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Visakhapatnam: October 26-31, 1980

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31ST SESSION OF AITUC

Messages, Resolutions, Speeches etc.

AITUC PUBLICATION

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PREFACE

The 31st Session of the All-India Trade Union Congress was held, as scheduled, at Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) on 26-31 October 1980. The concluding day coincided with the 60th Anniversary of the foundation of the AITUC.

Despite restrictions sought to be put on the number of delegates following amendment of the constitution, about 3,000 delegates from 3004 union representing a membership of 27,45,027 as on 31 December 1979, attended the conference. The previous membership in 1976 at Jamshedpur was 2.58 million. The highest number of delegates to this session came from Andhra Pradesh (488) followed by West Bengal (486) and Bihar (480).

Flag hoisting was done by the former President, Dr. Ranen Sen and wreaths were placed at the martyrs' column erected specially at the conference venue.

The conference campus was named after S. S. Mirajkar, former President of the AITUC and one of the pioneers of the Indian Trade Union Movement. The conference hall where the delegates' session took place, was named after V. V. Giri, another veteran of the Indian trade union movement. Besides, several gates were erected all over the city and named after former Presidents of the AITUC like Lala Lajpat Rai, Subhas Chandra Bose and others.

The conference proceedings were conducted by a Presidium consisting of the President S. A. Dange and the Vice-Presidents, who were present, viz., N. K. Krishnan, Indrajit Gupta, M. S. Krishnan, Md. Elias, B. D. Joshi, J. Chittaranjan and Homi Daji.

S. A. Dange in his presidential address called for nationalisation of the 20 monopoly houses which alone can give ge-

nuine socialist orientation in the economy. He asked the delegates not to forget that we are under bourgeois rule.

Chairman of the Reception Committee, M. V. Bhadram welcomed the delegates and guests.

Fraternal delegates from the WFTU, from trade unions of the USSR, German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Mongolia, Vietnam, Kampuchea, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Australia attended the congress. Besides, fraternal delegates from All-India Kisan Sabha, Bharatiya Khet Mazdoor Union, All-India Bank Employees' Association, All-India LIC Employees' Federation, GIC Employees' All-India Association, BMS, CITU, All-India Youth Federation and National Federation of Indian Women greeted the conference.

The WFTU Acting General Secretary, I. Zakaria handed over to S. A. Dange, vice-president of the WFTU the medal and the scroll as the token appreciation of the services rendered to the WFTU since its inception as he could not be present at the General Council meeting held on the occasion of 35th anniversary of the WFTU.

The Congress expressed condolences on the death since the 30th session held in 1976 of prominent personalities abroad, leaders of international trade union movement, trade union leaders and workers in India, prominent public personalities of India and of workers, peasants, agricultural workers who were victims of police firing, mine disaster or of micreants' attacks.

The conference adopted a special condolence resolution on the passing away of S. S. Mirajkar and another on V. V. Giri and recalled the role played by them in building up the trade union movement in India.

A large number of messages wishing success of the conference were received which included those from Cuban Trade Union Centre, CGT, France, CGIL, Italy, Pancyprian Federation of Labour, General Confederation of Portuguese Workers, Romanian Trade Unions, Central Council of Trade Unions of Poland, Trade Union Federation of Angola, and in India from the Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, T. Anjiah, the

then Labour Minister, NLO, Hind Mazdoor Sabha, UTUC (L.S.), INTUC, Director ILO Regional office in New Delhi.

Three documents were placed before the delegates—General Report, Report on certain Industries and Information Materials which are included in this volume.

The Report and Accounts since the last session were placed by K. G. Sriwastava, General Secretary which were later adopted unanimously.

Besides the large number of resolutions on national and international issues, the conference discussed in depth the following issues in four commissions:

- a) Public Sector—its problems and its role in democratic development strategy—Reporter: Dr. Raj Bahadur Gour.
- b) Social Security:—Reporter: Parvathi Krishnan.
- c) Wages, D.A. and Bonus:—Reporter: Y. D. Sharma.
- d) Trade Union Unity, in defence of trade union rights:—

Reporter: Homi Daji.

Reports of the Commissions are published in this volume. The resolutions finalised at the respective Commissions and adopted at the plenary session are included in the chapter containing the Resolutions.

N. K. Krishnan, Vice-president released the souvenir brought out by the Reception Committee.

On October 30, the conference unanimously adopted a declaration in the form of an Appeal entitled “Forward to end the miseries of capitalist rule: Launch united struggles for democratic alternative to capitalist path”.

The report of the Credential Committee is also included in this volume.

The new General Council of 314 members was elected unanimously; the previous general council had 285 members. The new General Council met on 31 October and elected the office-bearers and working committee and again unanimously, with S. A. Dange re-elected as President and Indrajit Gupta as General Secretary.

On the 31st October, the concluding day of the conference, which coincided with the 60th anniversary of the AITUC, S. A. Dange formally released the book published by the

AITUC on this occasion: A Short History of the AITUC (1920-1947) by Prem Sagar Gupta, and urged on the younger generation to study this to understand the Indian Trade Union Movement.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary the AITUC Secretariat honoured the former Presidents of the AITUC viz. Dr. Ranen Sen, Sibnath Banerjee and Dr. Charu Chandra Banerjee and of course, the present President S. A. Dange in appreciation of their long services to the cause of working class movement and presented each of them with metal plaque with inscriptions. As Sibnath Banerjee and C. C. Banerjee could not be present the West Bengal State Committee General Secretary received these on their behalf to hand over to the recipients.

In conclusion, the assembled delegates took a pledge on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the AITUC, to carry forward the struggle for the realisation of the goal. The pledge was read out by Raj Bahadur Gour on behalf of the President.

On an appeal by the reception committee, delegates to the session and various unions contributed about Rs. 7,000 and the reception committee contributed a sum of Rs. 3,000 towards aid of flood victims in the neighbouring Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh.

A big demonstration and mass rally in the evening with fire works to celebrate the diamond jubilee concluded the 31st session of the AITUC. The mass rally was presided over by M. S. Krishnan as S. A. Dange could not be present due to indisposition. Among those who spoke at the mass meeting were Indrajit Gupta, Raj Bahadur Gour, M. V. Bhadram and fraternal delegates from the USSR, Vietnam, Kampuchea and Bangladesh.

AITUC SECRETARIAT

WELCOME ADDRESS

BY

M. V. BHADRAM

Chairman

RECEPTION COMMITTEE

Com. President,

*Fraternal Delegates from other Countries and
my dear delegates from all over India,*

On behalf of the Reception Committee I extend a hearty welcome to you all to this Port City of Visakhapatnam on the occasion of the 31st Conference of All India Trade Union Congress. It will be an occasion for added rejoicing as this Conference will culminate in the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of AITUC on 31-10-1980. It is a proud privilege for the people of this town in general and working class in particular to be the host for such a conference. Hence I deem it an honour bestowed on me by the Reception Committee to act as its Chairman and extend welcome to you all.

2. To this conference has come the fraternal delegation from the Soviet Union, the bulwark of Peace in the world, the country that helps all the liberation struggles in the world and the developing countries for self-reliant economy.

3. To this conference have come the delegates from heroic Vietnam who successfully fought against Japanese, French and American Imperialists for more than 30 years and presently fighting against the conspiracies of Washington-Peking.

4. To this conference have come the delegates from Cuba who fought against American Imperialists and earned the honour of establishing the first socialist State in the Western Hemisphere.

5. To this conference have also come the delegates from Arab Countries who for the first time have shown the power of Oil to the Capitalist world and who continue to fight for liberation of Palestine and against Zionism.

6. To this conference have also come delegates from the newly liberated African countries who continue their struggle against the racial regimes.

7. We are assembling in this town, where co-exist on the same hill a mosque, a temple and a Church; symbolising the unity of the people having different religious faiths and living together peacefully.

8. Another important feature is that one of the host Unions i.e., The Visakhanatnam Harbour & Port Workers' Union was founded in 1936 during the anti-imperialist wave which was sparked off by the elections to the legislature under 1935 Act. This Union came into existence due to the joint efforts of the young communists and the Congress men. The leader of those communists was no other person than Com. C. Rajeswara Rao, the present General Secretary, Communist Party of India, who was then a student in the local Medical College. The founder President of the Union was Dr. M. V. Krishna Rao, a Congressman, an ex-Minister in the Rajaji Cabinet who is present in the conference and the General Secretary a communist A. Narasimha Rao. It is a pleasant surprise to know that late Sri V. V. Giri was associated with the Union by being its Vice-President, in 1936. This Union was the first Trade Union organised in the town and one of the three in the old Visakhapatnam District, the other two being in Chittivalasa and Nellimarla Jute Mills.

Friends and Comrades,

9. The Trade Union movement in this town has a healthy feature. That is to say, in all the new industries both in the

Private and Public Sectors, situated in this town i.e., Hindustan Shipyard, Bharat Petroleum, Hindustan Zinc Ltd., Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels Ltd., and Coromandal Fertilizers, there is only one Union in each industry. The workers of all these industries may change the leadership when they want, but so far not allowed a rival union to come up. This feature is worthy of emulation.

10. It may be mentioned that our state unit of AITUC is the largest organisation with more than 3 lakh membership. Even according to Government verified figures it occupies the first place. Our organisation has been in the forefront in all the working class struggles.

11. These factors will certainly, I hope, provide, a good back drop for the delegates to discuss the problems facing the working class and the country. I trust and hope the Conference will discuss these issues and adopt appropriate resolutions. I also hope that this conference will give a call to defeat the imperialist conspiracies against sovereignty and integrity of our country and to fight for reversal of the policies which are strengthening the exploiting classes at the cost of the people in general and working class in particular.

12. We are meeting in a conference at a time when the economic situation in India is fast deteriorating resulting in high prices, unemployment, poverty and unprecedented institutionalised corruption. Consequently discontentment among all sections of the people is mounting which was expressed in unprecedented Bandh which took place on 24-9-1980 in the entire Andhra Pradesh. Further the Government are unable to find solution to these problems and resorting to repressive measures such as National Security Ordinance. The Government are following a policy of helping the capitalist class hence refused to accept the recommendations of Rath Committee correcting the fraudulent compilation of index figures. Similarly refusing to change the D.A. rate of Rs. 1.30 per point. And it is equally important to consider the national integrity and the sovereignty of the country which is threatened by the axis of Washington Pind:-and Beijing of which two are our neighbours. Due to the evils of the capitalist economy being pursued, the

working class is facing serious problems of high prices, gradual reduction of purchase power, democratisation of organisation, correction of fraudulent index compilation etc.

While I do not wish to take much of your time I would like to mention here that we have made arrangements to the best of our ability and capacity, for your stay here for the next six days and conduct your deliberations. I apologise in advance to all of you, if any inconvenience is caused during your stay here. I hope you will have a successful conference and take proper decisions in conformity with the dignity of the working class.

I once again, welcome you to this Conference and to this Port City.



INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT, AITUC

As the address of the President S. A. Dange was not a written one, and in absence of a verbatim record of his extempore speech, the following has been made out mostly from reports in newspapers—Ed.

In his presidential address S. A. Dange said that unless the public sector dominates the economy, and monopoly houses are nationalised there cannot be socialist orientation in the country. The 20 monopoly houses were enemies of the nation and they continue to prosper. The workers should ensure that these houses were nationalised to give a new orientation to the national economy.

He said that the monopoly houses controlled the nation's economy and their nationalisation would help in stabilising the economy. In spite of all resolutions and decisions taken by the Government all these years, socialism or even socialist orientation was not achieved in the country so far.

The delegates would tell the Central Government what was socialist orientation and what misery of the working class was and whether the Government was fulfilling its promises.

The deliberations during the six days should be radical and the decisions should be put into force by the working class first at the factory level.

He said that the working class should first build a socialist-oriented economy and take the country forward to fulfil the needs of the common working people.



CONDOLENCE RESOLUTION

I

The 31st Session of the All-India Trade Union Congress held at Mirajkarnagar, Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) on 26—31 October 1980, condoles the death of the following prominent personalities abroad, including leaders of the international trade union movement:

- P. T. PIMENOV — Prominent leader of International trade union movement and WFTU; Secretary, Central Council of Trade Unions of the USSR.
- KASSIM AMIN — One of the founders of the Sudanese trade union movement.
- DZEMAL BIJEDIC — Prime Minister of Yugoslavia who died in air crash along with his wife.
- KAMAL JOUMBLATT — Prominent leftwing leader of Lebanon—Assassinated.
- BABUJAN GAFUROV — Prominent orientalist of the Soviet Union.
- ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS — President of Cyprus and a prominent leader of the non-aligned movement.
- CHARLIE CHAPLIN — Legendary figure of the film world. Hounded out of USA during Macarthyism.

- YUSSEF EL-SEBAI — Secretary—General of Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation—Assassinated.
- ANASTAS MIKOYAN — Veteran Bolshevik leader of post-revolutionary Russia. Former President of the USSR.
- HOUARI BOUMEDI-
ENNE — President of Algeria, hero of the Liberation war and a prominent leader of the non-aligned movement.
- SOLOMON MAHLANGU — Young South African freedom fighter—hanged by the racist regime.
- Z. A. BHUTTO — Prime Minister of Pakistan—Hanged by the military dictator.
- ZDENEK SPICKA — General Secretary, Trade Union International of Textile Workers.
- NGUYEN LUONG BANG — Vice-President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
- DR. AGOSTINO NETO — President of Angola and leader of the liberation struggle of the people of Angola
- LUDVIK SVOBODA — Former President of Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.
- JOSIP BROZ TITO — President of Yugoslavia and an architect of new Yugoslavia, a prominent leader of the non-aligned movement.
- TON DUC THANG — President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Veteran of the Liberation struggle of the Vietnamese people.
- PROF. E. H. S.
BURHOP — President, World Federation of Scientific Workers.

LUIGI LONGO — Prominent leader of the international communist and working chairman of the chairman of the Italian Communist Party.

II

The 31st Session of the All-India Trade Union Congress condoles the death of the following trade union leaders of India who passed away during the period since the last conference:

- V. VEERASWAMY** — Vice-President of the Andhra Pradesh TUC.
- KRIPA SANKAR SRI-WASTAVA** — Northern Railway Workers' Union.
- CHITTA GHOSH DASTIDAR** — Bata Mazdoor Union.
- B. K. MUKHERJI** — Former General Secretary of the AITUC elected in 1938 at the 10th Session held in Delhi.
- T. V. THOMAS** — Former member of the AITUC Working Committee, Former Minister of Kerala Government.
- K. K. WARRIER** — Ex-MP, former member of AITUC General Council from Kerala.
- K. V. RAMASWAMY** — Trade Union leader of Salem District in Tamilnadu.
- MICHAEL JOHN SUBBARAYA SASTRI** — Prominent INTUC leader. Trade Union leader of Masulipatnam in Andhra Pradesh.
- S. G. TAMBITKAR** — A veteran of the textile workers' movement in Bombay.
- P. S. R. ANJANEYULU** — Former Secretary General of National Federation of Posts & Telegraph Employees.
- SHAKIR ALI KHAN** — Veteran freedom fighter of Bhopal, President, Madhya Pradesh Committee, AITUC.

K. T. SULE	—	CITU leader of Bombay.
DAYARAM BERI	—	INTUC leader in West Bengal.
ASK IYENGER	—	A stalwart of the trade union movement, particularly in the South. Leader of the harbour workers of Madras.
SURINDER BALI	—	Prominent AITUC leader of Delhi.
SITARAM MISRA	—	Member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly, a veteran TU leader—murdered by enemy agents.
BANARISI DAS	—	Leader of Tannery workers of Calcutta—murdered by gangsters.
ROSHAN LAL	—	Trade Union and Communist leader of Rajasthan.
SUMUEL ANSARI	—	Trade union worker of West Bengal.
HARIDAS CHAKRAVARTY	—	Prominent AITUC leader of Burdawn district in West Bengal.
M. B. PATKAR	—	GIC Employees' Leader.
SURYA DEO RAI	—	Trade Union Leader in Bihar, killed by gangsters.
RAMEN BANERJEE	—	Organised the first trade union of State transport employees of Calcutta.
PRIYA GUPTA	—	President of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, former M.P.
MANIBEN KARA	—	Former President of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, former President and also General Secretary of the AITUC.
MADAN MOHAN	—	President, General Insurance Employees' All-India Association.

- MAKHAN CHATTERJI — Prominent leader of the Hind Mazdoor Sabha and Port and Dock Workers.
- MAN SINGH — Vice-President, Northern Railway Workers' Union.
- V. G. ROW — Prominent lawyer and also trade unionist.
- P. K. RAMASWAMY — Textile leader of Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu.
- DINEN BHATTACHARYA — Member of Parliament, prominent leader of CITU.
- SUHRID MULLICK —
CHOUDHURY — Vice-President of CITU.
- AMIYA DAS GUPTA — Leader of College and University Teachers' movement, Vice-President of FISE.
- I. MARIADAS — Trade Union Leader in Karnataka.
- R. N. NATHAN — Trade Union Leader in Tamil Nadu.
- M. D. YUSUF — Trade Union Leader in Bihar.
- P. S. NAMBOODIRI — Trade Union Leader in Kerala.

III

The 31st Session of the AITUC condoles the death of the following prominent public personalities of India who passed away since the last session:

- A. K. GOPALAN — Former member of Parliament, freedom fighter, prominent leader of the CPI(M).
- NANA PATIL — Former M.P., legendary hero of freedom struggle in Satara District of Maharashtra.
- V. K. MUTATKAR — Joint Secretary, All-India Kisan Sabha

- P. VISWANATH — Editor of *Patriot*, formerly associated with AITUC.
- SATYAPRIYA ROY — Leader of Secondary teachers' movement in West Bengal.
- EDATATA NARAYANAN — Veteran Journalist, Editor, *Patriot*.
- S. G. MURUGIYAN — M.P., Agricultural Workers' leader, murdered by landlord agents.
- BHUJEN BANERJEE — Leader of Agricultural workers in West Bengal.
- BIRA SINGH — Communist and AITUC leader of Manipur, murdered by secessionists.
- RAMANAND TIWARI — Former M.P., leader of policemen's organisation.
- FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED — President of the Indian Republic.
- DR. SUNITI KUMAR CHATTERJEE — Prominent Linguist and Litterateur, National Professor in Humanities.
- RAJA MAHENDRA PRATAP — A veteran revolutionary, formed government in exile in Kabul.
- JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN — Prominent leader of the freedom movement, leader of the erstwhile Congress Socialist Party.
- CHANDRA SINGH GARHWALI — Freedom fighter, in 1930 disobeyed order of British officer to fire on red shirt volunteers in North West Frontier Province.
- V. V. GIRI — Former President of the Indian Republic. One of the pioneers of the trade union movement in India.

A former president of the AITUC and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation. As a Central Labour Minister he resigned as a protest against retrograde revision of an award for Bank Employees.

M. G. DESAI

— Progressive Journalist, an accused in the Meerut Conspiracy Case.

S. S. MIRAJKAR: The 31st session of AITUC deeply condoles the passing away of S. S. Mirajkar, President of the AITUC from 1957 to 1973. He was one of the pioneers of the Indian Trade Union Movement and one of the builders of the militant tradition of the working-class movement in India. He was one of the accused in the Meerut conspiracy case.

His example of a life long dedication to the cause of the working class will continue to inspire generations of trade union workers and the fight for the cause of socialism.

His passing away is a great loss for the trade union movement which will be hard to fill up.

The 31st Session of the AITUC pays homage to the memory of the departed leader and conveys sincere condolences to the bereaved family.

IV

The 31st Session of the AITUC mourns the death of workers, peasants, agricultural workers who were victims either of police firing, mine disaster or of miscreants:

- (1) Hundreds of harijan agricultural workers killed by landlords gangsters.
- (2) Eleven workers killed at Rajhara mines by police firings.
- (3) Workers of Swadeshi Cotton Mill of Kanpur killed by police firing inside the mill on December 6, 1977.
- (4) Massacre of mine workers at Bailadila iron ore project in Madhya Pradesh on 5 April 1978.
- (5) Killings at Pantnagar of farm workers and University employees on 13 April 1978.

- (6) Workers who died as a result of different mine accidents.
- (7) Killing at Faridabad by police on October 17, 1979.
- (8) Killing of tribal workers in Singhbhum mining areas.
- (9) Workers killed by firing at Calcutta Port and Murti tea garden in West



FRATERNAL DELEGATES FROM ABROAD

List of the fraternal delegates participating at the 31st Session of AITUC from 26th to 31st October, 1980 at Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh):

- W. F. T. U.**
- 1) Ibrahim ZAKARIA, Deputy & Acting General Secretary, World Federation of Trade Unions—WFTU, Prague-2.
 - 2) Mahendra SEN, Secretary, World Federation of Trade Unions—WFTU, Prague-2.
 - 3) M. ATCHUTHAN, Head, TUI's Department of the World Federation of Trade Unions—WFTU, Prague-2.
- Afghanistan**
- 4) Fazal Amad CHAKHANSORY, Member of Central Council of Trade Unions of Afghanistan, Kabul.
- Australia**
- 5) Don HENDERSON, Representing the Committee for International Trade Unions Unity, Australia.
- Bangladesh**
- 6) NUR-UR-ISLAM, Vice-President Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra, Dacca.
- Bulgaria**
- 7) Peter BRAYKOV, Secretary, Central Council of Bulgarian Trade Unions, Sofia.
 - 8) Poshka DJAMBOVA, Member, International Department, Central Council of Bulgarian Trade Unions, Sofia.

- Czechoslovakia
- 9) Jirina VESELA, Secretary, Central Council of Czechoslovak Trade Unions, Prague.
 - 10) Milan BUKOLSKY, Deputy Head, International Department, Central Council of Czechoslovak Trade Unions, Prague.
 - 11) Jiri VEJVODA, Member, International Department, Central Council of Czechoslovak Trade Unions, Prague.
 - 12) Josef SAJAS, Member of the Delegation of Central Council of Czechoslovak Trade Unions, Prague.
- G. D. R.
- 13) Fritz ROESEL, Member of the Presidium and Secretary, Confederation of Free German Trade Unions, FDGB, Berlin, GDR.
 - 14) Peter FRITIZ, Head, International Department, Confederation of Free German Trade Unions, FDGB, Berlin, GDR.
 - 15) D. STEINER, Member of the Delegation of Confederation of Free German Trade Unions, FDGB.
 - 16) J. LUDWIG, Member of the Delegation of Confederation of Free German Trade Unions, FDGB.
- Hungary
- 17) Karoly SZLOVATSIK, Head, International Department, Central Council of Hungarian Trade Unions, Budapest.
 - 18) Jossef DAESCH, Member, International Department, Central Council of Hungarian Trade Unions, Budapest.
- Kampuchea
- 19) Chan VANNY, Secretary of the Organisations Department of the Trade

Union of the National Salvation of
Kampuchea, Pnom Penh.

20) Neang SON, Member, International
Department, Central Council of Kam-
puchean Trade Unions, Pnom Penh.

Mongolia

21) G. GELENKHUU, Member of the
Central Council of Mongolian Trade
Unions, Ulan Bator.

22) O. NYAMADAVAA, Member of the
delegation of the Central Council of
Mongolian Trade Unions.

U. S. S. R.

23) V. F. BOGATIKOV, Secretary, All
Union Central Council of Trade
Unions, AUCCTU, Moscow.

24) Sergei TRUBNIKOV, Deputy Head,
International Department, All Union
Central Council of Trade Unions,
AUCCTU, Moscow.

25) Vladimir VYUHUKOLEV, Member,
International Department of All Union
Central Council of Trade Unions,
AUCCTU, Moscow.

26) K. TUZIKOV, Member, International
Department, All Union Central Council
of Trade Unions, AUCCTU,
Moscow.

27) PEIESYEV, Member of the delega-
tion of All Union Central Council of
Trade Unions, AUCCTU, Moscow.

Viet-Nam

28) Tran Anh LIEN, Secretary, General
Federation of Trade Unions of the
Socialist Republic of Viet-Nam,
Hanoi.

29) Kieu Dinh THIEM, Member, Inter-
national Department, General Fede-

ration of Trade Unions of the Socialist Republic of Viet-Nam, Hanoi.

30) Nguyen Van HUYNH, Member of the delegation of General Federation of Trade Unions of the Socialist Republic of Viet-Nam.

Yugoslavia

31) Janos SREDER, Member of Presidency of the Central Council of Confederation of Yugoslav Trade Unions, CTUY, Belgrade.

32) M'hajjo RISTIC, Member, International Department, Central Council of Confederation of Yugoslav Trade Unions, CTUY, Belgrade.



MESSAGES RECEIVED

AUCCTU, SOVIET UNION

Dear Comrades,

On behalf of Soviet industrial and office workers and collective farmers, organised in trade unions, the All Union Central Council of Trade Unions conveys ardent fraternal greetings to the delegates and participants of the 31st Conference of the All India Trade Union Congress and wishes of success in its work to this representative forum of India's working people.

We note with a feeling of deep satisfaction that the close relations that have developed between our trade union centres facilitate an improvement of mutual understanding, and the strengthening of brotherhood and solidarity between the working people of our countries.

Based as they are on the firm foundation of the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation, the friendly Soviet-Indian ties enhance the strengthening of the cause of peace and progress in Asia and in the whole world.

Soviet trade unions sincerely wish all Indian working people new successes in the struggle for socio-economic transformations, for their democratic rights and cardinal interests, for the unity of the workers' and trade union movement.

We express firm conviction that the relations of fraternal friendship and all-round cooperation between Soviet and Indian trade unions will further strengthen and expand for the good of the working people of the USSR and India, in the interests of joint struggle for peace, democracy and social progress.

All Union Central Council of Trade Unions

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS, AFGHANISTAN

I wish to convey the message of the central council of the trade unions of Afghanistan to the 31st session of the All India Trade Union Congress.

The central council of the trade unions of Afghanistan is taking the opportunity to forward sincere greetings to the honourable delegates at this session, workers and all toiling masses of India on the occasion of the 31st session which coincides with the 60th anniversary of the AITUC. On behalf of the working class and all toilers of revolutionary and heroic Afghanistan the CCTUA takes this opportunity to thank the AITUC and trade unions of India for their all round support to the April revolution, especially in the new revolutionary stage, at the crucial historical juncture.

The AITUC, in calling for the observance of May Day this year as a day of solidarity with the people and the revolution of Afghanistan, has taken another valuable step towards strengthening the old, fraternal and untarnished friendship existing between the people of Afghanistan and India, which is deeply ingrained in the soul of every single Afghan.

This 31st session of the AITUC is meeting at a time when imperialist circles, headed by US imperialism, with the help of their lackeys and using the puppet governments in different parts of the world, are working to destabilise peace and détente and whip up a cold war atmosphere throughout the world.

US imperialism, for attaining its sinister aims, has embarked on a vast programme, that is, the creation of new military bases similar to those at Mombasa in Kenya, Berbera in Somalia, as well as military bases in Turkey on the one hand; while extending the already existing base in Dahran, Saudi Arabia on the other, as well as the Abu Dabi base in Bahrain and Masseera base in Oman, together with the bases in Diego Garcia, Egypt and Israel—all these are part of international imperialism's worldwide programme to be used by US imperialism's strategists for the suppression of working class and other progressive movements in different regions of the world.

The creation of a rapid deployment force equipped with nuclear missiles, warships and missile launching submarines for safeguarding the so-called "vital interests of the US" are nothing but aggressive designs against our holy lands. This rapid deployment force would undoubtedly use the above listed bases. In the meantime, increases in the military budgets of the NATO member countries, unprecedented expenses of that organisation for medium range nuclear missiles in West European countries, desperate efforts of US imperialism to supply massive arms to the puppet governments in the region, are all directed towards destabilising the conditions of the adjacent countries which have adopted policies of anti-imperialism. Thus, creating regional disturbances, which is the main desire of the US imperialists.

The interference in the internal affairs of the countries of the region by US imperialism in collusion with Chinese hegemonist leadership through the use of unpopular dictatorships, such as the present regime in Pakistan, has taken dangerous dimensions. We condemn the treacherous provocations of the Pakistan government in collusion with the Peking chauvinists headed by world imperialism in Jammu-Kashmir. The world-devouring imperialism is implementing its pre-organised plans under various pretexts such as the "defence of Islam" and sometimes the so-called "Soviet threat" through Afghanistan. It is a fact that a good part of imperialism's design in the region was dashed as a result of the victorious uprising of 27 December 1979 of Afghanistan. Thus, the plans of imperialism, aiming to suppress Afghanistan's April revolution and turn the country in the southern frontier of the USSR and to the east of Iran as a base of aggression against the progressive movements of the peoples of the region, failed completely.

It is exactly for this reason that the feverish circles of imperialism have indulged in an anti-Afghan, and anti-Soviet publicity hysteria. In this connection, we have to recall the statement of the leader of Afghanistan's working people, Babrak Karmal, who stated that "if the timely assistance of the USSR had not been received, there would not exist today an independent and revolutionary Afghanistan". The trade unions of revolutionary Afghanistan, at this historical juncture

are giving first priority to the struggle against imperialism and its lackeys in this region. Our organisation is making extensive efforts to rally the masses of the country into a consolidated front in order to wage a resolute struggle against the murderous armed bands sent into Afghanistan from Pakistan.

