AIRF Collection - NCCRS/1/74 (Part-II)

'File on Press Releases, Notices and supporting documents'

Authors: NCCRS. Socialist Party of India

[Archives of Indian Labour / AILH - VV Giri NLI]

Telegram: 'RAIL WAYMEN'

Phone: 40947

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STHUGGLE

New Delhi

August 23, 1974

PRESS NOTE

The National Convention of Railwaymen scheduled to take place in New Delhi on August 26, 1974 has been postponed by a few Weeks. The Action Committee of the NCCRS meeting in New Delhi During next week will fix the fresh dates for the National Convention.

George Fernandes, Convenor.

 $T_{\mathbf{O}}$

The News Editor,

New-Delhi

National Co-ordination Committee For Railwaymen's Struggle राष्ट्रीय रेल मजबूर संदर्ष समस्यय समिति

Convenor s

Beorge Fernandes

125/E, Baber Road, NEW DELHI-1

UNDER CERTIFICATE OF POSTING.

- 1. Shri K.P.Ramaswamy,
 President,
 Indian Railway Employees Confederation,
 Station Master, Ramapuram,
 Madras.23
- 2. Shri Saxi C.M. Singh, General Secretary, All India Railway Ministerial Staff Association, 7/11/37, Hill Colony, DHANBAD (Bihar).
- 3. Shri S.K. Dhar,
 Jt. Secretary General,
 All India Loco Running Staff Association,
 Yello Building,
 P.O. Anara, Distt-Purulia (Bihar)
- 5. Shri Narasingha Chakrabort value 172- Lenin Sarani, Calcutta-12



Gram: 'RAH-WAYMEN'

Phone 1 40947

National Co-ordination Committee For Railwaymen's Struggle राष्ट्रीय रेल मजदूर संदर्ष समन्वय समिति

Convenor : George Fernandes 125/E, Babar Road, NEW DELHI-1

20th August, 1974.

NOTICE

Since Shri George Fernandes has not reached Delhi from Stockholm and also Shri Priya Gupta has left for Calcutta to see his ailing brother, the meeting of the Action Committee fixed for 21st August, 1974, has been postponed.

Now the postponed meeting will be hald on the 28th of August, 1974, time and venue remaining the same.

(J.P.Chaubey)
for Convener

To All the Mombers of the Action Committee of the NCCRS.

ath Central Railway Employees' Union, (VIJAYAWADA) (%)

(Allliated to C. I. T. U.)

SECUNDERABAD DIVISION

I. MANGAPATHY RAO

organizing secretary:

GGREU/SC/74.

Date 27-5-1974

Dear Contade,

Jam here with sending the termination orders issued to depund inhousers working in S.T. PWI/S/KAI, numbering 302 to your kind notice for guidence.

LCCC RUINING STAFF.

CONVICTED.

F.V. Galdena

one month 15 days.

V.J. Rodrex

15 days

P. Harkoudayya.

15 days

F. Jayanna

45 days

T. Jayarem

one month

J. Venkatoswany S.K. R. One month

DIGHTSSAT OPDRESS TO DELVERS.

r. Devadrusm, Secretary ALREA/REJ, Convener ACCRS.

r. V. Saldana, President ALRSA/KZJ, Driver 'C' (Deisel).

K. Podrex, Driver 'C' (Deisel) K2J.
Merkandeypa, Driver 'C' (deisel) K2J.

DISTIBLAT DEISEL LOCO SHED.

1. Laxmanaswamya, Deisel Hechanicak, Deisel Shed, KZJ.

K. Hrindacharrn,

store Issuer,

Deisel Shed, KZd.

CONTENTAL DEGINERAL AT. V.V. amaiah, Ticket Checker, Dismissal from service, Asst. Secretary mazdoor union, KZJ.

C/HSM/3 T/C/KZJ.

CHANDED.

mank ish marassish

gyed Burthan

Abdul Cahiman

Dharmajah.y.K.C.

on bail Released.

r. Vouketoich Molleich ,

". Yr kagiti gayenne,

Mikahapathi mllaich,

R. Balaish Jaxmaich,

C/Fhalami/Smr/C/ Zd. C/Khalasi/STT/C/KZJ. C/Store "ate/3 T/C/KZd.

