trial or indictment. All the delegates elected by the All India Trade Union Congress to attend the 2nd World Trade Union Congress were arrested before they could leave the country.

In Burma, democratic organisations are persecuted, their militant members arrested and in the concentration camps torture and murder are a frequent occurrence.

In Siam, the democratic forces are hunted by the reactionary regime backed by American imperialism. Not satisfied with oppressing the democratic trade unions, this regime provokes clashes among workers of different nationalities in an effort to weaken the growing unity of the working class.

Mac Arthur's Headquarters has forbidden the delegation from the democratic trade unions of Japan to leave their country, thus preventing their participation both in the 2nd World Trade Union Congress and in our Trade Union Conference of Asian and Australasian Countries. The reactionary Japanese Government, with the backing of Mac-Arthur's Headquarters is resorting to armed force to suppress the labour movement in that country. American tanks and machine guns are being used against strikers.

14. At the same time, the agents of imperialism, the reactionary leaders of the American Federation of Labour, the C.I.O. and the British T.U.C. who, at the command of their masters are attempting to disrupt the trade union movement both on a national and a world scale, are carrying on their dirty work in the trade union movement of Asia, jointly with the local reactionaries in those countries, they are creating sham trade unions led by police stooges and reactionaries and are attempting to string them together into a so-called Asian Federation of Labour with the help of which they hope to stifle the struggle led by the workers of Asia in defence of their vital rights and to win their democratic freedom and their national independence.

15. The Conference calls on the trade unions and the workers of the countries of Asia to fight for the implementation of the principles laid down by the 2nd World Trade Union Congress in Milan in its resolution concerning the colonial and semi-colonial countries, and which aims especially:

- To put an end to the system of colonies, protectorates and dependant territories as spheres of economic exploitation;

- To develop trade union organisations in these countries, free of any discrimination based on race, colour, nationality or belief and to establish labour legislation guaranteeing protection to the workers;

- To fight against all social, economic or political discrimination to fight for the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work, both in private industry and in public services;

- To demand the repeal of anti-labour laws and the suppression of forced labour in those countries;

- To intensify every labour struggle in support of workers claims with the aim of rallying the working masses for raising their standard of living.

16. In the name of millions of workers of Asia, the Conference protests strongly against the persecutions, led by the imperialists and their agents, of the trade unions and other democratic organisations and of their leaders in India, Japan, Iran, Southern Korea, Burma, Malaya, Indonesia and in other oppressed countries.

17. The Conference demands that democratic freedom be restored and particularly freedom of organisation for the trade unions of those countries. It demands the immediate release of all imprisoned trade unionists and fighters for the cause of national liberation and democratic freedoms. It calls on the workers of the countries of Asia to fight resolutely against the intrigues of the agents of the Anglo-American capitalists aimed at disrupting trade union unity; to consolidate this unity, and not to let themselves be deceived by those traitors to the working class.

18. The Conference calls on the workers and on all the oppressed people of Asia to resist determinedly the armed offensive of the colonialists and to give all the help that they possibly can do to the patriots waging a hard struggle to defend the independence and freedom of their country.

Workers and trade unionists of the oppressed countries of Asia! Your delegates to the Conference have related how, when you can no longer carry on your activity in the cities under white terror, you rejoin the areas under partisan control to rally their units. Through relentless struggle you broaden and strengthen the role of the working class as the backbone and the leader of these armed people's units. The Conference hails this patriotic action, which eloquently shows the heroic path chosen by the workers to extend ever more widely the struggle for national liberation.

19. Workers of the oppressed countries of Asia! You know that your own liberation is inseparable from your national liberation. To achieve a basic improvement in your social status and working conditions it is indispensable that first and foremost you win genuine national independence, democracy and freedom for the mass of the people. You should be the most devoted, the most determined and the most through-going fighters for the cause of national liberation. You must show initiative in uniting around you the broad masses of the peasantry and the intellectuals, the petty bourgeoisie in the cities and the national bourgeoisie which suffer from the vexations and restrictions imposed by imperialism and its lackeys.

You must create a powerful national front, so that it can wage, under your leadership, the struggle against imperialism and its agents. The alliance of workers and peasants is one of the basic conditions for success. Only when your struggle has effectively obtained the support of the large mass of the people will you attain your goal—the national liberation of your country and your own emancipation.

20. Working men and women!

In the cities under white terror, apply with good judgement and elasticity the tactics that can best ensure the defence of your interests. Active trade unionists, you must be present wherever the masses are, even in the trade unions, organisations and institutions led by reactionaries. You must organise the day-to-day struggle of the masses for the defence of their interests, in particular opposing slave labour and every kind of discrimination. In this way you will prepare and gather forces to organise, when a favourable opportunity arises, broad mass movements that will deliver decisive blows at the reactionary forces.