The Central Council of Afghanistan's trade unions has appealed, through all international tribunals, to draw the attention of the workers of the region to the fact that, before it is too late, we should coordinate and increase our efforts to neutralise the plans of US imperialism, since it is the working masses who become the first victims of imperialist intrigues.

The victory of the workers and the toiling masses lies in their solidarity.

Long live the unity of the workers of the world in their struggle against imperialism and reaction!

PORTUGUESE GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOUR, LISBON

Dear Comrade,

First of all and on behalf of the National Secretariat of CGTP - Intersindical, allow me to extend our cordial greetings to yourself, and through you, to the whole of the Indian workers.

Secondly, we would most sincerely like to thank you for the kind invitation extended to our organisation to attend the AITUC's 31st Conference, which will be held from October 26th to 31st.

It is with deep regret, that we inform you that our organisation is unable to be represented at this most important event of the Indian Working Class. The present situation in our country catches us in the middle of two general elections, which engage our structure upon an active participation towards the achievement of the goals pursued by our labour movement.

Although not present, it is our greatest pleasure, on behalf of the Portuguese workers, to warmly greet the Indian working class and the AITUC for the holding of this important Conference, and to congratulate you for your Golden Jubilee, for 60 years in the service of the Indian workers and people.

We are certain, dear comrades, that your Conference will constitute yet another positive step for the defence of the workers' rights and interests, for the improvement of their working and living conditions.

Faithful to its principles of International class solidarity, CGTP-Intersindical National declares its support to all your efforts in the struggle for peace, justice and social progress, common goals of all progressive forces and working class movements of the world.

Long live the AITUC's 31st Conference !
Long live the workers' unity !
Long live international solidarity !

The National Secretariat of CGTP-IN
Sd/- Alvaro Rana.

FROM LUANDA (ANGOLA)

DEAR COMRADES UNFORTUNATELY WE HAVE TO INFORM YOU WE ARE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIRTY-FIRST CONFERENCE OF AITUC AND GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR CELEBRATIONS ON ACCOUNT OF TWO MAINLY REALIZATIONS WE HAVE TO LAST THREE MONTHS STOP IN SPITE OF OUR ABSENCE WE WISH GREAT SUCCESS ON YOUR WORK AND WE EXPECT THAT CONFERENCE CAN BE ONE MORE STEP FOR STRENGTHENING OF INDIAN TRADE UNION AND WORKING CLASS FULL STOP

CENTRAL ORGANISATION OF CUBAN
TRADE UNIONS (CTC), HAVANA

DUE TO HARDPRESSED WORK WE CANNOT ATTEND YOUR CONFERENCE. WE WISH ALL SUCCESS TO THE WORK OF THE CONGRESS ESPECIALLY TO AGREEMENTS BENEFICIAL TO THE WORKERS OF YOUR COUNTRY.

CGT, FRANCE, PARIS

The French General Confederation of Labour (CGT) conveys its best wishes to AITUC's 31st Congress as well as to the entire membership of your great centre.

We very much regret that we are not able to be with you on this occasion and wish you every success in your deliberations. The CGT is confident that your Congress will be an important contribution to the determined combat waged by the AITUC—often in extremely difficult conditions—for the interests of the working people and in the quest for unity of all trade unions in India within the framework of vast mass movements for the satisfaction of demands and for freedom.

This month also marks AITUC's 60th anniversary. During that period AITUC has played a determining and irreplaceable role in all the struggles of the workers and people of India—both before and following independence—for the conquest and maintenance of their rights and liberties.

The CGT warmly congratulates you on this occasion and assures you of its sincerest solidarity and friendship in your untiring efforts to build a better future at social justice, democracy and peace.

With our fraternal best wishes,

Sd/- PIERRE GENSOUS,
CGT National Secretary.

CGIL, ITALY

Dear Brothers,

Being unable, for the present urgent engagements in Italy, to assure an authoritative representation to your meetings, the CGIL has the pleasure to extend with this message, in name of the millions of Italian workers she represents, her heartfelt and fraternal greetings to the delegates meeting to hold the 31st Conference and celebrate the 60th Anniversary of your great and glorious organization.

From as early as 1920, we know the AITUC has been development with courage and perseverance the long and hard struggle for the defence of workers' interests and rights and for the liberation of India from colonialist oppression: ever supporting in the conditions of independence as well and in spite of still-existing difficulties, the fundamental value of workers' trade union unity beyond every difference of trade, caste, race, religious belief or political grouping.

The CGIL, though in the different context in which she is bound to act, feels close to AITUC precisely for your and our constant care for workers' unity, as well as for the common ideals of peace and cooperation between the peoples. Indeed on these themes of peace, development and cooperation we have engaged ourselves, as the Italian unitary trade-union movement, in the First World Trade Union Conference on Development held last April in Belgrade: and we were glad to meet there with a similar engagement of your and other great Indian Trade Union Centres. We look forward to be able to continue such collaboration ever more intensively in the future.

With this hope we want to express our deep respect to your President, Bro. S. A. Dange, and to the other AITUC Leaders, and we greet you again very friendly and wish you the best successes in your work.

ROMA,
4 Oct. 1980

for the CGIL secretariat
Sd/- GIACINTO MILITELLO,
Secretary for International Relations.

PANCYPRIAN FEDERATION OF LABOUR,
NICOSIA, CYPRUS

We received your kind invitation to attend the 31st Conference of AITUC to be held on 26-31 October this year which coincides with the Golden Jubilee Year of AITUC and its celebration. We thank you very much for your kindness to consider PEO as one of the invited organisations. In our opinion this reflects the traditionally good and fraternal relations existing between our two organisations.

As I am sure you are well aware our country is going through a situation of an acute political and economic crisis. This situation calls for the mobilization to the utmost of all our cadres who are actively involved in both the economic and political battlefields.

It is with these considerations in mind that our Executive wishes to inform you that regretfully we are unable to send a delegate to attend your Conference and participate in the celebrations marking the 60th Anniversary of AITUC's foundation. We are confident, dear comrade Sriwastava, that you will understand our difficulties which led to this decision. At the same time our Executive wishes to restate its high appreciation for AITUC and its work, for its long-standing heroic traditions and struggles for the benefit of Indian workers. We in the PEO esteem very much the role and contribution of AITUC in India's modern history and consider as a privilege the existence of good fraternal bilateral relations with you.

The PEO Executive has finally decided to send to your 31st Conference a Message of Greetings which will be communicated to you in due course.

I would like to seize this opportunity and ask you to convey to com. Dange whose name is closely associated with the history and struggles of the AITUC, our best wishes for strong health and further contribution to the cause of Indian workers.

Please receive, dear comrades, our best regards.

MONGOLIAN TRADE UNIONS

On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the foundation of the All India Trade Union Congress—the progressive Trade Union Organisation and the vanguard detachment of the working people of India, the working people and the trade unions of the Mongolian People's Republic join the Central Council of the Mongolian Trade Unions in extending to the delegates to the thirty-first Session of the All India Trade Union Congress warm internationalist greetings and heartfelt congratulations.

The Mongolian working people know the All India Trade Union Congress as the premier trade union organisation to lead the Indian working class in their struggle for the liberation of the country from the foreign occupation.

The history of the All India Trade Union Congress is the history of struggles of the working people for securing their rights, democracy, against monopolies and reaction, imperialist intrigues and war.

Today, at a time when the situation has become considerably complicated as a result of hegemonistic designs of US imperialist circles and their accomplices the working people and the All India Trade Union Congress unite their efforts in the common struggle for democracy, freedom and peace.

We note with satisfaction that the cooperation between the Mongolian Trade Unions and the All India Trade Union Congress is developing with every passing year.

While taking opportunity we would like on behalf of the working people and the trade unions of the Mongolian People's Republic to extend our best wishes to the All India Trade Union Congress leadership for greater successes in their struggle for developing their country along the road of social progress and for strengthening peace and security in Asia and the world over.

We wish the Thirty First Session of the All India Trade Union Congress to be a great success.

*Central Council of the Mongolian
Trade Unions, Ulan-Bator.*

August 28, 1980.

ROMANIAN TRADE UNIONS, BUCHAREST

DEAR COMRADE

WE ARE SORRY THAT THIS YEAR WE ARE NOT IN POSITION OF COMPLYING WITH YOUR KIND INVITATION SENDING A GTUCR DELEGATION TO ATTEND PROCEEDINGS YOUR CONGRESS STOP THANKING YOU CORDIALLY FOR THIS NEW MANIFESTATION OF GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS COMMA WE KINDLY ASK YOU TO PRESENT TO PARTICIPANTS AITUC CONGRESS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE STOP DEAR COMRADES STOP ON BEHALF CENTRAL COUNCIL GENERAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION COMMA ALL TRADE UNION MEMBERS OF SOCIALIST REPUBLIC ROMANIA WE CONVEY PARTICIPANTS TO PROCEEDINGS AITUC CONGRESS WARM COMMA FRIENDLY GREETINGS AND EXPRESSION OUR ENTIRE SOLIDARITY STOP WE ARE NOTING WITH PLEASURE ON THIS OPPORTUNITY TOO THAT BETWEEN GTUCR AND AITUC THERE ARE GOOD RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WHICH ARE SCORING A CEASELESS DEVELOPMENT IN INTEREST AND FOR BENEFIT WORKING PEOPLE IN BOTH COUNTRIES COMMA OF PEACE AND PROGRESS WORLDOVER STOP WISH EVERY SUCCESS TO PROCEEDINGS AITUC CONGRESS COMMA IN ACTIVITY DEDICATED DEFENCE OF INTERESTS WORKING PEOPLE YOUR COUNTRY STOP.
GENERAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION ROMANIA:

POLISH TRADE UNIONS, WARSAW

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR KIND INVITATION FOR 31ST CONFERENCE STOP BEING UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE WE WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY TO THE DELEGATES THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE STOP ON OCCASION OF THE 31ST CONFERENCE OF THE AITUC WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR SOLIDARITY WITH ALL THE MEMBERS OF YOUR ORGANISATION WHICH HAS MANY ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE STRUGGLE FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE OF INDIA STOP WE WISH THE DELEGATES A FRUITFUL SESSION AND FURTHER SUCCESSSES IN YOUR ACTIVITY STOP WITH FRATERNAL REGARDS CENTRAL COUNCIL TRADE UNION POLAND.

Berlin, October 1980

To the
Delegates of the 31st Session
of the All-India Trade Union Congress

Dear comrades,

The National Executive Committee of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions conveys cordial and fraternal greetings to the delegates and guests of the 31st Session of the All-India Trade Union Congress.

On behalf of all members of our broad class organisation we also express our most heartfelt congratulations on the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the All-India Trade Union Congress, the class organisation of the Indian working people which has been seasoned by numerous struggles.

The foundation of the AITUC was an outstanding event in the life of the Indian workers. Through its persistent and consequent struggle for the rights of the working people, for the improvement of their living and working conditions, for peace, democracy and social progress and against exploitation and suppression your organisation has gained respect and recognition in the international trade union movement.

The All-India Trade Union Congress and the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions are linked through long-standing relations of fraternal friendship and class solidarity. We are convinced that they will continue their cooperation in the future. The working people of the German Democratic Republic will further stand on the side of their Indian class brothers in their struggle for the interests of the workers and employees and for trade union rights and democratic freedoms.

The National Executive Committee of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions wishes your 31st Session fruitful deliberations so that it will become the starting point for further successful activities in the interests of the working class and the working people in your country.

With comradely greetings,

Harry Tisch
President.

PRIME MINISTER,
INDIA

MESSAGE

I congratulate the AITUC on its completion of sixty years of service to the working class and give my good wishes for its diamond jubilee celebrations.

Sd/-
(INDIRA GANDHI)

New Delhi,
September 17, 1980.

MINISTER OF LABOUR
INDIA

New Delhi—110001

MESSAGE

I am happy that the All India Trade Union Congress, is celebrating its 'Diamond Jubilee on the 31st October, 1980, at Visakhapatnam.

The working class has a vital role to play in the economic development of a Country. Its contribution in increasing the national wealth by increasing production and productivity in an atmosphere of industrial peace and harmony can greatly accelerate the pace of development which is so essential for the benefit of all concerned. I have every hope that as an important Central Trade Union Organisation, the All India Trade Union Congress will continue to ensure that its members make more and more and still bigger contribution to the prosperity of the nation.

Sd/-
(T. ANJIAH)

Ref. No. 1486/80.

Dated 16th September, 1980.

NATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

My dear Shriwastava,

I have received your letter dated 1st September, 1980 regarding the AITUC holding its 31st Session at Visakhapatnam from 26th October to 31st October, 1980. We are happy to learn that you are celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of AITUC on 31st October, 1980. In view of preoccupations, it is not possible to personally come and participate in the celebration of Diamond Jubilee of AITUC. I may add that AITUC is also one of the oldest Central Trade Union Organisation and it has served the working class over a very long period. We wish your celebrations every success and also success to the Conference.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(N. M. BAROT)

Secretary

ALL INDIA KISAN SABHA

Dear Comrade,

On behalf of the All India Kisan Sabha, I send my warm fraternal greetings to the delegates assembled for the 31st Session of the All India Trade Union Congress at Visakhapatnam from 26th to 31st October, 1980.

The All India Trade Union Congress and the All India Kisan Sabha have been for generations mutually the nearest two organisations of the working people in the factories and the fields. Their basic objectives have been to fight against the multi-form exploitation imposed by the capitalist system on the workers and the peasants, and to create such conditions in the country as would enable the toiling masses to march forward and secure a social order, based on justice, equality and freedom from oppression, and security of life and labour.

We have fought many bitter struggles together, and supported each other to win our demands in the face of all types of political oppression.

Thanks to the unity of workers and peasants in the course of such struggles, a new consciousness has been created among the masses at large which is helping the country as a whole to march forward towards a new social order.

We are sure that this worker-peasant unity will remain intact and will get further strengthened to achieve its goals.

We are sure that your conference will take bold initiatives and decide to unite still further the industrial working class and consolidate its alliance with the toiling peasant masses of India.

With warm fraternal greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Sd/-

(Dr. Z. A. AHMED)

President,

ALL INDIA KISAN SABHA

New Delhi,

1st October, 1980.

HIND MAZDOOR SABHA

Com. K. G. Sriwastava,
General Secretary,
All India Trade Union Congress,
24, Canning Lane,
New Delhi.

Dear Comrade,

We have to thank you for your kind invitation to attend the 31st Session. We are happy to know that this is the Diamond Jubilee Session.

We shall be sending our representative to participate as a fraternal delegate.

MESSAGE

“The working people in this country are required to face the challenge of fragmentation of trade union movement and also

the onslaught of the Government in the form of Preventive Detention legislation. The prices are soaring high. In the situation the working people should decide to rise against these onslaughts and defeat the purpose of the Government and the employers and if necessary, organise joint action by working people of the country”.

I shall try to remain present failing which HMS representative will be there.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,
Sd/-

September 13, 1980.

(SHANTI PATEL)
General Secretary

BHARATIYA MAZDOOR SANGH

MESSAGE

By D. B. Thengadi,
Founder General Secretary,
Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh

On the historic occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of All India Trade Union Congress, we salute the little known as well as the well known pioneers of Indian Trade Union movement whose self-less missionary zeal facilitated the formation of the AITUC.

On this occasion it would be in the fitness of things to remember with deep sense of gratitude the workers, their leaders and benefactors who paved the way for the ultimate formation of the first Central Labour Organisation.

Shri N. M. Lokhanday who organised the first Workers' Conference in Bombay (1884) and submitted the First Labour memorandum to the Government with mass signatures of workers.

The various quasi-labour unions or associations for workers' welfare, such as, the Bombay Millhands Association (1890), the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants of India and Burma (1897), The Printers' Union (1905), The Bombay

Postal Union(1907), and the Kamgar Hitavardhak Sabha and the Social Service League (1910);

'Deenabandhu' the first Labour Journal;

'The Hindu Patriot', 'Sanjivani' and 'Amrit Bazar Patrika' that fearlessly criticised the Inland Immigration Act of 1882;

Shri G. K. Gokhale and Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya who led the opposition to the first Emigration Act (of 1837) which legalised the practice of Indentured Labour;

The workers of Budge Budge Jute Mills, Nagpur Empress Mills, Ahmedabad Weaving, Bombay Textiles, the Press and Machine Section of the Madras Government Press, the Government of India Press, Calcutta, and Samastipur Railway workshop who boldly organised strikes between 1875 and 1914; and all those heroic workers whose militant resistance to capitalism has not yet been publicised.

The Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh conveys its best wishes to AITUC and hopes that the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations would be a brilliant success.

Sd/-

(D. B. THENGADI)

**GENERAL INSURANCE EMPLOYEES'
ALL-INDIA ASSOCIATION**

Dear Comrade,

We are honoured to send you this message on behalf of the General Insurance employees who always have been receiving advice and support in their onward movement.

The AITUC is the mother organisation of all the working class movement in India. Its celebration of Diamond Jubilee is a proud occasion for the entire working class. The achievements of the working class through the AITUC has always been glorious.

The general insurance employees though not directly affiliated to the AITUC have been always one with the programme and policy enunciated by the great organisation. **THE GENERAL INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ALL INDIA**

ASSOCIATION is proud of being closely associated with the AITUC from inception.

On this occasion of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations we send you fraternal greetings and would request you kindly to convey to all the Delegates and participants in the Celebrations that they can always count on one of the most militant sections of the working class in India, the general insurance employees in all the Major Struggles.

Even after 33 years of independence and establishment of Industrial Disputes Act as a piece of legislation to arm the working class to bargain their right of existence and trade union movement, the Government today is contemplating forfeiture of this right. General Insurance employees are fighting against this. We can rightly hope that the AITUC will rise to the occasion and give a befitting reply to the government and restore the right of the working class in the general insurance industry.

With greetings,

Yours Comradely,
Sd/- K.S.B. PILLAI,
General Secretary

September 26, 1980.

UNITED STRUGGLE AGAINST THE CLASS OFFENSIVE—URGENT TASK OF THE MOMENT

UTUC (Lenin Sarani)

While greeting your All India Conference and wishing its every success, I, on behalf of my organisation, UTUC.—Lenin Sarani, would like to put in a few words.

With the deepening of unprecedented crisis in the capitalist economy, dark clouds have been gathering in the horizon of Trade Union Movement in particular, Lockouts, Closure and Retrenchment in factories and establishments along with rationalisation measures of various sorts, to bring down the number of employed persons, severe attacks have been brought down over the earnings and fundamental and basic rights of the working class. While freezing of wages under the cover of so-called 'Parameter' or guide line set by the Bureau

of Public Enterprise in public sector bodies as also the same thing by individual capitalists and depriving the workers of holding on even to their already low living standard in the face of galloping inflation, the Governments both at the Centre and in the States are taking recourse to repressive steps and measures to crush the spontaneous resistance of working people.

Ominous signs are there to put the clock of trade union movement back to some fifty years when even the right to organise movement of the working class was being denied. The Essential Service Maintenance Ordinance virtually bring a blanket ban on trade union movement and it has already been applied in three States—Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat and move is there to extend it in other States also. The Prime Minister's call of 'Industrial truce', under cover of 'co-operation' to Central Trade Union bodies on 1st September meeting followed by FICCI's Chairman Mody's open demand for that, the recent decision at the State Labour Ministers Conference in New Delhi, vesting the Central and State Government with absolute power to ban strike as also to impose terms of settlement on the workers are pointers to the grave danger that the organised movement of the working class is now confronted with. The so-called proposal to ban lockout also is a transparent ruse because we all know that similar stunt on the earlier occasion came to a ridiculous end. What is more, this consensus of the State Labour Ministers in New Delhi is proposed to be formulated in the coming national Labour Conference.

Over and above these measures, the 'National Security Ordinance' has for its target the organised movement of the working people and reminds one of 'Emergency' days.

The motive and direction of Governments' steps and measures are quite clear—to pass the entire burden of Capitalist Crisis on the shoulder of the working class by divesting them of whatever limited rights they earned at the cost of tremendous sacrifices and hard struggles for decades.

The paramount question, therefore, before any responsible trade union body is how to defend the Workers' rights and achievements against attacks of the Capitalist Class. This is possible only by a united countrywide struggle of the working

people guided by a united platform of the Central Trade Unions both at the National and State levels and even at lower levels, in every industry and unit. The need of the hour is to forge such unity on common agreed programme and code of conduct. This alone can provide an instrument of struggle to the working class and repulse the attacks of the ruling class.

However, on this point of unity we are of the firm opinion that the situation demands broad-based unity of all Central Trade Unions irrespective of divergence of political views and opinions. A 'pick and choose' policy should vitiate the unity of the Central Trade Unions in the matter of common programme on agreed issues. The Government is playing the game of setting one Central Trade Union against the other obviously with the intention of disrupting the unity of the Central Trade Unions so that no common struggle joined by all can develop.

I, on behalf of my organisation, in full consonance with the call of our 16th All India Conference held in Patna, February, last year, would therefore appeal to you and your organisation to take a positive step in this direction to fulfil the urgent need of this hour. I hope and trust that you would surely lend your valued support and weight to bring this earnest desire of the working people into concrete shape.

Pritish Chanda
General Secretary.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDIAN WOMEN *MESSAGE*

On behalf of the National Federation of Indian Women, I send my sincere greetings to the 31st Congress of the All-India Trade Union Congress (AITUC). The AITUC has in the existence of 60 years done very valuable work in organising working women, making them conscious of their rights and inspiring them to join in the struggle of working class for better living conditions, national integration and democracy.

Working women, particularly those who come in contact with the modern means of production and acquire direct experience of present exploitative system are the natural vanguard of the

Women's movement. Unfortunately in our Country, which is developing on the capitalist pattern, women suffer double exploitation as workers and as women. Moreover there is much discrimination against working women, majority of women in India are employed as unskilled cheap labour; employers often flout the principle of equal pay for equal work; they are denied promotions and facilities of training, are, generally, not available for them.

A working women has to fulfil the dual role of a mother as well as a worker. It is necessary that the government recognises its responsibility towards working women and makes it a national policy to provide maternity and child-care facilities for all working women, whether they are in organised or unorganised sector. This should be included in the minimum needs programme of the Sixth Five-year Plan.

It is a matter of grave concern to us that the number and percentage of women in employment is declining in India; while greater participation by women in all areas of employment (and not only those traditionally marked as jobs for women) is a pre-requisite to attaining the objectives of development itself. I am sure that the AITUC Congress will discuss these vital problems concerning working women and give a lead in focussing national attention on them.

The women's movement in India has great expectations from the AITUC which has always championed the cause of the most exploited sections of our Society.

Wishing all success to your Congress and ever greater success in your struggle for improving the lives of the toiling men and women.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Vimla Farooqui)

General Secretary,

National Federation of Indian Women

ALL INDIA LIC EMPLOYEES FEDERATION

Please accept our warmest congratulations which we are sending to you and all other torch-bearers of All India Trade

Union Congress on the occasion of celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of the biggest trade union organisation of the Indian Working Class.

The AITUC was founded in 1920 with powerful trade unions like Mumbai Girni Kamgar Union and GIP Railway Workers' Union as its affiliates. That was the time when under the impact of the great October revolution the national liberation movement was getting radicalised and simultaneously the urge of the working class to struggle for improvements in the intolerable living conditions had started manifesting in several strikes, to unite the Indian working class under its banner and to give correct orientation to the developing struggles. The tone was set in the presidential address of Lala Lajpat Rai at the founding session of AITUC who stressed the importance of strengthening the national liberation movement and also urged upon the workers to think and act as a class and to align with the working-class movement all over the world.

In the period that followed, the AITUC did gigantic work to form trade unions of workers in different industries and conduct their struggles. Unity with the national bourgeoisie in the national liberation movement, struggle against the capitalists in defence of the workers' interests and alignment with the international working-class movement inspired by the great October revolution became the cardinal principles of the policies and programmes of AITUC. The history of AITUC is the history of great struggles and sacrifices of the working class and its significant contributions in the national liberation movement as highlighted in the Meerut conspiracy case and the strikes in support of the Indian Navy when it revolted against the British rule in 1946.

Unfortunately, though different political groups broke away from AITUC after independence forming separate national trade union centres but unruffled by such developments, the AITUC continued to work for the unity of the working class and the development of united struggles. The LIC employees gratefully acknowledge the help and support they received from AITUC in their struggles.

It should also be stated here that faced with the splitting activities of different political groups and the continuous at-

tacks from the government and the employers, the AITUC found it difficult to cope up with the growing responsibilities following rapid industrialisation after the second five year plan which gave birth to the fast expanding new generation of the working class. The result has been more fragmentation of the working class and its depoliticalisation.

Thus we find today that the working-class movement has lost its élan of those early days and its will and capacity to intervene in the national politics. It is a tragedy indeed that the working class on whom the history has placed the responsibility of leading the struggle for socialism has become immobile and unconcerned about the bigger issues relating to national economy and national independence. In this background, we attach great importance to the initiative taken by the AITUC in holding convention for the defence and consolidation of national unity and social progress and the decision taken by this convention to chalk out a blueprint of a truly democratic programme of development plan in the interest of the working class and of national unity, with a clear socialist orientation. We hope, the AITUC's 31st session from October 26 to October 31 being held at Visakhapatnam will give more concrete shape to this programme and unleash an integrated struggle in defence of the working class interests against the mounting attacks from the government and the employers and for national unity and social progress. We wish your conference a great success.

Sd/-

(P. P. PATIL)

GENERAL SECRETARY

INTUC

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am happy to represent the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), the premier Trade Union Centre with a membership of 3.5 million workers, as a fraternal delegate, at the 31st Conference and Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of your esteemed Organisation, the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC).

AITUC had the unique privilege of being founded by late Lala Lajpat Rai and associated with a galaxy of eminent personalities, such as, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, V. V. Giri, etc., to name only a few; AITUC is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee besides conducting the 31st Conference under the Chairmanship of Sri S. A. Dange, one of the eminent Trade Union Leaders of the contemporary world.

Trade Union Movement has come of age in India. It should, therefore, not limit its activities to mere bread and butter aspect of the working-class movement. It should look up to new horizons. In a country with more than 300 millions of its population below the poverty-line, the Trade Union Movement has a special role to play in lifting these people out of poverty. In a country with huge reservoir of manpower and growing unemployment, it becomes also the responsibility of Trade Unions to contribute to the rapid economic development by creating new employment opportunities through surpluses generated in Industries already established by working them to their full capacity at the highest level of efficiency.

Basically, Trade Unionism is linked up with the "Nation-Building activities". The workers are the main-stay in such development endeavour—Trade Unions are expected to mobilise, educate, shape and motivate the workers for such a National responsibility, specially in countries which are struggling to develop. While doing so, the Unions should have to protect the interests of the workers too, without, of course, jeopardising the growth of National Economy.

If the Trade Union Philosophy of Gandhiji that the "workers and the management are like twins, one cannot exist without the other", is digested and processed to its logical end, I believe, that the existing tensions and constraints in our Social, Economic and Political life, are bound to disappear, yielding place to "Participative Management", more production and productivity and better living standards to our country men.

Before I conclude, Mr. Chairman, I convey the greetings and good wishes of our Indian National Trade Union Cong-

ress to all the delegates assembled at the 31st Conference and the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of your Organisation.

“JAI HIND”.

MESSAGE

from

D. S. RAJ

Director, ILO Office for Bhutan, Nepal, Republic of Maldives and Sri Lanka

It is an occasion of great happiness that the All India Trade Union Congress is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee this year. The AITUC is almost as old as the I.L.O. If I may say so, one major reason for the establishment of the AITUC in 1920 in fact was to have a representative body of the Indian Workers which could nominate Workers delegate to the annual Conference of the I.L.O. And for long, year after year, leaders of the AITUC have been attending the International Labour Conference as spokesmen of the Workers of India. Thus very close relationship between the AITUC and the ILO has been in existence ever since their inception.

It gives me great pleasure to offer on ILO's behalf greetings to the AITUC on completing sixty years of its useful service to the Indian working classes.

I also take this opportunity to wish all success to the 31st Session of the AITUC.

ALL-INDIA BANK EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

Overwhelmed with emotions, I am to-day standing before you all like a son offering his respects to his father at the time of the latter's 'SASHTIABDHI PURTI' Celebrations.

We the Bank Employees of this country owe it to the working class led by their revolutionary trade union movement, All India Trade Union Congress for everything what we are to-day.

The tiny spark, which, on the eve of the Silver Jubilee, this militant movement has generated among the bankmen, has all along been zealously cherished and carried forward by them

to grow as a mighty flame to blaze new trails in the middle-class movement.

We, the bank employees of this country—Members of the All India Bank Employees' Association—leading half a million white-collared middle class employees are proudly beholden to AITUC, for the knowledge, the mould and the perspective we have constantly received from you which we have been meticulously adhering to.