PULLIUG STAF AGGOCIATICA.

manksish pondaiah.

F. v. Saldana.

harkandayya.

Syed Murtaza. Asst. Deisel Driver.

T.M. Wrighna, Drgiver 'C'

V. atyanandraao. Driver 'C'

D. M. S. G. Brinivasa Rec S. amchandran THC THC

The association/KZJ

M.v. Gastry, Ticket Collector, Workers union, (AITUC) J. Bhadraich, Edvacate, President., South Central Pailway Employeesunion, KZJ.

with kind regards.

Jours Fraternally

I Hauselle

SCUTE CENTERS PARTIMAY

NOTICE

The following Carual Labourers working in this unit were unauthorisedly absent on 8-5-1974 at their respective places of work. This unauthorised absence is decided to terminate their service in this unit.

S. Mo. Name	D/bithh	D/Appointment	ikt.no.	Place of
S/Shri	L 6 1046	00 7 4045	7	
1. M. Hamaswamy Chandraigh		28-3-1965 10 · 10 · 1968	3	K 24
2. J. Shuklachari Brahmaiah	4.4.1947 4-2-1950	19-8-1958	209 13	
3. D. Yadagiri Venkatsiah 4. R. Shalaish Lazmaiah	1-3-1946	19-2-1969	59	
5. K. Narayana Rao Brahmaial		19-2-1905	47	
6. Selvin Jacob			96	
7. n. Jylainh Veeremallu			77	
8. Md. Naaser Ankus	25-3-1950	28-5-1967	101	
9.kcmaish masswamy	1-1-1948	19-5-1959	134	
10. M. Veetaswamy kanaksisi	_		49	•
11. P. Bamaish Veersich	3-2-1952		88	
10 P.Krishna Butchaiah	15-6-1950		137	н .
1. B. venkat Heddy hargein			50	
14. C. Saraiah Sammaish	15-11-1994	等位-19时	25	
15. B.konskaich Lingaich	3 11 134 1	.aa .201	84	
16. F. Mohan Pakeerappa	16-12-195	2 24-6-1958	65	16
17. P. Larmaish Butchsiah	16-5-1952	_	29	
18. D. Sembajah Chezalu	10-1-1953		204	
19. B. malleich haresish	10-1-1953		K2002	MABD
20. P. Taymaiah Pamaish	2-5-1949	25-7-1958	\$301 A	K ZJ
21. S.Prekeeham Chilkminh			A1022	Gtt AM
22. R. Remeavemy Ellaich	26-10-194		A1009	98
23. B. Govelan Guruyaish	24-5-1944		A1017	M
24. Mdi Ankus Abdul Babi	15-6-1947		A1025	K 2J
25. G. Pocheiah Iylaiah			A1076	MAHD
25. M. Deveiah Venkatnich	4-5-1947	19-6-1966	A1019	
27. V. Vittelaigh nagaigh	N		A1016	
28. K. Chandremobli Hajaia	h 10-3-1947	27-7-1967	A1005	N
29. i.venkatemallu veered	eh 15-4-1946	17-9-1959	A1072	
. A.Janardhan Kanakaiah	12-11-195	0 27-6-1969	A1085	Ø1
1. 2. Layminarayana Wamda	8		A1090	
32. G. Cheralu Gatteigh	10-5-1951	21-10-1971	A1028	K ZJ
33. G.Gettumellu Sailoo	3-4-1951	10-12-1971	11029	Mabd
34. K. Venketaiah Beleiah		25-7-1969	A1033	K ZJ
35. J. Laxminarayana Chand	reigh		A1045	MAHD
36. G. Venkatanarayana Mall	818h 20.6.451	19-2-19-10	A1034	
37. T. Jagatsingh Hanmansi	ngh		11062	•
38. B. Uppeleigh Pajaigh	1-1-1950	22-2-1970	A1074	
39. Md. Abdul Aziz Abful n			A1041	•
'O. S. Venkatrich Sailoo	20-2-1952	2 22-2-1970	A1076	KDM.

```
D/Birth
         Nome
                               D/Appointment Tkt.No. Place of Work
                          2-2-1950
                                        19-0-1968
41. Azmath Mahmbubali
                                                    A1083
                                                               KLH
                                         25-149968
47. Md. Pynd Pustus Md. Alval
                              5-3-1952
                                                    A1032
                                                                MARU
                              10-8-1946
                                          17-9-1969
43. A.Komaraiah Mallaich
                                                    A1088
                                                                 .
                               15-8-1948
                                           26-3-1970 A1036
44. ok. Nasiruddin Sk. Hyder
                               10-5-1949
                                           26-5-1967 A1152
45. G. Ellaigh
               lylaiah
                                                                 ELM
                               15-2-1947
                                           2-8-1970 A1038
46. Goverthan
               Guruvaiah
47. Md. Iqballuddin Md. Afzelu-
                    ddin
                              3-9-1952
                                           29-11-1970 A1098
                                                                  MAHD
                               24-10-1941
                                            20-4-1971
                                                       A1037
48. Md. Sarver Md. Sareef
                                                                  .
                               9-5-1953
                                            21-10-1971 A1093
49. D. Rajender Komara iah
                                                                 KEM
50. Ch. hanker
                Butchaigh
                               5-5-1948
                                            19-10-1971
                                                        A1149
                               5-9-1949
                                            21-1-1968
                /bbasali
                                                        A1078
                                                                 MABD
51. Bashu Miya
                                3-4-1951
                                            26-10-1971
                                                         A1055
                                                                  .
52. K. Yelletham Narasainh
53. S. Laxminarayana largainh 28-11-1953
                                                                  11
                                             21-12-1971 A1064
                                                                 K DM
54. T. Indainh Sayanna
                               20-3-1949
                                             19-12-1971
                                                          A1204
                                                          A1168
55. P. marsinganao Peddirajulu
                                                          д1168
1169
                               5-5-1948
                                                                  *
                                            21-9-1971
56. G. Veeraswamy Veeraiah
                                                                  *
57. G.Purushothem Yellsiah
                                9-6-1951
                                             22-1-1972
                                                                  .
                                8-9-1954
                                                          A1172
58. Y.Kumareswamy Uppalaish
                                             20-5-1972
                                  10-9-1954
                                                          1164
                                             22-1-1972
