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Observe International Environment Day

In continuation to the call of the International Coordination of Revolutionary Parties and Organisations [ICOR] and the call of the International Conference of Marxist- Leninist Parties and Organisations [ICMLPO] the CPI[ML] has called for observing the International Environment Day on December 4th with the slogans “Imperialism destroys environment; Fight to destroy imperialism” and “Struggle for pro-people, pro-nature development policy” joining with all forces who can be united in this struggle for saving the human race from the impending catastrophe caused by the environmental destruction. As the imperialist promoted ‘development’ perspective has pushed ecological destruction to optimum levels what is required is a global level struggle to throw out these policies.

We appeal to all revolutionary left and democratic forces to save the human race from the catastrophe by intensifying the struggle to throw over board the imperialist dictated neo liberal policies and the very imperialist and comprador rules as such. Let us join hands on the International Environment Day for this revolutionary cause.

Fight to Throw Out Agreements Signed With Obama.

The Obama visit and the agreements signed with him by the comprador rulers of our country intensify the neo colonial servitude and devastation of the country. US imperialism is the number one enemy of world people and also of the Indian people. What we had pointed out while calling for boycotting Obama’s visit that Bush or Obama the US imperialism means the barbaric industrial-military- bureaucratic complex which is aggressive and hegemonic became clearer to more and more sections as the dates of his visit drew nearer, As a result from the time he alighted at Mumbai large number of people came out in protest all over the country. There were rallies, meetings and burning the US flag, and effigies of Obama and the comprador, Manmohan, at hundreds of places.

But in spite of these protests the UPA government signed numerous agreements which made Obama happy. He boasted that he signed \$10 billion worth agreements which will provide 50,000 more jobs in his country

But how many jobs this country will lose was not mentioned by Manmohan and company. How many billion dollars more will be plundered through the defence, armament purchase, nuclear, agricultural agreements signed, how much the environment of this country will be devastated are not discussed by the comprador rulers of this country. Some of the studies we have published in this issue of Red Star a glimpse of these issues. The comprador rulers are going to obediently implement these agreements pauperizing the people and devastating the country further.

We congratulate the revolutionary left, patriotic and democratic forces who organized protest actions against Obama’s visit and appeal to them to continue the struggle militantly to throw out the agreements signed with him.

Scamsters’ Raj

When the multi billion Rs *Commonwealth Games* scam was being exposed the UPA leaders and prime minister had assured that corrective steps shall be taken to book the culprits soon. But except for some token action against Kalmadi and few bureaucrats, the investigating authorities are dragging their feet. The *Asian Games*’ results are proving that very little is done at the grass root level to improve the sports facilities for the masses. The rulers are interested only in bagging yet another big sporting event so that the managers of the games and the scamsters behind them can benefit. The CWG scam did not occur all on a sudden. The dirty things taking place behind that from the very beginning of its preparations were coming out , but no action was taken until the end. By that time the vested interests had looted public money as much as they wanted.

The *Adarsh Cooperative Housing Society scam* went many steps ahead. The *Coffin Scam* Linked to Kargil War was a much discussed question a decade back. But the then NDA government or the UPA government which took over in 2004 did pretty little to book the political leaders, army officers, bureaucrats and contractors involved in this shameful act in the name of getting coffins for dead soldiers, who masterminded this loot of public money or to recover it. That, in the name of the soldiers killed in Kargil War, thousands of flats are already allotted and many more shady deals took place are not even investigated. It was at this time in 2002 itself the transfer of strategically important and highly costly land belonging to defence services were transferred to this shady society to build flats for 'Kargil widows', in spite of objections raised by some senior officers. All the details about how the many crores worth flats were distributed for a pittance to the relatives and elites have come out now after eight years. Again, when the stinking details came out and there was no other way out, the chief minister and his deputy were removed and another investigation is ordered. After some time, like the *Coffin scam* this multi billion Rs scam in the name of Kargil widows also will get buried/ Nobody will be prosecuted and the billions lost will not be recovered. As more sensational scams surface the media will also lose interest. Mean while Yeddiyurappas, Reddy brothers and many others involved in the looting of many billions worth land and natural resources in Karnataka or such other scamsters in other states will also escape utilizing the delay and loop holes in the law enforcing system.

But the G2 Spectrum scam has shocked even those who still have hopes about the existing ruling system. The public exchequer lost Rs.1.76 lakh crores because of the naked corrupt practices pursued in spectrum distribution between May 2007 and 2008. Today when Sonia Gandhi is talking about "shrinking moral universe" and "graft and greed are on the rise", she is fooling the people. She and the prime minister are presiding over a stinking ruling system under which any number of Rajas can thrive, the bureaucrats can go ahead continuing to assist the looting of public money and the corporate bosses and contractors can go scot free even after plundering the people's resources. If the UPA came to power in 2004 charging the six year long NDA rule for numerous corruption charges, today its six year long rule has established new records in scams.

The worst part of this scam is that from 2008 itself its details had started coming out and the prime minister was approached for permission to prosecute Raja. But to save his ministry the pm slept over the issue. It is clear that the people were allowed to be looted to keep DMK happy. Similarly, no action was taken on this matter so that the corporate houses could amass big fortunes. When the political leaders, corporate houses and bureaucrats became richer by this fabulous amount, the masses were getting further pauperized. Now even after the details of the scam have come out neither Raja nor anyone else is still not prosecuted. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has stated that the "the entire process lacked transparency and was under taken in an arbitrary, unfair and inequitable manner". Still, as usual the CBI enquiry is dragging. Instead of asking the people to come *out on* the streets to force the government to prosecute the guilty, the opposition has stalled the parliament demanding a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe as if it will solve all problems. If none of the JPC probes in the past did not lead to punishment of the guilty, its fate in this case also will not be different. Knowing it very well they are insisting on it not to get the guilty punished and to recover the amount looted, but only to make electoral capital out of it. Nothing more can be expected from them as each one of them have their own scams to conceal, especially BJP.

In this situation the people have only one way out: come out on the streets in ever larger numbers to demand the arrest of all culprits, recovery of all the amount they looted and confiscation of all the amounts stashed away in foreign banks by all these scamsters. Unless such mighty movements are organized to compel speedy action by the ruling system or to throw out the stinking ruling system itself, ever larger scams are going to take place, as the whole system is becoming more and more corrupt, reactionary and anti people.

Lessons from Bihar Election Results.

In the concrete realities of Bihar today, except for the extent of the JD[U]-BJP victory, the results of the present assembly elections will not surprise anyone closely following the political developments in the state. As far as the ruling class parties are concerned, the 15 year rule of RJD of Lalu Prasad, the way it further criminalized the state, the way it promoted corruption and the way it boasted of continuing its anti people rule entirely relying on caste equations had made it and its alliance unacceptable for the people this time also like in last elections. The Congress had ruined the state for two decades before it started losing its support base. Its support to the RJD rule and its alliance with it in last elections had further eroded its credibility. Its efforts to recapture it by fighting the election alone and by utilizing non existing halo of Rahul and Sonia Gandhis proved nonproductive. The record of the Congress led UPA rule at center which has made prices of essential commodities unaffordable to the masses also did not help it. Its already weakened position got further eroded drastically.

In this situation, under the present comprador bourgeois democratic system, the JD[U]- BJP alliance which had come to power in 2005 elections utilizing people's aversion to the RJD rule and had managed to run the state in a better way compared to Lalu- Rabri rule during the last five years, naturally got opportunity to come back to power. Its margin became so striking as it succeeded in attracting more people, especially women, to election booths and in taming the Saffron Parivar to behave by keeping Narendra Modi out of the election campaign. Besides, unlike RJD, it could bring the issue of 'development' and *Bihari pride*, at a time when the ever increasing number of migrant workers from the state are attacked and ridiculed, in to election debate. So, it became naturally more attractive to the people compared to the other two ruling class alternatives, the RJD- LJP alliance and Congress. In a way it got benefit from the negative votes for the other two.

The only forces, who could challenge these ruling class alternatives, even considering all the constraints of the existing ruling system, were the left forces. Still, if the tally of CPI- CPI[M]-CPI[ML]Liberation alliance which had 12 seats in the last assembly went down to just one, it should not surprise anyone. The record of the 33 year rule of CPI[M] led 'Left Front' in neighbouring W.Bengal is so negative that the people had no fascination towards CPI[M] and CPI. By going for an alliance with these social democratic parties, Liberation had taken a suicidal path. Besides the dilution of its own ideological- political positions and abandoning its earlier path of militant mass movements had started weakening its former mass base. Thus this alliance which discarded the left platform was rejected by the masses.

Apart from this alliance, the mini alliance forged by the miniscule CPI[ML] Kanu Sanyal group with SUCI which is in alliance with Trinamul Congress in W.Bengal, with RSP and Forward Bloc which are part of the LF in W.Bengal for 33 years and another miniscule group, MCPI[U], only succeeded in further tarnishing the image of the left forces in the state. As far as the CPI[Maoist] is concerned, after declaring boycott of elections, as usual its anarchist squads supported JD[U] or RJD in some places, while planting land mines in some other places to terrorise the people from voting. It also contributed its mite in destroying the revolutionary prestige of yester years in the state. As all these forces have failed to put forward a programmatic left alternative before the people, and to mobilize the masses, it is the serious responsibility of the revolutionary left to take up this task urgently uniting all the communist revolutionaries.

The JD[U]-BJP alliance which has achieved a thumping victory in the elections is following the very same neo liberal policies in the name of 'development', the policies which are responsible for pauperization of the masses, intensification of neo colonial slavery and devastation of the environment. Though it has promised many things during the election campaign, like the central and other state governments it is also going to lead the people to a blind alley. It is going to get alienated from them fast. The revolutionary left forces should redouble their efforts to mobilize the masses and to launch powerful mass movements to advance the programme of people's alternative

Collective Failure of Government Kills Scores of Migrant Workers

In East Delhi about hundred people were killed, many injured and missing when a five storey building mostly inhabited by migrant workers collapsed. Water logging in the basement, storage of salt for an ice cream unit working there and poor quality of construction plus over crowding are detected as reasons for the collapse. The area is so congested and the debris removal was so slow that it took three-four days to get the debris removed. If it can happen in the capital not far away from the city center one can imagine how the ruling system which deployed one lakh security forces to look after Obama, functions in the case of something happening to the toiling masses.

Immediately after this collapse, many buildings in the nearby areas were vacated as the government feared that the media may expose how the authorities are allowing illegal, unsafe constructions of colonies by unscrupulous contractors. The same scenes were witnessed when such buildings collapsed in the past also. Once the news disappears from the front page of newspapers the same buildings are inhabited even without any repairs. What is happening is a nexus among the colony owners, contractors, bureaucrats, political leaders and police authorities.

This building where so many people lived had no proper foundation. Water logging is very serious in the area. Sewerage system is namesake. It was an old one storey building of bricks without concrete pillars on which new storeys were added as and when demands increased. All central and state government authorities were responsible for the freedom

taken by the contractor to erect such a structure which became a trap that killed so many. This is yet another way of mass killing of the toiling people by the system. Such an inhuman system has no right to exist.

Europe's Unrest Spreads to Britain.

The unrest against the cutting down of welfare policies was first started in Southern Europe. It broke out as street fights in Greece with many days of continuous struggles. Then the working class in France occupied the streets in a big way. Their struggle including direct actions like blocking supply of gasoline to vehicles encouraged many to compare the struggle to 1968 *Spring Revolution*. Some of the columnists predicted that this time it could take become more serious as now instead of students and youth it is the working class is in revolt and it may ignite an explosion if not now but later. Though the Sarkozy government succeeded to put down the struggle this time, the working class is in a mood to occupy the streets again as their demands are not met. In Stuttgart, Germany the struggle against building of a big underground railway cum supermarket facility after clearing a large number of trees led to major clashes of security forces with the tens of thousands of agitators. Again, though the German government succeeded in putting down the mass movement after many days of street struggles, as the government accepted wagon loads of nuclear waste from France, the struggle for protection of environment broke out again. In Germany also more and more workers have started protesting against austerity measures by cutting down the hard earned rights. There are reports of the possibility of major struggles breaking out in Italy also, as in other countries of South Europe.

If Britain was comparatively quiet so far the recent attack on the conservative party's London headquarters by angry university students protesting against the planned increase in tuition fees and cuts in higher education funding has frightened the six month old conservative-liberal democrat government about it becoming a starting point of the simmering fury against the neo liberal policies speeded up by it. The corporate media and the ruling class leaders have warned that the sheer scale of the storming of Milibank, the *Tory* headquarters, not seen since the 'poll-tax riots' which took place 20 years before against an arbitrary community charge imposed by then Margaret Thatcher government, should not be underestimated. The pro-*Tory* Sunday Telegraph grimly reminded the leadership that "the storming of Milibank is just a taste of the unrest ahead".

What is happening now in Europe is going to be fore runner of the revolts going to take place in the days ahead. Europe may witness once again the *Paris Communes*, *the mighty revolts in Moscow and St Petersburg 'the ten days that shook the world'*, and *the Berlin barricades*. The moribund imperialist forces, however they change their tactics, cannot prevent the storm from breaking out, sooner or later.

International Conference of Marxist- Leninist Parties and Organisations Successfully Held.

The 10th **International Conference** successfully took place with 18 participating organizations. 20 further organizations were involved in the preparations.

The 10th **International Conference** unanimously passed the report of the JCG, the agenda and conference rules.

1. Resolutions

The discussions on the proposed and unanimously accepted points of the agenda were intensive, constructive and lively and were summarized in *three resolutions* which were drawn up with the principle of consensus and passed unanimously.

1. The world economic crisis and the international financial crisis and the conclusions of the international Marxist-Leninist and working-class movement
2. The environmental question and the tasks of the Marxist-Leninists
3. The so-called war on "terror" and the struggle against the smear campaign of "terrorism" and against fascism

The Conference decided unanimously to prepare and conduct an 11th Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations in about 3 years.

The Conference passed further solidarity resolutions on the following issues:

- Solidarity resolution for the rescued miners in Chile
- Solidarity resolution with the workers and people's masses struggling for liberation in Iran
- Solidarity resolution with the liberation struggle of the Basques
- Solidarity resolution with the antiimperialist struggle in Cuba
- Solidarity resolution with the liberation struggle of the people of Palestine
- Solidarity resolution with the liberation struggle of the peoples of Iraq and Afghanistan
- Solidarity resolution with the Indian liberation struggle
- Resolution on the World Women's Conference in Venezuela in March 2011
- Resolution on the 43rd anniversary of the murder of Che Guevara
- Resolution against the FBI raids against antiimperialists in the USA
- Resolution against the US-led „War on Terror”

2.) Joint Coordinating Group (JCG)

To prepare the 11th International Conference, the 10th International Conference elected the new Joint Coordinating Group (JCG), composed of representatives of the *PCR Argentina*, *MLPD Germany*, the Revolutionary Organization of Labor, USA, *Revolutionary Organization of the Congo*, *CPI(ML), India* and *CPI(ML) PCC, India*.

During the Conference Stefan Engel (Germany) and Sanjay Singhvi (India), as representatives of the International Coordinating Committee (ICC) of the ICOR informed about the successful founding of the International Coordination of Revolutionary Parties and Organizations”.

All participating organizations were requested to take note of the appeal at the end of the resolution on:”The environmental question and the tasks of the Marxist-Leninists” which states:

“The International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations (ICMLPO) appeals to all parties and organizations to observe the international day of struggle to save the natural environment on December 4th as a day of militant protest on the basis outlined above.”

The International Financial Crisis and the Conclusions of the International Marxist- Leninist and Working Class Movement.

1) We are currently going through the deepest world economic and financial crisis in the history of capitalism. It started in the USA, the hegemonic power of the imperialist system.

Since the beginning of the crisis the propagandists of the system have tried to play down the depth and dimension of the world economic and financial crisis. While some bourgeois economists and governments are spreading calculated optimism and speaking again of a “resumption of the process of economic recovery”, even outstanding representatives of finance capital like Strauss-Kahn, head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), urgently warn to have no illusions concerning the overcoming of the crisis.

2) The crisis was enormously intensified by the financial crisis that broke out in September 2008. Bourgeois economists and politicians declared the whole crisis was merely a financial crisis based on the greed of some irresponsible bankers and brokers who had overreached themselves with their speculation. This is a blatant lie. In reality the crisis is nothing but an expression of a crisis of relative overproduction, and also a consequence of the tendency of the monopoly capitalist rate of profit to fall. Its root cause is the contradiction existing between the social character of production and the private appropriation of produced goods and wealth, which is the fundamental contradiction of the ruling capitalist-imperialist mode of production.

3) The Bush Government sought a way out by producing a budget deficit and higher state debts in order to avoid the collapse of the big banks and monopolies. This led to the issuing of government bonds and US dollars on a huge scale. The imperialist G 8 countries took similar measures. With the G 20 summit meetings the governments of the big imperialist powers and international finance capital carried out an unprecedented crisis management. Until May 2010, approximately 27 trillion US dollars were spent all over the world to save international financial institutions, banks and monopolies, to initiate national stimulus programs and dampen the effects of the crisis for the masses. This is almost one half the worldwide annual gross national product of 2007. This was done because they were afraid that their entire financial system would fold up like a house of cards, and also because they are in panic in regard to a revolutionization of the masses.

The international crisis management has meanwhile gotten into a crisis itself with the so called "euro crisis" and has revealed the growing danger of state bankruptcies.