The AIBEA stands as a mighty bulwark of unity of Bankmen despite the repeated and persistent attacks by divisive and disruptive forces, for, the Bankmen had learnt the value and need for unity from you. Inspired by the exemplary struggles carried on by you for preserving and building the unity of the working class, we, the bank employees had been conscious to utilise each and every facet of our movement—Tribunalization, struggles etc., to build cohesion and unity among us.

Though a late entrant to the Trade Union Movement, the All India Bank Employees' Association has contributed its significant share to the growth of the General movement of the working class. In emancipating the worst exploited white collared employees of the middle class, the role of AIBEA, had always been the containment of the employers and the ruling classes through struggles rather than allowing the bank employees to be contained by fetters of law.

We will not be misunderstood if we claim with all humility that it is the militant movement of the bankmen which had contributed to the general movement of working class, the era of Industry-wise collective bargaining in Industrial Relations at the national level. The heroic struggles carried on by the bankmen in 1978 and 1979 against the reign of terror, goondaism etc., by the ruling classes and the Government to retain this, would go down in the history of the movement as a shining tribute to their class character.

History has it that it was the movement of Bank employees which had generated a cabinet crisis as early as in 1954 resulting in the Labour Minister Late Sri V. V. Giri to resign as a protest against the decision of the Cabinet. This was not a thing of the past. Recently in 1979 faced with a split

among the ranks of its own ministers the Central Government had to bring about a quietus to the determined struggle of the bankmen by even giving up its own proclaimed policies—wage freeze and Bhoothalingam Recommendations.

I would not be misunderstood when I say that it is the militant struggle of bankmen which witnessed the Bhoothalingam Report being buried fathoms deep, when others did not even venture to resist it.

It was not a question of more economic advancement which goaded AIBEA and its bankmen in their struggles. Perceiving the working class and their organisation AITUC, the Bank employees had well realised the need for equipping themselves ideologically to sustain their movement and their organisation. The bank employees can legitimately feel proud that their ideological struggles carried on consistently resulted in the ultimate nationalisation of the industry. The working class which witnessed the Bank Employees organising themselves only during the Silver Jubilee years of its movement found the bank employees offering their mightiest contributions to the Nation through nationalisation of the industry within its golden jubilee years. Conscious of the role which as part of the working class we have to play, we in AIBEA did not rest on our oars after achieving nationalisation of Banking Industry. Our struggles for a proper follow up measures and credit policies are widely known. As a sequel to these struggles the ruling classes have been forced to regulate through norms the misuse and abuse of credit to monopolies and Industries and an awareness has been inculcated to oversee the end use of bank finance through supervised credit.

Even while carrying on these tasks we consciously live up to the exhortations of AITUC, for identification with the general movement of the working people and for forging tremendous rapport with the peasantry and agricultural labour. It will be of immense interest to you all to know that in the very state where this diamond jubilee celebrations of AITUC are being held the bank employees in shoulder to shoulder with the peasantry carried on a determined struggle to alleviate their sufferings.

Measured up in any manner the movement of bank employees inspired and organised by the militant struggles of the working people under the banner of AITUC measures up to its expectations on all counts.

Representing these bankmen of the country and their militant organisation All India Bank Employees Association I am before you to offer our respects, our gratitude and express our sense of satisfaction and joy on this happy occasion.

I avail this opportunity to aver with all humility that inspired by the perspectives placed by this conference before the working people we will ever remain ready to move hand in hand with the entire working people for carrying on relentless and determined struggles for attainment of these objectives. This is our foremost task and our pledge.

And to mark this memorable occasion we offer this small memento as a cherished offering by the taught to their teacher.

VISAKHAPATNAM,
Dt. 29-10-1980.

PRABHAT KAR
General Secretary.



**SPEECHES OF FRATERNAL
DELEGATES FROM ABROAD**

ANZELMO TO RIFORMARE
L'ISTITUTO DI STUDI
CLAUDIO MONTEGALDI

IBRAHIM ZAKARIA

Acting General Secretary, World Federation of Trade Unions
(WFTU)

Please allow me, at the outset, to convey to you our sincere thanks for the invitation to participate in the 31st session of the AITUC and to transmit to your congress the fraternal greetings and good wishes on behalf of the 190 million organised workers from all continents and social systems united under the banner of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

The WFTU delegation is especially happy to be present here since your congress session coincides with the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the first national trade union centre in India, the All India Trade Union Congress, a founder affiliate of the WFTU.

This year is indeed a year of important anniversaries. Early this month, on 3 October 1980, we observed the 35th anniversary of the foundation of the WFTU. The struggles and sacrifices of the world's workers, the unity that was forged in the grim battle against fascism, the triumph of this unity over the fascists and the determination to build a new world in peace and for human happiness, holding high the banner of international solidarity, led to the formation of the WFTU.

We recall such milestones in mankind's march towards social progress when we gather here on the eve of the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the AITUC—an event of great significance not only for India, but for the entire world trade union movement. The birth of the AITUC signified the emergence of workers and trade unions in India as an organised force, not only to fight for their class interests but to participate actively in the national liberation movement. The triumph of this national liberation movement, liquidating colo-

nialism and national oppression, has changed the face of the world.

The organised involvement of the workers and trade unions in the national liberation movement had a specific impact on the broad social aims of the struggle for national independence. As the Indian experience showed, this helped clarify political and economic demands of the freedom movement and also promoted concepts of international solidarity—the solidarity of all oppressed nations and peoples against imperialism and colonialism. This was seen at the foundation congress of the AITUC itself, when the keynote speech acclaimed the October revolution in Russia and regarded this revolution of workers and peasants as an ally in the struggle against imperialism. The founders of the AITUC proclaimed a perspective of socialist development of free India, they believed that the future of India and the world lies in socialism.

The last sixty years—and in particular, the post-independence period—registered a most impressive growth of the Indian trade union movement. The AITUC was in the forefront of workers' struggles to assert their right to organise, to improve their working and living conditions, to fight for progressive labour laws and labour standards, and to unite and act with all democratic forces for radical land reforms, industrialisation and modernisation of the economy and planned development in the interests of the workers and peoples. The AITUC has always emphasised the need to promote united action on all vital questions affecting the workers' interests. This policy of the AITUC was successful in achieving large scale mobilisation of workers at the industrial and national levels on several important issues and in achieving important gains through united struggles.

As a founder member of the WFTU, the AITUC has made tremendous contributions to the growth of international trade union united action and solidarity and to the growth of the WFTU itself. Comrade Dange, vice-president of the WFTU for over thirty years, and other leaders of the AITUC, have been active participants and builders of our world trade union movement.

The 31st session of the WFTU general council which marked the 35th anniversary of the WFTU and the 31st session

of the AITUC which marks its 60th anniversary have both broadly identified themes to discuss—above all, the theme of unity and united action to formulate and enforce democratic alternative strategies of economic and social development, united action to safeguard peace and security of the peoples, to improve working and living conditions and to defend trade union rights.

Even the enemies of the trade union movement will concede that the most clear-sighted organised democratic force campaigning for democratic development strategies has been the trade union movement. Many of the demands first raised by the AITUC on its platform and in its reports now find broad public support and merit mention in official development policies. These include the need to curb foreign capital and the monopolies, democratic land reforms, the creation and extension of a state sector of the economy and foreign trade, state trading in foodgrains, the creation of a public distribution system, nationalisation of oil, coal and other energy sectors, nationalisation of banks, etc. The trade unions of the AITUC were among the first to call for mutually beneficial trade and economic relations with the socialist countries and developing nations—a policy orientation which has paid ample returns to the Indian economy.

This has to be emphasised at this moment especially since the trade union movement at the national and international level is subjected to an ideological bombardment by the imperialist and neo-colonialist mass media.

The crisis of capitalism is getting worse. The capitalist ruling circles are unable to indicate a way out of this crisis and its consequences, above all the growing unemployment and misery for millions. In such a situation, the capitalists are making frantic efforts to confuse and disorient world public opinion. That includes the high pressure propaganda to deny that a non-capitalist path of development has been proved as a most successful radical and positive alternative.

The imperialist and neocolonialist mass media spends vast amounts to propagate that countries which do not allow capitalists to own factories and which have social ownership of

the means of production have failed in their social and economic tasks. But they cannot find mass unemployment in socialist countries. One third of world's industry is now in those countries and they are maintaining a steady rate of growth. Whatever difficulties they have to overcome in solving the problems of development, they seek to resolve by involving the workers and trade unions in all aspects of planning, production and distribution of incomes.

The capitalist mass media argues that to build a state sector of industry is to deny democracy and deny human rights. This is their basic complaint against the socialist countries. But, as the workers and trade unions in India see it from their everyday experience, there is a broadly similar campaign against the state sector in this country as well, by the private sector monopolists whose aim is to discredit, destroy or devour the public sector undertakings.

The workers of Vishakapatnam know that the big state sector shipyard here has only built ships and created jobs to build ships and has not destroyed anybody's human rights and democratic liberties. As in the case of this shipyard, and other public sector enterprises in this city, India's state sector, despite all its weaknesses and inadequacies, has helped to create a base for heavy and basic industries in India. State investments in irrigation and state sector assistance to agriculture and its inputs helped India to become self-sufficient in food-grains. State investments in education and scientific research created in India the third largest stock of scientific and technical manpower in the world. The AITUC has, therefore, rightly demanded not only the consolidation of the state sector and democratic control over its management with the participation of the trade unions but the extension of the state sector into all vital fields, as a priority task to strengthen planned development and overcome the huge social problems.

As you are aware, the recent meetings and conferences organised by the WFTU paid special attention to the problems of struggle against unemployment and for the right to work, for development and for a new international economic order. It was emphasised that jobs, wages and economic development

are closely linked with the struggle against the arms race and the aggressive moves of imperialism against the countries seeking to assert their national sovereignty and economic independence. The arms race eats up over one million dollars a minute, that is, over 450 million rupees every hour. Such a colossal wastage of the world's resources must be diverted to real needs of economic development and invested to create new jobs and for the effective utilisation of the advance of science and technology to overcome the mass poverty which exists in several regions of the world—especially in Asia, Africa and Latin America. It is in this background that the WFTU has called for further strengthening international solidarity of workers and trade unions in developing countries, developed capitalist countries and socialist countries for the development of a new international economic order.

The recent session of the general council of the WFTU expressed its active solidarity with the workers and peoples of Asia and Africa and in their struggle to keep the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and economic cooperation. Imperialist ruling circles have ganged up with the rulers of China. This unholy alliance is intervening in a blatant fashion in the internal affairs of several countries in this region. Chinese rulers are committing new acts of aggression against Vietnam. The popular government of Kampuchea is denied its legitimate place in the UN because of the manoeuvres of imperialism and reactionary forces. Despite their obvious failure to reverse the revolutionary process in Afghanistan, the imperialists and the Chinese rulers continue their undeclared war against that country. US imperialist troops continue to occupy South Korea, keeping that country divided against the aspirations of the Korean workers and people. These interventionist policies of the US and other imperialist powers have only one aim—to safeguard the economic hegemony of the transnational corporations, to boost the super profits of these monopolies by perpetuating the plunder of the resources of the developing countries.

The world trade union conference on development held in Belgrade in April 1980 called for democratic development strategies and for an end to the unequal economic relations imposed

by the transnational corporations. The WFTU hopes that central trade union organisations in India which participated in the Belgrade conference will make further contributions to the development of world trade union united action on these vital issues.

In conclusion, let me, on behalf of the WFTU, congratulate you most heartily on the 60th anniversary of the AITUC. We are confident that this 31st session of the AITUC will give a clear direction to the growing united actions of the workers and trade unions in India and promote unity. We wish you all success in your work and we assure you of our continued complete solidarity.

**LONG LIVE THE AITUC—THE PIONEER OF THE
INDIAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT!**

**LONG LIVE THE UNITY AND SOLIDARITY OF
WORKERS AND TRADE UNIONS THE WORLD OVER!**

**V. F. BOGATIKOV, SECRETARY, ALL-UNION CENTRAL
COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS, AUCCTU, MOSCOW**

Permit me, on behalf of the All Union Central Council of Trade Unions, on behalf of all Soviet working people, to convey to you heartfelt fraternal greetings and to wish you success in the work of your organisation's jubilee conference.

I would also like to express our warm gratitude to the All India Trade Union Congress for its kind invitation to this conference which we regard as a manifestation of feelings of friendship for all working people of the Soviet Union, for the whole people of my country, and also to thank you for the cordial welcome accorded to our delegation.

It was with gratification that the AUCCTU accepted this invitation and it sincerely hopes that our visit will facilitate further development and consolidation of fraternal ties between the working people and trade unions of our countries.

Your organisation—the All India Trade Union Congress—was founded exactly sixty years ago. Many pages in the an-

nals of struggle by the Indian working class for national liberation, for its economic and political interests are connected with its name.

The AUCCTU has always stood persistently and consistently for the unity and cohesion of the Indian labour movement which is a most important force for the present and future victories of the working people. The whole experience of the world trade union and labour movement shows that strength of the workers lies in their unity and solidarity.

We note with a feeling of deep gratification that firm friendly relations have existed between the workers and peoples of the Soviet Union and India. Our economic, political and cultural ties are strengthening and developing. The Soviet Union readily shares its experience of developing industry and agriculture, construction and transport, its experience in the field of education and training of engineers and technicians. With the assistance of the Soviet Union, over 70 industrial projects are being built in India and among them there are such gigantic steel plants as Bhilai and Bokaro, big engineering plants and power stations. Trade between our countries is developing on a mutually advantageous basis.

The growing friendship between the peoples of the Soviet Union and India coincides with the vital interests of our countries. It is an example of good neighbourly relations also for the peoples of other countries, and exerts a beneficial influence on the improvement of the international situation and serves the strengthening of peace in the whole world.

The treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation concluded by our countries in 1971 is of great importance to our countries. It has made an international and lawful basis for the development of relations between the USSR and India and has opened new perspectives for strengthening these relations. The Soviet people attach great importance to the development of friendship and cooperation with India.

As was stated at the 25th session of the CPSU by the general secretary of the central committee of the CPSU, and president of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, L. I. Brezhnev, "close political and economic cooperation with the Republic

of India is our constant policy. Soviet people appreciate and, more, are in solidarity with India's peace-loving foreign policy and the courageous efforts of her progressive forces to solve the country's difficult socio-economic problems".

Guided by the spirit of proletarian internationalism, Soviet trade unions strive in every way to expand and strengthen, on a class basis, fraternal ties with the working people of other countries, with all trade unions, irrespective of their orientation and affiliation to international organisations.

The AUCCTU has friendly relations with trade unions of 130 countries, including those of Asian countries. As far as India is concerned, we have friendly relations both with the AITUC and other trade union organisations. We will continue our efforts to further widen and strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between trade unions of the USSR and India.

The Soviet people, under the experienced guidance of the communist party of the Soviet Union, have achieved significant political and socio-economic successes. These historical achievements were legislatively enshrined in the new constitution of the USSR, the constitution of a state of developed socialism. On 7 October 1980, the third anniversary of the adoption of this constitution was celebrated by the entire working people of the Soviet Union. Reflected in concentrated form it statutorily enforced the major economic and socio-political successes achieved by the Soviet people under the guidance of the communist party.

The distinctive feature of this constitution is that it not only proclaims, but also guarantees, the rights and liberties of the working people. The right to work, to education, to maintenance in old age, to housing, etc. No such guarantees are to be found in any of the constitutions of the capitalist countries.

The Soviet working people do not know what unemployment is. This calamity that constantly plagues millions of wage and salary earners in capitalist countries,

During the years of the 10th five-year plan, more than 50 million working people in my country have got new apart-

ments. Hundreds of new hospitals, schools and cultural institutions have been constructed. Nearly 35 million people received increases in their wages, pensions and stipends. The state social insurance budget, which is managed by the trade unions, finances the rest and treatment of more than 20 million working people and their children annually. Other measures of a social nature are also being carried out.

The trade unions of the USSR play a big role in the development and extending of socialist democracy. The strength of Soviet trade unions rests in their mass nature. There are now 128 million people united in our trade unions, described by V. I. Lenin as "a school of economic management", "a school of communism". Millions of working people have passed and are passing through this school. Through primary trade union organisations, through the standing production conferences and other public bodies, the trade unions draw working people into the practical management of the affairs of production and society. The focus of attention in any trade union organisation of the USSR is man. This was emphasised particularly in the speech of L. I. Brezhnev at a recently ended plenary meeting of the central committee of the CPSU, where he stated that "Careful attention towards a man, must go through the style of work of the party, the Soviets, economic bodies and, of course, the trade unions".

The role of trade unions in the economic, political, social and cultural life of the country grows immeasurably in the present conditions and for this reason the new constitution of the USSR expanded their rights considerably. It put on record their right to participate in the solution of political, economic, social and cultural questions, to facilitate the further development of the initiative of the working people and the all-round development of the individual.

In conditions of socialism, the independence of trade unions merges with the consciousness and sense of responsibility of every trade union member as a builder of the new society. For this reason, the trade unions do not counterpose themselves to the society and do not play the role of an opposition in respect of the socialist system, this being in contrast to the situation in conditions of capitalism.

Under the constitution of the USSR, the trade unions have the right to effect state supervision over the implementation of legislations on labour protection, over the state of labour safety and production sanitation.

Such key questions as the level of wages, and duration of the working day, are settled with the active participation of the trade unions. Without the preliminary consent of trade unions, the management cannot dismiss an industrial or office worker, cannot distribute material, incentives, and the funds of socio-cultural activities and housing construction, nor determine the quantum of bonuses or introduce overtime work. The trade union committee has the right to raise the question of punishing or relieving of his post a member of the management who violates labour legislation.

We are now preparing for the 26th congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, due to open on 23 February 1981. In connection with these preparations, the trade unions are still further expanding socialist emulation in honour of the congress, and setting before the Soviet working people the solution of the most important tasks of economic and cultural development, the successful completion of the plan for 1980 and the 10th Five-year plan as a whole, and the creation of a firm foundation for new accomplishments in the 11th five-year plan.

The 31st session of the general council of the World Federation of Trade Unions ended in Moscow early in October. It coincided with the 35th anniversary of the WFTU, which was observed widely by the international workers' and trade union movement. Having taken an active part in the creation of the WFTU in 1945, the All India Trade Union Congress has been its constant member and is taking the most active participation in its work.

The general council of the WFTU studied a wide spectrum of problems of the international trade union movement, topical questions of practical struggle in the interests of the working people, for peace, democracy and social progress.

The mounting will to defend national sovereignty by the peoples who have thrown off the fetters of colonial slavery and

are dreaming of a bright and happy future, and their striving for peace and peaceful cooperation, constitute a characteristic feature of the present day political life in the vast continent of Asia.

But this lawful striving is obviously not to the liking of those who are harbouring expansionist plans and are eager to restore their lost positions or to win new ones. The resurgence of forces hostile to the cause of peace and freedom can be seen in a number of areas in Asia.

At the present juncture, it is important for all anti-imperialist forces to rally closely together in order to repulse the intrigues of reaction and to prevent the imperialist policy of "from positions of strength" of scuttling the policy of detente.

The cooperation between the USSR and independent states on the continent, including India, has become an important factor of peace and stability.

Coming out jointly against the threat of war, for detente and disarmament, for a just and equal relations between states, the USSR and India are making their contribution for the attainment of mankind's age-old ideals.

It is with understanding and approval that the Soviet working people respond to India's constructive efforts to turn the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace in the interests of normalisation in South Asia and the establishment there of relations of genuine good neighbourliness and cooperation.

In their international activities, the Soviet trade unions strive to facilitate in every way the cause of strengthening and developing cooperation between the workers and trade unions of all countries, to facilitate the growth and consolidation of the fraternal solidarity of all men of labour, the process of cohesion of all detachments of the working class in the struggle against imperialism, for the bright future of the whole of mankind.

Permit me, in conclusion, to again wish your conference a successful completion of its work. We wholeheartedly wish the working people of India, the All India Trade Union Congress, successes in the struggle for economic and social progress, for peace, friendship and international cooperation.

We express our confidence that the relations of fraternal friendship and all-round cooperation between the Soviet and Indian trade unions will further strengthen and expand for the good of the working people of the USSR and India, in the interests of peace in Asia and in the whole world.

FAZAL AHMED CHAKHANSORY

Member, Central Council of Trade Unions of Afghanistan

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends and Comrades,

I express sincere thanks to All India Trade Unions Congress who have made this august gathering possible. I am especially pleased to take the opportunity to forward some information about developments in heroic and revolutionary Afghanistan of the present epoch, the time of sharpening class struggle the world over and the time of victory of forces of peace and progress over the forces of war, adventurism, and reaction.

In view of the long historic relations of cultural and traditional interests existing between the two nations of Afghanistan and India, these relations have cemented our bonds so closely that I am sure that there is nothing that remains unknown to our dear Indian friends about revolutionary Afghanistan. Nevertheless it is important that a concise account of trade union and syndicate activities, ups and downs in the national democratic movement of Afghanistan, conspiracies of imperialism and internal, regional and world reaction be forwarded to the esteemed representatives of workers and toiling masses of Indian Sub-continent and the representatives of other countries of the world present in this splendid meeting.

It was in 1875 that the initial nuclei of industry in our ancient country in the fields of printing, cannon manufacturing powder making and gunnary were created. Unfortunately industry in Afghanistan instead of growing was forced to degeneration, the cause of which was the aggressive and predatory policy of imperialist Britain. This state of affairs continued until 1919.

With the advent of victorious great October revolution in 1917 and the establishment of the first socialist state close to the frontier of Afghanistan the chief factor of peoples enlightenment and especially of the people of Afghanistan came into being. Hence, in 1919 the people of Afghanistan drawing inspiration from the here is struggle of the people of the land of Soviets and depending on national pride as well as on eternal might of the toiling masses of our country rose against the aggressive forces of colonialist Britain, and dealt the first stunning blows to the British imperialism in the region. Once again the ground was paved for revival of industry in the country. But the enemies of oppressed peoples as history has shown in one way or another, constant with their hostile characteristics encroach upon the rights and progress of the people. Again this time the colonialist Britain enemy number one of the oppressed people of Afghanistan, because of its perfidious policy in the region conspired to exploit the beliefs of the people of Afghanistan under the name of Islam, by installing a thief on the throne, prepared the ground for bringing into power its lackeys, thereby, stunting the growth of industry once again. The unfortunate state of industry continued as such until 1954.

Since the march of history and society's evolution is an objective reality, no reactionary power is able to hinder growth for too long; the efforts of working people's enemies, particularly in this era cannot produce the kind of results expected by them.

Dear Friends,

At this time I would like to invite your attention to one of the realities pertaining to the workers movement in my country, that is, when the colonialist Britain suffered a gross defeat in Afghanistan and its colonial dictatorship was impossible to be maintained in the region, and on the other hand on the arena of capitalist competition it was losing to its mighty rival the U.S. Imperialism. This new world devouring imperialism set about to suppress not only the Afghan people but peoples of all developing countries.

King Zaher with the help of Americans and under the directions of Britain made great efforts to prevent the Afghan people from becoming organized, thereby stunting the growth of industries. But the conditions are changed and three important fronts in the struggle against world imperialism have been growing stronger every-day. Afghanistan too, because of its organic links with world revolutionary movements and sharing a common border with the land of Soviets comes under positive efforts, of the new developments whereupon, King Zaher cannot stop the progressive movement in the country, thus, becomes obliged to permit creation of industries and scientific planning system in the country. Now 90 percent of the industries especially heavy industries belong to the government.

The largest industry in the country is the Gulbahar Textile Factory which employs about 8000 workers. The next large industry which is unique in its kind in the region is the Ainak Copper Industry, that will be launched during the present five year plan. At the same time road building, housing, dams, agricultural, oil and gas industry and other projects have been commissioned with the help of peace loving and progressive countries especially the USSR true friend of the oppressed peoples of the world consistent with advice of great Lenin the sincere friend of the Afghan people.

Meanwhile, in 1965 the political organization of the working class liberation movement becomes organized and in the first session of its congress its scientifically arranged charter is forwarded to the people of Afghanistan. It is under the leadership of the movement that the first May day of solidarity of the workers of the world was celebrated in Afghanistan in 1967, and in the year 1969 this day was celebrated in broader dimensions by the workers and all toiling masses of Afghanistan.

The working class movement is headed by the Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan, whose main and basic objective is enlightenment of the people, awakening the toiling masses and organizing their activities. For this humanistic cause, "Porcham" second publishing organ of the Party has played the best role. The newspaper at the same time published Babrak Karmal's speeches and elucidates the necessity

of creating Trade Unions as the priority need of the times for reaching the ultimate goal. All speeches of Babrak Karmal and the entire publications of the workers movement, are imbued with lofty cause of working class movement.

From 1971 to 1975 during rallies and demonstrations the leading role of the workers and the toiling masses became more and more evident, strengthening the ranks by joining conscious elements in great numbers in the process on the initiatives of Babrak Karmal the countrywide conference of the Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan was convened. Among the pressing subjects to be discussed the establishment of social organizations first of all Trade Unions were put on the agenda, and then approved. In view of the circumstances the trade unions were made active under titles of cooperative funds in the majority of governmental and non-governmental establishments. At the same time the reactionary forces within the country and outside did not remain idle at these activities. These forces set about to stifle the movement. Due to these reasons our Trade Unions had to operate underground, sometimes a little more openly.

Imperialism and internal reaction in their endeavours to blunt the liberation activities of Afghanistan resorted to conspiratorial actions. That is during the weakness of King Zahir's reign Dawood was charged with the function to assist their imperialist overlords. The latter by using the new tactics of imperialism to the effect that "say left and do right and with the forces of left suppress the leftists", launched a coup in the country with the assistance of progressive elements in the army. Unfortunately after seizing power he began to repress progressive forces with the aid of hired leftist looking intellectuals. When he was about to implement his sinister reactionary plans, the April Revolution under the leadership of the Peoples Democratic Party was victoriously launched.

The April 1978 revolution in view of its class character found wide support among the nations and Democratic forces of the country. The masses of workers and revolutionary intellectuals manifested their support of the revolution by rallying and holding demonstrations.

Trade Unions came out openly in their struggle for the defence of Revolution. Unfortunately this state of affairs did not continue for long. This is because of the existence of sordid, reactionary elements in the party. Inexperience of Trade Union movement and lack of time for purging of these elements the imperialist conspiracies by Black Bands were launched within the party. The leadership of the Trade Union were fired and then imprisoned. Thousands of Trade Union cadres were slaughtered.

However, despite the reign of terror and inspite of peoples illiteracy the righteous struggle of the people of Afghanistan for freedom, democracy and peace continued which culminated in the victorious uprising of December 1979 which is rightly known as the stage of salvation of revolution, people and the country. The urgent tasks before the government and the Democratic national forces at this stage are to defend the revolution, wipe out enemies, increase productivity, combat illiteracy and recognizing the elementary trade unions institutions. Because of the effective whole-hearted efforts of the party and the government the activities of the Trade Unions and its related institutions are rapidly developing.

The convening of the first and second plenary meetings of Trade Unions bear testimony to this fact. In this process the central council of Trade Unions were created and thereafter the city and provincial councils were organized. Meanwhile, it is gratifying to note that the Trade Unions of Afghanistan has been accepted as an equal member of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

Friends and Comrades,

After the triumph of the new evolutionary phase of April revolution the enemies of oppressed peoples that is the U.S. savage imperialism in collusion with Peking renegade chauvinists, regional and Arab reaction through the use of internal counter-revolutionary elements intensified their intrigues and provocations against revolutionary and heroic Afghanistan. These provocations are intensified at a time when the oppressed people of Iran succeeded in their revolutionary strug-

gle, and the US Imperialism lost its interests in this country. This impelled U.S. Imperialism to bring into power its own puppets in order to preserve its imperialistic interests in the Gulf and Indian ocean region. To realize their plans they had pinned their hopes on Hafizullah Amin. But with the advent of victorious December 1979 uprising these hopes were completely dashed, which inflamed a fire in the heart of Carter and his ilk. Thus, they cried for the people of Afghanistan, shedding crocodile tears for our people and began to defend Islam.

This very number one enemy of muslims of Palestine, incinerator of muslims Kaba in Jerusalem, the enemy of Islamic republic and people of Iran, poses as the friend of Islam in this part of the world. Is it not absurd!

This is clear to all and does not require any explanation.

Oh workers of the world! Wherever you are! Please note that our enemy is one, using the same old weapons in different colours and styles, whipping up language, racial, religious and local differences among people of the world. Therefore, to succeed over the common enemy the unity of the progressive and patriotic forces and all working people of the world is an earnest of our time. Hence, I would like to repeat the appeal contained in the message of the Central Council of the Afghanistan's Trade Unions "the rallying of all workers and anti-imperialist forces to form a united front against the common enemy".

By using the opportunity I repeat the appeal on behalf of the Trade Unions of Afghanistan and accordingly propose the creation of a coordinating committee for the unity of action of all workers and anti-imperialist forces in the region.