59. Chandremouli
                  Venkateish
                                                                 Mabd
60. "utchepethi Ellaish
                                                          1184
                                                          A1073
61. P. Venkataiah Saeb
                                 15-2-1949
                                             12-6-1970
52. P. Venkatsiah Venkataswamy 20-10-1944
                                             27-7-1969
                                                          A1084
                                                                  KLM
                                  14-7013946 2E-7-1968
63. R. Ramalingem Venkaich
                                                           1220
                                  18-2-1947
                                             22-2-1970
54. N. Kungsfewamy Durgeich
                                                          A1077
                                  20-4-1952
                                                          A1035
  Md. Sadiq Ed. Huesain
                                              22-2-1970
                                              27-2-1971
to. Rejeich Remainh
                                  1-7-1952
                                                          1219
                                              19-10-1971 A 1150
E7. H. Vecteweny
                  Chandinich
                                  10-1-1954
                                   13-6-1952
                                               19-10-1971 A 1148
68. G. Bikehapathi Karakalah
59. Sk. Mahabub Sk Ahmed
                                                           1135
                                                                   MADU
    venkateshes Rajaiah
                                   5-1-1949
                                              29-11-1971
                                                            1137
                                                                     11
70.
                                   8-12-1946
                                              24-5-11965
                                                            1138
71. Yakoob Enkeer Ahmed
                                                                     -
72. Abdul Rehim Abdul Agiz
                                   19-1-1950
                                               29-10-69
                                                            1139
73. P. Romaich harassiah
                                   2-0-1953
                                                30-7-1970
                                                            1141
74. Chondramaali jaraasinh
                                   5-2-1948
                                                 19-12-1909 2055
75. Parashallamulu Venkati
                                               25- 7-1969
                                                            2343
                                   5-2-1950
                                                            2012
                                               19-3-1970
                                   17-1-1948
76. R. Hallareddy
                  Paptieddy
                                   20-8-1952
                                               28-9-1970
                                                            2001
77. M. Venkataiah
                   Gopniah
78. Md. Survermiya hasenia Maha
                                   19-12-1943
                                               19-5-1965
                                                           2000
79. V. Hereyens Reddy Lutchi Hells-
                            Reddy
                                   13-7-1950
                                               27-4-1970
                                                           2062
                                   1-1-1948
                                               25-7-1988
                                                           5058
20. P. Mancharder
                   Marenieh
                                   18-8-1947
                                               25-5-1966
                                                           5000
91. K.Preknslina
                  butchs ish
 32. Ahmed Khan
                 Sharmesh Kahn
                                                           3637
                                   11-5-1948
                                               25-8-1969
84: 8: Yellaliah yelihishah
                                                           2030
                                   15-8-1947
                                                           2058
 85. C. Yakaish Venkatahwamy
                                               22-10-1971
                                   2-4-1948
                                                           2112
                                               22-6-1965
85. A. Yakainh
                Bandalah
                                   20-9-1949
                                                25-9-1968
 87. Y. Semuel
              Konsinich
                                                           2002
                                   1-2-1945
                                               24-5-1957
 88. Abdul Waheed Abdul Hafer z
                                                           2032
                                   17-7-1946
                                               23-1-1972
 89. B. Rajalingam Rajaiah
                                                           2045
                                   4-7-1949
                                               5-7-1969
                                                           2344
 90.
    4. Marasaiah Dharmaiah
                                   1-6-1948
                                               25-5-1968
                                                           2064
 91. A.lylaish Pullaish
              lylaish
                                   15-5-1949
                                                19-5-1959
 92. Inxmeiah
                                                           2001
 93. M. alaswamy Kattaish
                                   1-1-1950
                                                           2010
                                               27-11-1958
                                   15-2-1950
    K. Venkaswerlu _ajaiah
                                               27-6-1968
                                                           2008
```