Since the Greek crisis they went over to direct austerity programs in order to shift the burden of the crisis onto the backs of the masses: wage cuts, dismissals in the public sector, cuts of pensions, restriction of healthcare, unemployment and social assistance as well as increase of value-added taxes, etc.

4) China is trying to cope with the crisis with the help of an injection of public funds even higher than those of the United States and Europe. It invested almost 1.3 trillion US dollars in order to stimulate consumption because of the collapse of its exports. That is the reason why China took the serious risk of inflation and inflated prices for its assets, particularly in the real estate sector.

5) In 2009, the countries dependent on and oppressed by imperialism felt the impact of the burdens of the crisis being shifted onto people's backs by the imperialist countries through the reduction of their exports (total world trade decreased 12% in 2009), the producer prices for their products were pushed down, and the remittances of their citizens working abroad went down drastically. In many cases the IMF demanded the reduction of public spending and wage cuts to ensure the payment of foreign debts. The dependent and oppressed countries will continue to be affected, mainly because of the declining consumption of the masses and, for example, Chinese competition, limiting the relative recovery that some of these countries have.

6) We are living in the epoch of imperialism and proletarian revolution. The crisis has sharpened all contradictions developing in the world today. Because of the law of uneven development of the capitalist countries not all imperialist countries will come out of the crisis unharmed.

Important changes of their relative strengths are taking place.

US imperialism is weakened. China and the European imperialist countries are taking advantage of this to increase their influence. Russia also has stepped up its international activities. The BRIC states (Brazil, Russia, India and China) are playing an increasing role in international politics. China has penetrated deeply into Africa. Competing with the USA and Europe, China is advancing in Africa also militarily for example. Chinese investments in Latin America amount to 50 billion US dollars.

7) In the imperialist countries there is an erosion of the mass base of bourgeois parties connected with open or latent government crises. With the promotion of fascist and racist forces, like the Tea Party movement in the USA or forces in the Netherlands, Belgium, France and other countries, the bourgeoisie is preparing for an intensification of the class struggle. At the same time measures of the fascistization of the state apparatus are intensified. Since the transition to

the open shifting of the burdens of the crisis onto the backs of the masses, big fights, strikes, demonstrations, etc. are developing which are connected with a loss of trust in bourgeois parties and the bourgeois parliament.

8) An upswing of struggles of the working class and peoples, of the poor peasantry, indigenous peoples and students has developed in Latin America. Big popular rebellions with advanced organizational forms have overthrown pro-imperialist and oligarchic governments in several countries or have severely hit them, and reactionary coups d'états have failed. The working class developed struggles for higher wages and against the attempts to shift the burdens of the crisis onto their backs. The upswing of the struggle of the peoples and the emergence of anti-US governments of different types, the increasing penetration of European, Russian and Chinese imperialists that are competing with one another, also the advance of Brazil as an economic power, have relatively weakened US imperialism. However, it is still the main strategic enemy of Latin America; it mobilized the Fourth Fleet, installed seven military bases in Colombia, occupied Haiti under the pretense of the earthquake in Haiti, promoted the coup d'état in Honduras and new military agreements with Peru.

9) The United States and its allies keep occupying Iraq where they could not stop the resistance of the people. They continue the occupation of Afghanistan. They reinforced their troops there and it becomes more and more difficult for them to control the situation. They must recognize that they are losing the war. Simultaneously US imperialism is increasing its arms production by more than 100 percent in order to solve its crisis through imperialist wars.

The UN Security Council has adopted measures threatening Iran. The Palestinian people is resisting heroically the oppression through Israel that is supported by the USA. This resistance is broadly supported by the peoples.

10) Africa, a continent bled dry economically, is not only suffering from the loss of jobs and incomes but also of human lives caused by the tremendous destitution as a result of the world economic and financial crisis. The oppressed peoples of Africa need a new quality of resistance in order to be able to fight against imperialist plunder and disorganization. This would be the result of the reconstruction of revolutionary centers, of the accelerated building of Marxist-Leninist parties, and, at the same time, of the reinforced cooperation of revolutionary forces from other regions of the world.

11) In Asia, the workers and other toiling masses are fighting to defend their livelihoods and democratic rights and liberties against the intensified exploitation and oppression imposed on them as a result of the attempt of the imperialists to pass the burden of the crisis onto their shoulders. The rising militancy of the masses has opened up excellent opportunities for proletarian parties to establish the broadest and militant links with the masses, strengthen themselves and intensify the revolutionary mass struggles, including in some cases the revolutionary armed liberation struggle.

12) The world economic crisis has severely hit the working class and the oppressed peoples and nations and this will continue. In the USA alone, 7 million jobs have been lost officially. It is calculated that officially there are 212 million unemployed people in the world. People are suffering from hunger, lack of housing, water, education, etc. on a mass scale. Women and children are particularly affected and without protection.

The world economic and financial crisis aggravates the aggressiveness of the imperialist countries in the struggle over a redivision of the spheres of influence and markets, whereby the factors for triggering a war are growing.

But also the struggle of the exploited and oppressed is growing against their exploiters and oppressors. The winds of revolutionary change are blowing around the world. In the present situation it is important to intensify international solidarity with the workers' struggles, to unfold international solidarity with the anti-imperialist struggle of the oppressed peoples and nations, against imperialist interventionism, against the oppression of peoples and their revolutionary leaders. The international revolutionary and working-class movement must get prepared for rapid changes of the political situation which make it possible that the eruptions of the masses turn into real revolutionary developments.

13) The working class and the peoples are developing struggles to prevent that the crisis is shifted onto their backs. The ruling circles are afraid of revolutionary ferment. Partial gains can be reached. But we know that the only way to achieve that the working class and the peoples do not pay for the crisis is this: that Marxist-Leninist parties, summarizing the experiences of the class struggles of their respective countries, can lead the struggles of the peoples towards revolutions – be they democratic, agrarian-revolutionary, anti-imperialist, new-democratic or socialist – putting an end to this system. This requires the building and strengthening of revolutionary parties of the proletariat that are strongly linked with the masses and practice proletarian internationalism. Capitalism does not fall by itself.

We must therefore increase our efforts on the international level to extend and strengthen the subjective forces of the revolution.

It is necessary to debate various reformist and revisionist theses, like those also held by some representatives of the so-called “Socialism of the 21st Century” who say that it is possible to establish socialism without destroying the bourgeois state.

There is no socialism without the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Environmental Question and the Tasks of the Marxist- Leninists.

1. The environmental question has become a subject of grave concern for all of humanity because of the irreversible damage caused to Mother Earth by the imperialist powers in realizing their greed for profit. The International Conference stated that there have been shortcomings of the Marxist-Leninist and working-class movement in the environmental issue.

Imperialist monopolist forces go to every extent to plunder the natural resources as they know no other morality except sheer greed for profit at any cost.

2. The ozone layer has already been seriously damaged because of the poisonous emissions of the industries in the advanced highly industrialized countries like the USA, Japan, Germany, Canada, Britain and France. Countries like China, India, Russia and Brazil are following. A greenhouse effect developed that ushered in a climate catastrophe that endangers the foundations of life.

3. The establishment of contaminating industries such as cellulose mills, open pit mining using cyanide that contaminates the water for many years, indiscriminate deforestation are all justified by the urgent greed for profit for the monopolies. Toxic insecticides are used for intensive agriculture, as the monoculture of forests and soy beans. The results are floods, the spreading of deserts, evaporation of lakes, more rapid thawing of the ice caps, industrial contamination of rivers, etc. The imperialists get rid of their problems by exporting their contaminating factories to the oppressed countries. All of this affects human beings in general and especially the working class, for example, with the increase of respiratory illnesses.

4. Practice showed that the meetings held in Kyoto and Copenhagen, which the imperialist countries claimed to be meetings serving the struggle against environmental destruction, were actually a deceit aimed at pacifying the masses. It is cynical to allow the rich countries to further destroy the world climate through the purchase of pollution rights. So it is the responsibility of the Marxist-Leninist parties to take up the issue globally and to build up resistance against the imperialist schemes to destroy the environment. It is necessary to unite the class struggle with the battle against the devastation of the environment, knowing that only destroying the imperialist capitalist system and replacing it with a new society will be the definitive solution to this problem.

5. Our parties have to lead and spearhead these struggles in each country and take part in meetings like the one held in Cochabamba in 2010 in defense of the water and land of the indigenous peoples. They have to show solidarity with all the struggles that are developing throughout the world against environmental pollution, for example the struggles against nuclear power plants and nuclear waste in the whole world, the contamination of the Uruguay River in South America by the paper paste mill Botnia, against the Bhopal poisonous gas leak in 1984, the explosions in Magurchara and Tengratila (Bangladesh) in 2002, the 2010 BP oil spill catastrophe in the Gulf of Mexico and the continuous bombing by the United States and its allies in Iraq and Afghanistan and other wars of aggression against the oppressed peoples.

6. Our parties must work together as well as their forces allow to combine all of these single struggles into an international resistance front to save the environment from greed for profit. The working class must take on its leading role and, at the same time, work together openly with all serious environmentalists. The solution of the environmental question lies in the reestablishment of the unity of humankind and nature through socialism/communism where not profits, but the interests of humanity are the center of interest.

7. The International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations appeals to all parties and organizations to observe the international day of struggle to save the natural environment on December 4th as a day of militant protest on the basis outlined above.

So called War on Terror and the Struggle Against the Smear Campaign of “Terrorism” and Against Fascism.

1) **“War against international terrorism!”** This is the present battle cry of the imperialists and the bourgeoisie of all countries. By this, imperialism, led by US imperialism, send their armies into “foreign deployments”, to wars of occupation in pursuit of maximum profit. “War against terrorism!” this is the present battle cry of the bourgeoisie of all countries, when they are rigorously curtailing the democratic rights of the working people, oppressing any

radical opposition, even with armed violence, and promoting fascistization in the country.

2) **What they are labeling as “terrorism” is in reality every kind of radical politics** which calls capitalism into question, every uprising against imperialism, every struggle for liberation against the imperialist politics of occupation, every striving for independence. The ongoing wars of occupation in Iraq and Afghanistan are examples for the so-called “war on terrorism”. The imperialist propaganda machinery is consciously spreading lies to justify wars and win the support of the own population. Thus the US imperialists consciously sold the lie as “secure information” that Iraq under Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. For the US imperialists and their allies it was actually just about securing the Iraqi crude oil.

3) The attack on the World Trade Center (WTC) in New York with 3,000 deaths on September 11, 2001, was utilized by US imperialism to launch “*a war against all those who seek to export terror, and a war against those governments that support or shelter them*” (George W. Bush, speech on 11 October 2001). It was followed by a war of punishment and occupation against Afghanistan. Besides, Al Qaida and the Taliban are organizations which were originally built up by the US imperialists themselves.

4) It is not a question of fighting terrorism in the name of democracy and freedom etc. as alleged, but of naked imperialist interests in the striving of the great powers for maximum profit and world domination. It is about securing the routes of transport of the mineral oil and gas of Middle Asia, it is about military bases in Central Asia and spheres of influence and resources.

5) Also under the Obama administration nothing has changed fundamentally. US troops of some 300,000 soldiers and mercenaries are still deployed in the war against Afghanistan, Pakistan and occupied Iraq. Bush established the prison camp at Guantanamo and Obama keeps it in operation. In his keynote speech to the Islamic world US President Obama categorically demanded from the oppressed masses, whether in Iraq, in Palestine, in Afghanistan or other places, to refrain from every use of violence, because “... *America can never tolerate violence by extremists.*” With this every struggle against occupation is slandered as **terrorism**.

6) Against the occupation by the imperialists **the oppressed peoples are waging many forms of resistance** including armed struggle against the biggest military machineries in the world. The war against the imperialist occupying powers and their domestic supporting lackeys is justified.

7) **The true terrorists are the imperialists!** Terrorist – that is what the imperialist and reactionary states are, domestically as well as abroad. Externally this terrorism manifests itself in the form of the direct military intervention and wars of occupation as well as criminal intervention. Thus on 28 June 2009 the democratically elected president of Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, was deported to the neighboring country Costa Rica, with the obvious approval and support of US imperialism. Under president Obama the installation of 7 more military bases in Colombia for the air force, army and navy has been concluded on the basis of the Plan Colombia, and there is increased military intervention in Yemen. In the Philippines, the US imperialists maintain a contingent of special forces of 800 soldiers and have recently deployed 3,000 troops for joint military exercises with the Philippine government forces which can be used for “direct intervention”. Israel, supported mainly by US imperialism, occupies Palestine and terrorizes the population.

8) When it is about crimes and wars against the peoples the imperialists are united! The anti-terror coalition means nothing else, intended to guarantee a cooperation against the so-called “terrorism” internally as well as externally.

9) Internally this policy is expressed in fascistization. As an ideological lever a racially colored anti-Islamic smear campaign is demagogically being launched and used as manipulation of public opinion to prepare the peoples for wars on other peoples and cultures. It is the task of the Marxist-Leninists mainly in the Western countries to fight against this demagogic anti-Islamic smear campaign.

10) In order to stop the worldwide trend to the left an unprecedented anticommunist campaign has been launched under the banner of the struggle against the so-called “Maoism” or “Stalinism”. Initiated by a corresponding directive of the EU Council of Ministers, it was redefined in 2006 that the root of terrorism is communism. It is noteworthy that the revisionists were not included in this smear campaign. Here the real enemy of the anti-terrorist campaign becomes evident – the revolutionary working-class movement and the Marxist-Leninist parties and organizations of the world.

11) By spreading fear and panic mongering against the so-called “terrorism” the internal fascistization is being implemented. It is the bourgeois state with its gang of bourgeois politicians calling themselves democratic that is the active agent of the internal fascistization. It is the bourgeois parliaments that are tightening the police laws, passing laws of censorship, curtailing the democratic rights, continuously passing and intensifying racist laws against migrants and refugees. It is the bourgeois state that is actively creating free space for open fascists. The openly fascist-acting organizations are groups even partly “steered by the state” which are manipulated and used for certain goals of the state. Thus, the so-called “Ergenekon” trials in Turkey revealed how openly fascist civilian groups, parts of the army, the police and the judiciary have worked together in secret operations steered by the state. So, for instance, in Germany, in connection with the last state motion for banning the fascist NPD, it became known that 1/3 of the leading level in this party are agents of the secret service.

12) The state itself is actively promoting fascism. The reactionary bourgeois democracy and fascism are two forms of one and the same class dictatorship: the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie. When the bourgeoisie realizes that its class dictatorship is in real danger, for instance through the proletarian revolution, it will not wait one second to drop the democratic mask of its class dictatorship and go over to fascism, except that the proletariat can prevent this development by a broad anti-fascist united front or by proletarian revolution. In that respect the steps towards fascistization being taken today by the reactionary bourgeois democracies are, from the point of view of the bourgeoisie, nothing else but preparations for future, sharper situations of class struggle. The communist parties, organizations and revolutionaries have to be vigilant and continuously be prepared for possible attacks of the class enemy. The struggle against legalism and against the playing down of the enemy as well as the strengthening of the fighting morale and the tempering of the comrades for sharper class conflicts must be an integral part of our practical political work.

13) We have to “stop the beginnings”, struggle militantly against the openly acting fascist groups and above all against every attack by the state on our democratic rights and liberties as well as against the internal measures of fascistization of the state. We have to struggle against every form of criminalization of communists, revolutionaries and liberation struggles and their being slandered as “terrorists,” and oppose international solidarity and proletarian internationalism to this smear campaign and division.

14) We, the Tenth International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations, declare to oppose actively the occupation, imperialist wars and fascism in the countries. We declare our solidarity with the liberation movements of this world and support in particular the peoples of Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Philippines, Colombia and Palestine in their struggles for national sovereignty and self-determination.

Down with the imperialist warmongering! Down with imperialism!

Capital is behind fascism – let us fight it internationally!

Long live the international solidarity!

Solidarity Resolutions

1. Oppose U.S. Imperialist-led War of Terror

Whereas, from the U.S. Republican Party Bush regime to the Democratic Party Obama administration, U.S. imperialism’s criminal war of terror against the Iraqi and Afghani peoples and nations continue unabated, and

Whereas, U.S. president Obama, as the chieftain of U.S. imperialism, has intensified and escalated the war in Afghanistan and Pakistan and maintains over 100,000 U.S. troops and military contractors in U.S. occupied Iraq, and

Whereas, the leader of the US military, Defense Secretary Robert Gates, has equally served both the Republican Bush-Cheney administration and the Obama-Biden administration, and

Whereas, these continuing brutal wars against the world's people, this war of terror, is fundamentally based on the imperialist drive for maximum profit, in particular control of oil, natural gas, pipeline routes, shipping lanes as well as the profits of the military industrial complex, therefore be it

Resolved that the organizations gathered at the 10th ICMLPO continue to condemn and actively oppose the criminal wars of invasion and occupation led by U.S. imperialism and participated in by any of their allies and fully support the resistance of the Iraqi and Afghani people in defense of their national sovereignty and self determination, and be it

Further resolved that we pledge to work wherever possible to end the U.S. occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan as well as the U.S. aggression against the Philippines, Haiti, Honduras, Colombia and the countries of Latin America.