This is a vital imperative of our time. Because the forces of war and imperialistic intrigues and provocations have intensified their actions in this part of the world, threatening peace in the region and preparing conditions for great armed conflicts. The imperialist and reactionary forces whip up cold war in the region under the pretext of Islam and sometimes the concocted Soviet threat. It is the duty of toiling masses of Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and India to take up the first

steps in this direction. Consistent with the initiative of the government of Afghanistan addressed to governments of Iran and Pakistan for peaceful solution of related questions, the Trade Unions of Afghanistan based on their humanistic, patriotic sentiments sent similar messages to trade unions of the said countries urging them to encourage their government to give favourable response to Afghani Government's request.

The foregoing have been intended to convey some facts about Afghanistan's revolution and the Trade Union activities for increased productivity, building of the country and most important of all securing peace, progress and social justice.

At the end on instructions from Central Council of Afghanistan's Trade Unions I feel obligated to thank sincerely all the esteemed members of All India Trade Unions and the great peace loving honourable Indian People for their right support of the Afghan peoples revolution particularly the revolution's evolutionary phase.

Long live the toiling masses of the world!

Long live the eternal solidarity of the workers of the world!

Long live peace, democracy and social justice!

NUR-UR-ISLAM

Vice-President, Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra, Dacca.

On behalf of the Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra and the working class of Bangladesh, I convey to you warm greetings on this important occasion. It is indeed a great pleasure for me to be one of the participants at the 31st session of the All India Trade Union Congress and in sharing the celebration of the diamond jubilee year of your organisation. I congratulate you and your organisation on the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the AITUC, the class organisation of the Indian working people.

The working class of Bangladesh and BTUK have great respect for the AITUC. We know the glorious past of your organisation, how you have carried on a long struggle against the exploitation of the monopolies and multi-national corporations

for the emancipation of the working class of your great country.

You will all, I am sure, recall the year 1971. When the Pakistani military junta committed genocide in Bangladesh to suppress the cause of our liberation struggle then the working class and the progressive people of India came forward to help us with all possible assistance. I cannot but take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to you all for the help and solidarity given to us at that time.

Now, may I take this opportunity to tell you something about the present situation of our trade union movement in Bangladesh.

The main industries are yet under the nationalised sector. The present government, however, has already enacted new laws to disinvest the nationalised industries and by now a good number of these industries have been handed over to the private sector.

The present regime is cordially inviting the multinational corporations to come and invest in Bangladesh. This way the present government has surrendered the cause of national interest and betrayed the cause of our liberation movement. The present rulers, under cover of so-called army democracy, are trying to push back the progressive forces of our country, to stop the course of our progress which we had achieved through our own struggles. Indeed, we had little chance to function in a democratic atmosphere, but the working class of Bangladesh are practical and seasoned enough to launch a trade union movement for democratic rights and economic demands, even under the martial law regime.

Both the past and the present governments of Bangladesh had announced a minimum wage for the workers in the public sector industries only, but there is no fixed minimum wage for the workers in the private sector. So, as a matter of fact, employers are getting the opportunity of surplus manpower and of depriving the workers of reasonable wages and living conditions. The workers of the nationalised industries are better paid than those in the private sector.

There are now ten national trade union federations in our country. Just a year ago, with the exception of the govern-

steps in this direction. Consistent with the initiative of the government of Afghanistan addressed to governments of Iran and Pakistan for peaceful solution of related questions, the Trade Unions of Afghanistan based on their humanistic, patriotic sentiments sent similar messages to trade unions of the said countries urging them to encourage their government to give favourable response to Afghani Government's request.

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PETER BRAYKOV

Secretary, Central Council of Bulgarian Trade Unions, Sofia

On behalf of the central council of trade unions and of four million working people in the People's Republic of Bulgaria, allow me to greet you, the delegates at this 31st session of the All India Trade Union Congress, and through you, all the working people in your ancient and beautiful country, and to wish you a successful conference.

The workers, peasants and all the people from the country of the great son of Bulgaria, Georgi Dimitrov, have always cherished warm and friendly feelings towards the workers and people of India. They have followed with interest their struggle for national liberation, for peace, democracy and social progress. We assure you that they continue to uphold the traditions of great affection and friendship which unite our peoples, a telling proof of which was the recent visit of the President of India, Neelam Sanjiva Reddy to our country.

We are extremely happy that such a long friendly relations and cooperation exist between the central council of the Bulgarian trade unions and the AITUC, that grow deeper with every passing day.

The trade unions of Bulgaria have always held in high regard the activity of the AITUC which has been in the forefront of the world trade union movement for progress and struggles consistently for widening and strengthening the unity of action of working people from all countries in the world. In its long history of the past 60 years, it has defended with all its strength and consistently the vital interests and social gains of the Indian workers against the offensive of the multinational monopolies and reaction, for achieving trade union unity in India.

As a member of the World Federation of Trade Unions for many years, the AITUC actively contributes to the setting up of its authority, to implement the historical decisions of the ninth world congress in deeds, to promote its role as the most popular, class and democratic trade union organisation with international standing.

ment-controlled federation, the other nine federations formed an all-party action committee of the workers and employees with a minimum programme. The action committee has formulated a seven point programme which includes democratic rights and the fixing and raising of wages and dearness allowance.

Recently, this action committee held a conference of all the representatives of the workers and employees and came to an agreement to launch a bigger movement throughout the country. There was no labour policy in the country after our liberation. Two months ago, the present government announced a labour policy where the working class have achieved the right to strike.

The BTUK is holding its third national conference from 3-5 November 1980 and we are endeavouring to bring a new orientation of our trade union movement and for the realisation of our working class demands but, so long as the capitalist system is there, the working class cannot bring about a change of the society as they desire.

So, this time, we have circulated in advance a document to all trade unions, irrespective of their affiliation, in order to bring about a decision in a scientific way for our struggle. We hope we shall be able to go forward with the programme of struggle which we are sure to adopt at our conference. But, comrades, we do not underrate the reactionary forces within, and outside our country. The imperialists and their present allies, China and the petro-dollar countries, are trying all the time to push back our struggle and our country as well. Their conspiracy continues all the time and of late the Sino-American-Saudi Arab'an conspiracy has become a great danger for our social progress, peace and freedom. We are, however, confident that we shall beat them back.

Finally, I wish your 31st session great success.

LONG LIVE THE AITUC!

LONG LIVE INDO-BANGLADESH FRIENDSHIP!

LONG LIVE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY OF THE WORKING CLASS OF THE WORLD!

versary of the international assembly of children, 'banner of peace' was celebrated, where children from India also took part.

The 'round table' of trade unions on the problems of detente, conversion and disarmament was held in Sofia in the framework of the world parliament of the peoples for peace. The idea to hold a world trade union conference upon the economic and social aspects of disarmament was approved and supported at this meeting.

Your congress is being held in a complicated situation of increasing international tension, as a result of the activities of the imperialist policy of violence, confrontation and hegemony, of an arms race, of interference in the internal affairs of other countries and arousing new conflicts. That is why it is more important than ever to consolidate the unity of the trade unions in the struggle for peace, for disarmament, against the arms race and settlement of American nuclear weapons in West Europe and in various parts of the world, against Chinese hegemony, and for turning the Indian Ocean and the Persian gulf area into zones of peace and security.

Our common international duty is to enlarge and consolidate our solidarity with the peoples of As'ia, Africa and Latin America, who are waging struggles for liberty, national independence and social progress.

We give wholehearted support to the Afghan revolution and the struggle of the Palestinian people for the establishment of their own independent state. We are against all kinds of violence and forced settlement of tension in the world.

We are confident that the relations and cooperation between our two trade unions will deepen in the future in the interest of the peoples of our countries, for peace, democracy and social progress.

We believe firmly that only through unity, the decisions that will be taken at this 31st session of the AITUC will be realised, and decisions taken in the interest of the working people, for peace in this region of the world and for social progress.

Finally, allow me to present this portrait with the image of our great teacher and leader of the international communist and working class movement, Georgi Dimitrov on behalf of

I take this opportunity to greet Comrade Dange most sincerely on being decorated with a jubilee medal on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the WFTU, for his long years of service and personal contribution as a vice-president of the WFTU.

The working people and all people of Bulgaria are working hard for the successful fulfilment of the seventh five year plan, for improving the quality and efficiency in production, for implementation of the promise of the working people to produce 1 milliard and 100 million levas national income ratified in the plan.

We are about to hold the 12th congress of the party befittingly, and in 1981 will be celebrating the 1300 anniversary of the Bulgarian state.

In comparison with pre-war 1939, the volume of the total industrial production has increased 71 times by the year 1971, and the volume of agricultural production 13 times, building production 11 times. The per capita national income is seven times higher in comparison to that of the year 1939.

These remarkable successes in the construction of socialism have been attained due to the inspired, creative labour of our people, and due to the fraternal friendship and mutual cooperation among the socialist countries and in the first place to the fraternal and gratuitous help of the great Soviet Union.

The trade unions of Bulgaria have a great deal to do with socialist construction. The trade unions, cradled in the ideas of proletarian internationalism and faithful to the legacy of Georgi Dimitrov, the great son of Bulgaria, carry on sustained and varied activities. They make their contribution to strengthening and bringing about unity in the international working class and trade union movement. Our country has been the centre of important international conferences. The world parliament of the peoples for peace was held in September this year in our country. The president of the world council of peace, Romesh Chandra, called our capital, Sofia, "a city of peace". More than 2000 delegates from 100 countries and more, once again confirmed their desire to live in peace, in a world without war and tension. At the same time, the anni-

have always been on the side of progressive forces in their struggle for full political, national and economic independence, for democracy and social progress. We have always been advocates of relationship based on the principle of full equality, sovereignty, and mutual advantage realised under peaceful conditions, in an atmosphere of confidence and understanding.

Therefore, we strongly condemn the manoeuvres of the reactionary forces of the world and, above all, of US imperialism continuously attempting to attack the liberated countries and to weaken their independence and sovereignty by the doctrine of the necessity to defend their so-called "vital" interests (even if the question is in areas remote by tens of thousands of kilometres). It is quite obvious that the imperialist forces do not appreciate the irreversible growth of the international trade union movement, the heroic victory of the peoples of Vietnam and Kampuchea, the victory of the revolution in Afghanistan, as well as the independent foreign policy of India. Therefore, they are endeavouring to stop this development by all possible means and, with their global strategy concept, exert pressure on their allies to renew military pacts in South East Asia and other areas of the world.

There is no other reason for the concentration of US warships in the Indian Ocean and in the Persian Gulf, the creation of an intervention corps in the USA, which is to participate in subversive activities against progressive countries in Asia, in the Near East and in Latin America. In these actions, bearing the impress of the cold war, they are openly assisted by the Chinese Maoist clique, which, by means of its hegemonist and chauvinist proposals, take side with the most reactionary circles of world imperialism. Its actions directed against the progressive forces are extremely dangerous due to the fact that they hide their objectives by wrapping them up with left-wing slogans. The latest documents from China show clearly that the Maoist leaders follow the path of betrayal of workers and progressive movements.

US imperialism has lately stated its threats to peace. Carter's directive No. 95 does not take the world away from the brink of a nuclear catastrophe but, on the contrary, brings

the central council of the Bulgarian trade unions. I wish you all ever greater successes in your life and work.

JIRINA VESELA

*Secretary, Central Council of Czechoslovak Trade Unions,
Prague*

At the outset, I would like to thank, most cordially, the All India Trade Union Congress for the invitation to take part in your 31st session. May I, on behalf of the central council of Czechoslovak trade unions, and on behalf of 7 million members of the revolutionary trade union movement and all working people of Czechoslovakia, convey sincere greetings and best wishes for the full success of your session.

We deem it an honour to be allowed to participate in this significant event held in the year of the 60th anniversary of the foundation of your organisation which is connected with our organisation with ties of sincere friendship and cooperation.

The working people of Czechoslovakia have always followed the developments in your country with great attention and we highly appreciate the determination and loyalty to the principles for which the AITUC has always stood, at the head of the great class struggles of your working people against all the intrigues of world imperialism and reaction. Instigating national and religious strife, these forces strive to reverse the progressive development of your country, to destroy the fraternal relations between your country and the bloc of socialist countries, and for bringing down the reputation and authority of India in the international arena. Therefore, we would like to express, once more, our complete solidarity with your struggle for the unity of workers and the trade union movement, for democracy and peace, for realising economic and social changes. Here, we also highly appreciate the active role played by the AITUC, founder member of the WFTU, in the international trade union movement.

The working people of Czechoslovakia, loyal to the principles of proletarian internationalism and trade union solidarity,

important milestone in the struggle of the Indian working people for a better future will contribute to further ensuring world peace, democracy and social progress.

Long Live the 31st Congress of the AITUC !

Long live and deepen the friendship and cooperation between the people of Czechoslovakia and India !

May the cooperation between the revolutionary trade union movement of Czechoslovakia and the AITUC grow stronger !

May the unity of the international workers' and trade union movement in the struggle for freedom, independence, social progress and peace grow stronger !

CHAN VANNY

*Secretary of the Organisation Deptt., Trade Union of
National Salvation of Kampuchea*

First of all, please permit me to express my deep and warm greetings on behalf of the central committee of Trade Unions for National Salvation of Kampuchea, to the All India Trade Union Congress for having invited our delegation to its 31st Congress. It is indeed of significance that this session is being held on the historic occasion of the 60th anniversary of the AITUC.

On behalf of the TUNSK and workers throughout the People's Republic of Kampuchea, I convey, with great pleasure, our warmest greetings and fraternal felicitations, to the AITUC and to all guests and delegates gathered at this session.

I would like to express here, the deep gratitude of the workers and people of Kampuchea to the Republic of India for recognising the People's Republic of Kampuchea. This decision has greatly encouraged our people on their irreversible course of building a peaceful, independent, democratic, neutral, non-aligned Kampuchea on socialist lines. The AITUC's recognition of the TUNSK illustrates vividly the firm and precious support given by the Indian workers and people to our people in their arduous struggle against US imperialism, Beijing expansionism and other reactionary forces, for safeguarding our revolution and for the legitimate representation of the People's Revolutionary Council at the United Nations and other international organisations. Our presence at this impor-

the world nearer to such a war. Washington has officially spoken about the possibility of a nuclear war although at a "limited" level. This only confirms the intention of US imperialism to aggravate tension and confrontation. We are of the firm opinion that all reasonable people must reject this dangerous policy since there is no alternative to the need to live in peace, to the invincibility of world peace. We declare our wholehearted support to all steps, and above all to the consistent peace policy of the USSR and other socialist countries and progressive forces, which would achieve an everlasting detente and a gradual disarmament.

Therefore, we are for the holding of a world trade union conference on social and economic aspects of disarmament. We welcome the initiative to hold a conference of the countries of Asia and Oceania which would undoubtedly give an impetus to the struggles of the nations in this area for their full political, national and economic independence and for an improvement of the living standards of their working people.

May I now mention contemporary topical tasks of the Czechoslovak trade union movement in brief. Our attention is, above all, concentrated on fulfilling our tasks arising from the conclusions and resolutions of the 9th All Union Congress for the realisation of the last year of the 6th five year plan and preparations for the 7th five year plan of economic and social development. During this period there has been tremendous development throughout our country. Through the initiative taken by our trade unions, the working people celebrated the 35th anniversary of the liberation of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Army from Nazi bondage and the 35th anniversary of the foundation of the revolutionary trade union movement.

By concrete results and creative work, we also celebrated the 35th anniversary of the foundation of the international class organisation, the World Federation of Trade Unions, of which our organisation is a founder and active member. By a number of solidarity actions, our working people helped the struggle of all nations for freedom and full independence, for democracy and social progress, as well as for peace all over the world.

We are confident that your congress which represents an

In respect of industry, more than 40 factories have been restored—textiles, mechanical repairing workshops, breweries, etc. Telecommunication, land, river and serial transport systems are functioning again. The river port of Phnom Penh and the maritime port of Kompong Som are now busy with boats of 4000 tonnes and 8000 tonnes plying to and fro.

In respect of economic reconstruction, one of the most important achievements has been putting into circulation our national currency since March 1980 throughout the country. This has contributed to the promotion of production and helped in stabilising the life of the people of all strata.

As for public health, many hospitals which had been destroyed or neglected have now been repaired, enlarged and put into operation. Phnom Penh now has three major hospitals and each province has its own polyclinic. Every district has been provided with at least one dispensary, and every village commune with a sanitary station and maternity home. In addition, there are mobile medical teams touring even to the remotest areas of the country and serving them. On 7 January 1979, only 69 doctors and assistant doctors survived out of the 683 recorded in 1975. By the end of 1979, however, the faculty of medicine and pharmacist education of Phnom Penh had been reopened with 726 students and the first batch of 17 doctors and pharmacists have graduated from it.

Under the Pol Pot regime, 50 per cent of the famous architectural monuments had been destroyed. Today, these historical relics, and especially the Angkor temples, have been restored and traditional cultural activities have been revived throughout the country.

Under the earlier sanguinary regime, schools had been closed down and turned into prisons, torture chambers and centres of massacre. Today, they have been restored and are filled with merry school children. More secondary schools and colleges will be opened in the coming school year.

The influence of the NUFSK has been steadily consolidated and expanded, and constitute a strong base of the people's power. The mass organisations, such as trade unions, have been formed. With this, for the first time, our working class

tant congress is a better opportunity for us to express our people's most heartfelt sentiments for all these noble gestures.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to inform you briefly about the situation in my country.

During the four years of their rule, from 1975 to 1979, the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique massacred nearly three million people, upset and destroyed virtually the whole foundation of Kampuchean society, reduced to nought the conditions of existence of the whole nation. The capital of Phnom Penh and all other cities and urban centres were turned into no-man's land, factories and workshops were totally destroyed. The circulation and distribution of all goods were at a standstill. Scientific establishments, schools, hospitals and historic monuments were destroyed, culture and national art abolished, Buddhism and all other religions banned, and pagodas and churches destroyed. The children of Kampuchea, who form 45 per cent of the population, were forced to work at their concentration camps, even at the age of seven. Women, most of all, were tortured and that has resulted in many of them becoming totally sterile.

Not only has the genocidal regime of Pol Pot-Ieng Sary set Kampuchea back by dozens of years in economic and cultural fields, but it has also inflicted on the Kampuchean people many physical and moral consequences which have to be borne for many generations to come.

Today, under the leadership of the NUFSK and the people's revolutionary council of Kampuchea, our workers and people, being the masters of the country and receiving fraternal assistance from Viet Nam, the Soviet Union and other friendly countries, including India, as well as peace and justice loving people and international organisations, have overcome all obstacles and difficulties to rebuild the country and have achieved initial important success in all fields.

To restore agricultural production, millions of farm tools have been produced and the phosphate fertiliser plant has been put into operation. The irrigation system has been restored. During the last monsoon, 1.4 million hectares of rice and more than 100,000 hectares of other food and commercial crops have been brought under cultivation.

have their own organisation whose aim is to help the working people throughout Kampuchea to understand their role as masters of the country, the new society, as well as their duties to protect their material and moral lives. Trade union schools have been opened and more than 1000 cadres in three phases have so far been trained. Thanks to this, the trade union movement in the country has been developing, and their ranks strengthening, with every passing day, thus contributing actively to the emulation movement in productive and political activities and in the improvement of the living conditions of the workers and employees. However, we still need to gather much more experience and material assistance to improve our work.

In the international arena, the prestige of the People's Republic of Kampuchea has grown considerably. Since 7 January, 1979, the Kampuchean people have definitely liquidated the sanguinary regime of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary-Khieu Samphan clique and set up throughout the country a new people's administration led by the people's revolutionary council, which effectively handles all the internal and external affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. The Kampuchean people maintain relations of fraternal cooperation with the Laotian and Vietnamese people in all fields, including that of national defence. For the Kampuchean people, masters of their own destiny, there is no "problem of Kampuchea", and therefore no solution is required.

The problem if any, is that of threat to our independence and security from the Beijing hegemonists who, in collusion with other reactionary forces, are trying their utmost from Thai territory to regroup, resupply and rearm the Pol Pot bandits and other Khmer reactionaries so as to re-introduce them into Kampuchea to carry out bandit and sabotage operations.

The problem is just that of the aggravating tension at the Kampuchean-Thailand border which is harmful to the interests of the two countries and the cause of peace and stability in Asia. In search of a correct solution, the People's Republic of Kampuchea put forward at the ministerial conference in

Vientiane in July 1980 its four-point proposal that was widely welcomed by world public opinion.

After 20 months under the administration of the people's revolutionary council, the results achieved in the liquidation of the heritage left behind by the genocidal regime of Pol Pot-Ieng Sary-Khieu Samphan, have provided tangible proof of the stability of this administration and of the unanimous support given to it by the people of Kampuchea. More than ever before, the situation in Kampuchea is irreversible. But the political corpse of the Pol Pot bandits still leans more and more on governments and international organisations which continue to support and recognise them. The people's revolutionary council of Kampuchea is, however, the sole, authentic and legal representative of the Kampuchean people. Any international conference on Kampuchea convened without the agreement of the people's revolutionary council, and any discussion on Kampuchea at the United Nations or at any international forum without the participation of the representative of the people's revolutionary council, would constitute a gross and unacceptable interference in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, and a violation of the principles of the UN charter and international law. All ensuing resolutions will be illegal, null and void.

That is why we consider the vote cast in 13 October 1980 which continues to allow Pol Pot and his clique to represent the Kampuchean people at the United Nations as an insult to the memories of the three million victims, an insult to the morals and conscience of civilised mankind. This decision does not represent world public opinion. On the contrary, it is a consequence of the collusion between Beijing expansionism and hegemonism and US imperialism. It is well known to everyone that without the support of Beijing and Washington, and their intrigues, the United Nations Organisation would not accept such a decision.

Due to the heavy legacy of the genocidal regime, at present, we are indeed facing many difficulties, especially from all types of manoeuvres by the reactionary forces to destroy the Kampuchean revolution. Therefore, widest solidarity from the international working class, and from all peace and justice lov-

ing people is necessary at this juncture to smash all their perfidious schemes. We hope, and we are also convinced, that the Indian working class and people would certainly step up their help and support to our working class and people.

We wholeheartedly wish great success to the 31st session and the 60th anniversary of the AITUC.

LONG LIVE THE CLOSE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THE TRADE UNION FOR SALVATION OF KAMPUCHEA AND THE ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS!

G. GELENKHU

member, Central Council of Mongolian Trade Unions

On behalf of the central council of Mongolian trade unions and the working people of the Mongolian People's Republic we convey our warmest fraternal greetings to you and the delegates to the 31st session of the All India Trade Union Congress and, through you, to all the working people of friendly India, and heartfelt congratulations for its diamond jubilee.

I would also like to express our thanks to the leadership of the AITUC, and personally to Comrade S. A. Dange, for the kind invitation to participate in this session.

We express our satisfaction for a successful development of the cooperation between the Mongolian trade unions and the AITUC belonging to one of the largest states in Asia, India, whose peace-loving policy plays an important role in this region.

In spite of the great distance lying between our two countries, the working people of the Mongolian People's Republic know very well the successful struggles of the AITUC for achieving vital demands of the Indian working people, against imperialist intrigues, neocolonialism, internal and international reaction, and highly appreciate its weighty contributions to the struggle for strengthening the unity of the international trade union movement. We are confident that the friendship and cooperation between our two trade unions and the working peoples will further develop for the good of our

working peoples and in the interest of strengthening the unity of the international trade union and working class movement for the cause of peace in Asia and in the whole world.

The coming year, 1981, will be a special event in the life of the Mongolian working people. In this year, our people together with our friends, will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the victory of the people's revolution, which has opened a new era in the history of our people. At the same time, the 18th congress of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party will be held.

The MPRP, had chosen the road of development from feudalism to socialism, bypassing capitalism, as a result of which Mongolia, from the backward country with primitive cattle breeding has become a modern agro-industrial socialist state. Today, our industry produces in 8-10 days as much products as were being produced in the whole of the year 1940. Industrial output accounts for 64 per cent of the country's exportable products.

Now our industry produces more than 40 per cent of gross national product and above 27 per cent of national income. The basic production assets in agriculture increased by 4.8 times in 1979 as compared to 1960.

In our country, where 60 years ago nearly the total population was illiterate and there was no system of education and medical care, today every fourth citizen is studying at one or the other educational institution, about 44 per cent of the population has secondary and higher education. For every 10,000 of the population, there are 1257 medical students and 22 doctors. Per capita income of the population has increased twofold as compared with 1960.

Unshakable fraternal friendship and multilateral fruitful co-operation of the Mongolian People's Republic with the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community is the basis of socialist Mongolia's present successes, the source of its future achievements and reliable guarantee of the independence and sovereignty of Mongolia.

With the development of socialist construction and socialist democracy there are increasing the role and extensive rights of

public organisations including the trade unions. The Mongolian trade unions take concrete steps to promote the successful development of the socialist economy and culture and to raise the living standard of the working classes. Our trade unions involve the broad masses in the management of the production and the society. Trade unions constantly work for bettering their labour and living conditions, take care of protection of health and organisation of rest, of industrial and office workers and maintain control over the observance of labour laws, regulations and norms of labour protection.

All of us witness that the present international situation has become considerably complicated. At the end of the 1970s, as a result of the tireless efforts of the Soviet Union, other countries of the socialist community and all progressive forces of the world, great changes have taken place in the direction of halting the arms race, disarmament and international detente.

All this does not suit the opponents of peace and social progress, among them the Chinese hegemonists, who direct their expansionist aspirations first of all against the cause of peace and socialism, freedom and independence of the nations. Following the aim to secure military superiority and in this way turn the world to "cold war" period, the US imperialists and their accomplices are doing everything to further the arms race. The US refusal to ratify the SALT II agreement, preparing new NATO militarist plans, and the US decision to instal new American middle range nuclear missile in Western Europe, the "new nuclear strategy" proclaimed by Carter, all these are extremely dangerous for the nations of the world.

Imperialist reactionary, hegemonistic and expansionist forces are striving to prevent the historic process of progressive changes in the world and, in particular, in Asia. The undermining actions of Chinese hegemonists in the international arena, their armed attacks on socialist Vietnam, and the threat to independence and sovereignty of the neighbouring countries, including India, prove that they have become a loyal ally of imperialism and by their aggressive intentions have become harmful to state security and to the consolidation of the detente. Their aggressive designs against the Mongolian

People's Republic, and their political, economic and ideological pressures on our country prove it.

We are deeply concerned by the recent events in the area of the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf and stand for political settlement of the Iran-Iraq conflict without interference of any outer forces in this conflict. In this connection, our delegation wish specially to stress the importance of the struggle for turning the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace.

Following the peace loving policy of our party and state, the trade unions of the Mongolian People's Republic are firmly striving for peace, disarmament and social progress.

At this time, the most important aim of the trade unions is to defend the fundamental interests of the working people and the mobilisation of all efforts for the prevention of a world-wide thermo-nuclear war.

That is why, we will make every effort to make the Asian regional trade union conference a success and strive to contribute to the strengthening of the unity of the trade union movement of the continent in the struggle for peace.

Together with all peace loving peoples of the world, we highly appreciate the tireless activities of the Soviet Union, to guarantee mankind a future without the threat of a new war. The memorandum "For peace, disarmament and guarantee of international security" put forward at the UNO bears this out.

We wish you, comrade delegates, and through you, all the working people of India, great successes in the struggles for the implementation of the decisions of this 31st session of the AITUC for the cause of the working people of your beautiful country and for the triumph of our common cause—the cause of peace and social progress.

LET THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN MONGOLIAN AND INDIAN WORKING PEOPLE GROW STRONGER!

TRAN ANH LIEN

Member of the Secretariat of the Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions

The delegation of the Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions considers it a great honour and privilege to be present at the

31st Congress of the All India Trade Union Congress at a time when all your cadres and members are celebrating the 60th anniversary of your organisation, a major political event for the Indian trade union movement. Allow me, from this forum, on behalf of the Vietnamese workers and trade union organisation, to convey to you, delegates, and through you to all workers and people of India our warm congratulations.

The working people of Vietnam note with great joy that over the past sixty years, the AITUC has persistently struggled against all forms of colonialism, old and new, against monopoly capitalism, imperialism and international reactionaries for democratic rights and a better life for the working people, for the solidarity and unity of the Indian trade union movement, for national independence, freedom, democracy, social progress and peace. It is in the process of this struggle that the AITUC has developed and matured and gained a firm position as it is enjoying today. The AITUC's role and position has ceaselessly strengthened in the Indian trade union movement for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress. The Vietnamese working people and trade unions are deeply moved by the sympathy and support extended by the AITUC, as well as by other mass organisations and progressive and democratic parties and toiling people of India.

Together with the whole of peace and justice loving mankind, your support has brought immense encouragement to our people in our fight against the French colonialists and the US imperialists and give greater value than ever to the longstanding friendship between the peoples of our two countries. Just a day after the Beijing reactionaries, in pursuance of their hegemonistic ambitions, launched a war of aggression against the six northern border provinces of our country, the AITUC and other friendly trade union organisations in India together with the broad masses of the Indian people held mass meetings and demonstrations, surrounded the Chinese embassy with the slogans "Hands off Vietnam", "Down with Chinese aggression of Vietnam", expressing their close friendship and solidarity with Vietnam, severely condemning the Beijing expansionists, and urging them to end their criminal acts of aggression against the Vietnamese people immediately. This

was followed by large scale mobilisation throughout India in support of Vietnam in diverse forms. These beautiful gestures and sentiments of the Indian workers and people will remain forever beautiful memories of international solidarity in the hearts of each Vietnamese.