21. Working men and women, who still suffer under the persecution and violence of imperialism: Thanks to the victorious struggle of national liberation and particularly thanks to the great victory of the Chinese people the national liberation movement, inspired by those victories will inevitably develop still further in a number of Asian countries.

But where the forces of imperialism and its agents are still powerful, they will apply still more ruthlessly their policy of blood and terror, and will attempt to crush every progressive force. Thus, it must be expected that the conditions under which the workers of these countries and areas are living may temporarily become even more difficult. But if bearing in mind the concrete conditions in which you find yourselves, you make good and proper use of the contents of this Manifesto, the blows that the reactionaries are aiming at you will miss their mark. You will know how to avoid falling into their traps; and, in the end, by rallying large masses of the people, it will be you that will gradually weaken your adversaries. The time shall come when you yourselves will have created the conditions for the final collapse of the enemies of the people and then you will achieve complete victory.

22. The Conference notes that the imperialists and their agents are attempting to organise a united reactionary front to launch an offensive against the forces of democracy and peace in the countries of Asia. That is why it is indispensable to close the ranks of the working class and of all the oppressed peoples of the countries of Asia, in order to resist the offensive of the reactionary forces.

23. The Conference calls upon the working class in every country of the world and particularly in the U.S.A., Great Britain, France, and Holland, to express its vigorous sympathy with its brothers of the oppressed people and to give them all the help and support that they possibly can. This is a sacred duty in keeping with international solidarity.

24. Working men and Women of the countries of Asia!

You are not isolated in your struggle. You can rely on the fraternal sympathy and of the help and support of the workers throughout the world. The World Federation of Trade Unions is the trustworthy defender of the interests of the peoples and of the oppressed workers of Asia. It fights for the cause of the working class.

The Conference reports to you with great satisfaction that a Permanent Liaison Bureau of the World Federation of Trade Unions has been set up in Asia, with the task of developing and strengthening the ties between the trade unions of the Asian countries and between the Trade Union National Centres of these countries and the World Federation of Trade Unions.

Long live the unity, friendship and fraternal mutual assistance of the working class and of all the working people of Asia!

Long Live the International unity of the working class!

Long live freedom and independence for all the peoples!

THE TRADE UNION CONFERENCE OF ASIAN AND AUSTRALASIAN COUNTRIES.

PEKING, DECEMBER 1st, 1949.

The following countries were represented at the Trade Union Conference of Asian and Australasian countries: Burma, Ceylon, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaya, Mongolia, North Korea, the Phillipines, South Korea, U.R.S.S., Siam and Viet Nam.

Malaya

ALL INDIA PEACE COMMITTEE

48, Banhamhall Lane,
Girgaon, Bombay, 9th
16-3-1950

C I R C U L A R N O. 1/50

To All Peace Committees and Affiliated Organisations,

Dear Comrades,

The All India Peace Committee met on 28th February, 1950 after the successful all India Peace Congress in Calcutta in last November.

After reviewing the work done by Peace Committees and democratic organisations in all parts of our country following the Calcutta Congress, the AIPC took the following important decisions in order to further strengthen the peace movement.

DECISIONS OF THE A.I.P.C.

1. OFFICE OF AIPC : In accordance with the decision adopted at the all India Peace Congress the following place was fixed for the central office of the All India Peace Committee in Bombay:

THE ALL INDIA PEACE COMMITTEE

c/o The Bombay F.S.U.,

48, Banhamhall lane, Girgaon, Bombay,

2. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS: As the elections of office bearers at the All India Peace Congress were provisional, the following office bearers were elected to the AIPC:

President:- V. CHAKKARAI CHETTIAR

GENERAL SECRETARY:- A.M. SHIRALI

TREASURER:- S.M. ANUJA

3. RULES FOR REPRESENTATION TO THE AIPC:- In order that the AIPC be a representative body of all those organisations and sections of our people in all parts of our country who stand for democratic peace and against war, it was decided that in addition to the names of the members of AIPC already submitted at the AIPC Congress in November last further representation be given as follows:-

i) All Affiliated organisations that are of an all India nature may nominate a minimum of Five members on behalf of every such organisation to the AIPC;

ii) Each Province may nominate a minimum of Ten members to the AIPC to represent the Provincial Peace Committee OR where there is no such Provincial Committee to represent the organised peace movement in any part of that Province.

iii) On the recommendation of any of the Provincial Peace Committee or the All India Organisations, the members representing that PPO or organisation may be substituted or changed or increased or decreased in number.