2. Denounce FBI Raids on Anti-imperialist war and Solidarity Activists in USA

Whereas there is growing repression, militarization of society and a drive toward fascism in the United States, and Whereas, the FBI, under the Justice Dept. of the Obama-Biden administration, has recently launched raids, searched homes, seized materials and issued subpoenas against anti-imperialist war activists, international solidarity activists and the Freedom Road Socialist Organization, which has given consistent support to the just liberation struggle of Colombian people,

Whereas, these raids are notable in their targeting of left-wing forces, harkening back to days of the McCarthy period and FBI harassment of the Civil Rights and Black Power Movement,

Whereas, these raids are part parcel of U.S. imperialism's war of terror, with the U.S. state apparatus claiming they are seeking to expose and prosecute those engaging "material support of terrorism" and

Whereas, the Freedom Road Socialist Organization and a number of anti-war and Black liberation forces and other activist organizations responded with full condemnation of this FBI harassment and in defense of the rights of free speech, the right to dissent and the right to stand in international solidarity with those struggling for freedom and self determination, therefore be it

Resolved, that the parties and organizations gathered at the 10th ICMLPO stand by the Freedom Road Socialist Organization by whatever appropriate measures, thoroughly condemn these U.S. state attacks on the anti-imperialist war movement in the U.S. and demand a stop to all harassment of progressive and left wing activists and organizations in the USA.

3. Struggle of the peoples of Iraq and Afghanistan

Solidarity with the heroic struggle which the peoples of Iraq and Afghanistan are waging with all the means available to them against US imperialism's war of aggression against their countries.

4. Struggle of the Palestinian people

Solidarity with the liberation struggle and the struggle for self-determination which the heroic Palestinian people conducts against the Zionist state of Israel, which pursues its racist, criminal policy with the support of US imperialism.

5. Struggle of the Basque people

Solidarity with the justified struggle of the Basque people for their self-determination, independence and national and social liberation. Stop the suppression of the organizations that stand up for independence. Freedom for all political prisoners.

6. Solidarity with Cuba

Solidarity with Cuba and its resistance against the blockade by US imperialism; for the release of the five Cuban patriots imprisoned in the USA.

7. About the Movements in Iran

The workers in Iran continue their struggle for their prime economic and political demands. They pay a high price for founding their independent organizations; and militant workers have been arrested, tortured and imprisoned.

We support firmly these struggles and demand immediate release of those arrested.

The democratic movement of women, students, teachers and other democratic people in Iran is largely expanded and continues.

We defend this movement and ask for the release of all political prisoners.

8. Solidarity with the People's Movement In India!!

We would like to express our solidarity with the people in India and their peoples movement and strongly condemn the operation "Green Hunt" by the reactionary Indian State.

9. On the rescue of the Chilean miners

The 10th International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations sends militant greetings to the Chilean miners who were rescued from the depths of San José mine, and to the whole Chilean people.

We also emphasize that this incident has clearly revealed the exploitation to which the miners are subjected internationally, which the responsible monopolies and governments seek to conceal today.

Oppressed peoples and workers of the world, unite!

10. On the World Women's Conference 2011

The 10th International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations wholeheartedly supports the World Women's Conference of rank-and-file women 2011 in Venezuela. It calls upon the parties, mass organizations and the militant rank-and-file women in the individual countries:

- Spread the idea and distribute the documents of the World Women's Conference!
- Mobilize for the participation of the militant rank-and-file women from your countries!
- Take over responsibility for sending representatives of the militant women's movement of your country who best represent the lives and struggles of the rank-and-file women to the General Assembly of the delegates.
- Participate in the international brigades which begin in February 2011 in support of the Venezuelan hosts in organizing the conference!

The militant world women's movement has great significance for the worldwide struggle over the existential foundations of humanity, in close unity.

France:Spring Thunder in Autumn

Sankar Das

The workers of France fired in October for weeks, so far the most serious, salvo against the savage austerity programme now introduced in most European countries, following the worst economic downturn in recent years. The initial years of the current century witnessed a flamboyant economic boom followed by the present crisis which is once again proving what Marx stated long ago: *In capitalism prosperity is nothing but the harbinger of a coming crisis!* At last, when a severe crisis broke out on both the sides of the Atlantic, the hated captains of world capital started passing the burden of the crisis to the shoulders of the working class. In response, workers began to organize protests and demonstrations. In France, they went a step further. Workers' organizations called a country-wide general strike which the bourgeois media also were compelled to describe as the first mass mutiny of the 21st century.

The pension reform bill proposed by the Sarkozy government, which intended to increase the retirement age from 60 to 62 years became a spark that threatened to ignite the accumulated social contradictions which had become like a heap of explosives. Practically, it was beyond the expectation of government executives that this proposal could

initiate such a ferocious worker's rebellion when in most European countries the retirement age is already 65. But the French workers decided to take the fight to the enemy camp in the very first opportunity and they did so.

On October 12, more than three million workers joined a one-day general strike call. The strikes hit hard the economy as workers from sectors like transportation, electricity, oil, airports, telecom, education and the civil services joined in mass scale. The biggest challenge was posed by the refinery workers as it threatened that even the Charles de Gaulle International airport would come to a halt due to fuel shortage. An important feature of the strike movement was that it was not just a series of one-day strikes controlled by union leaders. Daily meetings in the most active sectors were organized to vote each day on continuing the strike for 24 hours more. Hundreds of mass meetings were held every day throughout the country to decide the next step of the movement. Thus a huge mass workers' involvement was witnessed in the struggle.

Another important feature of the struggle was the massive geographical area it covered, far beyond the traditional urban strongholds like Paris or Marseille, spreading to dozens and dozens of smaller cities and towns. At one point of time the movement expanded and spread to more than 200 cities and towns. Students came out in heavy support of the struggling workers and nearly 1,000 of France's 4,300 high schools went on strike. Several universities were shut down due to student walkouts. Unlike 1968, when students, youths and intellectuals were at the forefront of the movement, the present struggle was led and organized by the working class and essentially it was a working class movement which drew the support of the students and youth. Reportedly, more than 70 per cent of the population supported the fighting workers and raised their voices against Sarkozy government. Truck drivers started blocking industrial zones in solidarity with the movements, despite the fact that they themselves can retire at 55 under a special law. Two years ago, Sarkozy had arrogantly asserted: "These days, when there is a strike in France, no one notices." He, along with the whole world, was compelled to sit up and take notice now.

One of the most important reasons that worked behind the development of this massive struggle was probably the absolute political and logical bankruptcy of the reason forward by the government for introducing the austerity measures. Like all other governments in Europe, Sarkozy, too is talking about recovery from financial crisis to justify austerity. But it is patently clear that if the income of the lower and middle class households fall rather than go up, then demand will fall and there will be no economic growth in the inclusive sense of the word. Moreover in this situation a prolonged economic slowdown might end up in a second crisis. A recent article in *Frontline* says: "It is to be expected that if spending is cut back to deal with the 'problem' of public debt, then the recession that was partly overcome by debt-financed public spending may return. This did happen during the Great Depression of the 1930s when as a result of the steeped-up federal spending under the New Deal, an economy that has been contracting for four consecutive years (1930-33) returned to growth and bounced back sharply. Impressed with that growth and concerned about deficit-spending and public debt, President Franklin D. Roosevelt cut-back on deficit-spending, triggering a second recession in May 1937." Therefore, it is quite clear that austerity measures are being used to support the dangerously growing debt-GDP ratio caused by huge bail-out package the government had generously offered to private capital to ensure its survival from the crisis it itself had created. This nefarious capitalist-imperialist economic policy is so blatantly evident to the people that they simply cannot be deceived into believing that austerity measures are justified. And so, the volcano erupts.

Sarkozy adopted the age-old hated tactics of dividing the workers along racist lines. He brought down attacks on a portion of non-French workers. But this effort did not yield success, for the workers were able to retain their unity. Then a desperate Sarkozy quickly put the bill to vote in parliament, cutting down discussions, and was able to convert it into law. Union leaders without a definite political goal couldn't save the movement from rolling down from its peak after that.

In spite of having a lot of strength, including even the potential to topple the existing government, the movement had its weaknesses, mainly the absence of a leadership with political vision. The masses of the workers were not provided the idea of alternative rule and the known political parties like the Socialist Party, Communist party and others had no political acceptance due to their already repeatedly proved inability to lead the movement. As far as the Communist Revolutionary groups are concerned they couldn't anticipate the gravity of the situation and had no idea of leading such a great movement in mind. An over-dependence on the coming elections of 2012 to remove the present

government among the major parties played a role behind the reluctance of overthrowing Sarkozy government now. As a result yet another golden opportunity to throw out the ruling system could not be utilized..

Still, the glorious movement of French workers in this autumn has paved the way for building up mighty class struggle throughout Europe and the spectre of communism is going to haunt the moribund bourgeoisie once again. It is the responsibility of the revolutionaries to learn the correct lessons from the French experience.

Obama's Visit: Who Got Benefits ?.

Observer

The US president Obama's visit to India was celebrated in a grand manner by those in power as well as by all the imperialist lackeys and apologists. It was not unusual. Even the earlier visits by four US presidents were celebrated almost in the same manner. These visits and the way the post -1947 ruling dispensation kowtows before the US presidents bring back memories of how the British royalty was received during the colonial days.

Take for example the way in which almost 100,000 police and para military forces were deployed at Mumbai and Delhi strictly planned and controlled by the large number of US intelligence and security agencies . It speaks volumes about the neo colonial dominance exercised by this hegemonic power, throwing to wind whatever sovereignty this country is still supposed to have. The power to order around Indian security forces was surrendered to US agencies or it was taken over as their right by them.

This arrogance of the US administration was well reflected in Obama's speech to the joint session of the parliament. After stating that US look forward to a reformed UN Security Council that includes India as a permanent member, which created ecstasy among the rulers and the elite classes, he put this country of 1.2 billion people on probation for it, stating arrogantly that the endorsement of a permanent seat for India by US was conditional on it conducting itself 'responsibly' as a non permanent member over the next two years. In front of the members who were jam packed in the Central Hall, he even dared to chide the rulers for their attitude towards Myanmar, which he preferred to call 'Burma'. There was not even a murmur of protest, but even D. Raja of CPI joined the big applause given while CPI[M]'s Yetchury was delighted to get a hand shake. Including the social democrats all these so called representatives of the people proved that the bourgeois parliament is really a pigsty. So no wonder that Obama could dictate to them about pursuing the neo liberal path.

Is Obama Different from Bush?

When Obama was elected US president, those who advocate 'identity politics' and many dalit organisations organised demonstrations in support of him. A large section of intellectuals including Paul Krugman like Nobel prize winners propagated that the US administration is going to change. Many expected that after the barbarous years under Bush, there will be a better atmosphere. Just before his visit to India the CPI[M] leaders argued that Obama cannot be treated like Bush. Only when they found that the campaign by CPI[ML] and other left and democratic forces against his visit was gathering momentum, and only when Forward Bloc within the 'Left Front' stated that its MPs will boycott Obama's address, the CPI[M] reluctantly decided to organise some name sake, token campaign to protest against some of the pro US policies of the UPA government. Even after his visit is over during which he had come out in his real imperialist colours, most of them in India have not changed their subservience to Obama. But is Obama different from his predecessors?

The most important thing all these sections including the CPI[M] leaders try to conceal or fail to see that whether Bush or Obama , they are leading the military- industrial- bureaucratic complex of US which has definite class outlook. Presidents or governments shall change, but the class character of the ruling system will change only when it is overthrown and replaced by the rule of the oppressed classes. Of course it is not possible for Obama's friend, Paul Krugman to accept this basic Marxist principle which is proved correct by the hitherto history. But he is now repeatedly writing that Obama is not prepared to deal with the world he faced when he took office. During presidential campaign Obama was repeating that "US was in trouble not because we had been governed by people with the wrong ideas, but

because partisan divisions and politics as usual had prevented men and women of goodwill from coming together to solve the problems” He promised to transcend these divisions.

According to Krugman, not only he could transcend these divisions, he could not even fight for it. On tax cut question, he should have hammered Republicans for trying to hold the middle class hostage to secure tax cuts for the wealthy. He could have pointed out that the tax cuts by Bush for the wealthy was more than the entire Social Security shall cost for 75 years, according to Krugman. Instead, he negotiated with the Republicans and ordered the highest ever bail out for the speculating super rich elite class in the name of tiding over the worst ever economic crisis they themselves created in line with what Bush had started

A report of what Obama’s secretary of agriculture has done to a black official who tried to penalise one of the criminal landlords is given elsewhere [page]. According to it, the Afro-Americans had about 15 million acres of land under their possession in 1910. But by 1997 it got reduced to just 2.4 million acres. But no landlords or corporate who cornered this land was ever punished. But Obama administration could not tolerate even one of these thugs put to little inconvenience.

Is his military policy in any way different from that of Bush? Though it is claimed that the combat forces are withdrawn from Iraq, 50,000 US troops still remain to prop up the puppet government which serves the US to plunder rich Iraqi oil. The Iraqi people get killed in the streets still in large numbers. In Afghanistan the brutality of the US led NATO aggression is intensifying day by day. The number of children and women killed are increasing. Afghan people are in the middle of aggression and wars for the last one decade and its end is not in site. In the name of killing Al Qaeda and Taliban taking shelter in Pakistan, its many regions are bombed by ‘drones’, murdering hundreds of civilian people. Obama is talking aggressively against Iran and the left leaning governments in Latin America. To escape from the severe economic crisis, arms sale is promoted. In every sense, Obama administration nothing but a continuation of the brutal regime of Bush.

So, Obama came to India not as an angel to help, but to buttress US interests in this country and to ensure the services of Indian ruling system in its global designs. As any other imperialist chief, he also addressed the elite class as well as the middle class youth to further strengthen their support to India’s role as a junior partner of hegemonic US imperialism.

US interests in augmenting trade and agriculture openings.

The Indian visit turned out as a bonanza for Obama administration as he could sign 20 billion dollar worth trade agreements which will create 50,000 new jobs in US. Even before Obama’s visit Indian defence minister had visited Washington and signed Rs.44,000 crores worth agreements for arms and equipments from US. During Obama’s visit another Rs.50,000 crores worth defence contracts were further signed. With a multi pronged thrust in to agriculture sector, the details of which are analysed in the following article, the MNCs like Monsanto, Kargil, Walmart are going to get benefitted enormously. Prime minister Manmohan Singh sought US investments in technology and infrastructure where a whopping 1 trillion dollar investments are required by 2015. In the field of education also US institutions are going to get benefitted enormously, besides furthering the penetration of imperialist ideology among the middle class.

Several laws and policies related to seed, food and farming evolved were further strengthened facilitating US entry in these sectors under so called ‘US-India partnerships in Agriculture R&D and trade. It should be seen in the context of Obama’s plans to utilise these as major economy recovery plans. US master plans for it became clear when Bill Gates who backs agricultural biotechnology visited India and made headlines in Corporate media by adopting a village in Bihar. Soon there was a report that the US based Borlaug Institute for South Asia is set up in Bihar to unleash a second Green Revolution. If the first GR started turning Indian agriculture in to ‘ chemical agriculture’, destroying the vibrant and bio diversity based agriculture in to monoculture with depletion of ground water, turning soil in to barren condition, the new one will make it totally subservient to MNCs. Whatever food self sufficiency exists will be destroyed and US can recover its sinking economy in this way.

The three ‘clean energy’ agreements signed during Obama’s visit open India for import of the out dated nuclear energy plants and their technology costing billions of dollars. The five year long preparations for it by enacting various laws to facilitate this disastrous course, including the Nuclear Non Liability Act, have led to this anti people agreement which shall benefit only the nuclear MNCs.

On the whole the UPA government had created conditions so that the US imperialists get immense benefits from this visit of Obama. Even his discussion with students and youth, dancing with the children and dialogues with all sections of elite class were planned in such a way that the neo colonial domination of US imperialists is strengthened in all fields. The comprador class in domination here did their job very well.

Is India benefitted in any manner?

Obama mentioning the possibility of a permanent UNSC seat for India and some of his critical comments about Pakistan have made the ruling system elated. They refuse to recognise that even these were made with the intention of further worsening the Indo-Pak relations so that the arms market for US remain safe. The drone attacks on Pak territory by US led NATO forces should be a matter of concern for any country trying to make close 'strategic' relations with US. One should remember how Saddam Hussain who had such relations to fight Iran ended up. Similarly if Pakistan which is still having strategic relations with the Yankees can 'droned', a similar fate can happen to India also if these enemies of the world people at any time feel that the Indian rulers are not kowtowing the way they want.

The aim of US imperialists, whoever may be its president, is absolutely clear. As they are facing an unprecedented crisis as a result of the acute financial slowdown, they want to overcome it through new military adventures and by transferring the burden of the crisis to the shoulders of the people of the countries under neo colonial domination. So, one aim of the visit of Obama was to strengthen the so called 'strategic military alliance' with India so that like Pakistan in the past and to a considerable level even today, India can be utilised to provide an increasing number of mercenaries for the war in Afghanistan, to provide strategic assistance if a conflict breaks out with Iran and as a reliable ally in its intensifying trade war with China. None of these adventures in the company of US is going to benefit this country or the masses. On the contrary, if the contradictions with Pakistan are politically resolved bilaterally, thus if the arms race in the sub continent is put an end to, if India joins the forces who demand immediate withdrawal of US led NATO forces from Afghanistan allowing Afghan people to decide their destiny, if India scraps all so called strategic alliances with US and if India develops all round cooperation with China, Indian people will be immensely benefitted.

Another important aim of US imperialism for advancing which Obama's visit was intended was furthering its economic interests. For example, while US and other imperialist countries are advocating globalisation and demanding opening of Indian market and financial sector fully, they are intensifying their own protectionist policies. The internationalization of intellectual property rights [IPR] through WTO has led to increased monopolisation benefitting the MNCs. Besides they continue high level of protectionist policies in their agricultural sector. At the same time Obama, like his predecessors, has signed more agreements to open up Indian agricultural sector for domination of the MNCs.