21

11

.,

×

10

125. nd. Basead Md.Afzol 115 126. G. Chandramouli Yonkstoowsay 2309 127. Combraish Ellaish 2306 128. Kattaish Venkataish 2320 121 128. S. Lingalah Venksteinh 130. Hd. Khasim abdul mahim 125

28 131. B. Iylaiah Komaraiah Ħ 122 132. Bitchkshapathi Marssiah ,,, 2712 133. S. Uppalsiah Kommish 20-4-1947 Ħ 23-12-1954 568 134. G. Remchaudiminh verramallaiah 5-5-1948 24-0-1957 83 135. M. Babu Gopaish 25-0-1950 99 20-0-1908 423 19-8-1950 136. A. Shankaraigh Yersaigh 2-4-1970 14 87 137. A. Venkataiah Mallaish 5-5-1948 90 28-5-1907 107 5-4-1947 138. Md. Akber Nannesab 25-8-1969 104 71 139. E. Dacharatham Nazasaiah 20-0-1947 5-11-1965 30 150. D. Romaswaay Lingaish 15-10-1945 26-6-1909 85 141. N. Rejaich Mellaich 15-8-1951 24-4-1970 85 142. M. ladagiri Bondaiah 1-9-1951 19-4-1971 624 12-7-1948 143. U.Brahmaiah Veeraish 3-10-1971 9 K. Z.3 144. Kanakaiah Muthaiah 3-2-1949 25-4-1967 91 KJA4 145. G. Pajanna Venkatzich 10-8-1948 3-2-1967 17 10-5-1951 146. Ch. Pamasway Narassish 27-6-1959 81 4-1-1947 31-7-1970 AY518

147. S. Butcheigh Vengkatsinh 23-2-1970 148. Syed Moulans Syed Ameer 10-7-1953 134 ** 24-5-1971 149. G. Pamaswamy Veeramellu 20-10-1953 114 3-7-1953 516 M 150. G. Vecraswamy Venkateish 2-7-1971 4-7-1953 21-10-1971 151. N. Venketaich komarainh n 567 10-9-1953 152. M. Sailoo Komaraish 20-10-1971 562

5-3-1950

15-1-1954

1-8-1954

29-11-1968

8-2-1972

20-9-1971

208. A. Venkateswarlu Pitchaiah

209. Md.Kaja Nd.Afzal

210.6. Shalaiah Rangaish

S.No. Mame D/Hirth D/Appointment 1kt.No. Place of North Discontinuous Di

3990

The Honourable Hinister for Railways Governament of India

NEVDELHI

Respected Honour,

Sub; Pray for Cancellation of Termination Orders.