It was decided that all unrepresented bodies should immediately send in their nominations to the AIPC office before the 31st of March 1950 and thereafter a meeting of all members of AIPC be held to elect a Working Committee. It was also decided that this Working Committee will have the powers to expel any member subject to confirmation by the A.I.P.C.

4. FUNDS FOR AIPC: To enable the AIPC to organise and coordinate the peace movement in all parts of our country, it was decided to raise a fund of Rs 20,000/- before MAY DAY.

The AIPC has issued a public appeal for funds (copy attached here-with)

The following quotas were taken by Provincial representatives present in the AIPC meeting.

<u>PROVINCE</u>	Payment before 31st March '50	Total collections by MAY DAY
Bengal	Rs 500/-	Rs 3,000
Nadhya Bharat	Rs 150/-	500
Gujrat	" 100/-	300
Bihar	" 100/-	500
Delhi	" 30/-	300
Bombay	(To meet the expenses office)	3,000
Madras	100/-	1,000
U.P.	100/-	500(mān)

All other provinces must send in their quota immediately and start collecting funds.

5 OBSERVANCE OF PEACE WEEK: It was decided to observe a PEACE WEEK FROM APRIL 23rd to May 1st. The attached copy of the resolution will give an idea of the nature of the observance of the Peace week. The Committee has authorised the Secretary to send an invitation to the Bureau of the Committee of the World Congress of the Defenders of Peace requesting the delegation of the World Peace Committee to visit India during this Peace Week.

6. MASS SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN FOR PEACE: Though a decision was ~~taken~~ at the All India Peace Congress to collect signatures on the statement of the Congress adopted at Calcutta, no organised effort could be made to implement this decision. The AIPC, therefore, decided to redraft the statement incorporating in it the latest decisions of the World Peace Committee and organise the signature campaign (copy of the new draft attached). All Affiliated organisations and peace Committees are requested to immediately to start this campaign of collecting mass signatures on the statement and send their reports about its development from time to time to the central office of the peace committee.

After collecting signatures the statement should be sent to the AIPC office from where all the copies will be sent in bulk from time to time to the proper quarters.

7. OTHER RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE AIPC ARE ON : (COPIES ARE ATTACHED)

- i) On repression protesting against arrests of peace fighters including Acting General Secretary of AIPC Com. Gavankar.
- ii) On Salem Jail firing.
- iii) On the Slave Constitution.
- iv) On the World Peace Committee's monthly journal; "In Defence of Peace"
- v) On Communal riots.

Comrades, the evil designs of the Anglo-American warmongers and their Indian lackeys who today are busy fostering communal riots at the bidding of their imperialist masters, must be foiled. The growing unity of the people in their battle for peace, which is also the people's battle for freedom, democracy and better living conditions must be organised under the banner of Peace Committees. Vigorous work must start immediately to implement the above decisions:

- 1. Send the names of members to AIPC representing your Committees- before 31 March 1950
- 2. Report your collections towards funds for AIPC- send your quota and whatever amount collected immediately (On this will depend the issuing of new bulletins from the central office).

3. Report your plans for observance of Peace Week.
4. Report your plans for signature campaign on peace statement.
5. Send your orders for the Journal "In Defence of Peace".

With Greetings.

Yours fraternally,
 A.M. SHIRALI
 GENERAL SECRETARY
 ALL INDIA PEACE COMMITTEE

Encl: Copies of Resolutions.
 Appeal for Funds.
 Statement for signature
 Campaign.

RESOLUTIONS

On Repression This meeting of the All-India Peace Committee notes with great indignation the repression unleashed on the defenders of peace all over India by the Nehru Government, the lackey of Anglo-American warmongers, resulting in the arrest of Gavankar, Acting Secretary of the All India Peace Committee in Bombay, and three members of the All India Peace Committee from Bengal, the banning of Peace meetings by police offensive in Lucknow, Indore, Ahmedabad, various other centres in Bengal and other provinces, and arrests and detention of numerous defenders of peace in all parts of the country.

With the growing strength of the Peace Movement all over the world and in India, the Nehru Government, in its desperate effort at pursuing its policy of pawning India as war-base to the Anglo-American imperialists has passed Security Bills in the Centre and in the States to crush the Peace Movement and any kind of democratic movement for the fundamental rights of the people.

This meeting therefore calls on the Peace-loving people of India to launch a country-wide militant peace movement protesting against fascist repression on defenders of peace and to frustrate the war plans of the Nehru Government.