For resolving the nearly 15% unemployment in US by cutting down outsourcing drastically Obama has signed a 'Border Security Bill'. According to it, the border with Mexico, its southern neighbour will be controlled spending \$600 million for deploying intensified patrolling including utilisation of drones to bomb immigrants. Half of this amount is fleeced out of India through increasing H-1B Visa fees from skilled Indian workers from \$320 to 42320 and raised fees on L-1 visas. Though it violates the provisions of WTO and the Indian IT sector has protested, Obama maintained silence on it. While US administration is adamant in transferring its burdens due to the current financial crisis to countries like India, the UPA government, instead of demanding withdrawal of such policies, have further surrendered the country to US dictates.

Thus Obama's visit has proved how the imperialists are intensifying neo colonisation and through various agreements are shifting its own burden to our shoulders. Bush or Obama, US imperialism wants to continue its hegemonic policies. The cumulative effects of all the agreements signed during his visit will only pauperise the masses further. They will only intensify the neo colonial servitude. While calling for boycotting Obama's visit, the revolutionary forces had pointed all these questions. They are now proved correct. The toiling and oppressed masses have no other way out other than intensifying their struggles to put an end to the comprador ruling system which is working overtime to maintain this country as a junior partner of US imperialism.

From Field to Fork: Obama's Agri Recipe for India.

Rahul Goswami

[Without giving any importance to the negative effects of the 'Green Revolution', the comprador government has signed more collaboration agreements regarding agricultural sector whose details are not given out. It is claimed that they will 'develop, test, and replicate transformative technologies to extend food security as part of an 'Evergreen Revolution'. From past experience it is not difficult to understand that it is not for food security and fair trade for India but to support US's National Export Initiative that the 'India-US Agriculture Dialogue' has been signed. US

President Obama's farm mission has been a very important part of his India visit. While it will serve the interests of already enormously subsidised agricultural bourgeoisie in US, its implications for India's food sovereignty and food flows are not given out. This article tries look in to this important question-RS]

The government of the USA has planned for India to become an important consumer of US agricultural exports and of US crop science. India is also planned as a host country for an agricultural research agenda directed by American crop-seed-biotech corporations. This is to be achieved through a variety of programmes in India, some of which began their preparation two years ago. This agenda, labelled US-India cooperation by India's current UPA-2 government and by the USA's current Barack Obama administration, has the support of the American farm sector as its aim, not the support of India's farmers and cultivators. The clear and blunt objective is to increase US agricultural exports and to widen as quickly as possible the trade surplus of the US agricultural sector.

This agenda has become clear following the three business and industry meetings held during the visit of US President Barack Obama - the 'US-India Business and Entrepreneurship Summit' in Mumbai on 6 November, the 'India-US: An Agenda for Co-Creation' with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in New Delhi on 8 November, and the 'US-India Conclave: Partnership for Innovation, Imperative for Growth and Employment in both Economies' with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in New Delhi on 9 November.

The US agri-business view has been projected in India by the US-India Business Council, a business advocacy group representing American companies investing in India together with Indian companies, with a shared aim to deepen trade and strengthen commercial ties. In a document titled 'Partners in Prosperity, Business Leading the Way, Advancing the US-India commercial agenda as the foundation for strategic partnership' (November 2010) the business council stated: "India requires an 'Ever-Green Revolution' — a new program which would engage the country's rural sector, providing water utilization and crop management 'best practices' to promote greater food security — this time based on technology to increase efficiency and productivity. The effort to vitalize India's agriculture sector should be driven by business, and the first step is improving India's farm-to-market global supply chain."

This business-driven trade in agricultural goods and services was given formal shape two months ago during the inaugural meeting of what is called the India-US Agriculture Dialogue, on 13-14 September 2010 in New Delhi. India's Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao and USA's Under Secretary (Energy, Economic and Agricultural Affairs) in the US State Department, Robert Hormats, co-chaired the 'Dialogue'. Under this agreement India and the USA have set up three working groups for: 'strategic cooperation in agriculture and food security', 'food processing, agriculture extension, farm-to-market linkages', and 'weather and crop forecasting'. The 'Agriculture Dialogue' is designed to be the implementing process for the India-US Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in Agriculture and Food Security, signed almost a year ago by Obama and Singh. On 24 November 2009 they had agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding on Agricultural Cooperation and Food Security that will, according to the US State department, "set a pathway to robust cooperation between the governments in crop forecasting, management and market information; regional and global food security; science, technology, and education; nutrition; and expanding private sector investment in agriculture".

'Agriculture Dialogue' is the new name given to a US-India plan for trade and investment in agriculture which saw its genesis on 18 July 2005, when Singh and then US President George W Bush announced the 'US-India Knowledge Initiative on Agricultural Education, Teaching, Research, Service, and Commercial Linkages (AKI)'. At the time, apart from officials from government on both sides representing agriculture and crop bureaucracies, Indian and American universities and the private sector were on the AKI board. The Indian agri universities were the Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology (Pantnagar, Uttaranchal), the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu) and the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh). India's private sector was represented by Venkateshwara Hatcheries Ltd, Masani Farms (its owner was a National Horticultural Board director), ITC Ltd's Agribusiness chief executive and Wal-Mart India. The American private sector was represented by Archer Daniels Midland Company and Monsanto.

The US-India AKI has been steadily and fluently criticised from the outset as being the means with which American agribusiness will enter India's farm and food logistics sector. It is the AKI and its associated trade and investment programmes (apart from the research collaborations between US agri industry and Indian state agriculture universities) which has helped the conversion of India's national agriculture research system from farmer- and cultivator-oriented to business- and trade-focused. The key agent of such change is the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and its network of 49 institutes, six national bureaux, 25 project directorates, 17 national research centres and 78 all-India coordinated research projects. Moreover, ICAR controls research, education and extension education in 44 state agricultural universities, five deemed universities, one central agricultural university (for the North-East) and four

central universities. For the American agri industry-crop science combine, the ICAR network represents both scientific labour and ready access to a field testing system that is a tradition well over a century old, for the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research was established in Pusa (Bihar) in 1905.

How will American corporate farm, seed, biotech and agri equipment corporations make use of this access? The US-India Business Council drafted, in advance of the Obama visit, three 'advocacy priorities': (1) Opening up of multi-brand retail sector to 'organised players', by which it means American retail chains. "As study after study has shown, doing so would bring efficiency, infrastructure, technology, and know-how to Indian farmers, food processors, food service providers, and other suppliers," claims USIBC. (2) Backing up the Agriculture Dialogue by the lowering of tariff and non-tariff barriers which are "affecting trade in fresh fruits and vegetables, poultry, pistachios, dairy products, and horticultural products - we also seek reduced customs duties on items such as processing equipment, restaurant equipment, and related goods", says the USIBC. (3) Encouraging US companies to display to India their "success stories of business sector intervention in agriculture and food processing" doing so can "raise awareness in a positive way about how 'best practices' and technologies can deliver greater efficiencies" so that India can achieve the 'Evergreen Revolution'.

During Obama's visit, in both Mumbai and New Delhi, the business and financial media were already being treated to awareness raising on this subject: "Monsanto's revolutionary cotton seeds have helped double India's cotton output in just six years", "PepsiCo has helped Punjab diversify its agriculture by introducing major citrus orchards", "Cargill's Nourishing India program provides nutrient-fortified edible oils to 25 million Indians per month", "McDonalds and Heinz have developed new efficiencies, transforming the lettuce and tomato industries in India" and "Walmart's wholesale cash and carry stores connect farmers directly to small retailers, eliminating costly intermediaries". This barrage of propaganda has been carefully orchestrated on both sides, the Indian and the American.

By mid-2010, the position of the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, became clear. On 28-29 July 2010, Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar addressed an ICAR-Industry Meet. Pawar said that the ministry recognises the role of the private sector in critical areas of agricultural research and human resource development. The conventional approach of public sector agricultural R&D has been to take responsibility for priority setting, resource mobilisation, research, development and dissemination. He then explained that agricultural extension, which has been neglected for several years now, is "no longer appropriate". The alternative, Pawar advised, is public-private partnerships through which public sector institutes (such as those in the ICAR network) can "leverage valuable private resources, expertise, or marketing networks that they otherwise lack". This is the undisguised merchant reasoning behind the creation of 'Business Planning and Development units' in five ICAR institutes (Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology, National Institute of Research on Jute and Allied Fibre Technology, Central Institute of Fisheries Technology). These units will tackle intellectual property management, commercialisation of research, find investors and begin businesses. India's National Agricultural Research System therefore, has decided to now become a broker of its own output (publicly funded) and a speculator seeking profits from the country's agricultural and food price crises.

In the same month (July), the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) of the Ministry of Commerce released a discussion paper entitled 'Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in multi-brand retail trading'. This paper, said the DIPP, was circulated to "generate informed discussion on the subject" which will "enable the Government to take an appropriate policy decision at the appropriate time". However, that consultative pose was neutralised by the central government taking a position against the arguments protesting FDI in retail. The 'limitations' of current conditions in the Indian retail sector were described as:

(1) That there has been a lack of investment in the logistics of the retail chain, leading to "an inefficient market mechanism". The point was made that India is the second largest producer of fruit and vegetables in the world (about 180 million tons) but has "very limited integrated cold-chain infrastructure" with only 5,386 stand-alone cold storages which together have a capacity of 23.6 mt. It points out that post-harvest losses of farm produce - especially fruits, vegetables and other perishables - have been estimated to be over Rs 100,000 crore per annum, 57% of which is due to "avoidable wastage and the rest due to avoidable costs of storage and commissions".

(2) That "intermediaries dominate the value chain", often flouting 'mandi' norms and their pricing lacks transparency. According to the union government, wholesale regulated markets governed by state APMC (Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee) Acts "have developed a monopolistic and non-transparent character". Indian farmers are said to realise only 1/3 of the total price paid by the final consumer, as against 2/3 by farmers in nations with a higher share of organised retail.

(3) That "there is a big question mark on the efficacy of the public procurement and PDS set-up and the bill on food subsidies is rising". The DIPP has said that despite heavy subsidies, "overall food-based inflation has been a matter of

great concern". It blames the "absence of a 'farm-to-fork' retail supply system" as being responsible for forcing consumers to "pay a premium for shortages and a charge for wastage".

Now, with the Obama economic mission to India, a picture has emerged out of the pattern. The ICAR-Industry Meet had focused on four theme areas: seed and planting material; diagnostics, vaccines and biotechnological products; farm implements and machinery; and post-harvest engineering and value addition. All these are areas in which US agri-business corporations want to occupy as suppliers, research units and to aid organised retail. The DIPP-Ministry of Commerce paper had emphasised the food produce supply chain and our "inefficient" markets which lead to wastage. Taking the cue, the US-India Business Council as part of its preparatory material for the Obama visit had said: "Even though India produces more milk than any other country in the world and is second in the world in its production of fruits and vegetables, a stunning gap remains — 40% of India's food harvest spoils before reaching the market." Take note also of the focus of the three working groups set up under the India-US Agriculture Dialogue and the preparation of the ICAR network in those directions.

Finally, there is the idea of the 'Evergreen Revolution' being promoted by the both sides, India's Ministry of Agriculture and the ICAR-led research and agri education system, and by the US Department of Agriculture in concert with the US State Department and American agri business. Also called a "second Green Revolution" by India's agriculture sector planners, such labelling has ignored entirely the social and genetic violence to India's agrarian settlements which has only increased post Liberalisation. At a meeting in Bhubaneswar, Orissa, held to discuss the central government's "Green Revolution in Eastern India" programme, a concluding declaration was made by farmers, activists and scientists from more than ten Indian states. "Food and livelihood security of the poor is subverted by the decision imposed by the Union Government on the peoples of the six Eastern Indian states to push for the new phase of Green Revolution with a thrust on hybrid seeds technology," said the declaration. "We question the rationale of the government in bringing in this Green Revolution and strongly believe that techno-centric production models adopted so far do not address real food, nutrition and livelihood security."

It is not food, nutrition and livelihood security which are the concerns of the India-US Agriculture Dialogue. This 'dialogue' is controlled and directed by the US government's new National Export Initiative. "We are pursuing a new trade strategy which looks at nations based on the nature of their marketplace," stated Tom Vilsack, US Secretary of Agriculture, on 2 September 2010 (he was part of the Obama mission to India). "These efforts mean that agriculture is one of the only major sectors of the economy with a trade surplus, which we expect to be worth US\$30.5 billion this year. Overall, our agricultural exports should be worth US\$107.5 billion in fiscal year 2010 – up from US\$96 billion in 2009 – and we expect them to rise again in 2011. More importantly, this progress should create good jobs for Americans: USDA studies show that every billion dollars in agricultural exports supports over 8,000 jobs and generates an additional US\$1.4 billion in economic activity."

According to a September 2010 'Report to The President on the National Export Initiative' by the US Secretary of Commerce, Gary Locke (he was also part of the Obama mission to India), the NEI has five components. Three of these apply directly to the new American agriculture hardsell to India: (1) "We will improve advocacy and trade promotion efforts on behalf of US exporters, so trade missions can introduce the world to American products and advocacy centres can help US exporters pursue opportunities"; (2) "We will reinforce our efforts to remove barriers to trade, so as many markets as possible are open to our products"; (3) "We will enforce our trade rules, to make sure our trade partners live up to their obligations".

A month after Vilsack's statement on the importance of agriculture sector exports to the US economy, Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India, asked the vice-chancellors of agricultural universities to adopt "innovative approaches" to strengthen agricultural research and education in India. Ahluwalia said India's agricultural universities "can play an important role in this direction by providing research based projects with the help of industry" and suggested "a new mechanism to fund research projects instead of funding universities". Ahluwalia is reported to have urged the scientists working in agricultural research institutes to "re-orient themselves in next Twelfth Five Year Plan amid the challenges of food security and climate change" and - typically for Indian planning today - referred to the gap in agricultural growth rate and land productivity of China and India, neglecting entirely the chronic depletion of soils and widespread degradation of agro-ecological systems in China which have suffered from high chemical input industrial farming.

"America helped bring about a Green Revolution," said President Obama to the media in New Delhi after a meeting at Hyderabad House. "The aim is to turn that into an Evergreen Revolution." A weather forecasting tie-up is being described as the "showpiece of the collaboration" which is expected to "predict India's increasingly erratic monsoon". This tie-up was finalised in July 2010, when Planning Commission member Dr K Kasturirangan (who headed Indian Space Research Organisation) and secretary in the Department of Earth Sciences, Shailesh Nayak, visited the US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. The Indian government's justification for the weather and crop forecasting tie-up is that it combines both oceanographic and atmospheric sciences. From the information now

available, crop scientists in the ICAR network and earth scientists at ISRO will be able to use the forecasting model. The US administration says this will help predict sudden breaks in the monsoon cycle. But it will also enable district-level predictions of crop sowing, harvesting and movement to a degree not seen before in the sub-continent. This information will first be used by the US Department of Agriculture and the US Department of Commerce to determine agri business and trade responses. By then, under the 'Agriculture Dialogue' plan, there will be enough collaboration at farm level, in the grain markets and in the retail chain to employ such granular information to the benefit of American food exporters and traders. The risk to India's food security - quite contrary to the pious statements made by both sides during the Obama visit - has never been greater.

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Obama Administration Continue to Enrich Wall Street

at the Expense of Black Farmers.

—**Revolutionary Organization of Labor, USA-**

In 1910, Afro-American farmers collectively owned 15 million acres of land in the United States. By 1997, the number of acres they collectively owned was only 2.4 million. In the interim, massive land stealing from Black farmers was carried out through political, economic and social attacks, including outright terror, on the Black community, mainly in the U.S. South. In 1982, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights reported that a primary cause of the loss of land of Afro-American farmers was discrimination at the hands of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). (See "Race and the USDA," *Southern Exposure Fact Sheet*)

USDA's historical discrimination against Afro-American farmers was admitted by the U.S. government in the Settlements of Pigford I and Pigford II. Pigford I was a class action lawsuit filed by hundreds of Afro-American farmers in 1997 on behalf of themselves and thousands of others against years of USDA discrimination, including the denial of loans and disaster relief. Pigford I was settled with the government in 1999 for over \$1 billion. Pigford II, the second phase of the lawsuit, based on claims of over 73,000 additional Afro-American farmers, was settled in February 2010 for a total of \$1.25 billion. This second settlement is still awaiting Congressional appropriation of money for the payment of compensation to the aggrieved Black farmers.

While not one official of the USDA was fired for discrimination against all those Black farmers over all those years, in July 2010, the mere *allegation* that Shirley Sherrod, USDA Georgia State Director of Rural Development, a Black USDA official, had discriminated against a white farmer led to her being forced to resign by Tom Vilsack, Obama's Secretary of Agriculture. The National NAACP immediately and shamefully jumped to support Obama's ouster of Sherrod. (How many demands or campaigns for the ouster of white supremacist USDA officials has the national NAACP ever initiated?!)

Former Georgia Afro-American Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney who has been active for years in defense of Black farmers issued a statement July 21 denouncing USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack's treatment of Shirley Sherrod and calling on President Obama to meet with Black farmers who are leading the Pigford lawsuit. McKinney warned that "over one million black-owned farm acres are at risk of being lost due to acceleration of debt, foreclosure, bankruptcy and USDA and USDOJ deliberate delay." (Our emphasis, ROL)

When it was discovered that the allegation against Sherrod was a tea party reactionary's fabrication and especially after the white farmer in question publicly praised the role of Shirley Sherrod and credited her with saving his farm, even the reactionary FOX News talking heads were compelled to admit their error and apologize to Sherrod. Of course, the National NAACP and the Obama Administration apologized and Agriculture Secretary Vilsack offered

Sherrod an even better job in the USDA. Despite the tremendous amount of publicity which the Sherrod affair received, a few days later, for the third time this year, the U.S. Senate voted *not* to pay the \$1.2 billion due to Black farmers in the Pigford Settlement— citing a “lack of funds.”