we the under signed retitioners working as casval Labourers at Kazipet, in Secunders and Divison, South Central Railway submit the following facts to your kind perusal for sympathetic consideration and favourable orders.

we the petitioners have to state that, we have not attended duties from 8th May 1974 to, 28th May 1974 due to strike. We the petitioners are possessing 2 to 10 years continuous service with out break, and there arec no adverse remarks against us in regard to work. We were issued termination orders on 10-5-74 for not attending duty during the strike period.

we request you kindly render justice by issuing orders cancelling the termination orders, and issue orders to take us backeon duty.

Date . 211 6-14

Thanking you six,

Yours Faithfully

Cony to.

Chairman Hailway Board

NEWDELHI

O Convener.

1 Mans lack Hi

P. Rejaid,

M

K-RAJANARSIAH

T. Rojatomuraial

T. May or och

B. W. Swang

Sign and

0

Gram: RAILWAYMEN

PHONE: 40947

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAIL AYMEN'S STRUGGLE

Convenor: George Fernandes

125-E, Babar Road, New Delhi.

Dated June 7, 1974

PRESS RELEASE

The Action Committee of the National Co-ordination Committee for Railwaymen's Struggle met in New Delhi this afternoon, and reviewed the situation on the Railways.

According to latest information received by the Action Committee, over 20,000 permanent workmen have been removed or dismissed from service for participating in the strike. Nearly 75,000 casual and substitute workmen have not been re-eployed. About 10,000 workers are still languishing in prisons all over the country, and arrests of railwaymen are continuing on all zonal railways.

Almost 15,00,000 workmen who participated in the strike have been given a break-in-service and treated as new recruits.

The Committee condemned the vindictive attitude of the Government towards the railwaymen and demanded that the Government fulfil its public pledge that there will be no victimisation of railwaymen for participating in the strike.

The Committee warned the Government that there will be no normalcy on the Railways unless the Government first restored normalcy by withdrawing all penal action.

The Action Committee has given a call to railwaymen all over the country to observe June 18 as Anti-Victimisation Day. Meetings, demonstrations, dharnas and other forms of protest will be organised on a massive scale on that day. Help and co-operation of other sections of the working people will also be sought on the occasion.

A full meeting of the National Co-ordination Committee for Railwaymen's Struggle has been convened on June 25 in New Delhi. The meeting will take stock of the developments during and since the strike and decide on the future course of action.

The Action Committee has taken note of the magnificent morale of the railwaymen and the fighting spirit displayed by them all over the country. It has urged the NCCRS units on all the Railways to take steps to provide necessary legal and monetary help to the workers.

George Fernandes Convenor

To

125E Babar Road, New Delhi May 27, 1974

Press Release

Text of Resolution recieved from Tihar Jail:

The Action Committee of the NCCRS salutes the railwaymen for their glorious struggle waged with such courage and determination braving a government onslaught the like of which has never before been experienced by the Indian working class. More than 50000 workers have been illegally arrested and detained without trial; over 10000 men-already served with dismi-ssals orders; nearly 30000 thrown out of their houses with bag and baggage and with their helpless wives and innocent children; women raped by the minions of law and order; a Goebbellian propaganda war against railway men carried through the state-owned radio, and television network; newspaper advertisements inserted winth money from the public exchequer to defame and deride the railwaymen and their leadership; lies, slander and perfidy of an unprecedented low level; use of the Army, Border Security Force, Territorial Army, Special Reserve Police, Central Reserve Police and other organs of state power butteressed with the most indiscriminate use of the draconian laws like Maintenance of Internal Security Act and the war-time Defence of India Rules; marching the workers to their work places at bayonet point; marching the workers to their work places at bayonet point; non-syment of their earned wages in order to liter by starve the workers into submission these were the methods used by the Government to meet the resoluteness with which the railwaymen and their wives and children faced this terror and fought for their rights is a saga that must have few parallels in the annals of the working class and democratic movements anywhere in the world.