ON SALEM JAIL FIRING This meeting of the All India Peace Committee condemns with hatred the recent firing by the jail authorities of the Congress Government on unarmed political prisoners in Salem Jail in Madras, resulting in the death of 22 and injury to over 100. This action is a common feature of the Congress rule in India today, as evident from lathi charges and firing on political detenues in jails in other provinces all over the country.

This meeting characterises these fascist actions of the Congress rulers, hirilings of the Anglo-American warmongers, as the desperate effort to crush all democratic movement for permanent peace against the policy of Nehru of pawning India on a war-base to Anglo-American warmongers.

This meeting calls on the people of India to strengthen the militant peace movement throughout the country and not to allow the Nehru Government to pursue its war policies and its policy of persecution against peace fighters.

It demands an immediate, unofficial, impartial and public enquiry into the Salem jail firing, the punishment of those guilty and the release of all the political detenues.

ON THE CONSTITUTION This meeting of the All India Peace Committee considers that the Constitution of the Congress Government imposed upon the people of India is a constitution of enslavement to Anglo-American warmongers which consolidates the hold of foreign imperialist monopolies on the economy of India and thus barter away India's sovereignty.

It is a Constitution to facilitate the policy of war in the interest of British and American imperialists and Indian big business against the USSR, Free China, the People's Democracies in Eastern Europe and the democratic peoples of the world, so long pursued by the Congress Government at the bidding of its imperialist masters.

This meeting calls on the peace-loving people of India to make this black Constitution of warmongers ineffective by frustrating their war plot through a mighty peace movement throughout the country.

WELCOMING WORLD PEACE CONGRESS DECISION The Committee whole heartedly welcomes the decisions of the World Peace Committee and its latest five point declaration. The Committee particularly welcomes the decision to send a delegation of leading peace partisans to various countries to get the peace congress declaration adopted by their legislatures. The Committee warmly welcomes the decision to include India in the programme of this delegation's visit and assures all support to the delegation in their visit to India.

The Committee directs the General Secretary to request the World Peace Congress to enable to visit to the delegation to India during the peace week i.e. in the last week of April.

'IN DEFENCE OF PEACE' The Committee pledges to the World Peace Congress to secure the widest possible circulation to the organ of the World Peace Congress, namely, "In Defence of Peace" and calls upon all affiliated organisations and provincial units to take up its popularisation as an important part of their work. They must enrol subscribers, secure agents and otherwise see that maximum number of copies of this magazine is being read by our people. The Committee calls on all the partisans of peace to enlist themselves as subscribers and readers and propagandists of "In Defence of Peace". Further attempts should be made to see that articles appearing in the magazine are translated in all the national languages in India and published in as many journals as possible.

ON PEACE WEEK The Committee approves the resolution tabled by the AITUC calling for observing the week following the first anniversary of the World Congress of Peace, from April 23rd to 31st April as the "WORLD PEACE WEEK" and calls on all provincial units and all peace partisans and all affiliated organisations to plan in advance to make the observation of the week a great occasion of popularising the decisions of the World Peace Congress and the activities of the All India Peace Committee, as an occasion to rally the vast mass of toilers and freedom loving people for the fight for peace.

The Programme might take the form of:-

1. Collecting mass signature in support of the manifesto of the All India Peace Conference.
2. Holding demonstrations, meetings, processions and strikes which ever is possible and effective.
3. By selling peace flags.
4. By any other effective means.

The Committee calls on all progressive papers to bring out special Peace issues in this week.

A special Peace fund will be collected during this week, and the collection will be sent to the Central office of the All India Peace Committee.

RESOLUTION ON INDO-PAKISTAN WAR HYSTERIA

The All India Peace Committee most vehemently condemns the incendiary propaganda carried on by the bourgeois rulers of both the Indian Union and Pakistan and their press with the aim of bringing about an armed conflict between the people of both the territories.

Behind this war hysteria is the game of the Anglo-American imperialist warmongers, who are feverishly preparing for a third world war and who want to use India and Pakistan as bases of their war operations against Soviet Union, China, and against the national liberation movements of South East Asia. By instigating an armed conflict between the peoples of India and Pakistan, these war-mongers want them to remain permanently in a state of hostility so that they can strengthen their grip over both the territories.

Events of the last three years, the communal carnage of 1946-47, the war in Kashmir, devaluation of currency and the consequent trade war, and now the whipping of war frenzy, all these clearly reveal that these ruling circles are not the free rulers of their territories as they profess to be, but act as the national agents of the Anglo-American imperialists.

At their command, the League rulers of Pakistan sent their raiders into Kashmir while Lord Mountbatten got Pandit Nehru to refer the dispute to UNC, which has meant direct intervention by Anglo-American imperialism. The acceptance by both to-day of the joint British and American proposal of the one-man commission for Kashmir is one more proof of this reality of their servitude. Imperialism is thus assured of a source of permanent armed conflict between the two peoples.