On July 24, 2010, the same day that the Associated Press reported the Democratic-controlled Senate’s decision not to approve the Pigford II settlement money, AP’s Daniel Wagner reported that Kenneth Feinberg, “the Obama administration’s pay czar said that he did not try to recoup \$1.6 billion in lavish compensation to top executives at bailed-out banks because he thought shaming the banks was punishment enough. Kenneth Feinberg said 17 banks receiving taxpayer money from the \$700 billion financial bail-out made ‘ill-advised’ payments to their executives.” The amount that Feinberg decided not to fight to collect from Wall Street companies to return to government coffers is greater than the amount of the Pigford II Settlement that the U.S. Senate owes to Black farmers, but refuses to pay for lack of funds!! So Wall Street executives got to keep their ill-gotten wealth, while the U.S. Senate continues to deny Black farmers the settlement that the government itself has already agreed to pay them.

Conclusion: Precisely because the Afro-American people did not receive the forty acres and a mule that they were promised at the time of their emancipation from slavery in the Civil War and still have not been compensated for the years of unpaid slave labor, and because land in 2010 is still a most valuable source of wealth, and because, most importantly, land is essential to the sovereignty of any oppressed people, the issues raised by the Pigford Settlements and by the ouster of Shirley Sherrod are an excellent barometer of ***the high degree of powerlessness currently being experienced by the Afro-American people under the Obama Administration.***

Furthermore, the 2010 Midterm elections have done nothing to strengthen the position of the Afro-American farmers in their bitter struggle to defend their land. On the contrary, pro-Wall Street, reactionary white supremacist forces have been strengthened. Far from being a “post racial” society in which civil rights organizations such as the NAACP are no longer necessary, white supremacist power, now strengthened by the tea party movement, is riding high. It is clear from the above that the Afro-American people need civil rights organizations like the NAACP to continue to exist and become stronger and more active in defense of the people. Even more urgent is the need for the development of Afro-American national liberation organizations, based in the Black Belt South Afro-American homeland, that are far more militant, democratic and revolutionary and are connected to the struggle for workers power throughout the USA and the world.

On G20 and APEC Summits

P.J.James

Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General in an article entitled “G-20: *the two issues*” (The Hindu, November 11, 2010) written on the eve of the G-20 Summit expressed his “profound hope that the principles of fairness, balance and common good, which have become so popular with G-20 leaders lately, will also inform these discussions.” The current Secretary General Ban Ki-moon who belongs to South Korea where the Summit took place was expected to lead the Summit’s discussion on *development* and include the opinions and voices of billions of world’s poor not represented by the so called G-20 leaders. He was supposed to echo the views expressed at the meeting of 26 Asian countries gathered in Bangkok during the first week of November under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Among other things the most humble request from ESCAP was concerted action from the “rich men’s club” against emerging currency wars and protectionism among the leading powers with disastrous disruptive consequences to the whole world.

But these hopes remained as wishful thinking only. For, the G20 Summit in Seoul not only not discussed the development concerns of the poor but also ended without any agreement between the major powers on resolving the increasingly fractious conflicts over currency and trade. The final communiqué evaded the crucial questions of growing inequality between the North and the South and the problems created in the latter on account of unhindered speculative financial flows. On the other hand, the Summit clearly signals a period of unprecedented trade and currency wars and “beggar thy neighbour” policies, with unforeseen political and military consequences to the whole world. With severe electoral setbacks at home coupled with America’s declining global economic power, Obama found it difficult to impose US

diktat on the other powers, especially China. He utterly failed to get agreement on the demand that China allows its currency to appreciate more rapidly, and that sharper restraints be placed on exports from surplus countries such as China and Germany. Obama administration also failed to secure bilateral trade deals with the participating countries especially, South Korea, the host.

One week before the Summit the American Federal Reserve had pumped another one trillion dollar to the world money circulation channel and flooding financial markets with the deliberate objective of further devaluing US dollar for creating competitive advantage for its exports and making imports into America costlier. This blatantly antagonistic competitive measure by US vis-à-vis other countries was bitterly criticized by almost all countries participating in the Summit with the notable exception of India which being represented by its prime minister Manmohna Singh was looking for every opportunity to prostrate before his US master. On the whole, the deliberations at the Summit were reminiscent of the competitive devaluations and trade wars that prevailed during both the pre and post Depression period of the thirties. It clearly brought to light the fact that the contradictions and conflicts brought about by the global economic meltdown and financial crash since the mid- 2008 are not going to be resolved and that the disequilibrium created by huge deficits in balance of payments and budgets of countries are not going to be soothed out. The acute crises confronting USA and major powers of Europe are symptoms of this. The imperialist powers led by US and EU are trying to offload the burden of this crisis in three ways: First, to initiate an unprecedented currency and trade wars against their competitors; two, intensify neocolonial plunder in diverse forms; and three, to shift the burden to the shoulders of working class and toiling masses everywhere in the form of austerity measures. An attempt to increase military production by diverting resources to military-industrial complex, enhancement of the arms trade and militarization are visible trends in imperialist centres. All these will aggravate the inherent contradictions of the neocolonial world order of imperialism

As world history has proved time and again, behind the uncontrolled currency and trade wars and ever-intensifying economic conflicts lie the danger of an impending war. It is a historical fact that whenever the global equilibrium threatens, the imperialist ruling classes will go to any extent for the ruthless defence of their material interests. Apart from its ongoing military aggressions on Iraq and Afghanistan and military threats against Iran, Obama administration has taken special interest in the territorial disputes between China and Japan. Unable to impose a forcible devaluation on the Chinese currency, America is eager to build up a possible conflict with China and is reportedly engaged in aggressive courting of potential allies for such an eventuality.

In the G-20 Summit in 2008 which held in the immediate background of the American “sub-prime crisis” the imperialist powers succeeded in exhibiting a posture of unity among them regarding the adoption of stimulus packages in the interests of corporate speculators. To hoodwink the workers and toiling people, there was much talk on the viability of neo-Keynesian policies too. But this time, the conflicts among the imperialist powers have further developed to such an extent that little scope exists for any such populist gimmicks. In fact, apart from resolving inter-imperialist contradictions, the G-20 Meeting was bound to devote its attention to several crucial issues such as the achievement of the much trumpeted Millennium Development Goals, narrowing the gap between the rich and poor countries through enhanced Overseas Development Assistance, adoption of international standards of prudential financial regulation, reform of Bretton Woods Institutions, and so on. But the logic of imperialist finance capital did not allow the G-20 leaders to settle any of such issues which were there in the agenda.

APEC Summit also a Failure

The APEC meeting that followed the aborted G-20 Summit was in several respects a repetition of the latter. Two days of talks in Yokohama, Japan by the leaders of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation ended with a clear divergence between the United States and China over the future of regional trade. It once again underscored the drift toward a breakdown of relations between the major powers in the Asia Pacific region.

With the backing of the anti-China Japanese government of Prime Minister Naoto Kan, Obama’s intention at APEC meeting was to capture East Asian markets from rival Chinese companies. It was with this view that Obama administration put forward its proposal for the establishment of a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) with America and Japan having a leading role. American sources estimate that such a free trade pact would enable American MNCs to double their exports to the region in five years. China’s emergence as a cheap super-exporter is the biggest threat that America is facing. Therefore, as he had at the G20 summit, Obama used the APEC meeting to attack China over its trade surplus with the US. American expectation that China would revalue its currency, the yuan facilitating a reduction in Chinese exports to USA was again reiterated in the discussions. As a prelude to the proposed FTAAP,

US administration had already taken the initiative to form the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), a free trade area which consisted of Brunei, Singapore, New Zealand and Chile whose aim is the total abolition of all intra-area tariffs by the year 2020. Later, Peru, Australia, Vietnam and Malaysia were admitted to the group and of late, Japan is also reportedly joining in it. If the American machinations succeed, then according to American think tanks, this attempt may culminate in one of the largest Free Trade Areas ever formed by US imperialism. American imperialists intention is to use this grouping as an effective bulwark against China in the Pacific.

Meanwhile, China has already taken effective steps to form a free trade agreement with six ASEAN countries, viz., Brunei, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines and Malaysia and tariff walls between them are no more existing. The remaining ASEAN nations, viz., Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos are also expected to join this stream. As such, the American attempt to isolate China is unlikely to succeed. Even during this year, the bilateral trade between China and ASEAN countries has grown by more than 50 percent. And China is in the process of forging alliances with Taiwan and South Korea, two key US allies in the region. The utter collapse of Obama's talks with South Korea during the G20 summit is a clear sign of the growing clout of China over the entire Korean peninsula. Obama also failed to make any major headway to make bilateral trade pacts with Thailand and Malaysia. All these pinpoint to the sharpening trade war between America and China over market for goods and avenues of investment.

One obvious reason for American failure to make trade adjustments with other countries is its open advocacy of protectionism in recent years. Confronted with an unprecedented balance of payments deficit and debt, America is resorting to all sorts of tariff controls, quantitative restrictions, and currency manipulation while at the same time seeking every avenue of prying open the markets of the rest of the world, especially that of neocolonial countries. As a result, in the G-20 and APEC Summits, even the supposed allies of US found it difficult to support its demand for a revaluation of Chinese currency. On the other hand even Japan and Germany joined hands with China and other countries against the American proposal that countries should limit the disequilibrium in their current accounts to 4 percent of GDP.

In brief, the recent G-20 and APEC meetings underscored the emergence of Asia-Pacific region as a strategic one regarding the competition for markets and geographical dominance. In view of the relative economic decline of US imperialism on the one hand, and the relative strength of Chinese imperialism on the other, the former is failing in building up strategic partnerships with the countries in the region. American efforts to overcome this ignominy through non-economic means may manifest in the form of increased US military presence and alliances in the region in the days to come. American conspiracy in the recent military conflicts between North Korea and South Korea is self-evident. The repeated global trade talks and sharpening contradictions among imperialist powers are clear manifestations of the irreversible crisis haunting world imperialism. An international offensive on the part of working class and world people alone can resist this impending danger.

South Africa: Workers' Factory Take Over to Defend Jobs Enters Second Month.

November 17, 2010 — A militant factory occupation by South African metalworkers is about to enter its second month. On October 20, 2010, workers at the Mine Line/TAP Engineering factory in Krugersdorp, just outside Soweto, began the occupation to prevent the removal of machinery and other assets and to fight to save their jobs. The workers are demanding the state take over the factory, so that it can be reopened as a democratically run workers' cooperative.

The workers are organised by the Metal and Electrical Workers Union of South Africa (MEWUSA), in which the Democratic Socialist Movement (DSM, the affiliate of the Committee for a Workers' International in South Africa) plays a leading role.

Mine Line/ Tap Engineering produces valves, locomotives and other items for the mining industry. It was shut down in August when the owner, Waynerd Mulder, attempted to escape responsibility for the deaths of three workers in an August 4 accident, caused by gross disregard for workers' health and safety. Despite the economic crisis, Mine Line has remained a viable business. The insolvency is the direct result of Mulder's criminal looting, fraud and theft. He took 15 million rand in cash from the company account, in addition to the fleet of luxury cars and helicopters he had bought with company money, and filed for bankruptcy the following day. While he has since been colluding with the liquidator, Commonwealth Trust, to loot the company, stealing its funds to set up business elsewhere, the 107 workers and the families of the workers who were killed are left with nothing to show for, in most cases, over 25 years of service.

Workers decided on October 20 to guard the premises to stop the ex-owner and the liquidator from stealing any more machinery or other assets from the factory. They have also changed the locks at the factory, which is located near Doornkop Mine. Some men have brought in beds, so they can sleep there at night, while women take part in the sit-in from the morning until the afternoon because they have children to look after at home.

“Entering the main office where about 50 workers are assembled, one immediately conjures up images of the Paris Commune, a government that briefly ruled Paris from March 28 to May 28, 1871, and which was made up of anarchists and Marxists. It was hailed as the first assumption of power by the working class during the Industrial Revolution”, reported the November 14 *Business Report*.

Union spokesperson Mamehlwe Sebei said Mulder had been taking assets from the factory and stripping it of whatever value remained, hence the occupation. “Until there is a proper inventory, Mulder is not allowed to take any assets away”, he said.

On November 15, the workers with the support from the solidarity committee resisted the owner’s son’s attempt to steal one of the computers and scrap metal. In his speedy getaway, his 4X4 bakkie [ute] got stuck in a ditch. It has become clear that the security firm is colluding with the owners and liquidators and are looking for ways to break the occupation.

The workers are fighting to save jobs, pensions and benefits, but also to show that production and society in general can be run without the capitalist bosses. The workers are demanding that the state transfer ownership to the workers and inject capital to revive the business, and are forming a cooperative to run the factory, as a step towards the nationalisation of the company under workers’ control and management.

The occupation of Mine Line is the first action of this kind by workers in South Africa to defend jobs since the onset of the recession in 2008. More than 1 million jobs have been lost in South Africa since the recession set in — according to the IMF this is the world’s highest rate, relative to growing working-age population is not economically active (although the official unemployment rate is “only” 25%).

The Mine Line workers are refusing to the crisis caused by their boss and are sending a loud and clear message to workers everywhere to do the same.

The workers are mobilising and appealing for the support of other workers and their communities. The Democratic Socialist Movement and the Conference of the Democratic Left, a new united left initiative, are taking an active part in building support for the occupation. A Mine Line/TAP Workers Solidarity Committee has been established, which includes Mine Line/TAP workers and the following organisations: MEWUSA, NACTU, Conference of the Democratic Left, Co-operative and Policy Alternative Centre, Concerned Wits students and Academics, Democratic Socialist Movement, Zabalaza Anarchist Communist Front, Soweto Electricity Crisis Committee, Landless Peoples’ Movement and the Anti-Privatisation Forum.

On October 27, the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) expressed its support for the decision taken by Mine Line workers to takeover and the run the company. “This decision taken by workers is consistent with the objectives of the Freedom Charter of making sure that economic power is transferred to the hands of the people”, NUMSA’s regional secretary, Sizwe Dlamini said.

There is now an urgent need to unite the weight of the entire labour movement and the mass struggles of communities and youth into a mass solidarity campaign. Pressure also needs to be put on the company’s main creditors: ABSA bank to pursue the ex-owner, not the company, to recover what is owed to it (he borrowed R35 million on false pretenses and never invested it in the company). The same applies to the R15 million owed to the South African Revenue Services.

The workers have been inspired by the courageous examples set by workers at the Vestas and Visteon occupations in Britain, and are appealing to all working-class political organisations, trade unions and individuals to send brief messages of solidarity to MEWUSA and the Mine Line Workers Committee, as well as letters of protest to the liquidating company (model letter of protest and details below). Please send all messages and protest letters c/- mewusa@lantic.net or to MEWUSA, 107 Market St, Elephant House, 5th floor, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa.

[This article is based on a report that appeared at <http://www.socialistworld.net/doc/4626> and other reports.]

All India Campaign Against Obama’s Visit

Following the decision of the Central Committee of the Party in September all the state committee’s organized a vigorous campaign against US PRESIDENT Obama’s visit in order to explain to the people the reasons why we should oppose it and what are the anti people, anti national agreements are going to be signed during his visit. The US

flag and effigies of Obama and Manmohan Singh were burned in hundreds of places. Rallies and street corner and public meetings were organized. At many places programmes were organized joining hands with like minded forces.

Besides programmes organized under the leadership of the Party, they were organised with the parties and organizations with whom discussions are progressing to work unitedly based on ten anti imperialist and anti state slogans at all India level. As the joint meeting on 25th September had called for organizing campaign against Obama's visit, they also organized many protest actions wherever they are functioning. As a result the Obama go back slogan was raised practically in every state along with many programmes.

There are reports of very energetic programmes organized from Kerala and Tamil nadu down south to Punjab and UP in the north. Only a few of these reports and photos are given below.

State Reports:

Kerala :

Punnapra- Vayalar Anniversary

The 64th Anniversary of Punnapra- Vayalar was observed in Kerala by CPI(ML) with state-wide poster campaign. The Punnapra-Vayalar struggle led by the workers of Alappuzha and the Communist Party in 1946 against the pro-feudal and pro imperialist policies of erstwhile Travancore and the repressive measures unleashed by the then Diwan C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer against the coir workers of the region. Hundreds of Communist Party cadres and workers became martyrs in the struggle. It was the revolutionary situation and politicization of the people following Punnapra-Vayalar that transformed Communist Party in Kerala as the leading political force in the State. The public meeting in commemoration of the martyrs was inaugurated by, Com. PN Provint, state secretary at Ezhupunna on October 22, 2010 and com. Joy Alumpadan, Alappuzha district secretary presided.

Campaign on Com. Varghese Case

Com. Varghese, the CPI(ML) leader who fought for the rights of tribals against the caste- feudal landlords of Wayanad was murdered by the police in a notorious 'encounter death' under instructions from the then coalition government in which Achuthamenon, the CPI leader was the chief minister and Mohammad Koya, the Muslim League leader was the Home Minister. In the trial before a CBI court at Kochi after 40 years of Com. Varghese' murder, it was proved that a police constable Ramachandran Nair under threats from police officer Lakshmana did fire upon Com. Varghese. Lakshmana was only one among the top police brass who formed a 'criminal gang' at the behest of the political leadership ruling Kerala. While welcoming the judgment, The CPI(ML) through press conference demanded that the entire political leadership and the police-bureaucratic nexus behind the crime should be brought for trial and punishment.