The Committee notes that the Government has not responded to the requests of the organised trade union movement both in India and abroad to settle the just and fair demands of the railwaymen and to end the repression against them. All the enttreaties of the opposition political parties in the country - without any exception - to the Government not to pursue its antiworker course have also falled on deaf ears. The constant persuasion by the country's newspapers traditionally friendly to the Government to adopt a reascnable and conciliatory attitude to the railwaymen's demands failed to impress the government. The appeals of men of goodwill like Jayaprakash Narayan and others to settle the dispute also failed to evoke any response from an adamant government. And most shocking of all, even the advice of the President of India conveyelse unequivocally and forcefully to come to terms with the railwaymen was spurned by the government most unceremonturely.

The Action Committee once again emphasises the fact that the railwaymen never wanted a strike. Ich

More than anyone else they are aware of the disastrous economic consequences of a railway strike. What we sought and fought for was a negotiated settlement on our legitimate demands. It was the Government that forced the strike on the rail waymen by taking steps that are too recent wax the xreitwaymansky taking steps that are too recent wax the xreitwaymansky taking steps that are too recent wax the xreitwaymansky taking steps that are too recent wax the xreitwaymansky taking steps that are too recent wax the xreitwaymansky taking steps that are too recent wax the xreitwaymansky taking steps that are too recent wax the xreitwayman had no modified action, the government fought a mini-war from the pre-emotive arrests to the final combing operations in the workers housing colonies. In a confrontation of that nature, the cdds cannot but be against the workers. The course of the strike has, if anything vindicated our repeated declaration that our action had no motivation other than securing the just and reasonable demands of the railwayman.

The Committee notes with deep concern that the government has refused to enable the members of the NCCRS to meet either inside or outside the prison to take a decision on how to end the strike. This has created an extraordinary situation before the Action Committee which was charged with the conduct of the negotiations and the subsequent conduct of the strike. All decisions of calling for or withdrawal of the strike can be constitutionally taken only by "the full body of the ICCRS most of whee members are in prison in different parts of the country or are fugitives from the law.

The Action Committee having given deep consideration to the strike sitution on all the zonal railways and in other railway establishments, and aware of the economic consequences of further prolonging the action, and conscious of the responsibility thrust on it in the circums tances, hereby resolves to unilaterally call off the strike with effect from Tuesday May 28, 6 a.m. The committee calls upon all railwaymen to return to work from that nour and do everything within their power to being normalcy into the movement of trains.

At the same time the action Committee calls upon the Government to immediately release all those rail waymen and others arrested on account of the strike; reinstate all workmen whose a roles have been terminated during and in the weeks preceding the strike; withdraw all penal action taken against the rail waymen and others; restore to the workmen their living quarters; and take all other necessary steps to restore normalcy on the rail ways.

Simultaneously, the Action Committee calls upon the Railway Ministry to resume negotiations with the Negotiating Committee of the NCCRS on the outstanding demands of the railwaymen in order to arrive at an amicable settlement on these demands.

The Action Compettee assures the railwaymen that it stands united as ever in its resolve to secure their just and fair demands. The unity of purpose and entire corrected to the blood and enertfice of lakes the correct to the country will not be allowed to be we ken to be a trailwaymen secure their demands. It calls upon the railwaymen to stand steeddfast in the firm conviction that even now there is only one force that can defeat them and that is the energy within their own ranks. The lessons of the last is the energy within their own ranks. The lessons of the

6 a.m.

AND STREET

The Action Committee pays its homage to the martyrs of the rail way men's struggle, Com: V.S. Mhalgi Comrade Sripal Dwivedy and Comrade Ramaswamy. The supreme sacrifice by Comrade Ramaswamy who was killed in cold blood by running over a rail way engine on his person will forever inspire the railwaymen and other working people in the country to heroic deeds and total sacrifice in man's perpetual struggle ggainst injustice.

The Action Committee expresses its heartfelt gratitud to all trade unions, youth organisations, political parties, women's organis tions, newspapers and journalists and all other w who stood by the rail waymen in their trials and tribulations. It assures the working classes and toiling masses that the rail waymen will always be in the forefront of people's struggles for a better and happier tomorrow.

The Committee resolves to convene the meeting of the NCCRS as soon as conditions for the convening of such a meeting appear propitious.