On this occasion, we also wish to express the deep gratitude of the working class of Vietnam for the valuable support and assistance given by the workers, people and government of the Republic of India, as well as the efforts of the AITUC and other mass organisations to help the cause of defence of the independence and freedom of our country. We welcome the recognition of the Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea headed by President Heng Samrin by the government of India and the position taken by India at the 35th session of the United Nations general assembly in support of seating the National United Front for the Salvation of Kampuchea, the genuine representative of the Kampuchean people, at the United Nations. We deeply appreciate the foreign policy of peace and friendship of the government of the Republic of India who play a positive role in the non-aligned movement in Asia and the world. We stand for solidarity with the AITUC in its noble struggle for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of their country.

Our Asian people, who were victims of colonialism for many years, are now trying to reconstruct their countries and eliminate under-development—the heavy legacy of colonial rule. This is why, the cherished aspirations of the people of our continent are independence, peace, stability and cooperation. Yet, over the past decades, US imperialism has launched successive aggressive wars on our continent in order to restore its outmoded colonialist rule. Today, our people in Asia—their peace, stability and security, are confronted with a new and serious danger, that, the collusion between US imperialism, the reactionary forces in Japan and the Beijing expansionism and hegemonism.

Encouraged by the US and Japan, the reactionary Beijing rulers are stepping up their hostile acts against the Indochinese countries and pitting other Asian countries, particularly Thailand, to oppose the countries of Indochina. They are under-

mining the trend towards a dialogue between ASEAN countries and the countries of Indochina. They perpetrated genocide in Kampuchea and sent 600,000 troops to invade Vietnam. They are feeding and equipping remnants of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique to oppose Kampuchea's rehabilitation, inciting the Thai ruling circles to cause tension along the Thai-Kampuchean border, committing thousands of armed provocations along the Sino-Vietnamese border, deploying tens of army divisions close to Vietnam, threatening to "teach Vietnam a second lesson", continuing its economic blockade of Vietnam and fomenting unrest to sabotage Vietnam from within. They continue to threaten Laos stepping up their plan of "peaceful evolution" and subversion in that country and inciting the reactionary Thai ruling circles to oppose Laos. Beijing has joined the US imperialists and other reactionary forces in opposing the Afghan revolution. Beijing has committed acts of interference and subversion in other Asian countries also. This situation requires that the forces of peace, national independence, democracy and social progress on our continent be vigilant and unite firmly against imperialism and Beijing expansionism which is in collusion with imperialism.

We firmly believe that in this struggle, the mutual support and solidarity between the working class and peoples of Vietnam and India will constantly consolidate and develop further.

The people of Vietnam, who have suffered more than thirty years of uninterrupted war in defence of their national independence and freedom, need peace more than anyone else to rebuild their country and build a happy and prosperous life. For this reason, the working masses and entire people of Vietnam fully support the correct stand of goodwill of the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam which is ready to resume, as early as possible, Vietnamese-Chinese talks to solve differences in the relations between the two countries and are ready to start a dialogue with the ASEAN countries to make southeast Asia a region of peace, stability and cooperation, thus contributing to the defence of peace in Asia and the world as a whole.

We firmly believe that in our struggle against the hostile expansionist and hegemonistic policy of the Beijing rulers and

for national defence, the people of Vietnam will continue to enjoy the previous support of the AITUC and other progressive and democratic mass organisations and political parties, as well as the entire working class and people of India.

Finally, allow me once more to wish the 31st session of the AITUC brilliant successes.

LONG LIVE INDO-VIETNAM FRIENDSHIP!
LONG LIVE THE AITUC!

JANOS SREDER

*Member of Presidium, Council of Confederation of
Trade Unions of Yugoslavia*

It is a great pleasure, indeed, for me, on behalf of the membership of the Confederation of Trade Unions of Yugoslavia, and the working class of Yugoslavia, to convey to you our most cordial greetings and to wish you all success in your work at this 31st session of the All India Trade Union Congress. At the same time, I wish also to thank you on behalf of the presidium of the CTUY for the invitation to attend this session, which will certainly help us to learn about your activities and your future efforts for the improvement in the living and working conditions of workers, and for the general progress of the friendly people of India.

This further contact between us in continuation of our friendship bears out the fruitful relations and the well-advanced co-operation of the Confederation of Yugoslav Trade Unions and the AITUC and the whole trade union movement of the friendly non-aligned country of India.

Our two organisations, workers and peoples of India and Yugoslavia, are linked together by common interests and objectives both in their efforts for a better, more just socio-economic position of workers and progress of people, and in their struggle for independence, social progress, and peace throughout the world. Identity of views taken by our organisations was also expressly stated at the world trade union conference on development held in Belgrade in April 1980—a conference which represented a major contribution of trade union organisations of the world, particularly those in the developing coun-

tries, to the construction of the new international economic order.

It is with great interest and sympathy that we are following the efforts of your organisation in pursuance of the history and immediate interests of the working class and people of India, and we rejoice sincerely in every success you achieve in the economic and social fields.

Trade unions and all progressive and democratic forces, within the national and wider framework, are faced today with very complex political and economic problems, in which unity in their common action is an essential prerequisite for suppression of the forces of imperialism and domination, neocolonialism and all forms of exploitation and interference in the internal affairs of other countries. That is why workers and their trade unions have to carry on their struggle for freedom and social justice, for progress and emancipation of labour and man.

We are witnessing, for example, a further concentration of military forces and demonstration of force in this region of the Indian Ocean, as a threat to the independence and security of yours as well as other countries in this region. This also renders difficult the determination of the non-aligned countries' conference for the Indian Ocean to be turned into a zone of peace. The peoples and working class of Yugoslavia are resolutely supporting the initiatives of India and other countries in this region along these lines, as well as all other initiatives aimed at consolidation of peace and security in this region, and cooperation on equal terms between all countries in the international community.

More than ever before, it is necessary today, to develop true solidarity of workers and trade unions throughout the world, with all peoples waging struggle for political and economic independence, for the defence of democratic freedoms and trade union rights, for the release of political prisoners and imprisoned trade unionists, and for stopping of reprisals against them.

The working class and trade unions of Yugoslavia have from the very outset consistently supported and actively assisted every nation in its struggle to live in freedom and decide on

its own destiny and path of its development. We have, ourselves, passed through such a struggle and are, therefore, vitally concerned with its successful outcome as a guarantee of democratic international relations and cooperation on terms of equality. That is why we ceaselessly seek for the steadfast application in the relations between states, regardless of their size and internal set-up, of the principles of the non-aligned movement, which have grown in the anti-colonialist and anti-imperialist revolutions.

President Tito underlined at all times the right of every nation to live in freedom and to develop independently in keeping with its own national, historical and cultural heritage, and with the principles of active, peaceful co-existence which were conceived right on the soil of this continent.

The world trade union conference on development pointed out the serious state of affairs and the consequences of further aggravation of the economic position of the developing countries and of the living and working conditions of the working people in these countries. The resolution adopted by the conference proves the indispensability of resolute struggle against all outdated unfair economic and political relations based on pressure, force and exploitation. Regrettably, however, the recently concluded 9th special session of the UN general assembly on economic problems, as well as the preceding conference of UNIDO at New Delhi and UNCTAD at Manila, revealed the lack of willingness of some industrially developed countries which in their endeavour to preserve their attained positions in the international economic relations extant today, are reluctant to undertake the necessary changes and help towards the establishment of the new international economic order. This fact makes it incumbent upon all trade union organisations the world over to step up their organised action in the struggle for achieving the new international economic order, as is also stated in the declaration of the world trade union conference on development held at Belgrade.

You may rest assured that the workers and trade unions of Yugoslavia have always been following with great attention and solidarity the efforts of the Indian workers for a continued strengthening of the economic and political independence of

their country and for accomplishment of tasks they set before themselves. That is why we do want to strengthen further the fraternal cooperation between our organisations, which in itself will be a contribution to development of trade union cooperation in the world and to a genuine international labour solidarity.

In conclusion, may I reiterate once more, our good wishes for every success in the deliberations of this 31st session of the AITUC, and in the accomplishment of all objectives of the working class of India.

Long Live the Friendship between peoples of India and Yugoslavia!

FRITZ ROESEL

Member of the Presidium and Secretary, FDGB

On behalf of the members of the broadest organization of the working class in the German Democratic Republic, the confederation of the German trade unions, I convey most fraternal greetings to you, the delegates of the 31st AITUC Session. I should like to express my thanks for the invitation to attend this important congress and this all the more since it takes place at the time of a memorable jubilee of your great organisation.

We wish to congratulate you and your organization on the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the All India Trade Union Congress, the class organisation of the Indian working people which has been seasoned by numerous struggles. The foundation of the AITUC was an outstanding event in the life of the Indian workers. It has been through its persistent and consequent struggle for the rights of the working class that the AITUC gained respect and recognition in India as well as in the whole progressive trade union movement.

We are proud that, on the basis of proletarian internationalism, the FDGB entertains very close and long-standing fraternal relations with your organisation. Let me assure you that the FDGB will continue to spare no efforts to deepen the bonds of friendship still further. The working people of the GDR follow with great attention and sympathy the struggle of the Indian workers against the attempts made by the reac-

tionary forces and monopolies to shift the burden of the crisis, like inflation, unemployment and price rises, on to the shoulders of the working people.

We support the just struggle of the AITUC for the improvement of the living and working conditions, for democracy and social progress.

It is an indisputable fact that the AITUC has won great merits in the long history of its struggles for united trade union actions in your country. From our own experience we know that the unity of the working class is the major source for their power and victory. In our country this unity was the fundamental condition for a successful socialist development.

The workers of the GDR spare no efforts in their daily work to further complete our socialist society. We have chased away the capitalists and monopolists, we have rooted out all forms of exploitation and transformed the factories into the hands of the people. The working class is the ruling class in our country. They determine, in a close alliance with the farmers and the intelligensia, the development of their socialist state. This is a sound basis for the full display of socialist democracy and for the implementation of all fundamental human rights. Taking this into account, it is quite natural that our workers do everything in their power to strengthen their own workers and farmers' state.

When in these days the workers in the factories and the farmers in the fields try their best to achieve the highest possible results and to everfulfill the state plan for the economy they do this, because they are well aware of the fact that this is a contribution to strengthen our country and at the same time improves their personal standard of life as well.

Under these social conditions the trade unions are genuine representatives of the working people's interests. According to our constitution no basic government decision on issues affecting the workers can be taken without the prior consent of the trade unions.

The position of the trade unions in the socialist society of the GDR is hall marked by their share in decision making at all levels and in all fields on the one hand and by their share in bearing responsibility for the cause of our state and country.

The struggle to maintain world peace is becoming more and more important. Peace in the world, the existence of the whole of mankind is threatened by the increased aggravation of the international situation, by the mounting aggressiveness and by the new round of armaments race all launched by imperialism in general and by the United States and NATO in particular. In doing this imperialism forces ever higher material and financial burdens on all peoples. Daily huge sums of money are spent for missiles, tanks and other war material millions and millions of rupees which are badly needed for solving many burning social problems like unemployment, misery and poverty.

That is why the FDGB considers it an urgent necessity of our time to convene an international trade union conference on social and economic aspects of disarmament as proposed by 9th world trade union congress.

With deep concern the FDGB condemns the increasing aggressive acts launched by US imperialism in the Indian Ocean which constitute a serious threat to peace and security for the countries in this region. We fully support your struggle for turning the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace and for the removal of the US military base on Diego Garcia.

We feel that peace is a fundamental human right; as a matter of fact it is the major condition for the well being of the working people. Therefore, the struggle to safeguard peace is a decisive task of trade union representation of interests whether in Europe, in Asia, in the whole world.

Only in peace it will be possible to solve an urgent question of today, that is the just and democratic transformation of the international economic and trade relations so that inequality and discrimination created by imperialism can be reduced and eliminated. In this sense the FDGB gives full support to the decisions approved at the world trade union conference on development in Belgrade in April this year as a platform for united actions of trade unions, irrespective of their affiliation and political outlook.

In conclusion, I should like to wish your session good and successful deliberations and decisions. We are sure that the

documents of this session will be of great importance for the struggle of the Indian working people.

You may rest assured that the FDGB will continue to stand in solidarity on the side of their Indian class brothers.

LONG Live AITUC!

LONG Live the fraternal alliance between the FDGB and the AITUC!

LONG Live the 60th Anniversary of the AITUC!

LONG Live proletarian internationalism!

KAROLY SZLOVATSIK

*Head, International Department, Central Council of
Hungarian Trade Unions*

First and foremost allow me to thank you for the cordial invitation to attend the 31st AITUC Congress which coincides with your 60th anniversary. We regard your invitation as a great honour. From this platform allow me to convey the warm fraternal greetings of 4 million Hungarian trade unionists to the leadership and membership of the AITUC and to the people of India.

The day to day struggle and work of the people of India are followed with great attention by the people of Hungary. We are fully aware of the efforts being made by the AITUC for social progress, for better living and working conditions and to protect the interests of the workers of India. We know you waged many struggles and made many sacrifices during the past 60 years. Your sacrifices have not been in vain. They set an example for other countries who struggled under similar difficult conditions against colonialization and for the realization of a just and better society.

In this struggle the AITUC and its member organisations have the sincere respect, support and solidarity of the trade union movement of Hungary.

I would like to say a few words about our own trade union movement. As representatives of the workers, the trade unions of Hungary participate in the planning, the guiding and the execution of all major social and workplace projects. Our trade unions are able to fulfill their dual roles; one is to give

effective and manysided assistance in helping to achieve our national economic targets and to strengthen the power of the workers; the other role is to raise the standard of trade union work in protecting workers' interests and to improve living and working conditions among all strata of our workers.

This year has been a highly significant year for the Hungarian trade union movement. All our national unions held their congress this year, so each union has thoroughly evaluated its activities, resolved its future tasks and elected its leadership. The congress of the national unions shall now be followed by the national congress of the Hungarian trade union movement.

The discussions and conferences held thus far have established that there has been a growth in the role and in the opportunities open to trade unions within our society and, as a result, the responsibility of our trade unions has also increased. I would like to give added emphasis to this increased responsibility, which is evidenced by the fact that the opinion of trade unions are taken into account when fundamental targets are resolved and when significant decisions are made.

The most vital questions of our age are peace, disarmament and solidarity with people who are struggling for their freedom. The progressive forces of the non-aligned and the socialist countries represent a decisive force in these struggles. The many million strong trade union movement of Asia which included the AITUC can successfully contribute towards preserving peace and security in India. In this struggle you can always count on the consistent internationalist support of the people of Hungary.

In closing, allow me on behalf of all trade unions of Hungary, to wish the 31st congress of the AITUC grand success in its deliberations. I wish that the historical road launched 60 years ago continues to bring further development to your beautiful country, to boost the protection of the interests of your workers, and to promote social progress and peace.

DON HENDERSON

Committee for International Trade Unions Unity in Australia

I wish to thank you for the opportunity to attend your

Congress, and extend fraternal greetings from the Committee for International Trade Union Unity in Australia.

I also join with other delegates and visitors in wishing your congress every success and congratulate the AITUC on its 60 years of service in the working class of India.

As a maritime worker myself, I also extend fraternal greetings to the Visakhapatnam HARBOUR & PORT WORKERS UNION from the maritime union of Australia.

In 1978, fifteen representatives from eleven Australian unions attended the 9th congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

The congress had an impact on the thinking of those representatives and, on their return they established the Committee for International Trade Union Unity.

Today this committee has a membership of representatives of 25 Australian trade unions, with its central office in Sydney, New South Wales. It also has representatives in Brisbane, Queensland, Melbourne, Victoria, and Adelaide (South Australia).

Membership is open to all unions who support the aim of building international brotherhood and unity among all unions irrespective of their international affiliation. The committee seeks to make contacts and exchange information with union centres and organisations from all countries.

Since the formation, the committee has sent representatives to trade union seminars in Fiji, Paupa New Guinea and New Zealand.

A very successful South Pacific and Asian trade union unity conference was held in Sydney in November of last year.

This conference drew together 176 delegates and observers from 13 Asian and South Pacific countries.

There were delegates from India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka and the participants were from trade union organisations representing all trends and tendencies, having affiliation to the ICFTU, WFTU, WCL and non-affiliated bodies.

Discussions centred on the common striving of all trade unionists for economic and social advances, for the preservation of existing trade union rights, the struggle for the extension of those rights against multinational and Government

interference, the struggle against economic exploitation by multinationals and deep concern and common effort of all forces to maintain peace in the region.

This conference unanimously decided to seek agreement from all trade union organizations in the Asian and Oceania Region for the holding of a broad, representative united trade union conference of Asia and Oceania in 1981.

The preparatory committee established at that conferences consisted of representatives from the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, Vietnam and India. This committee held its first meeting in Manila in June of this year.

The meeting was highly successful. The three national trade union bodies of the Philippines acted as hosts.

They are the trade union congress of the Philippines which is affiliated to the ICFTU, the trade union of the Allied Services of Philippines, which is affiliated to the WFTU and the federation of free workers which is affiliated to the WCL.

The preparatory conference adopted a draft document for consideration at the trade union conference of Asia and Oceania in 1981.

It decided that the conference would be open to all trade union organisations irrespective of ideology, international trade union affiliation, trends or tendencies or of social formation of the country in which the trade union organisation is situated.

The Manila Conference appealed to all trade union centres and organisations of Asia and Oceania to respond to this invitation in an endeavour to further strengthen unity and solidarity of the trade union movement in the region.

The second preparatory meeting will be held in New Zealand in November of this year and will be hosted by the New Zealand Federation of Labour.

This second preparatory meeting will determine the date and the venue for the 1981 conference.

It is an unfortunate fact of life that differences still exist between the world trade union centres, but it is also an inescapable fact that if we are to solve the many common problems that face the working people of this planet, earth, we will have to push aside political differences and learn to come together in unity around these common problems.

A most significant trend that has developed in recent years in our region of the world is the strong and increasing penetration of transnational corporations who seek to further their interests in the fields of exploitation of natural resources and where possible the case of cheap labour.

Associated with, and running parallel with this trend, is increased attacks on basic trade union rights by governments imposing laws which seek to take away the right to strike, the imprisonment of trade union leaders and workers resisting such draconian measures.

Within my own country and many other countries within the region of Asia and Oceania, many examples can be given of trade unions' struggles against the transnational companies who, in their efforts to extract the maximum profit, disregard the living, working and social standards of the people and their cultural way of life.

When transnational corporations are threatened by retaliatory action by the trade unions and peoples' movements the anti-working class governments at state and federal level provide use of their police, their courts and other authorities to protect the interest of these transnational corporations.

Recent examples within Australia are the struggles between the American-based company, Utah, and the Seamen's Union of Australia, who seek to man some of the ships carrying Australian coal overseas.

Utah continue to use flag of convenience ships with lowpaid crews, and when tug crews take industrial action against the company in support of their claims, section 45-D of the trade practices act is invoked. In brief terms, section 45-D prohibits a person engaging in concert with a second person where that conduct hinders or prevents the supply or acquisition of goods or services by a third person. Trade unions can be fined up to a quarter of a million dollars and officials and rank and file can be gaoled.

An unpublished paper from the university of Melbourne Faculty of Law described section 45-D as a law quite of which fails by the narrow tests of lawyers to be a good law. It is

indefensible, even by the apologia of those who inspired it. By any standard of political liberalism it is grossly unfair and it is plainly based against trade unions who are the legitimate representative organisations of a very substantial segment of the Australian people. It is a law which should forthwith be repealed.

Amendments to this act have been made in 1978 and 1980 in order to strengthen the section in its application against unions.

Section 45-D has been used on numerous occasions by employers and by the liberal country party government of Australia to threaten or to prosecute unions who act in support of their own trade unions rights.

There have been over 30 actions brought against unions under this anti-working class act.

Similar anti-trade union measures are well planned and, as you know, have been introduced in almost every country in our region in almost identical terms.

They are aimed at sabotaging efforts by the unions to organise and form trade union centres on a regional and national basis, to impede the ability of unionists to bargain for economic and social advances, to ban strikes and impose penalties, fines and gaol sentences on workers who take action against anti-trade union laws.

There are no differences among world trade union centres so far as multinationals are concerned.

The ILO, the WFTU, ICFTU and our own ACTU congress have all declared that multinational corporations engage in activities so that governments can be deceived and subverted by using their control over investments and creating a new world division of labour associated with a selected division of production, the use of trade and production where people are expropriated from any alternate means of livelihood and the denial of genuine trade union and social rights.

Under the threat of shifting investments from one country to another they bleed the national economy by pitting governments against each other to compete for their investments.

The penetration of multinationals in the national economies by way of cartels, take over and influencing government policies

by direct representation and, in some instances, by bribery and corruption, this results in massive taxation concessions and economic aid handed over by governments.

Such tax concessions have been a feature of the state governments of Western Australia and Queensland.

Giant mining corporations involved in mining our bauxite, coal and iron ore have received government subsidies for the building of railways, ports and housing.

Shell, Caltex, Broken Hill proprietary and British Petroleum will be able to deduct their total expenditure on the north-west shelf project in Western Australia from the profit of their oil refinery and marketing organisations with the help of government concessions.

Of course these handouts are at the expense of the Australian tax-payer who will not own one per cent of their own natural resources.

Other countries in our region also suffer from incentives offered to multinationals such as—

1. Direct government subsidies and no tax up to 10 years.
2. No import or export duties.
3. Factory sites are built by the host country at tax-payers expense and then leased or sold at reduced prices to the multinational corporations.
4. Thus a cheap disciplined workforce is made available.
5. Unions are either banned or by anti-worker laws are made ineffective through bribery and corruption.

Another example is the establishment of "FREE TRADE" zones in Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, South Korea and elsewhere.

A free trade zone is simply an area set aside for the production of industrial goods for export, raw materials are imported in and the finished goods exported out without restrictions.

These multinationals are installing the latest technology in their factories in the free trade zones at a rapidly increasing rate, much more so than in the industrialised capitalist countries.

Massive new investment by multinationals from Europe, Japan and America are running at a record level in developing countries in our regions.

Foreign ownership of existing and new industries rose from one third in 1967 to two thirds by 1976.

This penetration by multinationals also includes Australia and New Zealand.

The trade unions and the ILO are not alone in their concern for the activities of the transnational corporations. In July, of this year, an international conference of non-governmental organisations met under the auspices of the United Nations in Geneva and made the following observation; "that the multinational corporations' powerful economic, political, financial and trade institutions based in the highly developed marketing economy countries, continue to dominate the economies of the developing countries and plunder their natural resources.

"They bear a major direct and indirect responsibility for the disappointing outcome of the plan and programme of the UN that attempts to find ways to restructure the present unjust and inequitable international economic order and relations, inherited from the last colonial rule".

It noted that these corporations' aim is to restrict and weaken the political independence of developing countries capacity to promote independent, economic development and social progress.

The conference declared that it is essential to introduce structural changes in the world's economy and to achieve the aims of the new international economic order proclaimed by the United Nations.

The next decade is being called the electronic eighties. In Australia our trade union congress held in 1979 seeks technological change and machines taking over the work of almost two million workers in that period.

Massive unemployment is one of the most serious questions confronting the working class movement in every country of the capitalist world.

Unemployment is hitting at every type of worker regardless of whether he is adult or youth, male or female, white or

coloured, christian or muslim.

Being affiliated to a particular world trade union centre won't save us either unless we learn to unite and act together in support of our right to work.

Unity of purpose, peace and friendship can defeat the forces of reaction and oppression and that comrades is the point I have endeavoured to make in my contribution thus far.

The economic crisis, the structural changes in industry due to technological change, carry with it vigorous efforts by the employing class to reduce the standards of wages and conditions and to seek to influence governments by various means to force down the living standards of the majority of the people by increasing taxation and to continue with inflationary policies.

All the world trade union bodies have expressed deep concern at the effects on the working people resulting from the crisis of capitalism and the effect of science and technological change in industry and have pointed to the role of the transnational corporations within these crisis.

Coordinated action by workers employed by multinational corporations in factories located in two or three countries have already been carried out when one group of striking workers appealed for assistance, through solidarity action, by other groups of workers in another country.

An example is when the automobile workers in the Renault factory in France responded to an appeal by South African workers who were struggling against a subsidiary of the same company in an effort to force safe working conditions.

The French workers banned the supply of spare parts to the South African plant, making it impossible for production to continue until the subsidiary agreed to the South African workers' demands.

Another example is the solidarity support of the Australian aircraft workers with the Malaysian workers when the union secretary was gaoled because his members took strike action over wages and conditions.

A Malaysian airliner was held up at Sydney airport for almost a month till the official was subsequently released from prison.

Australian and New Zealand workers have carried out action in supporting trade unionists in Papua New Guinea and Fiji when they have been gaoled.

Australian maritime unions have won hundreds of thousands of dollars in wages for Indian, Chinese, Philippine and other workers on flag of convenience ships when they visit Australian ports and seek our assistance.

We continue to ban ships trading with Chile. We take action against South African flagships.

These actions are not for wages and conditions for our members. These actions are based firmly on the belief that international unity and friendship does not depend on what trade union centre you are affiliated with. We are all of the working class and to attack one of us is to attack all of us.

The existing trade union structure in our country which is based on a national organisation with an affiliation to an international body, is far from adequate to deal with the changed circumstances confronting workers today.

What we need in today's reality is a union movement that has close ties with its counterparts in every country and in particular the region in which we live and work.

We need to have greater knowledge and understanding of each union movement.

We need to know what are your aims, what are your struggles, we need to examine how we can help each other.

The committee for international trade union unity therefore really appreciates this opportunity to be represented and be with you at your congress.

The question of world peace and disarmament is another area in which all sections of the trade union movement are united. The Australian council of trade unions declared at its 1959 congress that "peace is trade union business". It further declared that no question, whether social, economic or political, is capable of solution unless peace is preserved.

We, in Australia, continue to make such a declaration. In no other time in history has the world been faced with such a grave threat to its existence than in the 1980s.

At the beginning of this year the world found itself at the cross-roads, pointing in the direction of madness or the destruction of man's very existence.

Mankind is now called upon to make a choice—one road leads to a peaceful future for all inhabitants of our planet, while the other could end in the horrific catastrophe of nuclear war.

The year 1980 saw the sudden interruption of negotiations between capitalist and socialist nations for the establishment of treaties and agreements on strategic arms limitation and the reduction of hotbeds of tension around the globe.

Our committee is for the development of the philosophy of detente which is a policy of co-existence of nations, whether socialist capitalist or developing.

We are for a relationship of mutual cooperation of trade, technology, culture, sport and, in regard to developing nations there should be material aid.

Imperialism, through their most prominent representatives in the United States, Britain and Australia, seek to revert the global relationship back to the cold war hysteria, which is adequately fed out daily to the masses of people by the media.

They continue to spread fear and confusion as a basis for a concerted and massive building-up of armaments by the United States and other NATO-countries which is accompanied by active efforts to undermine the achievements of detente.

This massive arms build up is mainly concentrated in Europe, the middle east and, now, the Indian Ocean.

It is worthwhile noting some positive aspects also. Treaties and agreements have been negotiated which can considerably reduce the number of nuclear explosions, agreements which provide for banning of biological weapons, the placement of nuclear and other mass destruction weapons on the sea bed.

The convention to prohibit the use of the natural environment for military or other hostile purposes, and the ban on placing weapons of mass destruction in outer space.

Of particular importance, has been the dialogue on strategic armaments limitation as a result of which quantitative and

qualitative levels were introduced on the strategic offence of arms, together with the abandonment of certain defence and strategic weapons.

The hope that nuclear war would never be possible had increased by a measure of agreements when it was seen by the world that agreements were possible of achievement between capitalist and socialist governments on the ways of preventing nuclear conflict.

The need for establishment of nuclear free zone has also gained acceptance.

As I have said the trade unions all agree on the need for peace, detente and disarmament. There is also growing confidence and support from all sections of public opinion and walks of life-political, parliamentary, religious, social, women, youth, cultural and many other groups and organisations. The non-aligned movement is playing an ever increasing positive role in this respect.

It should be noted that detente is not just a policy of consistently striving for aversion of global nuclear war. Detente is in everyone's interest, since it consists in transforming relationships between countries with different social and political systems into normal and friendly ties.

It creates mutual understanding among nations and lays the basis of an equitable structure of international security.

The process of detente is inseparably linked with ensuring for every nation the right to independence and a secure existence. It just isn't possible for many countries in the world to rise from their poverty and backwardness without holding back the arms race.

Neither will it be feasible to expect solutions to such world problems as the liquidation of hunger and extreme poverty, ensuring clear air, protection of natural environments, tapping of needed water resources in regions affected by drought, the eradication of illiteracy and raising the state of health to a level compatible with human dignity.