In continuation of this campaign, the **Democratic Forum** headed by Adv. Sabi Joseph, convened a Seminar at Kochi on November 11 on the theme '*Political and Social Issues of Varghese Murder Case*' at the PCT Hall. Com KN Ramachandran, General Secretary, CPI(ML) inaugurated the Seminar. In his inaugural speech, Com Ramachandran linked the recurring 'encounter deaths' in India with the fascisation of the State in the context of ever-intensifying neocolonial-neoliberal policies in the country and pointed out the urgent need for a democratic movement capable of addressing this crucial question in the proper perspective. Senior advocate of the High Court, Adv. Ramkumar, and noted journalist, Sebastian Paul made their presentations. Dr. G. Sadasivan Nair, retd. Director, School of Legal Studies, Cochin University, presided and Adv. Sabi Joseph presented the keynote address.

In Kozhikode district, on November 20, the CPI(ML) district committee organized a seminar on the same topic. It was presided over by Com. M.P. Kunhikanaran, party district secretary and com. PN Provint inaugurated the seminar. Adv. Sabi Joseph presented the keynote paper and Adv. Kumarankutty, P. Surendran, noted writer and Madhumaster, playwright, participated in the deliberations.

November 2 Observed as 10th Anniversary of Sharmilla's Hunger Strike

AIRWO State Committee observed November 2, 2010 as the 10th anniversary of Irom Sharmilla's indefinite fast. Extending revolutionary greetings to Sharmilla, a printed poster campaign was conducted throughout the State.

Highlighting the cause of Sharmilla's struggle and declaring solidarity with her struggle, Rallies and Public Meetings of AIRWO were held in different districts. The Rally and Dharna at Wayanadu and Trissur districts were impressive.

Anti-Imperialist Campaign against Obama's Indian Visit

Based on the call by the CPI(ML) Central Committee and the Democratic People's front, a week-long anti-imperialist campaign was organized in the state. To give a political orientation to this campaign, central poster, with the slogans, '*Obama Go Back*', '*Down with US Imperialism*', and '*Resist Neocolonial Plunder*' was released all over the State. As part of this campaign, a Public Meeting inaugurated by Com KN Ramachandran, the General Secretary was held at Gandhi Park, Thiruvananthapuram, the state capital on November 6, 2010. Com PN Provint, State Secretary and P.J. James Central Committee member spoke on the occasion. Another Public meeting was held at Kottayam on November 10 which was also inaugurated by the General Secretary.

On November, 8 the day when Obama addressed the Parliament, a massive procession was held in Kochi and both Obama and Manmohan were burned in effigy as a culmination of this rally. The procession was led by Com KN Ramachandran, General Secretary, CPI(ML), PN Provint, State Secretary, PJ James, K. Sivaraman, Central Committee Members and Com. Thomas Mathew, and State and District leaders of CPI(ML).

On the same day, targeting American City Bank situated at MG road, Kochi, led by RYFI, a militant struggle was conducted. Led by com. MK Dasan, state secretary of RYFI, the RYFI cadres marched against the American Bank which was fully encircled by a huge armed police force. Followed by a prolonged confrontation with the police in which some comrades and policemen were injured, they were arrested and kept under police custody for the whole day. Protest meetings and effigy burnings were held in various parts of the State on November 8. Effigy burnings in the districts of Wayanad, Kozhikode, Trissur, Ernakulam, Kottayam and Pathanamthitta got mass attention.

Indefinite Struggle for Banning Against Endosulfan

Endosulfan which is used as pesticide in commercial agriculture by agribusiness companies is a highly toxic material resulting in congenital deformities, cancer, hydrocephalus and extreme neurological and cerebral distortions in human beings. On the basis of experience and studies, 65 countries of the world including both imperialist and neocolonial, have banned it altogether. As a result, in the recent Persistent Organic Pollution Review Committee meeting held at Geneva, out of the 29 countries participated in it, 24 demanded an immediate ban on endosulfan and 4 countries abstained from voting. India represented by Manmohan government was the only country supporting the production and use of this toxic product. Today India is the leading producer, consumer and exporter of endosulfan. Almost 4000 metric tons of the product annually produced, 1600 metric tons are produced by the HIL factory situated at Eloor, near Kochi, Kerala. The remaining is produced in Gujarat by Bayer, the MNC .

In Kasargode district alone in Kerala, because of the use of this pesticide in cashew plantations, more than 350 people have already dead and more than 4000 people are still living with various deformities and incurable ailments. Though the Kerala government under pressure from the people has compelled the use of endosulfan, the anti-people, anti-national Congress government in conformity with its comprador class character of serving corporate capital is profusely producing endosulfan and distributing it throughout country. This is taking place in spite of an ongoing state-wide campaign against endosulfan from all sections of people except outright lackeys of agribusiness like KV Thomas, the minister of state for agriculture representing Kerala.

It is at this juncture that both the RYFI and AIRWO have jointly started an indefinite satyagraha in front of the HIL unit Kochi demanding the immediate stoppage of production and distribution of endosulfan from the factory. The sit-in-strike that started on November 19 is getting increasing support from all sections of people. On November 21 a Struggle Aid Committee with Dr. Sadasivan Nair as chairman and T.C Subrahmanyam as convener was formed to extend all needed help to make the indefinite strike a success. The strike by RYFI and AIRWO has enabled to expose the Manmohan government as the prime culprit in the endosulfan issue which is intimately connected with its appeasement of agribusiness interests everywhere.

W.BENGAL:

OBAMA, LEADER OF US IMPERIALISM, GO BACK!

Revolutionary, left and democratic forces in Kolkata organized a 1000-strong militant, anti-imperialist rally to protest against Barack Obama's India tour. On November 8, when Obama was addressing a joint session of Parliament, with our shameless leaders hanging on to his every word, a number of mass and political organizations marched towards the United States Information Service centre. The main slogans raised included 'Barack Obama go back', 'Scrap the US-India nuclear deal', 'Say NO to American invasion of the retail market' and 'Down with the Indian stooges of American imperialism'. The programme was organized by a number of organizations including CPI(ML) (Red Star), CPI(ML) New Democracy, PCC-CPI(ML), CPI(ML) Janashakti, NAPM, Samyukta Sangram Committee, Mazdoor Kranti Parishad and others.

PROTEST AGAINST POLICE ATROCITIES IN BHUBANESWAR

On November 18, the Struggling Left Coordination – an alliance of six left and revolutionary parties in Bengal – staged a demonstration in front of Utkal Bhavan in Kolkata to protest the torture and arrest of Dalits and CPI (ML) activists in Bhubaneswar, Orissa. In this the Struggling Left Coordination was joined by other democratic forces in the city.

A letter was faxed to the Chief Minister of Orissa by Comrade Santosh Rana, convenor of the Struggling Left Coordination. The letter condemned the brutal lathicharge by the police on Dalits and CPI(ML) activists and demanded that the eviction of the Dalits from their land be stopped immediately and all those arrested be released without delay. A separate memorandum was also faxed to the Orissa Chief Minister on behalf of CPI-ML (Red Star).

Campaign Hailing Formation of ICOR

The formation of the International Coordination of Revolutionary Parties and Organisations [ICOR] has created great revolutionary enthusiasm among not only communist revolutionary forces but also among the working class and other revolutionary sections of people. It became very much clear from the participation of the masses wherever programmes were organized to herald its formation during the campaign from 1st to 7th November called by the CPI[ML] culminating with the observation of October Revolution Day. The Special issue of Red Star published with the Founding document and other documents alongwith the resolutions adopted by the Founding Conference was well received when it was taken to the people by the propaganda squads. At some places public meetings were also held addressed by leading comrades explaining the significance of this historic step forward towards the re organization of the Communist International dissolved in 1943. The Party CEC has decided to continue the campaign after the publication of ICOR documents in booklet form in different languages.

Struggle for Protection of Environment

Struggle for a Pro People, Pro Nature Development Approach..

The inspiring call by the International Coordination of Revolutionary Parties and Organisations [ICOR] to observe 4th December as International Environment Day in a militant manner as a day of struggle against imperialism which destroys environment and for realizing a pro people, pro nature development perspective is a major revolutionary initiative by the international communist movement after a long time. Such an initiative became possible as CPI[ML] and other revolutionary parties and organizations had taken initiative to wage an uncompromising struggle on the critical questions like global warming which is the result of the so called development policies pursued by the imperialist powers, especially US imperialists, and their lackeys all over the world. Explaining the gravity of the problem, the CPI[ML] Central Committee had stated: "the intensification of the global warming during the last decade has posed growing challenge before the humankind. According to many studies if the global warming and the factors responsible for it are allowed to continue at the present rate the human race or at least most of it, shall not be able to survive this century". It is in this situation the call of the ICOR has become most timely. There are encouraging reports of country wide preparations taken up by the party committees uniting with all like minded forces to observe 4th December as a day of militant actions to protect environment and to save humankind from extinction. The revolutionary left and

democratic forces are taking this initiative fully recognizing that the carbon gas emission, damage to ozone layer etc have reached optimum levels and that only by forcing the imperialists and their lackeys to put an end to their disastrous course it can be reversed.

But when such an initiative is taken many petty bourgeois intellectuals and ideologues of NGOs are arguing that without putting forward a fool proof alternative development policy, without putting it in to practice at micro level and proving its efficacy how can the struggle for environmental protection be carried forward. With this argument they are trying to obfuscate the gravity of the situation confronted by the human race now due to ecological destruction crossing optimum levels. Besides they argue, by pointing out the metaphysical approach taken by CPI[M] like pseudo left forces towards ecological questions, that it is not possible to unite with the left forces in the struggle for environmental protection. They also try to limit these struggles to local levels, to de-politicise the environmental issue and to confine the struggle within the ruling system. Only by waging a serious struggle against these erroneous ideas and only by linking the struggle for environmental protection with the class struggle to overthrow the rule of imperialists and their lackeys the challenge posed by them can be effectively countered. Similarly, while criticizing the pseudo left forces who have in effect become apologists of the imperialist system in their approach towards questions like environmental protection, the positive approach taken by the revolutionary left towards environmental question and the struggles they have waged on this front have to be brought before the people. That is why a brief analysis of the experience of CPI[ML] in the movement for protection of environment in Kerala is given below.

Kerala Experience

The struggle for protection of Silent Valley in Palghat district is well known all over India. This struggle during 1970s was waged under the leadership of the Sasthra Sahithya Parishad [SSP] formed in 1960s. Though the CPI[M] leadership was against this struggle a large number of its lower level cadres were actually in the leadership of it. Some of the present leaders of CPI[ML] were actively involved in this struggle. This powerful mass movement involving hundreds of thousands of people and progressive forces in Kerala and outside succeeded in getting the project revoked.

During this struggle most of the leaders of CPI[M] joined hands with leaders of Congress and other reactionary parties to defend this project as the only way out for resolving the deficiency of electricity in the state. The opponents of the project pointed out how ten times more electricity compared to what can be produced at Silent Valley can be saved if the 25 percent transmission losses in the state can be cut down by 10 per cent. Besides, there are vast scope for construction of hundreds of mini hydel projects in the state as the study by a committee appointed by the 1957-59 CPI led ministry had pointed out. But till now no effective steps are taken to implement these alternative plans. Instead, even today both Congress led UDF and CPI[M] led LDF governments, which are alternatively coming to power in the state, are criticizing the Silent Valley movement for the 'electricity shortage' in the state.

Next, the LDF government in 1987 tried to get a nuclear power plant constructed at Bhuthathankettu in Ernakulam district claiming that it is the only solution to the so called 'electricity shortage'. Under the initiative of CPI[ML] state committee uniting all those who are opposed to this, a mighty people's movement was launched soon. In spite of strong opposition from CPI[M] leadership the SSP joined the movement. A large number of intellectuals besides the local people also joined. A vigorous campaign pointing out the radiation effects and the still unresolved problem of radio active waste disposal, besides the very high cost of electricity per unit was launched. Though the corporate media did not give any publicity, the movement went on mobilizing more and more people and finally the government was forced to abandon the project.

As a political party, CPI[ML] has taken active interest in environmental issues and has led numerous struggles all over the state on these issues during the last decades always putting forward alternative approaches. In these struggles the party and the class and mass organizations under its political leadership have joined hands with various forces including NGOs. While the party has led uncompromising struggles against the ideological positions behind the NGOs, in practical struggles where common slogans could be arrived at, it has not hesitated to rally even them in order to protect the environment. One such struggle was against the Coca Cola plant at Plachimada in Palghat district. Though it could not reach the level of Cacha Bomba struggle of Bolivia and the people's upsurge there following it leading to significant political changes in that country as a result of the still powerful stranglehold of CPI[M] led social democratic politics in the state, the anti Coca Cola struggle succeeded in mobilizing hundreds of thousands of people state wide forcing the shut down of the plant. While the NGOs tried to de-politicise it, pointing out that both the UDF and LDF are responsible for giving permission for the plant and governments under both had tried to protect it from people's wrath, the party succeeded to a great extent in politicizing it and making it a statewide struggle. While politicizing it, the party tried to develop a discussion on proper utilization of the abundant rain water in the state.

Kerala is a state which was almost self sufficient as far as food grains production was concerned. But extensive conversion of the rice fields for cash crop cultivation or for real estate construction has made it totally dependent on food grains from outside. As a result of many people's struggles though an act forbidding such conversions was made, both UDF and LDF governments have refused to implement it. In this situation, CPI[ML] and the poor peasant and agriculture workers under its leadership are waging numerous struggles to protect the rice fields. As the corrupt state machinery and political leaderships are trying hard to save the law breakers, this struggle has not succeeded so far and Kerala is turned in to a fully dependent one for food grains and other food items. Still the importance of this ongoing struggle cannot be minimized.

Kerala which is marketed by the tourist department as 'God's own country' has undergone the worst deforestation compared to many other states. The plantations and numerous cash crops alongwith tourist spots have consumed most of the forests with the bureaucracy, forest and revenue departments and political leaderships cornering the benefits. Both UDF and LDF governments were vying with each other in this. Though the present LDF government had announced its intention to take back the thousands of acres of forest lands illegally occupied by Tatas it could do nothing. There are numerous other cases like this. In this situation, against Tatas like monopolies and other land mafias CPI[ML] alongwith the mass organizations have led numerous struggles to take back this land resisting the government machinery which is supporting these monopolies and mafias. While waging this struggle, the party has put forward an agrarian programme which shall materialize environmental protection and socialist changes.

Another major struggle waged on the ecological front in the state is against the proposal to construct a multi-lane super express way from north to south. It will in effect cut this narrow state, with an average width of about 80 kms, in to two parts and cause immense ecological destruction. As in other states, it is to satisfy the never ending greed of the petroleum and automobile lobby such projects are thrust upon against people's wishes. While waging a relentless struggle against this BOT project uniting with Other forces and now launching a People's Committee Against BOT Project, CPI[ML] has put forward an alternative perspective for a pro people, pro nature development.

It has suggested a master plan of a four line railway line from one end to the other end of the state with feeder roads linking it with different towns and villages. There is great scope for developing the coastal inland water way also from north to south. Besides along the 600 km long sea coast a coastal ferry service can be developed linking the different ports. There is scope for developing water traffic along the rivers and a number of bays in the state. Such a project will not only provide an eco friendly communication system, but also create large number of jobs through boat building and other small scale supplementary industries. But, UDF or LDF, whichever government is in power, both are not interested to stand against the automobile- petroleum lobby.

Besides these, CPI[ML] state committee is involved in numerous other struggles on ecological front. For example, against the use of Endo sulfan chemical which has turned a large number of people especially children deformed and seriously sick leading to painful deaths in Kasarcode district, against the encroachment of sea coast by real estate mafias, against the real estates coming up in a large number of towns without environmental considerations etc. As a result the Party is active in the people's committee against the proposed hydel dam above Athirappally water falls and numerous other people's committees across the state. Everywhere Party is making it a political issue involving people, always trying to put forward an alternative taking the ecological factors in to consideration. Even when the government is suppressing these struggles and take up projects causing damage to environment, undaunted by these the struggles are continued educating the people politically that only by throwing out the ruling system which is capitalist oriented and elitist and bringing a people's alternative with socialist orientation in to power a basic solution to the environmental problems can be achieved.

The above experience of the CPI[ML] in Kerala shows how the struggle for a pro people, pro nature development perspective can be carried forward as a part of the class struggle for over throwing the imperialists and their lackeys who are destroying environment and leading the human race to a catastrophe. It is a struggle basically different from the ones organized by the NGOs and similar organizations, de **politicizing** the issue and de linking it from the struggle against the ruling system which is responsible for it.

Politics of United Front.

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In the struggle for capturing political power, the communist party, or a revolutionary organization has to form various forms of united fronts, in order to mobilize the maximum number of the toiling and oppressed masses against the

ruling reactionary system. The tactics of forming united fronts are pursued by the ruling class parties also when they find it not possible to wield power single handedly as we are witnessing at center and state level nowadays. The revisionist CPI[M] is pursuing the united front policy for a long time for sharing political power within the ruling system, after abandoning the path of class struggle. It can be seen that the ruling class parties or various regional parties or the CPI[M] like parties which have degenerated to social democratic path have become adept in wielding the united front policy in maintaining the ruling system which is facing ever mounting crises one after another. They form united fronts in order to safe guard the ruling system, from their class positions. But the revolutionary forces should form the united fronts, even if they are only tactical ones, from their class positions and to advance the cause of People's [or New] Democratic Revolution. Whether tactical or strategic, they should not be opportunist, but should be based on a programmatic approach conforming to the revolutionary needs. While identifying the participants in the fronts a principled approach is needed.