It was in continuation of this imperialist policy of creating sources of permanent conflict that India was made to devalue her currency while Pakistan was made to retain the old value of her currency. The consequent trade war, the banning of export of jute by the one and of coal by the other, all of which only aggravated the tension, - this is but the logical fruition of the imperialist policies.

If today also, as in 1946-47, both the ruling circles not only refuse to sever their bonds of servitude with imperialism, but are only playing its game and madly whipping up war frenzy, it is because, panicky at the growing sweep of the national liberation movement, they see in this frenzy their only weapon for side tracking and crushing the people's struggles.

Today, both in India and Pakistan, the bourgeois rulers have used every fascist measure to suppress the mass movement of workers, peasants and the common people against inhuman exploitation, unemployment, starvation and death. Thousands of leaders of the toiling masses are in jail, hundreds have been killed in firings, many of their organisations have been banned. And yet the bourgeoisie has failed to suppress the ever-mounting and determined resistance of the masses. It is to suppress this resistance and side track the attention of the working people from the struggles against their own oppressors and to divert their rising discontent into channels of hatred against each other, that the ruling circles of both the countries want to drive them into waging a bloody warfare.

Hence this war frenzy, ~~hence~~ the mad, bankrupt talks of transfer of populations. Tens of lakhs of refugees are yet to be given land and jobs. Both the Governments are disowning responsibility in this regard. And yet they speak of transfer of population. The crude game is to exploit the miseries of these tens of lakhs of people, to smash the strike struggles of the city working class and the agricultural labourers in both the territories, which are growing despite the fascist-repression let loose on them so far.

In this nefarious conspiracy of the Anglo-American imperialists and their bourgeois agents to drown the revolutionary movement in blood, not only such communal reactionary parties as the RSS and the Hindu Mahasabha, but the Indian Socialist party also is helping them. Its leaders, Jai Prakash Narain, Bhabha and Karendra Deo have not only joined

joined the bourgeoisie, but are openly demanding that Indian troops march into Pakistan and start armed conflict immediately.

The Socialist Party leadership is thus openly acting as the agent of the Anglo-American imperialists, vociferously carrying on war propaganda and thus shamelessly serving its foreign and Indian masters.

Despite the fact that the memories of last massacre are yet fresh, these enemies of the people, both in India and Pakistan, are once again subjecting innocent people, men and women in both the territories, to unbridled atrocities and murders in cold blood. The bourgeois rulers are shamelessly justifying these atrocities as a natural retaliation to atrocities committed across the borders.

The All India Peace Committee strongly denounces these plans of the Anglo-American imperialists and their agents, the bourgeois rulers both in India and Pakistan, and calls upon the workers, peasants and toiling masses and all lovers of peace throughout India and Pakistan to condemn this diabolical plan and forge their mighty unity.

The All India Peace Committee warns the ruling circles, both in India and Pakistan, against these war plans and declares that the Indian toiling masses led by the working class, shoulder to shoulder with the toiling masses of Pakistan, will refuse to fight against each other, that instead, they will unite and fight the bourgeoisie of both the territories in defence of their basic rights, for peace and real national independence.

A war hysteria is being whipped up in both the territories. The working class and all democratics and lovers of peace must therefore exercise the greatest vigilance in asserting the unity and integrity of the struggles of the toiling people in both the territories against their own oppressors and thus foil the imperialist game to drag them behind the bourgeoisie of each country and into a fratricidal war.

The All India Peace Committee, therefore calls upon all provincial Peace Committees and affiliated organisations and appeals to all peasants' Students' and other working people's organisations to unmask and denounce this Anglo-American-bourgeois Socialist leaders' conspiracy against both the peoples, hold Hindu-Muslim unity demonstrations, form peace squads to fight the incendiaries of communal warfare and build people's resistance to riot makers. They must actively protect the minorities in their midst and thus forge a fighting united front of all toilers to defeat these diabolical plans.

The All India Peace Committee calls upon all its provincial Committees and all affiliated organisations to hold meetings and demonstrations in co-operation with other democratic organisations and forge a mighty unity of all toiling masses and lovers of peace to denounce and defeat the plans of the bourgeoisie, to defend peace and the national liberation movement.

FOR

FOR SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN

We the people of are aware of the terrible danger of war which once again threatens all the people of the world.