Just one percent of the economic and material content spent

on armaments would suffice to eradicate hunger in countries inhabited by a billion people.

Therefore, without halting the arms race and without détente as an international relative philosophy it is impossible to solve many urgent social problems, and above all, to ensure every nation and every individual the right to live in peace.

Today Europe, for the longest period in MAN's history, has been free of war and is showing the world that with recognition of political and territorial realities it is possible to create a climate of understanding and cooperation.

Day to day human relationships are not based on destroying those with whom one disagrees. Human contacts are based on conciliation and understanding.

Is this not how the average family unit operates? At every level in human society people agree to disagree without resorting to murdering one another. You could have disagreements during this congress, but those disagreements can and will be sorted out without resorting to violence.

Surely similar rules should apply to the solution of international disputes.

Our day to day experiences of life teach us that only by discussion, negotiation and conciliation, can human society survive and flourish.

The prevention of the threat of nuclear war, of extinguishing the hotbeds of conflicts, of curtailing the attempts of imperialist states to upset the global balance of forces to redress the balance in Europe and other regions such as our own are areas where we must focus attention and efforts.

Friends, in this world of ours there are 570 million people near starvation, 1000 million people who have no home, 1500 million who lack medical care, 200 million children who do not attend school, 800 million can neither read or write.

At the same time, 25 per cent of the world's scientific manpower is engaged in military purposes and 400,000 engineers and scientists are engaged on military production.

Is it any wonder that the secretary-general of the UN has stated that disarmament must be a vital part, not only of our efforts to establish a better system of international peace and security, but also of our attempts to restructure the economy and social order of the world.

I have taken up much of your time and in doing so I have briefly dealt with some issues which I believe are common to us all.

I wish your conference all success. I am sure the friendly relations that exist between my union and the AITUC will further strengthen in the years to come.



RESOLUTIONS

On Disarmament and Duty of the Working Class

The 31st session of the AITUC views with grave concern the intensified war preparations by the imperialist powers and the building up of the cold war atmosphere. The aggressive forces of imperialism are threatening a new world war. Enmeshed in a deep all-round crisis, economic, political and social, these forces are seeking a way out by whipping up war hysteria, nuclear blackmail and intensification of the arms race. The mythical "Soviet threat" is being trotted out to justify these acts.

The working class of the country cannot afford to remain indifferent to these developments. No country in the world is exempt from the evil consequences of armed conflict and of a world war. The arming of Pakistan and the conspiracies of the US-Peking axis particularly in this region pose a serious threat to peace in the region and our national independence. The Iraq-Iran conflict has already aggravated the oil crisis.

While taking note of all these developments the AITUC notes that the world-wide movement for peace has grown significantly in this period. The AITUC hails the recent world parliament of the peoples of peace held at Sofia in Bulgaria attended by 2260 delegates from 196 countries and more than 100 international organisations. While endorsing the unanimous appeal adopted at Sofia, the AITUC calls on all trade unions to organise the widest possible campaign in support of the appeal.

The AITUC calls on all trade unions to come forward and support the demand that the Government of India take a firm and determined position on the ban on nuclear weapons, reduction of armaments and the demolition of military bases and for the reduction of stockpiles of arms.

The AITUC at this 31st session renews its pledge to ceaselessly fight for the achievement of a lasting and stable peace throughout the world.

On Diego Garcia

The 31st session of the All India Trade Union Congress denounces the attempts of US imperialism to further extend their nuclear base in Diego Garcia and extending their bases to other areas in the region. Facilities have now been made available to them by such states as Egypt, Bahrein, Oman, Kenya and Somalia. While Diego Garcia has been converted into a formidable aid and naval base equipped with diverse and most sophisticated weapons, the French imperialists have now provided Reunion Island also to the US imperialists who are extending their base there.

At the same time it is to be noted that US imperialism is supplying arms to countries in the region such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Pakistan. The recent joint military manoeuvres by the United States and Japan and the conversion of the self-defence forces into combat forces, and their participation in landing operations by US marines in Okinawa are also ominous and disquieting.

All these developments have made it clear that the US imperialists' plan to build up Diego Garcia is part of a global strategy directed against all progressive anti-imperialist regimes of the third world and the liberation movements in Asia and Africa.

The US imperialists have consistently spoken of a "Soviet threat" in the Indian Ocean to justify their acts of militarisation in the region. Unfortunately many, including the Government of India, fall victim to this propaganda and talk of "super power rivalry" in the Indian Ocean. But the Soviet Union had made a categorical statement in the United Nations that they had "no intention of building any military base in the the Indian Ocean area and that it is prepared, together with other powers, to seek ways of reducing, on a reciprocal basis, the military activities of non-coastal states in the zone of the

Indian Ocean". Talks were commenced to this end, but were broken off unilaterally by the United States.

In the light of all these developments it is crystal clear that it is US imperialism which constitutes the main threat in the Indian Ocean area. Their increased activity in extending their military bases is in flagrant violation of the declaration of the UN General Assembly that the Indian Ocean should be a zone of peace.

This 31st session of the AITUC reiterates the demand, in conformity with the demands made by many countries in the region, that the Indian Ocean should be declared a zone of peace and the US should be called upon to dismantle the bases set up in Diego Garcia and in the region.

The AITUC calls upon the Government of India to take the initiative for united action by all littoral states of the Indian Ocean to achieve this demand.

This 31st session of the AITUC calls on all trade unions and the working class to conduct a sustained campaign together with all democratic and progressive forces and all sections of the toiling masses for achieving this objective, which is vital for the national sovereignty and independence of our country.

On Iran-Iraq War

The 31st session of the All India Trade Union Congress expresses its serious concern at the continuing armed hostilities between Iran and Iraq—a development which has brought the flames of a new war to the Middle East and is a grave threat to the peace and stability of this part of Asia.

The All India Trade Union Congress notes that, taking advantage of the Iran-Iraq conflict, the US government, aided by some other western governments, have concentrated a powerful naval force in the Persian Gulf which is threatening to intervene at any moment. Consequently, the danger of imperialist aggression has also been greatly aggravated with its attendant risks of wider escalation.

The war between two major oil-producing countries has already resulted in serious destruction of oil installations and complete dislocation of oil exports to countries

like India. This will further aggravate our country's energy crisis. Thousands of Indian workers and technicians employed on projects in Iraq have been rendered jobless and have been forced to return to India.

The AITUC, therefore, fervently hopes that the governments of Iran and Iraq will cease hostilities against each other without further delay, and find ways and means of resolving their disputes and differences peacefully through negotiations. This would be in the best interests of peace and stability of the region and also of safeguarding the independence and sovereignty of the countries concerned.

On Solidarity with Kampuchea, Vietnam and Laos

The 31st session of the All India Trade Union Congress conveys to the heroic people of Kampuchea, Vietnam and Laos its warm greetings and militant solidarity with their struggle in rebuilding their countries in the face of constant threats from Chinese expansionists and US imperialists.

Hundreds of thousands of Chinese troops are massed on the borders of these countries carrying out occasional incursions into their territories and disrupting their normal developmental tasks. The Chinese expansionists who have already carried out one dastardly attack against Vietnam and have been beaten back are still talking of teaching Vietnam a second lesson. In Kampuchea where the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique has been eliminated and an end has been put to its barbarous genocide regime, the people are rebuilding their country virtually from the rubbles of destruction. Yet the American imperialists, operating through the Thai government and the Chinese, are providing all sorts of assistance to the remnants of Pol Pot marauders who have found sanctuary in Thai border areas. But the Kampuchean working peoples' efforts at rebuilding their country under the leadership of the United Front for Salvation of Kampuchea have won recognition of working people everywhere and it is this that has led to the recognition of their government by many countries.

In response to popular demand, especially by the work-

ing class of India, led by the AITUC, the Government of India has recognised the government headed by Comrade Heng Samrin which has been widely welcomed and created an impact on the non-aligned movement. India, which already had very close relations with the peoples of Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos, is now extending, both at official and unofficial levels, various types of help in economic reconstruction and other fields. The working people of India, who have a fighting tradition of solidarity with the valiant people of these three Indochinese countries, will continue to extend all possible help to their brothers in their struggles. The AITUC in its modest way has already contributed to the great work of national reconstruction directly, as well as through the World Federation of Trade Unions.

The 31st session of the AITUC assures once again the working people of Kampuchea, Vietnam and Laos that they can rely on the working people of India for assistance in the coming period in diverse fields.

The AITUC strongly condemns the imperialists and their Chinese collaborationists for their naked interference in the affairs of the three Indochinese countries and demands that Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos must be allowed to shape their own destiny freely. It fully supports the growing world wide demand for the unseating of the Pol Pot clique from the United Nations, and its replacement therein by the Heng Samrin government which is in effective control of the whole of Kampuchea and enjoys the total confidence of the people of Kampuchea.

On Solidarity with Afghan Revolution

The 31st session of the All India Trade Union Congress expresses its firm solidarity with the new revolutionary Afghanistan that has emerged after the April revolution of 1979. Afghanistan that was subjected to predatory British wars and reduced to misery due to the ruthless exploitation of landlords and moneylenders, has overthrown the feudal imperialist yoke and launched on the path of socialist oriented development.

The imperialists could not reconcile to this and have

taken to blatant intervention and subversion. The US imperialists, the reactionary military regime of Pakistan, the Chinese hegemonists, in particular, are doing every thing to help the subversive elements.

It is to defend itself against these foreign interventionists that the Babrak Karmal government requested the Soviets to help it.

The new Afghan government has made the May 14 offer of a negotiated settlement with specially its neighbours, Pakistan and Iran.

The Afghan government and the Soviet Union have declared any number of times that as soon as the foreign threat to Afghanistan ceases, the Soviet armed forces would withdraw. The Soviets have already withdrawn some of their forces.

The US imperialists and the Chinese and Pakistan regimes have not only ignored the Afghan offer of May 14, but, as the revolutionary regime consolidates more and more, as patriotic and even influential religious circles rally behind the Babrak Karmal government and the people more and more enjoy the fruits of the revolution, the US-Chinese-Pakistan interventionists are trying to step up their subversive activities.

The AITUC warns the imperialists and their interventionists allies that their nefarious game is doomed to failure.

The AITUC extends its fraternal solidarity to the working people of Afghanistan and pledges full support to their heroic struggles against the criminal subversive activities of the interventionists and in defence of their April revolution and their determination to build a bright future for themselves.

Solidarity with the struggle in Southern Africa and Namibia

The 31st session of the All India Trade Union Congress hails the emergence of the fiftieth independent state on the continent of Africa—the Republic of Zimbabwe, after a dedicated struggle of the patriotic forces, over many years, against the oppression of colonialists and racists.

The AITUC expresses its full solidarity with the struggle of the people of Namibia who are continuing their heroic struggle under the leadership of SWAPO against the illegal occupation by the colonialist and racist regime of South Africa and for their independence.

The 31st session of the AITUC reiterates its firm support to and solidarity with the working class and all people of South Africa who are fighting heroically, despite brutal oppression, for trade union rights, for democracy, and national salvation.

The AITUC assures, on behalf of the Indian working class, its full support to the SACTU and the National Union of Namibian workers.

On Repression in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka

This 31st session of the All India Trade Union Congress expresses most grave concern at the wave of repression let loose against the trade unions and all democratic forces in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The AITUC sends warm fraternal greetings of solidarity to the heroic working class of Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka who have been valiantly fighting for trade union rights and democratic liberties, for their just demands and against brutal repressive measures.

In Bangladesh, all sections of the working class and employees have gone into action for their just demands. In March this year, 600,000 government non-gazetted employees went on strike for their 15-point charter of demands. All national trade union federations acted in solidarity with the strike. In April, 30,000 workers of the jute industry went on strike. The Zia government met these strikes with most brutal repression. Trade union leaders and activists were thrown into prison. Leaders of democratic parties and organisations were also imprisoned. Freedom fighters were executed. But the united struggle has been continuing. This 31st session of the AITUC demands of the government of Bangladesh immediate

release of all those imprisoned and a halt to all repressive measures and restoration of trade union and democratic liberties.

In Pakistan, under the military dictatorship, all political parties and mass organisations have been banned and the most elementary rights brutally suppressed. Discontent against the military dictatorship has been steadily mounting. The trade unions have demanded that elections should be held at the earliest and democratic and civil liberties restored. Trade unions have demanded a reduction in military expenditure which formed 45% of the annual budget. On May Day, meetings were held demanding an end to all aid being given to the guerillas being used to subvert the revolutionary gains of the people of Afghanistan which is being done at the behest of the US-Peking axis. The AITUC extends full support to the working class and people of Pakistan in their struggle to restore democracy and civil liberties in their country.

In Sri Lanka, since June, the struggle of the working class for their demands of wage rise and trade union liberties has been continuing. The Joint Trade Union Action Committee, which called for a one-day strike in June in support of their charter of demands, has been conducting a heroic battle. The government declared an emergency and went so far as to freeze trade union funds and seal trade union offices. Hundreds were arrested and thousands of employees summarily dismissed from service. There was widespread protest throughout the world at this repression. The AITUC calls on President Jayawardene to withdraw all repressive measures forthwith and rescind all victimisation and restore democratic and civil liberties.

The 31st session of the AITUC calls on all trade unions to carry out a sustained campaign of solidarity with the working class and trade unions of Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in their heroic battles for trade union and democratic liberties and for their just and reasonable demands.

Solidarity with Working People of Latin America

This 31st session of the All India Trade Union Congress takes note of the increasing attacks on the working masses in countries of Latin America such as Bolivia, Uruguay, Guatemala, El Salvador, Chile, etc. The AITUC greets the heroic leaders and workers who have been unitedly and valiantly resisting these attacks and fighting against the intensification of the exploitation by multinational corporations, monopolists and imperialists.

In Bolivia, the military junta of Garcia Meza has let loose an orgy of violence and repressive measures against the trade union movement. Many trade union activists including Juan Lechin, president of the COB, have been arrested and subjected to inhuman torture and their lives are in jeopardy. In Chile and Uruguay, so-called plebiscites are being staged. Thousands of activists are in prison. In Guatemala and El Salvador repression has reached the proportions of genocide. In Argentine and Peru, the conditions reflect the same alarming situation and trade union activists and workers are subjected to brutal repression.

This 31st session of the AITUC calls on all unions and workers to act in solidarity with the trade unions and toiling masses of these countries and support their struggle for trade union rights and liberties. The AITUC demands the release of all those arrested by the reactionary regimes of these countries and call for a halt to the repression.

In Latin America, however, in socialist Cuba, in Nicaragua and in Grenada, the picture is different. These countries are steadily advancing and the working class actively participates in all development. The US imperialists are, therefore, stepping up their attacks on these countries. In Brazil, the workers and trade unions, in unity with other social forces are making further headway towards a democratic system after many years of fascist dictatorship.

The 31st session of the AITUC hails the victories and call on all trade unions to express their solidarity with them in their fight against the imperialist machinations.

On Solidarity with Palestinian People's Struggle

The 31st session of the AITUC expresses its grave concern at the tense situation that obtains in the Middle East, and particularly in relation to the increased aggressive activity of Israel. The annexation of Jerusalem and its proclamation as Israel's "eternal capital" and the plans to annex other Arab territories in the Syrian Golan Heights, the bloody repression let loose on the Palestinian masses on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, the continuing confiscation of land and establishment of Zionist settlements and the increasing acts of aggression and repeated bombing of Lebanon, the attacks on Syria—all these display growing territorial expansionism of Israel.

To achieve a just and lasting peace it is necessary for the Israeli troops to withdraw from all the Arab territories occupied by them and to implement the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO, as stipulated in a recent decision of the UNO.

The AITUC calls on all trade unions to organise a campaign in support of the Palestinian people and the demand for the application of the recent UN resolution on Palestine within the stipulated period and for cessation of the attacks on Lebanon and Syria by Israel.

On Solidarity with workers and people of Korea

The 31st session of the AITUC extends its solidarity with the workers and people of South Korea who are undergoing a new phase of brutal repression and terror at the hands of the new fascist military clique which has taken over power in South Korea with the support of the US imperialists. There is not even any semblance of democracy and civil liberties. Hundreds have been arrested and done to death.

The US imperialists are occupying South Korea with more than 40,000 troops stationed there, which constitutes

the greatest impediment to peaceful reunification of Korea. The constructive proposals put forward by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in this regard have been turned down by the South Korean military dictators at the behest of US imperialists.

The 31st session of the AITUC extends firm solidarity with the just struggle of South Korean workers and people against fascist dictatorship and for democracy. The 31st session appeals to the democratic public opinion all over the world to demand the release of all those arrested in South Korea including the opposition leader Kim Dae Jung who has been sentenced to death in a fake trial and for the restoration of democratic rights and civil liberties in South Korea.

The AITUC extends support to the proposals put forward by the DPRK for peaceful reunification of Korea without outside interference.

On Solidarity with the workers of Turkey

The 31st session of the All India Trade Union Congress condemns the military coup in Turkey and the attacks on trade unions and democratic rights by the military regime. The militant central trade union organisation—DISK—has been dissolved and thousands of trade union activists detained. These events followed the brutal assassination of Kemal Turkler, an outstanding trade union leader of Turkey, by the reactionary forces.

The 31st session of the AITUC demands the immediate release of all trade unionists and democrats of Turkey and the restoration of unfettered trade union and democratic rights. The AITUC assures the DISK and all workers and trade unions in Turkey of its complete solidarity with their just struggle for an end to the military regime and for a peaceful democratic orientation, delinked from the NATO and the US imperialist tentacles.

On Bonus

This 31st session of the AITUC is of the considered opinion that bonus has become a vital part of the emoluments

of the working class in India which is constantly under attack from the employers, influential section of the bureaucracy and the monopoly press. During the emergency the right of bonus was annulled by an ordinance. The collective bargaining right of the workers in matters of bonus was taken away by repealing section 34(3) of the payment of bonus act. The talk of linking bonus to production and productivity which negates the basic concept of deferred wage, turned to be a big fiasco, as even employers were not prepared to accept it in both the private and public sector. By a special act of parliament, the bonus contracted bilaterally was invalidated depriving contracted bonus to millions of workers.

In its election manifesto, the Janata party accepted bonus as a deferred wage. But, on coming to power, while it restored the right to guaranteed minimum bonus of 8.33 per cent, though on a year to year basis, at the same time the Janata party government refused to restore the old provision of Section 34(3) and failed to accept the demand for raising the limits of salary for eligibility and ceiling etc. It dragged its feet in accepting the right to bonus in railways, post and telegraphs, defence and other central government employees. However, ultimately the Charan Singh government granted performance bonus as against a guaranteed minimum bonus to a section of railway workers, defence employees and the employees of the post and telegraphs department.

With the return to power of the Indira Gandhi government, the talks of productivity or production linked bonus, on which workers and some times even employers have no control, have again started. The AITUC has consistently opposed productivity linked bonus or any bonus substituting the minimum statutory guaranteed bonus. The labour minister held talks with trade union leaders and employers but ultimately under the new law, the same old ad-hoc approach has been adopted. By not accepting the reforms in the bonus law, particularly by maintaining the ceilings, etc. the government has refused to accept that the same

has become out of date. As a result of unprecedented inflation, ceilings for eligibility and quantum have become redundant since the value of a rupee has been reduced to 1/3rd of what it was in 1965. It is again the reason for demanding radical reform in the law and to increase the quantum of minimum bonus.

While demanding radical revision of the bonus act the AITUC wishes to make it clear that the same and similar bonus should be ensured for all irrespective of the strength of employment in the establishment, to contract labour, to workers employed in scheduled employments and bidi rollers and all government employees. The AITUC at the same time demands the increase in the quantum of minimum bonus and removal of ceiling of Rs. 750 and Rs. 1600.

The AITUC strongly feels the computation chart to calculate allocable surplus is not free from defects for which purpose the balance sheet should not be taken to be sacrosanct. Bonus, having been accepted as a deferred wage, should be shown in the balance sheet as other revenue expenditures are shown and bonus beyond the purview to be calculated before deducting depreciation and development rebate; and that also before taxation. Exemption given to the new concerns should go. Compensation for any reasons including lay-off subsistence allowance and overtime work should be taken into account for calculating bonus.

The AITUC, therefore, demands:

- * Minimum bonus to all unconditionally and the quantum be raised upwards.
- * Radical change in the present bonus act including the computation chart.
- * Till the above is achieved, beyond the statutory minimum of 8.33 per cent, bonus should be left to be determined through the process of collective bargaining and if the income tax act is of any hindrance it may be amended.

- * The various ceilings, except the minimum or the exemption contained in the bonus act, should go.
- * The LIC workers, who got their bonus agreement enforced through a judgment of the supreme court must continue to enjoy the benefits like other workers in various undertakings.
- * The choice of linking bonus above the statutory minimum to profits or production or productivity must be left to the workers and the basis should be decided by collective bargaining.

On Wages and DA

This 31st Session of A.I.T.U.C. expresses deep dismay that despite the passage of 34 years since our country attained freedom, the working class has not been able to reach to a living wage and even the need-based norm of minimum wages evolved by the 15 Tripartite has not been attained even in the organised industry.

On the other hand, there has been a steep fall in the real wages of the workers. Capitalists both foreign and Indian caught in the throes of deepening economic crisis, seek a way out by throwing the entire burdon on to the shoulders of the working people and by vicious attacks even on their meagre living standards.

The capitalist rulers have put out theories of wage-price spiral, of high wage islands and wage-freeze, one of the latest being through the so-called Boothalingam Study Panel.

The 31st session of A.I.T.U.C. rejects outright the recommendations of the Boothalingam Study group for a national minimum wage of Rs. 100/- and demands instead that a national minimum wage of Rs 400/- should prevail in the sweated/scheduled industries in the Minimum Wages sector in 1980 itself., while the wage level in the organised industry should immediately be determined on the basis of need based norms, without brooking any further delay, through collective bargaining and certainly not through the dis-

credited and delaying mechanism of Wage Board and Tribunal which was long rejected by the entire trade union movement.

It is significant that while the value added by manufacture has been increasing steeply over the last decade, the share of workers in this is declining year after year, adding to the super-profits of the capitalist class as a whole. A determined struggle, region wise and nationwide alone can halt process and reverse it for the benefit of the working class.

Despite the wage increase, there is a continuous erosion in real wages by galloping inflation, manipulation and fraud in compilation of cost of living indices, ceiling on D.A., impounding of D. A. through various schemes.

This 31st Conference therefore demands immediate rectification of the faulty and fraudulent cost of living index as per the recommendations of the Rath Committee which the Janata Government then and the Indira Government now have put in cold storage, thereby causing continuous loss of crores of rupees to the working class.

The 31st Session while rejecting the ceiling on D.A. demands full neutralisation in the Dearness Allowance at all wage levels with a corrected index in every sector of employment whether public or private, organised or minimum wages sector in Scheduled Industries.

The 31st session further demands that the wage revision in the minimum wages should be revised statutorily every two years.

The session further demands that the outmoded system of wages, specially in the textile industry should go and be replaced by a time scale system with an incremental span that will double their emoluments in 10-15 years period.

The session further demands introduction of uniform pay scales and other amenities for employees of all universities and colleges covered by the university grants commission.

The 31st session notes with gratification the rising trend

of united actions, industry wise as well as statewide which has certainly strengthened the collective bargaining power of the working class. Such united actions should be developed in the coming period also to win success in wage battles as in 1979.

On Industrial Relations Law

The 31st session of the AITUC reiterates the demands of the trade union movement being voiced since long for a democratic industrial relations system ensuring full trade union rights to workers and employees, to replace the existing outmoded and anti-worker laws.

The 31st session congratulates the working class and trade unions of various persuasions for rejecting with one voice the anti-worker and anti-trade union industrial relations bill brought forth by the Janata party government in 1978.

Pending evolving of a comprehensive industrial relations bill acceptable to the trade union movement the 31st session of the AITUC demands of the government to amend immediately the existing industrial disputes act to provide for:

1. Extension of the definition of 'industry' to cover all wage and salary earners without discrimination and distinction on account of occupation and place of work including employees of Universities, Colleges, Hospitals, etc.
2. Compulsory recognition by means of secret ballot.
3. Abolition of salary ceiling and nature of work for being defined as 'workman'.
4. The right of individual cases of termination of services to be taken directly to labour courts.
5. No compulsory arbitration or adjudication, except when demanded by the trade unions.
6. Annulment of all restrictions on the right of strike

and trade union work inside and outside the factories and in industrial townships.

7. The right of trade unions to take disputes directly to courts and tribunals if desired.

The AITUC warns the government that any attempt to arbitrarily impose restrictions on the formation and functioning of trade unions, on the exercise of trade union rights including the right to strike, will be strongly resisted by the trade union movement with all its might. This session of the AITUC calls upon the workers to be vigilant and build the widest unity to defeat any such move.

Against Anti-Democratic Ordinances

The 31st session of the AITUC condemns the national security ordinance promulgated recently. This ordinance gives draconian powers of detention without trial and other actions to the government. As has been the experience of the last more than 30 years, whatever the ostensible or declared purpose of such ordinances may be, these are invariably used ultimately against workers' struggles and their rights.

The AITUC expresses grave concern that some state governments have enacted laws or are proposing to prohibit strikes by issuing ordinances and otherwise on the pretext of maintaining essential services with the discretionary powers to declare any industry and service as essential. Their main aim is to suppress the legitimate grievances of the employees concerned.

The 31st session of the AITUC in this connection congratulates the Karnataka State Committee and other trade union centres in the state for organising a statewide protest general strike on 18 August 1980 against the essential services maintenance bill.

The AITUC calls upon all unions to organise united protest campaigns against these anti-democratic measures aimed principally against the trade union movement.

On Trade Union Unity

In the struggles of the workers to defend their rights and secure better living and working conditions, the broadest possible unity of workers has always been and remains the most effective weapon of the working class. The AITUC therefore has always stood for and championed the cause of trade union unity.

It is, however, a regrettable fact that the working class movement in our country is divided and this results in weakness to further the legitimate rights of the workers.

In the past few years, there has been a growing unity of action between the various trade union centres and unions on concrete issues. This 31st session of the AITUC heartily welcomes this development. It was such broad unity that could succeed in defeating the move of the Janata Party government to foist the hated anti-working class industrial relations bill and also in securing minimum bonus of 8.33 per cent. This 31st session of the AITUC calls upon the workers and all trade unions to redouble their efforts and continue to strive for building the widest possible trade union unity in industries, factories and plants on local, regional and state levels on as wide as is possible. AITUC reiterates its pledge to strive its utmost to build effective and purposeful unity in action.

While all efforts at all-India and state levels have to be particularly and persistently pursued, efforts at unity from below, at the grass root level have a very important role to play at the present time. Such unity has been growing and should be taken forward by means of consultative committees of trade unions at plants, industry, region or state levels as is possible in a given circumstance.

While striving for overall trade union unity we have to lay special emphasis on unity with trade unions who accept the principles of class struggle and the objective of bringing about radical socio-economic changes and building socialism. Unity with such trade unions not only reduces rivalry but also helps in winning over larger sections

of the working class for struggle in furtherance of their rights. All attempts, at all levels, should be redoubled to achieve close understanding and cooperation between such unions. The AITUC makes a fervent appeal to trade unions believing in class struggle and standing for socialism to realise the seriousness of the situation and to sink narrow and sectarian considerations to cooperate and come together at this critical juncture so that not only attacks on the workers' rights can be effectively met and defeated, but so that the working class can play its historic role to lead the nation in a left and democratic direction. The AITUC on its part will initiate proposals for continuing consultations and coordination at the national level with such trade union centres.

We must also initiate concrete slogans of action and proposals for unity. Dialogues and discussions and constructive criticism all form an integral part of our attempt to achieve unity. Sectarian attempts and disruption have to be patiently combated both by mass work and building compelling unity from below.

While we have to strive for widest possible unity, the importance of our own independent actions and initiatives is of very great importance. Strong and active unions with living ties with the workers, taking independent action, will greatly help us in playing our role as unifier of the working class movement. Therefore, the AITUC calls on all trade unions to build up their own strong unions and take forward the great task of bringing about the unity of the trade union movement in the country.

On Social Security

This 31st session of the All India Trade Union Congress takes serious note of the continuing defects and inadequacies of the various schemes of social security at present extant in the country in respect of coverage, financing, benefits and administration.

As far as coverage is concerned, not only are all wage earners, whether in industry or agriculture, not covered

by existing social security legislation, but even all sections of industrial workers are yet to be brought under the purview of such legislation.

The AITUC urges government to remove all conditions of infancy period of an industry, minimum service, wage limit, etc. As an immediate step, the EPF Act and other social security benefits should be extended to all workers employed in establishments with 10 or more workers.

In respect of the financing of social security schemes, at present, the employees' provident fund scheme, family pension scheme and employees' state insurance scheme are mainly financed by contributions from the workers and the employers, while all other schemes such as the gratuity scheme, maternity benefit scheme, workmen's compensation scheme, etc. are financed by the employers. The government does not finance any scheme except contributions to the family pension schemes and the employees' deposit linked scheme and ridiculously low contributions of state governments to the ESIS.