For example, based on the call of the Bhopal All India Conference, when CPI[ML] called for the formation of a united front, it put forward a programmatic approach for discussion by the revolutionary left and democratic forces. A series of bilateral discussions were held with a number of organizations on the suggestions put forward and it was then the 25th September meeting of a number of these organizations arrived at a ten point programme, launching the Democratic People's Front[DPF]. It has already started taking up all India campaigns and has decided to form state level DPF committees uniting all those forces who can be united. A number of forces have expressed preparedness to become part of this Front at all India and state level. At a time when the reactionary ruling system is intensifying attacks on the masses, the relevance of this Front is becoming increasingly relevant. This initiative should be compared with some other Fronts formed during this period by some other organisations.

All India Left Coordination of Liberation.

The CPI[ML] Liberation took initiative to form a united front with two sections who have come out from CPI[M], the CPM[Punjab] and Left Coordination Committee of Kerala, and with Lal Nishan Party[Leninwadi] of Maharashtra. Though it was claimed that it will oppose the ruling class policies and try to develop an alternative to the opportunist alliances of the ruling class and social democratic parties, within weeks of its formation the constituents went in opposite directions to forge opportunist election alliances with the parties it had claimed to oppose.

For example, the Liberation as in Jharkhand earlier went for seat adjustments in Bihar. For any political party or organization, participation in election is an important political struggle. Then, how can Liberation make election adjustments with parties who pursue the ruling class policies in W.Bengal, Kerala and Tripura and whom it call social democratic? While Liberation may argue that according to its Programme it looks forward to form a grand left unity with the CPI and CPI[M], how can the CPM[Punjab] and LCC of Kerala who left CPI[M] condemning it, go for a front with the Liberation who is making election adjustments with it?

Meanwhile, in the recent local bodies elections in Kerala, the LCC went for undeclared seat adjustments with the Congress led UDF in the name of defeating CPI[M] led LDF. After elections the LCC and UDF collaborated to share a few seats of power. These opportunist exercises in the name of left politics are providing ground for the reactionary forces to attack the left movement as a whole. By continuing in this opportunist alliance the Lal Nishan Party[Leninvadi] as well as the CPM[Punjab] are going against the political positions they claim to uphold.

Another Election Alliance in Bihar.

During the recently concluded Bihar elections, the CPI[ML] Kanu Sanyal group surprised even its own members by forming an election alliance of 'five left parties' as it called it with SUCI[Communist], Forward Bloc, RSP, and MCPI[U]. Among them, SUCI is in alliance with the Trinamul Congress in Bengal in the name of opposing the CPI[M] led Left Front. Forward Bloc and RSP are in the CPI[M] led LF in Bengal, Kerala and Tripura. This is yet another opportunist front which is sidelining the basic facts that election is an important political struggle and the reactionary policies it claims to oppose can be thrown out only by pursuing a uniform policy at all India level. How can the FB and RSP which are implementing the neo liberal policies in neighbouring Bengal as part of the LF government and the SUCI which is partnering the Trinamul Congress which is part of the UPA government at center oppose the imperialist globalization and neo liberal policies in Bihar? This is yet another opportunist circus which will only discredit the left forces.

The revolutionary left forces engaged in carrying forward the task of uniting all communist revolutionaries to speed up the rebuilding of the Communist Party at all India level and pursuing a principled united front policy should expose these opportunist policies pursued by such forces who also are claiming to uphold the heritage of Naxalbari uprising and CPI[ML].

After Peasantry, Now the Working Class.

These are days when the political leadership in power as well as elite classes are celebrating the continuous high rate of growth of Indian economy. They stress that Indian economy is among the ten fastest growing economies in the world and that there are three Indians among the ten richest people in the world. Like the former BJP led NDA government, the UPA government is also boasting that India is shining in all fields. But they do not give much publicity to the fact that even according to UN human index reports, India is lagging far behind in education, health care, per capita food consumption, life longevity etc. According to UN report, in 2010 India's position is 119th among 150 countries for which this study was prepared. All those in power, whether at centre or in the state are united in concealing the actual poverty and backwardness of the vast masses in the country.

For example, take the case of the peasant suicides in the country. Even according to government studies about 200,000 peasants, mostly poor and landless peasants, have committed suicide in the country during last one decade. This tendency is spreading to more areas and there is no significant improvement in their living conditions. The number of these suicides is increasing every year. In spite of many government declarations the condition of the marginal peasantry has not recorded any improvement. So, the government is consciously indulging in cover up operations to conceal facts about peasant suicides.

The alarming fact is that presently along with peasant suicides, reports about suicide of workers are also coming out from many regions. Tirupur, the garments town of Tamilnadu, is one such area. Though the success stories of Tirupur is available internationally, the human toll it is taking to produce these success stories are seldom published. So the study of the workers' condition in Tirupur published by the **Frontline** [of 8th October, 2010] is very revealing. According to it, the industry which employs more than four lakh workers, recruits mostly women and migrants and are ruthlessly preventing any form of involvement by the unions. Here 679 cases of suicides have been reported during the past 20 months, which included 149 women. This is besides the natural deaths and suicides. The numerous suicide attempts are not included in this. This is much higher than the state average of suicides. The victims consume pesticides, local oleander seeds or chemicals used in the industry. These suicides have brought forward issues connected with poor working conditions, increasing stress due to living conditions etc.

Studies about living conditions of the workers show that they are forced to work intensively for long durations, some times for over 90 hours a week, with short breaks, particularly during the peak season so as to meet the delivery schedules. Often very little is paid for the extra work. A major reason for the frustration of the increasing number of the migrant workers is the perennial job uncertainty. Any time they can be thrown out of the jobs. So their dreams of repaying their debts and saving some money get shattered. Besides the pressure of work and frustrating living conditions force many migrant workers to go back leaving the job.

In order to produce goods at cheaper rates to compete in the market and to reap higher profits the employers adopt diverse strategies with the single objective of creating textile mills and garment factories without trade unions. One strategy is to enforce the 'camp labour' or 'hostel scheme' under which large number of women workers are forced to stay with in the company premises. Another scheme is 'Sumangali' under which young women are offered Rs.30,000 to 50,000 at the completion of three years work. Though the latter is not in vogue in many textile mills after many struggles and court orders, it is rampant in garment factories. One study revealed that out of 1702 companies studied, 191 had employed 32,545 women of 15-21 age group under camp coolie system. Almost 90 per cent of them are migrants. The movements of the inmates are restricted and no communication is possible with them, leave alone any political work among them.

In order to make the exploitation easier, the male female ratio which was 80:20 is now drastically changed with women far outnumbering men. While it is a positive development that more women are getting employed, their working conditions make their life often worse. Cutting the number of migrant workers from Tamilnadu districts now they are recruited from Orissa, Bihar, Rajasthan, Jharkhand like states. They are subjected to all sorts of humiliations and suppression. In this situation, even holding of street meeting like old methods of political and organizational campaigns

have become almost impossible. The workers are pushed to total alienation. Even after all these, the managements are calling for further liberalization of the labour laws to further tighten their control and exploitation.

The high work intensity and the cotton dust permeating textile and garments towns like Tirupur have led to serious ailments such as mouth ulcers, respiratory problems, stomach pain and giddiness among workers and their children. Almost 60 per cent of the workers, especially migrant workers live in slums. According to official sources one third of Tirupur's population live in slums. Over and above all these hardships the intense working hours alternate with long periods of unemployment. In this situation the workers are naturally led to depression and suicide tendencies. The absence or near absence of any form of trade union work make things worse. Neither the central and state governments, nor leaderships of the major trade union centers, nor the major political parties do not interfere effectively to put an end to this barbarous situation. All these factors have led to increasing number of suicides in this town. As in the case of peasant suicides, the increasing number of suicides among workers can be ended only if the existing conditions of work and living is put to an end.

Significance of the Verdict on Fake Encounter Killing of com. Varghese..

Com. Varghese was one of the leaders of the Naxalbari movement in Kerala. When he was in the CPI[M] itself he had endeared himself with the Adivasi people of Wynad district. Naxalbari uprising gave the impetus to him to leave revisionist CPI[M] and to join the revolutionary ranks. He led a militant struggle against those feudal lords who were exploiting the Adivasis in all forms. Some of the feudal lords were annihilated. At that time the state was ruled by Congress-CPI-Muslim League alliance. CPI leader Achutha Menon was chief minister and Muslim League leader Mohammed Koya was police minister. The anti-Naxalite section of police launched a search with the help of special police forces in which com. Varghese was taken to custody on 18 February, 1970 morning. Instead of presenting to the court he was taken to dense forests of Tirunelli under the leadership of two senior officers, then Supdt of police Vijayan and then DySP Laxmana under orders from the political leadership, and he was brutally killed, dubbing it as an 'encounter death'. The truth was known to the people. It was a subject of intense campaign by CPI[ML] from that time. Even after a police constable, Ramachandran Nair, who under orders from the officers fired the bullets which killed com. Varghese confessed about it openly, only after major political campaign the High Court ordered a CBI enquiry. Forty years after this fake encounter killing now the CBI Court has found Laxmana responsible and sentenced him to life imprisonment. Probably it may be the only case in India in which a police officer of such a higher rank who retired as IG who is responsible for a fake encounter killing is punished by the court. It is a significant court order which should be welcomed.

Such a court order became possible in spite of the degeneration of CPI and then CPI[M] to ruling class positions, as the democratic spirit is still strong among the left masses in the state. That is why after the 1975-77 'emergency raj' when custodial killing of comrades Rajan, Vijayan and Balakrishnan came out, the then UDF chief minister Karunakaran had to resign and in the elections following it the Congress led UDF was routed. Similarly when CRC, CPI[ML] rejected the left adventurist line, took mass line and launched a mass movement for the release of all political prisoners during 1986-87, it received wide spread support leading to their release. So when the confession of Ramachandran Nair came out, there was wide spread demand for an enquiry and punishment of all culprits. As the police under UDF government and then the LDF government did not take speedy steps, democratic forces raised voice once again. This led to the High Court order for CBI enquiry and the present order.

While welcoming the verdict as a warning to the police-bureaucrat-political leadership nexus, CPI[ML] state committee has demanded that along with Laxmana all the political leaders, police officers and bureaucrats responsible for the fake encounter should be charge sheeted and punished. The seminar organized by Democratic Forum, addressed by prominent democrats Adv. Sabi Joseph, Prof. Sadasivan Nair, prominent writer P.Surendran and many others and inaugurated by CPI[ML] general secretary com. K.N.Ramachandran, has called for a comprehensive enquiry of the police suppression of the communist revolutionaries during 1960s and 1970s. Besides it has called on the democratic forces all over the country to raise their voice for a comprehensive enquiry in to all fake encounter cases including the latest killing of CPI[Maoist] leader com. Azad. In this context, the seminar condemned the suppression of peoples of Jammu and Kashmir and Northeast, intensification of state terror and fascicisation of the state machinery first in the name of suppression of 'terrorists' and now in the name of 'Maoists' and demanded the withdrawal of all black acts including AFSPA. The seminar organized at Ernakulam attracted a large number of people from all walks of life. CPI[ML] state committee has decided to continue the campaign against state terror along with the intensification of the mass movements.

WHITHER LIBERATION

Sharmistha Choudhury

Politics, they say, makes for strange bed fellows. One would have thought this maxim to apply strictly to bourgeois politics. So it comes as somewhat of a shock to see a professedly communist revolutionary organization like the CPI-ML (Liberation) teaming up with the most suspect of allies in a bid to form an all-India left coordination.

On August 11, 2010, ‘four fighting organizations of the Left’ (in the words of Liberation general secretary Comrade Dipankar Bhattacharjee) came together to form an All-India Left Coordination (AIRC) through a joint convention held in New Delhi. Apart from the CPI-ML (Liberation), the three other constituents of this Coordination are CPM (Punjab), Lal Nishan Party (Leninist) of Maharashtra and Left Coordination Committee (Kerala). Writing in their ideological-political journal *Liberation*, this is how Comrade Dipankar Bhattacharjee put it: “In its Declaration, the AIRC rejected both class collaboration/parliamentary cretinism and Left adventurism/anarcho-militarism and resolved to strengthen the Left movement by all means while exploring opportunities for broader Left unity and cooperation with democratic forces... As noted in the Delhi Declaration, the AIRC marks only a modest beginning. As of now, it is just a platform of coordination with a shared approach and understanding on most urgent issues of the day. But as representatives of all the four organizations remarked in the convention, it is a modest first step, which nurtured properly, may well grow into an important long march; a small beginning hinting at great possibilities of realignment and radicalization of the Indian Left.”

The objective, undoubtedly, is lofty and urgent. Today, more than ever before, India needs a resurgence of the Left movement. Reeling under the onslaught of neo-colonial oppression, the masses are desperately looking for a political force outside the paradigm of the UPA-NDA-Left Front-etc. that can lead them in their struggle for liberty. It is of the utmost importance today to organize this alternative political force, bringing together all revolutionary, struggling and left democratic forces. It is equally important to emphasize that this unity will in no way accommodate forces like the CPI and the CPIM, which being in and out of governments, have only implemented the neo-colonial policies and unleashed repression on people’s protests. So it is the task of communist revolutionary forces, especially, to strive towards building such an alternative.

What, however, one expects of a communist revolutionary organization is that it will primarily attempt to draw together all like-minded forces – other CR organizations, to be precise – and then extend the ambit of the unity to include other struggling left and democratic forces. Strangely enough, CPI-ML (Liberation) did no such thing. It pointedly ignored all CR forces and initiated a co-ordination with relatively obscure and local forces. Two out of those three forces are breakaways from the CPI(M). And one of them (Left Coordination Committee of Kerala), in a display of rank opportunism went on to form the board (at Shornur Municipality) with the support of the Congress in the recently concluded local body elections in the state. It does make one wonder about Liberation’s choice of allies! Such dubious choice, combined with a blanket exclusion of all communist revolutionary forces from this alliance suggests an ulterior motive. There is indeed a strong hint of suggestion that Liberation does not wish to move much further left from the CPI-CPM; it is content with CPI-CPM dissidents and CPI-CPM breakaways and has no intention of engaging communist revolutionaries in this exercise.

One should not assume that Liberation is acting on a whim. Rather, there is a well thought out plan behind its approach. This plan is further revealed by its electoral alliance with the CPI and the CPM in the recently

concluded assembly polls in Bihar. Referring to the said alliance, Liberation’s Bihar election manifesto says, “It is a welcome sign that Left forces in Bihar are now showing an increasing inclination for united struggles. Rejecting the ruinous course of alliances with the rulers, Left ranks are getting united to reclaim the fighting legacy of the Left. To strengthen the politics of change and justice, Bihar needs a powerful unity of Left and democratic forces.” So it is

patently obvious that despite all its rhetoric about the rank opportunism of the CPI and CPM, Liberation still counts these two parties not just as a part of the Left forces but also as comrades-in-arms in the struggle against the ruling class. When the CPI-CPM have been exposed as anti-people parties with the blood of the masses on their hands, absolute stooges of the ruling class, it is indeed appalling to note that Liberation still regards them as part of the Left and considers them worthy of allying with in Bihar. The very same CPI-CPM, who are ever eager to hobnob with the Congress, who in Kerala have brought scandal and notoriety to governance, and in Bengal have engineered massacres in the scale of Nandigram and Lalgarh, appear to Liberation as messiahs of 'change and justice' in Bihar. It would have been funny if it had not been so criminally unprincipled.

One assumes that Liberation will furnish further theorization down the line as to why an alliance – electoral or otherwise – with the CPI-CPM is not just acceptable, but also the revolutionary task of the day. We'll surely get to hear more on how, in the national perspective, a 'broad left alliance' is required in order to effectively fight against imperialism and indeed foil many of its designs. The point is too inane to be worth debating. Suffice it to iterate that the CPI-CPM are not just another section of the Left – they are parties which have been wielding power in a bourgeois state for decades. They are parties which, when in government, have systematically represented the ruling class in implementing its policies and ruthlessly crushing people's movements.

Knowing full well that people will look askance at its alliance with the CPI-CPM in Bihar, Liberation has been crying itself hoarse that it is merely an electoral alliance and no further significance should be attached to it. How do communist revolutionaries form 'mere electoral alliances'? For them, isn't the electoral struggle also a part of class struggle? In that case, how can they form an electoral alliance with forces that unblushingly represent the ruling class? Or is it that they do not regard the CPI-CPM as a section of the representatives of the ruling class?