We know that the peace of the world is threatened by the machinations of imperialist warmongers who are waging wars of intervention against the peoples of Viet Nam, Burma, Malaya, Indonesia, Greece, fighting for national independence and democracy. The imperialists are further threatening the peace of the world by forming such partial military alliances as the Atlantic Pact, by engaging in a feverish armaments drive, by rearming Germany and Japan, by establishing military bases all over the world, by tearing up agreements between the Great Powers, by brandishing first the atom bomb and now the hydrogen bomb to frighten and blackmail the peoples of the world, by intensive war propaganda through press, radio and films, and by supporting in every continent anti-democratic governments that are the enemies of the peoples.

All these efforts of the imperialists not only threaten the peace but the independence of the peoples of the world and are calculated to increase the super-profits of the monopolies and to prolong the subjection and enslavement of the peoples of the colonies.

Above all these efforts are calculated to unleash aggression against the peoples of the Soviet Union who have established a higher social order and against the new order that is being established in the People's Democracies and in Free China.

Imperialist powers led by America have launched a mad drive for world domination which will lead directly to war.

Only four years after the Second World War which caused terrible destruction and immense suffering to our people, and from the effects of which our people have not yet recovered, they are once again faced with the peril of a new war.

Against the will of the Indian people, the Nehru Government has agreed to keep India within the British Commonwealth—thus forcibly committing her to partnership of the war-bloc headed by the British and American imperialists.

Against the will of the Indian people, the Nehru Government has committed India to the Anglo-American imperialist plans of military aggression in Asia—plans of supporting reactionary anti-democratic governments in Viet-Nam, Indonesia, Burma and Malaya against the people of these countries fighting for national liberation and democracy.

In furtherance of the war plans of British and American imperialists and the defence of the interests of Indian big business, a crushing burden of military expenditure is being foisted upon the backs of the people already groaning under famine, high prices, unemployment and grinding poverty. A veritable reign of terror is launched against the people, suppressing their trade union rights and democratic liberties.

At the bidding of their imperialist masters the reactionary rulers of India and Pakistan, who are jointly suppressing the democratic movements in the two countries, have launched a barrage of chauvinist war propaganda against each other. They are granting full facilities to reactionary communal organisations in the two countries, which preach hatred against the minorities to carry on their work of fostering communal riots so as to divert the people's attention from these attacks on their living standards and to disrupt the growing unity of the people in the fight for their common demands.

These efforts of the Nehru Government which represent a violation and surrender of the national sovereignty of the Indian people to the dictates of the American and British warmongers not only spell ruin and disaster to the Indian people but constitute a serious danger to the peace loving peoples of the world.

Being fully convinced that today Peace is the supreme and most urgent demand of our peoples, we denounce all these policies and measures of war which seek to make India a base of war and which commits India to the aggressive war bloc headed by the Anglo-American imperialists.

We denounce the partnership in the British Commonwealth which is a partnership in an aggressive war-bloc against the peoples of the world.

At the same time, slanderous propaganda is carried on against the Soviet Union and the peace loving peoples of the world through the speech of Government ministers, in the capitalist press and on the radio.

We fully support the proposals of the World Committee of the Partisans of Peace addressed to the Parliaments and Assemblies of all the countries for:

1. The cessation of the armaments race which plunges the people into misery and destroy any hope of well being. This is possible through a reduction in war budgets and military expenditure.
2. An end to be put to the horrible threat of atomic bombing. This is possible through the banning of the atom bomb and other weapons of mass destruction.
3. The cessation of military intervention against the peoples especially in Indonesia, Malaya and Viet Nam.
4. The cessation of all repression against the partisans of peace; this repression aims at breaking the people's resistance and leaving a free course for war preparations.
5. The cessation of war nerves, so that confidence can be re-established. This is possible through signature, in the framework of the United Nations, of a Peace Treaty between the Great Powers.

In the words of the Paris Peace Manifesto, we declare, the defence of Peace is the concern of all the peoples of the world.

We greet the peoples of the Soviet Union, of the Peoples' Democracies of Eastern Europe, and the peoples of Free China who together with the freedom-loving peoples of all countries are united in the World Peace Front and constitute the most powerful and invincible guarantee of peace.

We assure them that we shall rally the peoples of all races, creeds and professions to condemn war preparations and war measures, to oppose the use of Indian resources for the purpose of suppressing other people's independence, to unite in defence of the democratic rights of the people, to protest against the crushing burden of military expenditure and to refuse to be used in preparation for war.

The battle for peace is the battle for Freedom, Democracy and Life.

LET US UNITE TO WIN THE BATTLE FOR PEACE!