The AITUC has been and is of the firm view that any scheme for social security should be the responsibility of the government and the employers. However, until such a scheme is achieved, as an immediate step, this session of the AITUC demands that the rate of the provident fund contributions should be raised uniformly to 10 per cent throughout the country without exception. Workers earning upto Rs. 6 per day should be exempted from the contribution to the ESIS.

Another aspect of this question is that, on the one hand, the value of the EPF deposits is steadily going down due to inflationary pressures and, on the other, even the bank or post office rate of interest on fixed deposit is not given to the workers. At present, the interest on EPF deposits is only 8.25 per cent in the case of unexempted establishments and the rate of interest on family pension deposits is only 5½ per cent which was fixed as far back as 1971 when the scheme was first introduced. The rate of interest in the

case of overwhelming majority of the exempted establishments is much lower—it varies from 4 per cent to 7 per cent.

This session of the AITUC is of the firm opinion that the real value of all the EPF deposits must be ensured. To begin with, the bank and post office rate of interest should be paid to the workers. At the same time, in the matter of investment of the funds of the EPF, government should be guided by the central board of trustees, thereby ensuring a democratic functioning on this vital question.

Another important question is that, as a result of the defective bureaucratic administration of the scheme, huge arrears have accumulated over the years. But the government has been consistently underplaying the seriousness of this problem and tried to show that the arrears constitute only a small percentage of the total collection of the contributions. But the fact remains that lakhs of workers had been affected by the default in payment of dues.

The employers of both exempted and unexempted establishments have embezzled and not deposited crores of rupees in the EPF and ESI. It is significant that the employers of the exempted establishments are the main defaulters. At present, the arrears in respect of EPF amount to Rs. 22.95 crores and in respect of family pension fund, Rs. 22.05 crores, and in respect of employees' deposit linked scheme, Rs. 2.78 crores.

It is most reprehensible that government itself is in default in respect of its contributions to the family pension scheme and the employees' deposit linked scheme to the extent of as much as Rs. 20.79 crores and Rs. 1.80 crores respectively as on 31 March 1980. Similarly, it should be noted that hundreds of public sector undertakings both at the centre and state levels, are both in default also.

Another aspect of these arrears is that out of Rs. 22.95 crore, due to the EPF, Rs. 7.97 crores are due to the workers of mills belonging to the National Textile Corporation. Government refuses to shoulder the responsibility of pay-

ment of this amount. Similarly, employers are in arrears to the tune of crores of rupees towards the ESIC.

Thousands of prosecution cases are today pending in the courts awaiting disposal—as many as 25,852—and 19,832 recovery cases are pending execution with the recovery authorities. The employers continue to take recourse to courts of law to delay the recovery of money due from them.

This 31st session of the AITUC, therefore demands:

- * The category of exempted establishments be abolished.
- * Social Security Legislation be included in the ninth schedule of the constitution, to bar the courts from interference in respect of recovery of arrears.
- * The EPF and ESI organisations should have independent recovery machinery as in the case of income tax department.
- * The government should take steps immediately to clear outstanding dues of the workers of NTC mills and all nationalised undertakings where this problem exists.
- * The acts be amended to give priority to the recovery of EPF and ESI arrears, over all other creditors in the distribution of assets of the establishment under liquidation. All future legislation nationalising any particular establishment should ensure that workers' dues are given the first priority.
- * The employers' and employees' share in all cases of default should be paid from the forfeiture account. Pass books should be issued to all EPF members, in which monthly entries should be made and the ESI card should carry a photograph of the insured worker.

Benefits under the various social security schemes are very meagre inspite of the fact that the workers are the main contributors. It can be said that insurance for the

health of the worker is being mainly from his own earnings over the years. Full hospitalisation to the families of the workers does not exist in all centres and states. The construction of the hospitals has proceeded at a very slow pace.

A ridiculously low minimum pension of Rs. 40 per month is provided under the family pension scheme and retirement benefits are also very meagre since all these were fixed in 1971. Since then the value of money has itself gone down.

Similar is the position in respect of employees' deposit-linked scheme, benefits under the workmen's compensation act, maternity benefits and various benefits under the employees' state insurance scheme, coal mines welfare scheme, etc.

On the other hand, there is a huge accumulation of balance under the ESI, EPF and EDLI schemes according to the valuer's report submitted to the ESI Corporation and the latest annual report of the EPF organisation.

This 51st session of the AITUC demands that the benefits under the ESI, EPF, EDLI and workmen's compensation act, maternity benefit, gratuity act, etc. should be substantially enhanced. Further, all wage earners should be entitled to benefits of social security schemes including the gratuity act, workmen's compensation act and the ceiling now placed on salaries for purposes of entitlement should be removed.

The AITUC demands that full wages should be paid in all cases of sickness, accident and full hospitalisation facilities extended to family members throughout the country. The limit existing at present for the period for payment of sickness benefit should be cancelled. In the case of gratuity, the amount should be raised to 30 days' wages per year of service and the clauses in the act regarding the minimum service, forfeiture of gratuity in case of dismissals, should both be removed.

One of the major defects is inordinate delay in settlement of claims and applications as also issuance of annual state-

ments of claims. This session demands that all claims and applications for advances be settled within 20 days and all arrears in issuance of annual statements be cleared immediately.

One of the major drawbacks in the ESI and EPF Schemes, is the manner in which they are run. Ostensibly, these schemes are run by bodies which are tripartite in composition, but the weightage in both the committees has been given to government representatives who form the majority of the members. The workers' representatives are in a small minority. The workers are also the major contributors to the schemes. The main demand, therefore, in respect of these schemes is that the composition of the management should be changed and that workers be given due share of representation. It is pertinent to mention here that the representation of AITUC in the board of trustees of the EPF has been reduced in the board to be reconstituted.

This session of the AITUC is of the firm view that workers' representation in the central board of trustees of the EPF and in the ESI Corporation should be substantially increased. Unless this is done, and a democratic management of the schemes ensured, the existing defects will continue and dissatisfaction of the workers increase. The AITUC further demands that the representation given to its organisation should not be decreased.

The AITUC has consistently stood for a comprehensive social security scheme. The review committee set up to examine the ESIS had, as far back as 1966, recommended that government take measures to introduce such a comprehensive scheme. This was accepted by government, in principle, but there has been no further progress in the matter. The fight for such a scheme is an uphill task. The normal working day and a living wage for the worker is incomplete without social security. Social security is also primarily the responsibility of the government and of the employers. At the same time, such a scheme would eventually have to embrace the millions of people without work

and without any means of existence. The schemes extant today are not only defective but also cover only a minority of the working masses. Hence, the demand for a comprehensive scheme which also envisages a scheme of unemployment insurance.

Social security is the concern of the entire people and while defending the existing gains, the AITUC has been striving for such a comprehensive social security scheme where the cost of benefits will fall solely on the government and the employers. The benefits should be extended to cover all natural contingencies without imposing restricting conditions on the workers. The democratic management of the scheme must be ensured by assigning to trade unions their share in management at all levels. This is an indispensable condition to the success of any social security scheme.

This 31st session of the AITUC calls on all trade unions to take up this vital demand with renewed vigour and mobilise the broadest participation in a campaign for this demand.

Right to Work and Employment

It is common knowledge that, despite increase in employment during the plan periods, unemployment also has been increasing by leaps and bounds. In fact, job opportunities fall far short of requirements and for ensuring gainful employment to tens of millions of job seekers. Insufficient development, lack of rapid industrialisation and absence of thorough-going agrarian reforms have had the cumulative effect of too many job-seekers chasing too few jobs. There is no doubt that this is one of the scourges of capitalism and that full employment can only be ensured in a socialist economy as the growing unemployment in the capitalist world and total absence of unemployment in the Soviet Union and other socialist countries have amply and unmistakably demonstrated.

The exploiting classes take full advantage of the growing army of unemployed to depress wages and other benefits of those who are employed. The acute problem of

unemployment is not confined to unskilled or illiterates, but also extends to educated sections including people of various professions.

In India, unlike in developed capitalist countries, the state neither takes the responsibility of providing jobs for the able-bodied unemployed who are willing to work nor make any provision for the subsistence of the unemployed; the entire burden of maintenance of the unemployed in any household rests on those who are employed, although this factor is never taken into account while fixing wages and salaries of the employed either in the public or private sector.

The 31st session of the AITUC considers that the right to work and employment is a fundamental right of a citizen and it should be obligatory on the part of the state to provide for work and gainful employment failing which the state must provide for subsistence or unemployment benefit as an essential measure of social security.

The 31st session of the AITUC notes that the Left and democratic governments of Kerala and West Bengal have introduced unemployment relief and some other states like Punjab have taken steps in this direction which, though inadequate, partially mitigate the ordeal which the unemployed, particularly the educated youth, have to undergo. It amounts, on the other hand, to an implied acceptance of this obligation on the part of the state governments, in principle, to provide subsistence to the unemployed.

The AITUC draws urgent attention to all unions and workers to the necessity of building up a broadbased movement on the demand of right to work or unemployment benefit to all unemployed persons with a view to forcing the government of India to accept its obligation towards the unemployed.

Insufficient economic development and regional imbalances in development have given rise, along with and arising out of growing unemployment, to various divisive and fissiparous tendencies under different slogans which ultimately divide the working class and harm national in-

tegrity. Such reactionary tendencies are getting fertile ground to operate as the unemployment problem gets more acute day by day.

The 31st session of the AITUC appeals to all trade unions and all democratic forces for a united campaign on this urgent national issue.

On Reduction of Working Hours

For more than thirty two years, there has been no change in the working hours of industrial workers in India. The Factories Act, 1948, provides for a minimum 48-hour week. During the whole of the post-independence period, the working hours have remained unaltered, particularly for the blue-collared workers. Not only is Indian labour cheap and wages extremely low, but they are also made to work longer hours for the profit of the employers.

This state of affairs has been allowed to continue despite technological developments, setting up of modern industries and production processes, and despite growing army of unemployed job-seekers and lack of job opportunities for the new entrants in the labour force of the country. This apart, overtime work and incentive schemes have further narrowed down the opportunity of any increase in the avenues of employment. The employing classes have, on the one hand, introduced rationalisation in various ways and reduced labour complements, and, on the other, increased the workload of the existing labour force to extract more profit.

This 31st session of the All India Trade Union Congress considers that the time has come to take concrete steps towards reduction of working hours and this session demands that the weekly hours of work be reduced in the first instance to 44 hours from 48 hours without any loss of wages.

The AITUC notes that in many capitalist countries, not only are the hours of work much lower, but the workers in those countries, particularly in Western Europe, are conducting struggles for a 35-hour week.

The 31st session of the AITUC appeals to all central

trade union organisations and all unions and federations to take up the issue jointly as one of the major demands of the trade union movement in the coming period.

On Agricultural Workers

In the thirty three years since independence, capitalist development has taken place in the field of agriculture also. At the same time tardy implementation of land reforms, the benami-holdings that exist, all these have contributed to further intensification of the exploitation in the rural areas. The problem of an adequate wage for agricultural workers and full trade union rights has assumed greater importance and urgency.

In the exploitation that exists in the countryside, the rural landed classes also increase their attacks on agricultural labour, the vast majority of whom belong to the Harijans and weaker sections. The Bharatiya Khet Mazdoor Union, (BKMU) has faced many difficulties, arising out of the class and caste oppression, in organising the agricultural labour.

While minimum wages for agricultural labour have been announced in the various regions and states, the implementation is achieved only where the agricultural labour is organised and, after bitter struggle. There is yet no adequate machinery to ensure implementation. While in areas where newer techniques are being used and modern agricultural practices are adopted, the productivity of the agricultural workers has yielded higher profits to the big landowners, the agricultural workers have not received remuneration commensurate with this. At the same time, unemployment and underemployment amongst agricultural workers is also on the increase and more and more of them are now living below the poverty line.

The AITUC supports the demands of the BKMU which include:

- * trade union rights ensuring security of employment, machinery for the fixation of wages and regulation of working conditions, compensation for injury and loss of life, provident fund, health insurance, pension, etc.

- * employment guarantee schemes for all agricultural workers, men and women, and provision for unemployment wages when there is no work provided.
- * equal wages for men and women, maternity benefit schemes, and provision of creches and kindergartens.
- * a separate administrative machinery to ensure implementation of all legislation relating to agricultural workers.

The 31st session of the AITUC expresses its full solidarity with the BKMU in fighting for the achievement of a comprehensive legislation. The BKMU has given a call for a united one-day countrywide action of strikes, demonstrations before government offices, etc. of all agricultural workers in support of these demands. The AITUC calls on all workers and trade unions to extend the fullest support to the BKMU in organising this mighty battle. The agricultural workers are a significant and powerful section of the toiling masses and fighting shoulder to shoulder with them the working class will better be able to march forward to further successes.

On Working Women

This 31st session of the All India Trade Union Congress notes that the discrimination against women workers continues unabated. In many industries where they were traditionally employed, they are being steadily eliminated. The vast majority of the working women are confined to the lowest paid categories and sweated industries.

The equal remuneration act is far from being implemented in all areas of employment. The special requirements of working women such as creches, kindergartens, after care centres and hostels for working girls are either far from satisfactory or totally absent. There is practically no scheme for proper technical training for women workers to enable them to acquire higher skills. Feudal and semi-feudal attitudes on the part of the employers also continue, seriously affecting the working women. In most places, working conditions are extremely onerous.

and such problems as inadequate housing and sanitation facilities affect women workers primarily.

This 31st session of the AITUC therefore, demands that:

- * special implementation machinery should be set up to guarantee the implementation of the equal remuneration act
- * all iniquitous and onerous practices should end security of employment of women in industries where they are already employed should be ensured.
- * all discriminatory practices in regard to employment of women, and especially in the employment exchanges, should be eradicated and women assured of equality of opportunity in employment in all fields of employment
- * working women should be given in-training at their jobs to enable them to acquire higher skills
- * working women should be ensured protection from all forms of harassment and particularly at their places of work.

The AITUC directs all unions to take up these demands of working women and extend the fullest support to the struggle for achievement of their specific demands. During the period since the last session there have been some conferences and meetings of working women. The AITUC resolves to take steps to organise an all-India conference and ensure the broadest participation in it. The struggle for achievement of demands of working women should be coordinated with the trade union movement as a whole and is an integral part of it.

The AITUC, while calling on women workers to come forward and join the trade unions, also calls on all unions to help working women to more and more shoulder responsibilities in their respective trade unions. The active participation of the working women in trade union work, in the struggles and activities of the unions are the surest guarantee that their special demands are also achieved.

On Prices

The All India Trade Union Congress expresses its deep anxiety and agony at the continually rising prices of all essential commodities making the life of workers and fixed income groups miserable. Industrial workers' real wages are constantly being eroded. Firstly, all the workers do not get dearness allowance, and the overwhelming majority of wage earners, particularly in the sweated industries, do not get any dearness allowance. Secondly, even where dearness allowance is paid it does not automatically rise with the rise in the consumer price index in most cases. And, lastly, even where it is linked, it does not fully neutralise the rise in index. The index is itself faulty and does not reflect accurately the actual price rise in the retail market.

The trade unions are vitally interested in price stability as that is the only way to retain wage stability in real terms.

The other side of the price phenomenon is that the primary producer, the peasant does not get a remunerative price for his produce. We witness the paradoxical phenomenon of the peasants forced to accept a low price for paddy, wheat, sugarcane, jute, cotton, oilseeds, etc., which they produce, while all consumers pay a higher price for rice and wheat, for cloth and sugar, for edible oils.

This phenomenon expresses the monopoly loot through its controlled market mechanism. The trade unions must, therefore, jointly with agricultural workers and peasants' organisations fight for:

- * remunerative prices for the producer, and
- * a reasonable price for essential consumer articles.

This could be achieved only through a well organised public distribution system of consumer cooperatives, government depots and even retail shop-keepers working under popular vigilance committees.

To usher in such a public distribution system, as the Kerala experience shows, the government should have physical control over stocks through the distribution system.

The AITUC, therefore, demands that the public sector must enter the essential consumer goods industry and the distribution system.

- * The sugar, drug and cotton textile and jute industry must be nationalised.
- * In other cases such as edible oils, soap, etc. the government should take over the stocks for public distribution.
- * With regard to foodgrains and industrial raw materials such as cotton and jute, the government should resort to monopoly purchase of all marketable stock so as to ensure remunerative price to producers and to set at naught the manipulations by monopolies and traders.

This is the only way to stabilise prices and afford relief to the toiling people.

The AITUC calls upon the organised trade union movement to take up the challenge of the monopolies and force the government through united struggle to implement this programme of stabilising prices of the commodities of daily use.

On Minimum Wages in Scheduled Employments

Millions of workers toil in the vast sweated industry sector of scheduled employments. And the minimum wages law makes it obligatory on the part of the respective governments to fix, revise and enforce statutory minimum wages for these workers. But, everywhere, except in Kerala and West Bengal, the wages are low and are not revised for long periods. The law provides for "cost of living allowance" to help workers to cushion their earnings at least to some extent from the rising prices.

But such an allowance is allowed only in some states like Kerala, Punjab and Bihar. In fact, the central government has not given any cost of living allowance to employments that come under its jurisdiction. In a number of states, the minimum wages have been stagnating at these fixed more than five years ago.

In some cases, where wages are revised and notified, for

certain employments, the employers go to the courts and obtain stay on implementation.

This 31st session of the AITUC notes that the trade unions in this sector have started moving into action. There was a day's token strike in Andhra Pradesh and Delhi. There has been a state-wide convention in Bihar to launch a movement for revision of minimum wages.

The AITUC demands of the respective governments to take steps immediately to revise the minimum wages and allow cost of living allowance. In no case should the minimum monthly wages be less than Rs. 400.

The AITUC calls upon the state TUCs and all the unions in this sector and appeals to all the other central trade union organisations to launch a united struggle for securing a reasonable minimum wage of not less than Rs. 400 per month and a system of cost of living allowance linked to the consumer price index to protect the workers from exorbitant rise in prices.

Rectify the Consumer Price Index

The 31st session of the AITUC expresses its indignation at the refusal of the government to rectify the 1960-based consumer price index as recommended by the Rath Committee, thus denying the workers their due dearness allowance. The decision of the government will only go to the benefit of the employers to the tune of tens of crores of rupees.

The workers will thus continue to be doubly penalised—on account of denial of full neutralisation of the rise in the cost of living and also due to faulty index which does not accurately reflect the actual cost of living.

The 31st session of the AITUC considers the union government's decision in this regard as totally ill-advised and ill-conceived, which will only accentuate the discontent of the workers and employees and as an atrocious way of appeasing the employers.

The 31st session reiterates the stand of the AITUC already communicated to the government that the AITUC will not cooperate with any programme for a fresh family budget survey

until the 1960-based index is rectified as recommended by the Rath Committee and the fresh survey undertaken only after the establishment of tripartite machinery also recommended by the committee to supervise and conduct the same.

The AITUC calls on all trade unions to undertake a vigorous and sustained campaign ensuring the broadest participation to achieve this urgent demand of the working class.

On Lock-outs and Closures

The 31st session of the AITUC views with serious concern the large incidence of lockouts and closures declared by the employers throwing workers out of job resulting in untold sufferings for the workers and their families.

More often than not, the employers resort to lockout as a means of inflicting punishment on the workers to suppress their legitimate grievances, and also with the object of imposing harsher working conditions. Closures also have become a handy weapon for the employers for use against the workers.

The AITUC deprecates the attempts to equate lockouts with strikes, with a view to giving a free hand to the employers to resort to lock-outs, while taking various measures, direct and indirect, to suppress strikes.

The 31st session of the AITUC draws attention of all unions to the importance and urgency of organising solidarity actions in the struggles of workers locked out by the vindictive employers.

The AITUC urges both the central and state governments to take stern measures against lockouts and closures including the take over of such concerns.

On Communal Disturbances

This 31st session of the All India Trade Union Congress expresses its deep sense of horror at the present communal disturbances in a number of cities and towns and in the state of Uttar Pradesh in particular.

These riots, first and foremost, lead to loss of valuable working lives and deprive the wage earners of their daily

bread. They make a dent in the ranks of the toiling people, make united struggle to defend working and living conditions impossible and in the ultimate analysis help only the exploiters and profiteers.

That is why the organised trade union movement has to take them seriously and mobilise all its might to prevent and combat the communal menace.

No doubt, there are communal, parochial and aggressive sectarian forces such as the RSS and Jamat-i-Islami who only thrive on communal polarisation.

That reactionary vested interests at home and imperialists and the Chinese expansionists abroad do extend their help and sympathies to such elements is also not in doubt.

That deteriorating economic situation, rising prices, growing unemployment, create an atmosphere of frustration and dependency which work as a favourable medium for the reactionaries to fan such diversionary, fratricidal movements, should be noted by trade unions.

That the PAC and sectors of the administration, specially in Uttar Pradesh, and the BMP and sections of the administration in Bihar, have been rendered partisan by infiltration of communal elements and have therefore been igniting rather than fighting communalism, is the shocking experience of recent communal disturbances.

In these circumstances, it is the duty of all trade unions and the entire organised working class to defend secularism and unity of toiling people against all divisive forces and ideologies. They must mobilise all their strength to maintain communal peace and cooperate with all the forces of peace and unity, including administration, to restore peace where it is disturbed. We demand the reorganisation of the police forces and administration on secular lines by providing adequate representation to minorities, scheduled castes and others, where this is lacking.

The AITUC makes a fervent appeal to the entire organised working class to take up the communal challenge and vigo-

rously uphold the banner of secularism, communal unity and the unity of toilers.

On the North-Eastern Region

The 31st session of the All India Trade Union Congress notes with serious concern that the movement which was launched more than a year ago in some of the states of the north-eastern region of India over the issue of foreign nationals is not only defying solution, but has deteriorated alarmingly in recent months threatening the very national integrity of India.

The AITUC is fully conscious of the indisputable fact that the people of the north-eastern region, which is abundantly rich in natural resources, have historically been the victims of gross neglect and successive central governments have paid little or no attention to their problems of economic and cultural development. Their resultant resentment and deep-seated grievances have created a fertile soil for the growth of divisive and communal forces which are now trying to take full advantage of it to divert the mass sentiment into dangerous anti-national channels.

It is also true that there has been, over the years, a large scale infiltration of people from East Pakistan, and later Bangladesh, to Assam and other north-eastern states. The situation today warrants a satisfactory solution of the problems of foreign nationals, based on constitution, relevant acts, international agreements and humanitarian considerations.

The AITUC notes with serious concern the extreme stand taken by the leadership of the Assam agitators in the matter and their refusal to negotiate a settlement except on their own terms. Their organised blockade of crude oil, plywood, timber and jute to the rest of India is not only causing immense loss to the nation, but also disrupting the economic life of the north-eastern region itself.

The AITUC cannot fail to note that the movement in Assam has developed a pronouncedly anti-Left character and that sustained attacks have been launched against the left parties and trade unions and their cadres. The massacre of the people belonging to linguistic and religious minorities and tribals has

taken place in many parts of the state. Chauvinist and communal forces like the RSS, Jamait-i-Islami, Amra' Bangali, Ananda Marg, etc. are working overtime to disrupt the unity of the common people. The working class and toiling masses are being divided with one section pitted against the other. Extreme bitterness among different linguistic, ethnic and religious communities has been roused, undermining the common class and democratic struggles of the masses.

US imperialism and Maoist China are lending direct help and guidance to the separatist and secessionist forces who have raised the slogan of a "United States of Assam" consisting of the seven north-eastern states. This is having a dangerous impact not only in the entire north-eastern region of our country, but also on the whole of India, threatening its very national integrity and unity.

After the failure of the talks recently held between the Union Home Minister and the sponsors of the current agitation in Assam, the government of India has come out with its decision, as a starting point to start the work of detection of foreigners who came to Assam after March 1971 vigorously and on a priority basis. But, unfortunately, instead of responding to the government decision, the leaders of the current agitation have resumed their movement from 27 October 1980 in all its forms including bandhs, gheraoing members of the state assembly, etc. Such a line of action will only hamper the process of normalisation and the solution of the problem and will obviously lead to chaos and disorder.

The AITUC appeals to all the democratic secular minded people of Assam and neighbouring states to take a resolute stand against all secessionist ideas and activities and rouse the people in defence of the unity and integrity of India and for peace and unity amongst all communities of the region.

The AITUC warns the working class throughout the country to be vigilant against the danger of disruptive, communal and chauvinist forces spreading their activities to other states, particularly among tribals and people of backward and neglected regions. The unity of the working class and trade unions must be consciously defended at all cost against all attempts

of the monopolists and other reactionary forces to divide and suppress the working class.

In Support of Journalists and Newspaper Employees

The 31st session of the All India Trade Union Congress congratulates the working Journalists and newspaper and news agency employees for their magnificent countrywide strike on 30 September 1980 demanding amendment of the final version of the Palekar award which goes back in certain vital respects from the interim proposals.

The AITUC fully endorses their demands and hopes the government will not once again succumb to the pressure of the press barons.

The AITUC assures all support to the newspaper employees, both journalists and non-journalists, in any step they take for realising their legitimate demands.

Solidarity with the struggle of Life Insurance Corporation and the General Insurance Corporation employees

The 31st session of the AITUC extends full support to the longdrawn battle being conducted by the employees of the Life Insurance Corporation and the General Insurance Corporation for settlement of their long pending charter of demands.

It is highly condemnable that the government, instead of coming to an expeditious settlement of the demands of the employees of these two corporations, are trying to curtail even the existing rights and benefits, as it has done in the case of the GIC by a government order.

The 31st session of the AITUC urges upon the government of India to withdraw all unilateral orders and arrive at an early negotiated settlement with the employees.

The AITUC reiterates its solidarity with the struggling LIC and GIC employees.

On Strike of Local Self-Government Employees in Bihar

This 31st session of the All India Trade Union Congress congratulates the heroic continuous strike of 30,000 local self-

government employees of Bihar and supports their just demand for parity of wages with other government employees of Bihar.

The AITUC demands immediate and unconditional release of all striking local self-government employees of Bihar who have been arrested for offering peaceful satyagraha and an immediate negotiated settlement of their just demands.

On Repression, Firings and Attacks on Trade Unions

This 31st session of the All India Trade Union Congress notes with grave concern the repression on the trade union movement and the working class in many parts of the country resulting in firings, harassment and serious infringement of the functioning of trade unions.

In Faridabad, more than one firing has taken place during the past year. On 17 October 1979, workers were fired upon and more than 20 were killed. Again, on 5 May 1980 another firing followed. All trade unions have strongly demanded that judicial inquiries should be instituted into these instances of wanton firing and the guilty punished, but the demand had not yet been conceded. The 31st session of the AITUC demands that the government concerned immediately order judicial inquiries into these instances of wanton killing of workers.

On 8 September 1980, thousands of tribal forest and agricultural workers and Adivasi peasants had assembled to protest against indiscriminate arrests of tribals, school and college going students and passengers in buses and trains by the police. The Bihar military police resorted to indiscriminate firing on the peaceful assembly and hundreds were injured and killed, amongst them tribal workers in the mines in Gua.

This 31st session calls upon the government to institute immediately a judicial inquiry into the firing. The AITUC further demands the appointment of a commission to consider the longstanding demands of the tribals and full compensation to the deceased families and release of all arrested workers and persons and withdrawal of all cases launched against them. The AITUC further demands the

withdrawal of the Bihar military police from the area and an end to the harassment of the tribal workers in the Gua iron ore mines, and peasants and agricultural workers.

In Ghaziabad, the attacks on the working class and trade unions by employers and government agencies has assumed serious proportions. Employers have been continuously scuttling negotiations. Prolonged strikes have resulted from the attitude of the employers and the administration. The employers have also resorted to hiring professional goondas to attack trade union activists and act as strike breakers. Trade union activists have been murdered and such murders go uninvestigated. Far from bringing the perpetrators of such crimes to book, the police have been falsely implicating workers in criminal cases.

The AITUC demands immediate withdrawal of all cases against trade unionists and workers in Ghaziabad, and a halt to all repressive measures. The AITUC calls on all trade unions to express their firm solidarity with the workers of Ghaziabad.

The AITUC calls on all trade unions and workers to fight back such attacks wherever they may occur unitedly and defend their rights and liberties in face of all attacks whether from the employers or the administration.

On Support to the Struggles of the Peasantry

Peasants all over the country and in particular in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamilnadu have come out in ever increasing struggles since the last several months. They have been agitating to get fixed a remunerative price for their produce, reduction of prices of inputs, abolition of betterment levy, debt relief, water tax, introduction of crop insurance, etc. In some places, they are also demanding implementation of minimum wages for the agricultural workers. Lakhs of peasants have participated in various forms of struggles and have been lathi charged, arrested and jailed. Due to inhuman police firing, 23 peasants lost their lives in Karnataka.

This 31st session of the AITUC strongly condemns the brutal repression let loose by the police against the peasants in Karnataka and demands that judicial enquiries be ordered in all cases of firing. It further demands that all those arrested during the agitation be released forthwith and all police cases withdrawn.

The 31st session of the AITUC urges upon the governments concerned to concede the legitimate demands of the peasants. It greets the peasants who have been conducting big struggles to get their just demands conceded.