> (Members of Action Committee) in the jail

Sd/-H.S. Chaudhary J.P. Choubey Parvathi Krishnan Srikrishna George Fernandes

D.D. Vashisht (Members of NCCRS - not a member of the Action Committee in jail)

Samar Mukherji, M.P. (disagreed) Outsi de: Sd/-G.S. Gokhale M.M. Phatak Prilya Gupta (Disagreed)

> Brynmath For Act ion Committee

10/17 Vithalbhal Patol House, Rafi Marg, New Delhi May 15, 1974

For Favour of publication:

Mr. N.G. Goray, M.P., leader of the Socialist Party Group in the Rajya Sabha, has released for publication, a letter which he had written to Prime Minister on May 13, 1974, concerning Railwaymen's demands.

The text of the letter is as follows:

"The country-wide strike of the Railwaymen continues but it appears that even the collective wisdom of the Government and the opposition is unable to evolve a solution honourable to both the sides. It is a pity.

"For a day after after our meeting on Friday everybody, including the national press and the AIR was talking of the three point formula. But you pricked the bubble when in your speech in the Congress Parliamentary Party you observed that the socalled formula was only a personal opinion of a member. It means that the flimsy uncertain base provided by the formula has also gone and we are back to square one. In this circumstance I am afraid the suggestions made yesterday by the Action Committee that they are ready to enter into negotiations without insisting on the release of its members who are in jail, has little relevance. Does it mean that the Government has finally decided to allow things to deteriorate still further without taking into consideration its after effects? A resentful and humiliated working class will not exactly be an asset either to our economic development or to our democratic structure.

"I write you today because I still feel that the awareness you showed of the basic issues involved in this confrontation, if persued in the right way can still show a way out of this tangle. The two main issues as you know are: (a) bonus to Railwaymen and (b) parity of wage scales with the employees in other public sector undertakings. I felt encouraged when I perused your speech in the Lok Sabha on May 9. Though it does not amount to a comprehensive analysis of these issues, in a speech no one can expect it, there are enough indications to show that your sympathies are with the workers, that you have realised the need of a national wage policy which has been generally against labour as a class.

"I suggest that both the issues, that of bonus and parity of wages be taken together as bonus also has been considered by the government itself as deferred wage. While considering these twin demands, the question arises whether they should have any linkage with productivity or they could be considered in isolation. I think the main thrust of your speech on the 9th was towards this point. Time and again you said that whenever demands were conceded they did not ensure better production. In my opinion it was a very appropriate and significant observation.

"And here I will like to ask you two questions. The Railway Minister has many times said that the demand for bonus could be considered after the publication of the report of Bonus Review Committee. It is said that in your opinion the question of bonus to Railwaymen cannot be considered at all. Which of these obviously contradictory stands is true?

If what Shri Mishra says is true then what prevents the Government from writing to the Bonus Review Committee that their review should include the case of railwaymen too? If what you say is the Government's policy, then its only justification can be that the Railwaymen have not given increased production.

I want to submit that it is here that you and the Railway Ministry are caught on the wrong foot. Even a cursory perusal of the official publication "A Review of the Performance of Indian Railways", February 1974 will show how the staff productivity has gone up from 122 in 1950-51 to 200 in 1972-73, how the labour productivity has increased in the same period by 64% and that of the workshops by 54%. On the other hand number of workers has declined by 9%, and as the Third Pay Commission has admitted the real earning of the Lower Division Clerk has come down by 10%, that of the Upper Division Clerk by 18% and that of 'A' Grade driver by as much as 22%. As you can guess the last two years must have greatly added to this erosion, which was already substantial.

"My submission to you is if it could be proved from official documents that the Railway workers is giving constantly increasing production, should you not be liberal enough to promise consideration of his demands for bonus and parity of wage structure? It is necessary to remember that in many public sector undertakings, with whom the railwaymen is seeking parity, increased production is a rare phenomenon! Even a partial step indicative of your willingness to entertain these demands of bonus and parity will have a far-reaching impact.

"With every day that passes new problems get added to the old ones. For instance the question of victimisation is assuming alarming proportions. It is all the more urgent therefore to tackle the situation without further loss of time.

"I hope this submission of mine, made with the sole purpose of ending this confrontation will be given the consideration it deserves.

Yours sincerely, Sd/- N.G.Gor ay

Smt. Indira Gandhi Prime Minister New Delhi.

Office Secretary