APPEAL FOR FUNDS
APPEAL FOR FUNDS

(To be circulated through the Peace Committees and democratic mass organisations and printed in the democratic press)

The All India Peace Committee which recently met in Bombay reviewed the work done by the Peace Committees and democratic organisations in all parts of the country following the remarkably successful All-India Peace Congress held in Calcutta in last November.

held

The Peace Conference, ~~held in Calcutta~~ and districts in the teeth of police repression, the meetings to report on the results of the Calcutta Peace Congress, the setting up of a number of provincial and district Peace Committees have further consolidated the Peace movement in our country. However, the absence of a central co-ordinating office has been a serious handicap in unifying this growing peace movement and developing it into a total offensive of the entire toiling people of India against the imperialist warmongers and their allies in India.

This organisational lag, it was felt, must be made up in as short a time as possible. The central office of the Peace Committee which, it was decided, is to be situated in Bombay has got to be run in a manner demanded by the intensity and extension of the Peace Movement both in India and abroad. Our link with the World Peace Committee, so vital for our own existence and growth, has got to be maintained and strengthened. If the central office is not fully equipped for this purpose, our Peace Campaign may receive a serious set-back.

Equally vital is the necessity for a central Peace journal to unify, organise and direct the Peace Campaign throughout the country in co-ordination with the World Peace Movement.

Funds are necessary for this basic work for Peace, i.e. running of the Central office and starting a central organ as soon as possible. We therefore appeal to all lovers of peace, irrespective of race, creed or profession, to all people vitally interested in Peace to contribute liberally to our Central Peace Fund so that work may be immediately started.

Conditions today are overwhelmingly in favour of peace. The So-called defence expenditure in Indian budget spells economic ruin for the toiling people. The people in Bengal and elsewhere are today paying with their lives for the cold war between India and Pakistan which the native henchmen of the Anglo-American warmongers have launched at their masters bidding. The toiling masses today eagerly await to be shown the way out to Peace. The situation brooks no delay and the work of the All India Peace Committee demands to be taken up in dead earnest.

We therefore, confidently hope that ~~in~~ this appeal for the Central Peace Fund will receive wide and generous response.

Contributions must be addressed to:

The Secretary, All India Peace Committee,
c/o of Friends of the Soviet Union office,
48, Benham Hall Lane, Girgaon,
Bombay,

ALL INDIA PEACE COMMITTEE.

13-14-4
PROV/24/50
Unions/2/50

R.L.Trust Building,
55, Girgaum Road,
Bombay 4, 21-3-1950

C I R C U L A R

To
All Provincial Committees and Regional Councils
All affiliated Unions

Dear Comrade,

Re: UNITED CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE BLACK BILLS

In our earlier circular sent along with the resolution of the General Council calling for demonstrations against the fascist labour Bills introduced by the Government of India, we had stressed the urgent need for forging the broadest united action of the working class on the basis of total opposition to the Bills. We had further stated that it is possible and practicable to forge such unity from below, if we approach the mass of workers belonging to the Hind Mazdoor Sabha, for the issue vitally affecting all workers.

Last week, the Hind Mazdoor Sabha has passed a resolution opposing the two Bills and has called for observing 9th April as a day of demonstrations against the Bills.

We have proposed to the Hind Mazdoor Sabha that both our organisations should join hands and evolve a joint campaign against these Bills. A copy of the letter which we have addressed to the Hind Mazdoor Sabha is enclosed herewith.

Our Delegation at the Tripartite Indian Labour Conference, called by the Government of India at Delhi to consider these two Bills, is also proposing to the delegation of the Hind Mazdoor Sabha that they should join together in totally opposing the two Bills and in demanding their complete withdrawal.

All comrades should, however, remember that only by a sustained and determined struggle for it from below will such a broad united front become possible. The time is most opportune for mobilising the rank and file workers on the need for such unity and for forging such united front on a local level throughout the country. Total opposition to these two Bills and the demand for their withdrawal constitute the platform on which such a united front can be forged.

All trade unions and Provincial Committees, should therefore take the following steps to forge unity and to make the demonstrations on the 3rd and 9th April, united demonstrations of all workers:

1. Immediately propose to the local unions affiliated to the Hind Mazdoor Sabha and other unions in your locality united action and campaign on the question of opposition to these two Bills. Propose to them that they should join together and celebrate both the 3rd of April and the 9th of April jointly and mobilise the workers in opposition to the Bills. Your letter should emphasise the need for all workers sinking their differences in the face of this grave menace and unitedly fighting against the Bills.

2. Simultaneously approach the mass of workers on the basis of these proposals. The mass of workers who are in the unions affiliated to the Hind Mazdoor Sabha should know that you have made these proposals. Then only

these proposals. Then only, they would bring pressure on the local union leadership to agree to the proposal for united front.