The second alternative is more likely, especially keeping in view the Delhi Declaration of the All India Left Coordination. The Declaration notes: "Within the Left movement, AILC will fight against the trend of class collaboration and rightward drift and degeneration while rejecting the line of Left adventurism/anarcho-militarism." Evidently, Liberation views the CPI-CPM as part of the 'Left movement' and finds them guilty not of actually serving the ruling class but only of displaying 'the trend of class collaboration and rightward drift and degeneration'. Equally evidently, the 'broader Left unity' the Delhi Declaration refers to may well embrace a marginally 'reformed' CPI-CPM – somewhat chastened and made humble by electoral defeat – within its fold. It is this 'left' force that Liberation is looking to 'radicalize'. If any further proof of Liberation's motive and intention is required, it can be found in Comrade Dipankar Bhattacharjee's concluding speech at the Delhi Convention of the AILC held on August 11. According to him, the AILC represented a ray of hope for unity of the Indian Left movement. "Just as communists part ways at some turning points," he said, "they can also unite at other junctures." He further said, "Naxalbari was very much a product of the revolutionary tradition of the Indian communist movement – it was an attempt to resurrect Telangana when the ruling classes faced their gravest crisis after 1947 and Charu Mazumdar always described the CPI(ML) as the same Communist Party that produced the heroic martyrs of Kayuur and Telangana, Tebhaga and Punnappa-Vayalar. Today as circumstances around us are changing radically, we need to take a bold and forward-looking step towards realignment of all sincere, struggle-oriented and mass-based Left forces and rejuvenation of the Left movement to meet the challenges of the day." To what levels can Liberation stoop? Have things come to such a pass that the formation of the CPI(ML) after rejecting the revisionist line of the CPI(M) must be described as *communists parting ways*? Haven't we always maintained that the CPI(ML) came to be formed when the CPI(M) was no more either communist or revolutionary? But of course, if the formation of the CPI(ML) was a case of 'communists parting ways', Liberation has every reason to look forward to – and indeed work for – uniting with the CPI-CPM 'at other junctures'.

Shockingly enough, cozying up to the CPI-CPM is not the greatest depth to which Liberation has sunk. At the Kolkata Convention of the AILC, Liberation actually invited the PDS (Party for Democratic Socialism), which was represented by Samir Putatunda. PDS, as everyone knows, is not just a breakaway faction of the CPM, ideologically and politically it is also very much to the right of the CPM. This self-same PDS is currently in talks with the West Bengal State Congress to forge an electoral alliance for the 2011 Assembly elections! First the Left Coordination Committee of Kerala, and then the PDS – has the CPM influenced Liberation to such an extent that it has quite overcome its natural abhorrence for that father of all bourgeois-landlord parties, the Indian National Congress?

For the last couple of years, some communist revolutionary organizations in West Bengal have been trying to organize a Struggling Left Coordination that will fight against and resist both the ruling Left Front as well as the rightwing opposition consisting of the Trinamool Congress and the Congress. Repeated pleas to Liberation to join this initiative have met with negative response. Indeed, at one point of time it seemed as if Liberation preferred to remain on its own. Recent events, however, have given the lie to this assumption. It appears now that Liberation is all for unity – with every kind of force but communist revolutionaries. A tragic fate for a party that still swears by the name of that unwavering revolutionary, Comrade Charu Mazumdar!

Democratic People's Front Calls for All India Convention and Parliament March

The meeting of the DPF held on 14th November at CPI[ML] central office at New Delhi has decided to organize the All India Convention and Parliament March which was proposed to be held on 21 and 22 November and had to be postponed due to technical reasons, on 27th and 28th February, 2011, when the central budget is going to be presented.

The meeting congratulated the participant organizations for organizing a vigorous campaign against US president Obama's visit to India with the slogan "Obama go back" and for observing November 8 as anti-imperialist day with rallies and burning the effigies of Obama and Manmohan Singh uniting all anti-imperialist and democratic forces.

The meeting noted that the launching of the DPF has created enthusiasm among the revolutionary left and democratic forces as a result of which more organizations have come forward to participate in it. It decided to continue efforts to bring together all organizations agreeing with the ten point programme of the DPF and prepared to launch campaigns and struggles based on them.

1. Smash imperialist globalization and neo liberal policies. Oppose imperialist domination through IMF, World Bank, WTO and MNCs.
2. Defend existing Constitutional democratic and secular rights and fight for their expansion. Judiciary should function within the Constitutional framework, not under neo liberal framework.
3. Confiscate black money deposited in foreign banks.
4. Fight against all displacements for neo liberal projects Confiscate all land from mafias big landlords etc. Implement land reforms based on land to the tiller.
5. Fight price rise. Struggle for Universal Public Distribution System. Ensure Education, Healthcare, Housing and employment for all.
6. Struggle for need based wages, job security and democratic rights of working class. Stop contract and casual labour system.
7. Ensure adivasis' right over their land and natural resources. Enforce Sixth Schedule of the Constitution in Adivasi Areas. Organise dalits, adivasis and minorities to resist caste based and communal oppression. Struggle for caste less and secular society.

8. Fight all forms of gender discrimination. Ensure women's equality in all fields.
9. Scrap AFSPA, UAPA and all other black laws. Withdraw military from Jammu-Kashmir and Northeast. Fight state terror.
10. Fight imperialist promoted 'development policies' which devastate nature and pauperise the masses.

In order to propagate the ten point programme and develop enthusiasm among the masses, it was decided to organize conventions at Mumbai, Hyderabad Kolkata and other centers before the All India Convention and Parliament March with the slogans: *Oppose Imperialist Globalisation; Defend Democracy and Secularism.*

The meeting decided to organize an all India campaign on the occasion of International Environmental Day on 4th December with the slogans: **Imperialism destroys environment, Fight to destroy imperialism; Struggle for pro-people, pro- nature development policy.**

Orissa: Struggle Against Grabbing of Dalit Land.

Bhubaneswar became new capital of Odisha in 1948. Before this, this area was surrounded by villages and jungles. Many Dalit and Adivasi communities/villages were there in this area. Nayapalli Bhoi Sahi is a old dalit village of Bhubaneswar. In our country more than 75 % people are land less now. No land reform is implemented properly . Especially Dalits and Adivasis have no land or if they are cultivating or occupying land inherited, no land ownership records are provided to them. During last 63 years of so called independence, no government showed interest to provide land right to them. After globalisation policy was started, instead of land distribution among them, the pieces of land they had were grabbed from them in the name of development policies. Thousands of hectres of land, jungle and water are provided to Posco, Vedanta, Mittal, Tata like MNCs and Corporate houses, but lands occupied by dalits, adivasis and slum dwellers are forcibly grabbed under the gun point. All ruling class parties, govt. and police are engaged in this.

Nayapalli Bhoi Sahi dalit dwellers were provided 6 acres of land by then Chief Minister of Odisha in 1957. This land is registered before Bhubaneswar sub- registrar in 1992-93 and 90 years lease patta is given to them . In this deed it is categorically mentioned that out of 6 acres, 5 acres of land for their 36 families habitat and one acre is for their common use, for meetings, open space, play ground, road, club house, mahila samiti and for various functions. Now Bhubaneswar has becaome a big city. This area is now in heart of the city. Many Corporate houses and MNCs are trying to capture this land for shopping mall and business complex. But the dalit communities did not allow any encroachment to their community land.

To capture this dalit community land, the commissioner of police attacked and destroyed their meeting mandap, mahila samiti houses and captured the land and constructed boundary wall in April 2008. People of Bhoi sahi became agitated and united against this forcible grabbing by police in the name of constructing modern police station. On 10th April all the dwellers gathered and

destroyed the boundary wall and took back their land. When the police tried to attack them, they blockaded the adjacent NH-5 for some time. Since then the land was under their occupation.

Again on 10th November 2010 massive police forces with bull dozers suddenly came in the early morning and started eviction of the mahila samiti house and resident Pravakar Behera's house and again captured the same land, erecting boundary wall and deployed police forces there. Agitated by this illegal action of the police, the people with the help of CPI(ML) and Basti Surakshya Mancha gheraoed Navin Nivas (C.M's residence) on 13th November. When they tried to break police barricade. They were beaten critically and about 300 Bhoisahi dwellers including half of women and leaders of CPI(ML), BSM and AIRWO. Still, the Deputy Commissioner of Police did not allow to submit memorandum to the chief minister.

Even after this incident police did not vacate the place. Against this they demonstrated before Katak Police Commissioner cum District magistrate on 15th Nov. A delegation met and discuss with him and submitted ultimatum that if they will not vacate the land they will forcibly capture it. They are ready to die for their land and for this they even formed a squad "Marana Sena". Commissioner police asked for 2 days to vacate that place. But on 16th mid night again more armed forces were deployed at that spot and on 17th morning police came with some 25-30 labourers to dig the foundation for the police station. People gathered immediately and tried to convince police not to start work, but they did not listen and ordered the labourers to start work. But the hired labourers went back at peoples request. Then a large number of people, mainly consisting of women destroyed the boundary wall constructed by police and captured the land, putting red flag there. At this time more platoons of armed police came and suddenly started lathi charge and arrested 54 people including women and children.

Against this police repression and arrest, CPI(ML), Basti Surakshya Manch and Bhoi sahi dwellers jointly blockaded the NH-5 with burning tyres etc. Police lathi charged severely, even children and old women got injured. Police again arrested 43 people. So total 97 people were detained. Against this it was decided to gherao State Secretariat on the very next day.

With less than one day preparations more than 10 thousand people participated in the rally and protest meeting before state secretariat. Com. Biswapriya Kanungo, CPI(ML) state secy, Sivaram, State committee member Advocate Rebati Ballav Mohanty, TUCI leader Jayadev Nayak, Senior Journalist Rabi Das, Street vendors leader Pratap Sahu and others supported the peoples struggle and condemned the govt and police. In spite of this mass agitation, police lodged more than 11 sections including 307 and 506 and lodged many cases against CPI(ML) and BSM leaders.

Against these atrocities, forcible land capture and eviction drive of slums it is decided that 10 days massive dharna will be organised before state assembly and on 15th December a massive rally of Slum dwellers, dalits and adivasi peoples will be organised against the so called development policies which throw out people from their habitats.

Irom Chanu Sharmila Day Observed:

AIRWO Resist Police

On 2nd Nov, on the occasion of 10th year of Irom Chanu Sharmila's fasting for the withdrawal of AFSPA from Manipur and with the demand of right of self determination to Manipuri and Kashmiri people, AIRWO Odisha State Committee, continued a month long campaign distributing thousands of leaflets all over state. On 2nd Nov 10 am more than 500 women's rally starting from Inquilab Bhawan, IRC Village reached Jayadev Vihar Square shouting slogans and carrying colourful banners and placards. When the protestors started to burn effigy of the imperialist agent, prime minister Man Mohan Singh, the police forces led by many higher officials threatened not to burn the effigy and forcibly took it from the women and kept police jeep. They tried to take it away with. But the women protestors gheraoed the jeep and many jumped into the jeep tried to pull down the effigy. When the police resisted all women shouting slogans threatened to burn the jeep along with the effigy. When the jeep started burning the officers threw out the effigy and ran away. The AIRWO activists burnt the effigy. It created great enthusiasm among women in a seminar and in a seminar that followed AIRWO leaders including state president Com.Pramila, comrades Sandhyarani, Sanjukta, Bishnu Sethy, Pratima, Henarani Barik and others declared their resolve to carry forward the women's liberation struggles.

At Tihidi, dist Bhadrak also AIRWO observed the Irom Sharmila solidarity day with a rally starting from Old Bazar and organizing a public meeting presided by state secretary com.Indumati at Block Square in which hundreds of women participated.

MASSIVE PUBLIC MEETING AT SAKHARPADA AGAINST SHAI DAM

About three thousand people gathered at the remote village of Sakharpada in Shahapur Taluka of Thane District in Maharashtra to protest against the Government's plans to make the Shai Dam in the area. The dam will result in over 52 villages with over 15000 houses being submerged. The villagers have submitted an alternative to the Government. They have suggested that over 13 small dams can be built upon the Shai and its tributary whereby not any village will be submerged, water will be available in plentiful and even the local people will get water. However, after a cursory survey, the Government has rejected this proposal saying that not enough water will be made available.

The proposed dam on the Shai will not help the local population at all. It is earmarked for the burgeoning population of Mumbai and Thane and the surrounding metropolises. The dam is, of course, mired in corruption. Though handed over to a foreign concern to execute, there are many irregularities in the awarding of the tender and in the costs sanctioned. Ministers like Ganesh Naik and Ajit Pawar, who are the very persons sanctioning the project, have already brought huge tracts of land on the adjoining hilltops. When the dam is completed, the water will rise up to their lands and they have already got plans for boat clubs and water sports passed for these areas.

Besides such corruption the dam once again brings into focus the question of large dams. Since long, environmentalists and seismologists have been warning against such large dams and have been claiming that many small dams make for a much more nature-friendly and farmer-friendly alternative. However, obviously, such small dams do not afford the same level of “boating” and “creaming” as massive dams.

One more new question is posed by the Shai project. The question of balance between the urban and rural areas and how large are we to build our large cities. Mumbai and Thane have been made into a builders’ paradise with building permissions being given in absolutely dangerous and unhealthy manners. The plan for Mumbai shows only in its lack of any real planning and its servility to builders. The land prices in Mumbai are also artificially pushed through the roof. Today land prices in Mumbai are comparable to land prices in London and New York though the wage levels are 40 to 50 times lower. The question being posed is how much water must the villagers of the nearby areas yield and how much unjust displacement must they tolerate before the thirst of a city like Mumbai must be satisfied. Can the “development” of such mega cities justify such drowning and such human anguish? Probably the answer lies not only in replacing massive dams with many small ones but also in replacing massive cities with many small ones!

The villagers from all the affected villages and even from a wider area gathered in Sakharpada on 18th November to initiate their protest. The massive meeting was attended by over 3000 villagers with almost 1000 being women. The meeting was addressed by Sanjay Singhvi, General Secretary, TUCI, Shri Bhuskute of the Adivasi Nyay Andolan, Com. Rajan Raje, a union leader from Thane, Com. Vaishali Patil, a social activist from the Mahamumbai area, Com, Bharat Patankar of the Shramik Mukti Dal and the leaders of the local Shai Dharan Virodhi Kriti Samiti. Com. Prashant Sarkhot, Secretary of the Shai Dharan Virodhi Kriti Samiti and State Secretariat member of the CPI (ML) conducted the meeting.

The speakers all spoke about how the understanding of development was warped and how this has to change. It was also pointed out how the permissions for the proposed dam were illegal and how the villagers had a strong right to oppose the dam. The Shai Dharan Virodhi Kriti Samiti has planned to have protests against the dam by way of a “Chain Dharna” in the coming days. Starting 22nd November, each day, protestors from one particular village (or a few chosen villages) will stage a dharna outside the office of the Tahsildar at Shahapur. The program has started and is being successfully carried out.

GIGANTIC “JAIL BHARO” (FILL THE JAILS) CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE JAITAPUR NUCLEAR POWER PROJECT

In response to the call given by the Janhit Seva Samiti of Jaitapur, thousands of peasants and fisherfolk took part in a huge “Jail Bharo” campaign on 29th October 2010. About 3000 persons gathered at the small hamlet of Jaitapur in the Sinhadurg district of Maharashtra. Since months there has been a massive agitation going on in the area against the proposed Pressurised Light Water Nuclear Reactor Project which is coming up there. As has been reported earlier in “Red Star” the proposed project will result in the largest nuclear power plant in the world with a capacity of over 10000 MW, once all the six plants are in place.

The people living in the area have been agitating against this project since the proposal first became known in 2005. Though the project proposal has not so far been passed, the process of land acquisition has already been undertaken by the Government under the “emergency” provisions which obviates the need to obtain the consent of the local bodies. Some local leaders had petitioned the Mumbai High Court

against this but the High Court held that the need for nuclear power in the country was so great that this project qualified to be called a “public purpose” and justified the emergency provisions.

The local committee, the Janhit Sewa Samiti, which is a part of the Kokan Bachao Samiti, gave a call for a massive “Jail Bharo” on 29th October. 29th October was also a day for country-wide agitation of the fish-workers and was also the date on which the Expert committee for environment impact appraisal was to visit Jaitapur for a site visit.

The police had come well prepared with 15 vans to take away the agitationists. They also executed large-scale road blocks on all roads leading to Jaitapur to stop vehicles carrying people into Jaitapur and blocked about 1500 people from neighbouring villages from entering the area where the agitation was to be held. However, fearing such high-handed tactics, the organisers had already got thousands of persons into Madban village where the agitation was to be held beforehand. Many people also came on foot crossing fields where the police were not able to stop them. About 5000 people ultimately reached the spot of the agitation and shouted slogans the proposed power project, against the use of nuclear power and for Obama and Sarkozy to go back – Obama was to visit India on 6th to 8th November and Sarkozy will be here on 6th to 8th December. The US is the main force in the Nuclear Suppliers Group which will supply fuel for the plant and France is the main country behind building the plant and wants to build many more here.

The police arrested the demonstrators who were marching onto the power plant site, under the leadership of Pravin Gavankar, President of the Janhit Sewa Samiti and Arun Velaskar, State Secretary of the CPI (ML) and also Secretary of the Kokan Bachao Andolan. All 15 police vans were filled and then 4 ST buses were requisitioned from the local ST station. However, all these vehicles were not enough to accommodate all the persons and the police were obliged to humbly request all the demonstrators not to insist on being arrested.

The demonstration showed great militancy. What distinguished this demonstration is that over half the demonstrators were women. From Nate village alone, over 250 women belonging to the fishing community joined this demonstration.

The Kokan Bachao Andolan has decided to take the next demonstration on 4th December which is the Environment Day and to observe which a call has been given by the ICOR and the CPI (ML). A massive demonstration is planned for that day. At the same time, according to the latest reports, the Central Government has decided to give permission for the nuclear power project though four other thermal power projects in the area have not got environmental clearance. It is understood that the permission is being given by the Ministry of Environment and Forests with many reservations and in the face of clear evidence that the impact on the environment is massive. The Kokan Bachao Andolan has given a call for all democratic forces to support their struggle and to join it. It has vowed to further intensify this struggle.