3. The campaign for united front against the Bills should be carried on very vigorously in the factories, in the tiffin sheds and in the places where the workers reside. This can be effectively done, only if we explain to the workers what is at stake. The openly fascist character of the two Bills should be concretely exposed; how they take away the most fundamental rights of the workers to strike and of organisation and leave the workers completely disarmed before the capitalist offensive. The fact that the INTUC alone will be the organisation that will have the right to negotiate and "represent", i.e. betray the workers, should be well brought out. The workers should be mobilised to fight against this danger with reference to concrete instances of their betrayal both locally and from instances of other centres. For example, in Bombay, the INTUC Union with a bogus membership of 15 per cent of the workers in the textile industry, today has agreed before the Industrial Court to postpone the question of bonus due in the month of February to May 1950. After these two Bills are passed, such "agreements" of the INTUC will be binding on all workers. In this way, on the basis of the complete denial of the right to strike, the complete denial of the freedom of organisation and the imposition of the company unions on the workers, the entire working class can and should be roused to united action.

4. On this basis we must organise the widest discussion of the proposals for united front and also the nature of the offensive as fore-shadowed in the two Bills among the broadest mass of workers. Our militants should take the lead in the organisation of such discussions. In these discussions, the greatest attention should be paid to pointing out the need for united action. All instances of workers' resistance to employers' attacks being weakened by ~~the~~ disunity should be brought before the workers. These concrete instances from their own experience in their struggle against the attacks of the employers, will be a powerful lever in rousing the workers for unity.

5. By these means we should organise the workers in the other unions to go to their unions in groups and demand of their leadership to agree to united front. It is only by giving such concrete shape to the campaign for united front that the workers will be taken forward and real united front will grow from below.

6. No hard and fast rule can be laid down as to how concretely such demand is to take shape. But comrades should take the local conditions into account and work out the details. We can for example get the workers in the other unions to meet together and pass resolutions demanding such a united front. These resolutions should be broadcast to the mass of workers and more and more of such meetings should be encouraged.

7. It may be possible even if we are not able immediately to get the unions to agree to united front, to get ad hoc committees of workers from all unions formed in individual factories or on a local level for the purpose of working out campaigns against the Bills. These committees can call conference of all workers for this purpose. In this way, the demand for united front will grow and become strong. Comrades should remember that campaign against these Bills should be a sustained one and that we alone can and must initiate and develop it.

8. On 9th April, if we are not able to get their unions to agree for joint observance, we should not keep away from this observance and demonstrations. In fact, it must be our task to see that all demonstrations against these Bills are successful.

We should therefore mobilise

We should, therefore, mobilise all the workers under our influence on that day and join their demonstrations. We should take out our own banners against the Bills, with our distinctive slogans. The slogans of unity and united front against the Bills should be the most prominent in our demonstrations which join their demonstrations on 9th April. The workers must see and realise that we mean united action seriously.

If we carry on the campaign for united front from now on, our slogans for unity will find a ready echo among the workers attending their demonstrations and meetings on the 9th and mass fraternisation can take place and the disruptive leaders will be powerless before the mass of workers united in opposition to the Bills and ardently desiring unity.

We should come forward before the mass of workers ~~as the champions~~ of united front.

While we are making the most sustained and determined efforts for united action, the Provincial Committees and Unions should not lose sight of the fact that in this campaign we do not, cannot, give up our independent action. We must launch a vigorous campaign from now on for making the observance of April 3 - the Anti-Black Bill Day as decided by the General Council of the AITUC - a complete success, taking all the necessary steps in the direction, like taking out handbills, posters, wide agitational campaign among the workers, etc.

The main point to note is in all our campaign for April 3, as also for April 9, we must concretely and vigorously campaign for action against these two Bills, so that April 3 becomes a big step in our building up of united struggle. We should try our very best to make the observance of both the days, united action. But in case it is delayed for any reason, we should not weaken our campaign for the successful observance of April 3, inviting the workers behind the Unions ~~affiliated to the Hind Mazdoor Sabha to fully~~ participate in our meetings and demonstrations.

While we vigorously expose the openly fascist character of the two Bills and call on workers to struggle for their withdrawal, we must persistently and consistently emphasise the need for united action of all workers to successfully achieve this common task. Through the steps suggested above we concretely show to the workers that not only we are serious about united action, but also that unity is quite practicable and vital.

All Unions and Provincial Committees should immediately go into this campaign. They should use all the available facilities, like handbills, posters, gate-meetings, bustee meetings, meetings in tiffin sheds and mass meetings for successfully carrying out this campaign for united front.

Please send reports of your activities to this office and to the press.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,
P.B. Rangnekar
ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

Encl. 1