The 31st session of the AITUC congratulates the AITUC trade unions and working class of Karnataka and other places for their solidarity actions in support of the peasantry and their struggles.

On Nationalisation of Industries which have been taken over

This 31st session of the All India Trade Union Congress notes that there are a number of undertakings which have been taken over by the government and still await nationalisation. Many such undertakings have been taken over by the Government of India after sustained united movements when they were either closed down or in the process of being closed down due to mismanagement, inner-management quarrels and malpractices. While the government and financial institutions have advanced considerable sums for running these undertakings the AITUC notes that the running of these undertakings has been left to the inefficient and corrupt bureaucrats and personnel of previous managements have also continued in key posts. This has resulted in continued inefficiency, malpractices and corruption and anti-labour practices. The AITUC demands that all such personnel should be immediately removed from the posts they hold and the management streamlined.

The AITUC further demands that all enterprises which have been taken over should be nationalised forth-

with. The unhealthy practice of either handing them back to the earlier managements or selling them to other bidders in the private sector should be ended once and for all.

Many such establishments are awaiting nationalisation. The Andhra Scientific Company, Machilipatnam, an important concern, taken over as far back as 1971, and producing defence equipment has been awaiting nationalisation for the past eight years. The nationalisation of this key concern has been subjected to inordinate bureaucratic delays. Other such concerns are also the Bengal Potteries Ltd., the Bengal Chemical Company founded by Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray, Bird & Co., etc.

This session of the AITUC demands that all such concerns be nationalised without further delay and released from all interference by the private sector and removal of all personnel of earlier managements from key posts.

The AITUC calls on all trade unions to carry on a sustained campaign to achieve this urgent demand to protect these industries and to save public money which has so far been invested in them.

On Retrenchment of Tobacco Workers

The government of India has recently given licenses to some tobacco companies to construct green leaf threshing plants in the tobacco industry. This industry is one that is primarily manned by women and accounts for the employment of more than two lakh workers. Erection of such plants, introducing uncalled for mechanisation, will result in rendering tens of thousands of workers unemployed. The step is uncalled for and the AITUC demands that the government forthwith cancel the licenses issued and thereby safeguard the employment of these workers. It is to be noted that this industry and the attempt to mechanise it arises also out of the domination of the industry by big monopolists with their multinational links.

The AITUC calls on all trade unions to support and campaign for this just and urgent demand of the tobacco workers.

On Nationalisation of tea concerns

The 31st session of the AITUC, after due consideration is of the view that tea is one of the most important export commodities in India and equally an important commodity in the home market. However, the control of the industry is in the hands mainly of those least concerned with the national requirements in respect of export trade or the home market. The management engaged in tea plantations and marketing and distribution of this commodity is dominated even now by foreign capital whose only motivation is to earn ever higher profits.

In view of the importance of this industry, the AITUC once again reiterates that all tea companies, whether foreign or Indian, engaged in plantations, marketing and distribution of tea in India should be nationalised immediately. Only thus can the drain of the country's resources in this field of industry be stemmed and the resources harnessed in service of the people.

The AITUC calls on all trade unions to take up this demand and carry out a sustained campaign to achieve the aim of nationalisation.

On Pollution

With the growth of industries, particularly chemical and other allied industries in India, the question of environmental pollution and keeping the air, water and land clean, has assumed urgency.

Eager to make easy huge profits with cheap labour, the multinationals of developed countries are rushing to instal in India, or collaborate or sell to India, outmoded technology which are banned in Europe and America.

The installation and working of the outmoded technology in the chemical industries and the uncontrolled generation of toxic gases and pollution of effluent water has started affecting the health of the workers and people, creating hazards and many are becoming victims of such deadly diseases as cancer.

In India, there are very few regulations to check or control toxic gases and polluted water. Though the water pollution (control) act is in force, only a few states have formed state boards as stipulated in the act. Wherever, such state boards are formed they are ineffective. Any state trying to enforce the central act on water pollution finds that big business is dodging implementation under various pretexts and even threaten to close down or lay off the factory.

This 31st session of the AITUC calls upon the government of India and the concerned states to enforce the following:

- * air pollution control act be enacted and enforced.
- * new licences should not be given to chemical industries without proper provision to check and control toxic gases and polluted effluent water. Especially out-moded technology in chemical industries and those banned in all advanced countries should not be allowed to be imported and given license for installation.
- * water pollution central boards be formed in states where they have not yet been set up.
- * trade union representatives be included in the central and state boards.
- * all the modern available technology for checking and controlling pollution be mustered not only from India but also from the socialist and advanced capitalist countries and the WHO and the particulars of such technology be made available to all state boards.
- * Working hours in chemical industries producing toxic gases and creating hazards be reduced to six hours per day.
- * There must be regular periodical medical check up in chemical and other industries and specialised treatment given to the workers employed in them.
- * A body of experts, including medical personnel from the IMA, be constituted at the centre, as well as in the

states, by the concerned governments to go into the effect of toxic gases inside the factories and the polluted air and water outside on workers and the surrounding area.

This 31st session of the AITUC calls upon the working class in India, and particularly the affiliated trade unions, to consciously and seriously take up the pollution problem and to press upon the concerned governments to take remedial measures.

A vigorous campaign in cooperation with outside agencies, including scientists, be conducted, educating the workers and the people on the problems of pollution and demand remedial measures.

On Vijayanagar Steel Plant

The Vijayanagar steel plant for which Prime Minister Indira Gandhi laid the foundation-stone at Toranagallu, in the heart of the iron ore belt in the district of Bellary in Karnataka State, in August 1971 has been almost shelved by the government of India. The 10,000 acres of land has been acquired for commissioning of the plant. The necessary infrastructure of laying a broadgauge railway line connecting the entire iron ore belt with the Madras-Guntakal railway line has been laid. The Narihalla project intended for provision of drinking water to the project area and the feasibility study are complete. When the Janata party government tried to make a political issue for buttressing their election campaign by stating that a "port based steel plant was required", in order to shelve the Vijayanagar steel plant, the chairman of MECON stated that "feasibilities are in favour of Vijayanagar, but the government wants it elsewhere"—this is the answer to the false campaign of the bankrupt political government of the country.

The commissioning of the steel plant, in addition to increasing the national wealth, will open up tremendous employment and occupational potentialities to the extent

of a few lakhs being employed or occupied. The Vijayanagar steel plant will result in opening up more than 260 ancillary industries. The state government of Karnataka, as envisaged in its own steel plant area development programme, is going to open many colleges, and a new Vijayanagara university, which will bring about a big change in the area and in the welfare of the people.

This 31st conference of the AITUC demands that the government of India immediately declare and undertake the work of commissioning the Vijayanagar steel plant and calls on the working class and people of the area to unite and fight and secure the plant.

On Beedi workers and their demands

This 31st session of the All India Trade Union Congress views with grave concern that even 14 years after the passing of the beedi and cigar workers (conditions of employment) Act, the implementation of the act has been most ineffective. The act, which sought to benefit about 40 lakhs of beedi workers toiling in one of the most sweated industries in the country, continues to be a mere piece of paper in most cases.

The AITUC therefore demands that government constitute immediately a central tripartite committee to go into the implementation of the act and formulate guidelines to state governments for setting up the requisite implementation machinery and ensure uniform implementation in all states.

The AITUC further strongly urges on the government to fix a national minimum wage with suitable variable dearness allowance for the beedi workers and abolition of the existing disparity between one state and another. The AITUC expresses grave concern at the discontinuation of the cess fund collection under the beedi workers welfare cess act, 1976, without providing for any alternative measure. This 31st session of the AITUC urges on government to earmark the maximum cess levy on one thousand beedis to provide adequate funds for welfare measures for the

beedi workers. The 31st session also deplores the continued delay in handling cases in court filed by employers to prevent the extension of the employees' provident fund act to all beedi workers who are deprived of this benefit. The AITUC urges on government to dispose of the cases speedily and ensure the extension of EPF to the beedi workers at the earliest.

On 6th Plan Frame

The AITUC considers the sixth plan frame as totally inadequate both in its basic approach and the targets, and demands that it is recast.

The trade unions are vitally interested in planned economic development of our country aimed at securing employment for the job seekers, reducing and stabilising prices and overcoming the crying imbalances as between backward regions and relatively developed areas. The plan must provide for gainful employment and overcome under-employment, both in terms of idle hours and low remuneration.

In a country of over 15 million registered unemployed, among whom over two million are graduates and post-graduates, and among the rest are also a great number of technically qualified and diploma holders, the plan must aim at rapid industrialisation with the public sector playing the leading role. The public sector has not to be confined only to heavy industry like steel and heavy chemicals or feeder industries like coal, power and transport. It must enter essential consumer goods sector as well which the plan frame assigns to private monopolies.

The crying inequalities in the countryside, and the growing unemployment and under employment among the rural poor, demands a policy of vigorous land reforms based on strict implementation of land ceiling laws, acquiring of surplus land and its distribution among the landless and the hungry, a policy of assistance to the poor and marginal farmer by way of supplying cheap inputs, providing cheap credit and helping in profitable marketing. Rural industries have to be built also as a source of gene-

rating remunerative employment. They have to be considered also as complementary sector to meet seasonal unemployment and other varieties of under employment.

The plan frame, on the contrary, makes fetish of the rural industries and assigns it the fantastic role of absorbing the bulk of backlog unemployment and new addition to the labour force.

The trade unions are very much concerned with price stability which is the only way to achieve wage stability. The plan should, therefore, aim at stabilisation of prices, which is unimaginable without a severe curb on monopoly profits. In our country, the monopoly profits are soaring as is evident from reserve bank and other studies.

The assets of monopoly houses have been growing by leaps and bounds despite the MRTP act.

High profits go with high prices. And prices can be lowered only by curbing monopoly profits.

Monopoly profits are acquired also by fleecing the primary producer. The peasant is deprived of a remunerative price only to add to the monopoly coffers.

This phenomenon has to be remedied by an attack on monopoly profits and taking away the distributive mechanism from their hands and resort to monopoly purchase by the government for supply through a public distribution system of government depots, cooperative stores and retail shop keepers, all working under the supervision of popular committees.

But the plan offers no such hope.

This 31st session of the All India Trade Union Congress, therefore, demands that the plan frame be recast on the lines of radical socio-economic changes against the monopolies and feudal vested interests and in the interests of the people, and calls upon the trade unions to unitedly agitate for it.

On Demands of Railway Workers

This 31st session of the All India Trade Union Congress notes that the long pending urgent demands of railwaymen

have met with scant regard on the part of the government and the railway administration. The just demands of the railway workers have been pending since the historic strike of May 1974 and continue to be ignored. Railwaymen continue to be treated as part of a government apparatus and do not have the rights of workers in other industries, though the railways are the biggest single industrial undertaking in the country.

The AITUC appreciates the growing participation of railway workers in general all round trade union action as was demonstrated in their total participation in the united action against the retrograde draft industrial relations bill proposed by the erstwhile Janata party government and the movement against the recommendations of the Bhoothalingam study group and for the implementation of the recommendations of the Rath committee in respect of correction of the consumer price index.

The AITUC wholeheartedly supports the demands unitedly agreed to in November 1979 by all trade unions of railwaymen viz:

- * Minimum bonus at 8.33 per cent.
- * Industrial wage structure for all railwaymen on par with workers in public sector undertakings such as steel, coal, etc.
- * Full decasualisation throughout the railways and ensuring casual labour all benefits according to their completed years of service in the railways.
- * Eight-hour duty to all railwaymen without exception.
- * Vacasion of all victimisation cases on the railways.
- * Time-bound promotion to all railwaymen in the categories.
- * Autonomous corporation for the management of the railways.

The AITUC further supports the demand of railwaymen for Rs. 150 interim increase until such time as a negotiated settlement on the above demands is reached.

The most important task before the railwaymen today is to achieve the widest possible unity and close their ranks. Experience in all other industries shows that where such unity has existed the just demands of the workers have been achieved. The unity achieved in drawing up the charter of demands has to be further strengthened and taken forward in the service of the railway workers. The AITUC is confident that the sentiments for unity existing amongst railwaymen will become a reality.

The AITUC calls on all affiliated unions in unity with all sections of the railway workers to strive unitedly to achieve the demands and assures the railwaymen of continuing support in their struggles.



APPEAL TO ALL WORKERS

FORWARD TO END THE MISERIES OF CAPITALIST RULE

Thirty three years after the achievement of national independence, our country is sinking deeper and deeper in the crisis of the capitalist system. This is the inevitable result of the capitalist path pursued by the Indian ruling class.

Prices of all essential commodities and consumer goods are galloping upwards. The cost of living index has risen by 40 points in the ten months since the Indira Gandhi government was reinstalled at the centre. The market for all essential commodities is totally in the grip of unscrupulous profiteers and hoarders, whom the government does not dare to touch. The working people of our country, facing untold privations and suffering, are being sacrificed at the alter of the powerfully entrenched blackmarket in the name of "free trade".

The only prices which remain depressed are the prices of agricultural raw materials and commercial crops produced by the sweat and toil of the farmers and perforce sold by them to the cartels of big traders and their agents.

Mass unemployment is spreading across the country like a cancer, nearly 60 per cent of our people are somehow surviving below the poverty line which condemns them to a sub-human existence.

Hundreds of industrial units are lying idle having been either closed down or locked out by the employers due to their own internecine quarrels over sharing the loot, or defalcation of funds and mismanagement, or simply in order to teach the workers a "lesson".

On the other hand, the monopoly houses in collaboration with foreign multinationals, are recording higher and higher

profits every year, sometimes despite lower production and sales. The grip of big business over the country's economy enables them to pile up their assets and reap maximum benefits with the help of government loans and bank credits and of concessions and services rendered to them by the public sector itself. Vast amassing of black money has made corruption all-pervading.

Unchecked inflation, now running at the rate of nearly 30 per cent for the year 1980, spells misery for the common man, but record profits for the capitalists. Such is the experience of all countries of the capitalist world, of which India is still very much a part.

In the vast countryside, the army of landless labourers and displaced, migrant workers is growing. Pauperised communities of Harijans, tribals and others, are desperately struggling to defend themselves from the rapacious economic and social oppression of landlords, moneylenders, contractors and other exploiters, who do not hesitate to resort to killings, arson, loot and rape.

Police violence in the service of the vested interests has reached unprecedented proportions. Peaceful strikes are being met by brutal firings and physical beatings of workers. The police has been directly involved in hundreds of instances of murderous assaults on the hamlets of landless agricultural labourers, Harijans and Adivasis, and on the minority community during communal disturbances. Torture and beatings in police lock-ups have acquired a new dimension of horror and brutality with the large number of cases of rape of which the police personnels have been guilty.

Capitalist class policies of the Congress and the Janata Party governments are unable to find a solution for the all-round crisis of rocketing prices, declining purchasing power of the masses, shrinking markets, a stagnant growth rate, unfavourable balance of trade, all-round corruption, mounting foreign debts, deficit budgets and mass unemployment.

The government is desperately trying to salvage the capitalist system and its bourgeois rule by the familiar method of imposing greater and greater burdens on the workers and the

toiling people. Different expressions of this attack are the deliberate jacking up of prices, raising of indirect taxes and rates, the policies of wage freeze, attacks on workers' dearness allowance and bonus, and depriving peasants of legitimate prices for their crops while imposing heavier levies on them.

An inseparable part of this all-round attack is the promulgation of and enactment of a host of utterly reactionary and repressive ordinances and laws aimed at total suppression of trade union and democratic rights. The bureaucracy is being armed with a whole battery of draconian powers in the name of maintaining "essential" services and supplies, of tackling so-called "disturbed area", or of controlling "goonda" activities. The notorious MISA of emergency fame has reappeared in the new garb of the national security ordinance.

Attempts are being made to foist a presidential system of government on the country and to topple the Left and democratic governments in West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura.

Against all these offensives of the exploiting classes and the the Congress governments, the people are fighting back heroically through determined mass actions including bandhs showing new heights of militancy and consciousness.

BROTHER WORKERS! The capitalist ruling class has brought our country to the brink of disaster. Taking advantage of the chaos and anarchy, dangerous conspiracies have been hatched and are being executed by the most reactionary and anti-national forces which are out to weaken and divide our country.

On the one hand, an attempt is being made to deflect our country from its peaceful, non-aligned and anti-imperialist policy and to enmesh it in the trap of the US imperialists and their allies, the Chinese expansionists, which is directed against the socialist and newly independent countries.

On the other hand, a frantic attempt is being made to split the working class and destroy its fighting unity by unleashing communal, caste, linguistic, regional and chauvinistic riots. The dark forces responsible for this criminal activity have raised their ugly heads in a number of places, provoking disruptive and separatist passions in the north eastern region

and instigating bloody riots against the minorities in several other states.

In this way, our enemies, external and internal, hope to destroy the very basis of national integration and secularism on which our national independence rests. The mounting misery and discontent of our toiling people are sought to be diverted into dangerous channels of ultra-chauvinistic passions and fratricidal strife.

BROTHER WORKERS! This critical challenges facing us have to be answered boldly.

The offensive of the ruling class, the conspiracies of the imperialists, expansionists and their hirelings have to be resisted, checked and thrown back by the counter-offensive of the working class, by its united retaliatory mass action along with its democratic allies.

It is high time to see clearly that there is no solution to this crisis, there is no way forward to the peoples' salvation, so long as our country remains in the grip of this evil, decadent, profit-hungry capitalist system. This bankrupt system has nothing to offer except exploitation in the interests of a few, unemployment and pauperisation of the millions, economic stagnation, all-round corruption, and savage assaults on democratic and trade union rights. Such a system, however much it is sought to be disguised behind fine words and promises, is the mortal enemy of the working-class and of the nation's interests.

It is high time to end the fashionable practice of paying lip service to the cause of socialism. It is high time to recall—and we do so with pride—that 60 years ago the foundation conference of the AITUC, presided over by Lala Lajpat Rai had inscribed on its banner the slogan of advancing to the establishment of a new society in which man's exploitation by man will be ended. The AITUC remains dedicated to that great ideal. But the realisation of this lofty aim requires clear-cut consciousness on the part of the working class and determined mass struggles by a mighty united front of the workers, peasants, toiling middle classes, progressive intelligentsia and

all those organisations, forces and individuals that are prepared to break with the capitalist path.

It is not enough for the trade union movement to fight for adequate wages, full neutralisation of the rise in the cost of living, correction of the fraudulent price index numbers, bonus as a deferred wage, workers' housing, improvement in the social security provisions, for full trade union rights and a democratic industrial relations law, etc. These and many other issues are, no doubt, essential parts of the trade union struggle against capitalist exploitation from day to day.

But the working class cannot take itself and the nation out of the malignant, all-round crisis in which the country has sunk simply by fighting for a bigger share in capitalist profits by way of higher wages, dearness allowance or bonus. This crisis is the crisis of Indian capitalism, which is a part of world capitalism. To overcome this crisis it is necessary, first and foremost, to break with the capitalist path itself, to turn the country towards a broad democratic alternative path and thus to open up the prospects of a socialist orientation.

BROTHER WORKERS! The AITUC calls upon you to play a leading role in forging a countrywide, broad front of the toiling people, of all left and democratic forces which will unitedly struggle to bring about an end to the all pervasive domination of the monopolists, Indian and foreign, the multinationals, the wholesale profiteers in trade and speculation, the big landed interests, semi-feudal exploiters and rapacious village usurers. Without destroying the exploitative and corrupt grip of these sharks on our country's economy, there can be no advance towards a truly democratic and socialist order.

The AITUC, from the platform of its 31st session, demands:

- * An end to the power of the Indian and foreign monopoly houses and break up of their concentrated wealth.
- * Immediate nationalisation of industries producing essential commodities like sugar, cloth, vegetable oils and drugs, etc. and of industries dependent on export markets like jute and tobacco
- * A comprehensive public distribution system to ensure sup-

plies of essential goods at reasonable and fixed prices and supervised by public committees

- * Effective implementation of land reforms and distribution of surplus land to the landless and poor farmers
- * Guarantee of living wage to the working class and other toilers and remunerative prices to the toiling peasants
- * Guarantee of employment or unemployment relief to every able-bodied citizen
- * Guarantee of full trade union and democratic rights and rejection of attempts to introduce a presidential system in our country
- * Firm adherence to the policy of non-alignment, peace and anti-imperialism
- * A concerted, all-out national campaign against the divisive and anti-secular forces which preach and practice communalism, casteism, and provincial chauvinism, or separatist and secessionist ideas.

Let the organised forces of the working class, launch a decisive struggle for the fulfilment of such a democratic programme which will constitute a clear break with the present disastrous capitalist path.

For defeating the capitalist attack and opening up the road to a new democratic advance, the indispensable condition is the broadest working class unity. Experience of life itself is teaching the workers every day that class unity is their one and only weapon. Without it they are helpless, at the mercy of those who perpetrate oppression and injustices in order to maintain their rule. With it, they can inspire millions more and move mountains.

The AITUC has undying faith in the cause of workers' unity. Sixty years of struggle has taught it that only the exploiters gain from disunity in our own ranks and that unity and united struggle are the only passwords to advance and victory. It is working class unity which has brought the triumph of socialism in one-third of the world and enabled its gains to be defended.

The AITUC makes a fraternal appeal to all sections of workers, to all militant trade union organisations which stand for class struggle and for socialism, to exert all their efforts to forge closer ties of mutual cooperation and joint struggle in the common cause, before the capitalist crisis engulfs us all.

- * With faith in the irreversible forces of world history;
- * With confidence in the inevitable doom of the bankrupt imperialist and capitalist system and its replacement by a truly democratic socialist order.

**LET US CLOSE OUR RANKS AND MARCH FORWARD
TO VICTORY!**



WORKERS' PLEDGE

On the Occasion of 60th Anniversary of AITUC

WE, meeting on the occasion of the diamond jubilee anniversary of the foundation of India's oldest and premier trade union organisation, the ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

EXPRESS our sense of pride in belonging to the All India Trade Union Congress—the organisation that has a proud record of glorious struggles against imperialism for the liberation of our motherland, and of brilliant actions against capitalist exploitation and in defence of workers' right to live a decent life and work in decent conditions.

ON THE OCCASION, we pay our heartfelt homage to the great and innumerable martyrs who laid down their lives and those who suffered at the hands of the government and the employers, upholding the militant traditions of the AITUC. We pledge to carry forward this sacred heritage.

WE PLEDGE to work for the unity of the working class and of the trade union movement, to strive for defending our country against the conspiracies of imperialism, in particular US imperialism, which, in collusion with the Chinese expansionist rulers, is trying to subvert our independence and our economic development and divide and defeat the revolutionary movements in our country and plunge the world in a terrible nuclear holocaust.

WE PLEDGE to work in unity with all the worldwide forces of peace and of revolution, progress and democracy, and above all with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, against the imperialists and their allies.

WE PLEDGE to work for advancing the cause of inter-

national unity of the working class by strengthening the World Federation of Trade Unions—the militant organisation of trade unions of all countries on our planet.

WE PLEDGE to rally in support of all revolutionary movements of working people to achieve a life free from exploitation and misery.

WE PLEDGE to work in unity with all forward looking forces in our country to fight against disruptive forces and fissiparous tendencies that try to divide our people on the basis of caste or community, language or region, and thus only help the enemies of our country and our people.

WE PLEDGE to fight for and support all social movements aimed at rapid economic development of our country, to strengthen self-reliance and to overcome regional imbalances.

THE arch enemies of our development and our people's prosperity are the multinational and national monopolies and the landlords, who are minting profits on the labour of our people, draining our valuable resources and causing misery for our people and crisis in our economy. WE PLEDGE to fight against them and rally at democratic forces in this fight.

WE PLEDGE ourselves to make a determined struggle in defence of our trade union and democratic rights, against all attacks on our right to unionise and the right to strike, against all draconian laws and measures aimed at suppressing progressive and revolutionary movements of our people, and defending a moribund social order of exploitation.

WE PLEDGE to struggle unitedly in defence of our right to work, and right to decent living.

WE PLEDGE to fight for a democratic development strategy for our country based on a leading role to the public sector, its expansion in spheres of production and distribution of essential goods, nationalisation of multinationals and essential consumer industries like sugar, cotton and jute textiles and drugs, for land reforms, rigorous ceiling laws, acquisition and distribution of surplus land,

a vigorous policy of development to overcome unemployment and guarantee of price stability.

WE PLEDGE to carry out the sacred struggle against the capitalist order of exploitation and of wars, and rally all the progressive forces to establish socialism in our country and launch on the path to prosperity and end to all misery.

LONG LIVE AITUC!

LONG LIVE THE UNITY OF THE WORKING CLASS
OF THE WORLD!



**REPORTS
OF
COMMISSIONS**

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON WAGES, DEARNESS ALLOWANCE AND BONUS

The meeting of the Commission was attended by nearly 600 delegates. The Commission was presided over by Comrade B. D. Joshi, Vice-President, AITUC. Comrade Y. D. Sharma, Secretary, AITUC, explained the important points as contained in Part-III of the General Secretary's Report regarding Wages, Dearness Allowance and Bonus. The discussions continued for about 4 hours and 78 delegates took active part and made important suggestions on the points to be included in the draft. All aspects of the problems relating to Wages, Dearness Allowance and Bonus were critically discussed and there was a general consensus that statutory minimum wage for scheduled industries should be Rs. 500/- in the context of present price level, with a provision of full neutralisation against any further increase in the cost of living through a sliding scale D.A. Revision of statutory minimum wage should be undertaken every year and not after several years as is the practice at present.

For the organised sector, wages should be determined through bipartite agreements on the basis of collective bargaining. Such agreements should at least ensure need-based minimum wage based on the tripartite formula adopted at the Fifteenth Indian Labour Conference.

There was a good deal of discussions on Dearness Allowance and it was agreed that AITUC Unions must resist attempts being made to scale down the rate of dearness allowance in many public and private sector industries. It was also emphasised that we must fight against any imposition of ceiling on the Dearness Allowance.

Regarding Bonus, there were suggestions that minimum bonus as prescribed in the statute of 8.33 per cent should be

enhanced to 12.5 per cent. Over and above the minimum bonus, it should be left to collective bargaining. There was also a general demand for replacement of the existing Bonus Act by another Act which could ensure more equitable formula for determining bonus for the workers.

After extensive discussions, the Commission appointed a Committee consisting of the following delegates to go into the details of the points and prepare Resolutions on Wage, Dearness Allowance and Bonus in the light of the discussions and place the same before the Session:

1. Comrade Y. D. Sharma,
2. " D. C. Mahanty,
3. " Amolak Ram,
4. " Ghanshyam Sinha,
5. " Rama Rao,
6. " V. D. Deshpande
7. " J. J. Chittaranjan,
8. " Prasant Dutt.

Comrade Y. D. Sharma was authorised to make a report on the working of the Commission and place the same before the Session.

Y. D. SHARMA

Dt. 30.10.1980.

REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSION ON PUBLIC SECTOR—ITS PROBLEMS AND ITS ROLE IN THE DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT

The Commission on public sector—its problems and its role in a democratic development strategy met on 29-10-1980 and was attended by 171 comrades. Com. M. S. Krishnan presided over the meeting. Com. Raj Bahadur Gour explained his working paper for discussion in the commission. 23 comrades participated in the discussion. The following conclusions were arrived at:

1. The main point to be considered is the content of the Public Sector. There is a relationship between the class character of the State and the Public Sector. Since the state in India is a capitalist state and pursuing the path of capitalist

development, it has a bearing on the functioning and performance of the Public Sector. However in a developing economy like India it has an anti-imperialist self-reliant role to play. Hence it has to be defended. The Trade Unions while defending the Public Sector and working for its expansion have at the same time to play their political role and mobilise the broad left and democratic forces bringing about basic changes in the power structure. Unless such basic changes are brought about the real objectives of the Public Sector cannot be achieved.

2. It has to be noted that the public sector in our country has grown with the aid of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. The role of socialist countries in helping to build key and basic industries in contrast with the "aid" of multinationals has to be propagated by the Trade Unions. The multinationals drain out our resources.

3. The Public Sector in India is being used by the monopolists and multinationals to enrich themselves. Pricing, sales and purchase policies are such that the private sector sells at a high price to the public sector and buys from it at a low price. Instances are many. This is how the Government policy operates to make Public Sector help the private monopolies and not fight them.

4. Multinationals have collaboration agreements with several public sector industries. Many of these agreements need to be reviewed because of their one-sidedness resulting in looting of the country by the Multinationals. Since equally good technology is available in the socialist countries, it is necessary for the Trade Unions to campaign for annulling agreements with multinationals wherever they are detrimental to the interests of the nation and enter into agreements with Socialist countries if necessary.

5. Though the public sector has grown it is being accused of poor performance by the Private Sector. Besides number of them are still running under loss. A canard is spread by the monopolists that this is due to the workers and their exorbitant demands. This has to be rejected and denounced. Some of the important reasons for the defects of the Public Sector are:

- (a) The public sector operates to an extent in the interests of the Private Sector and provides cheap infrastructure and inputs to them to make profits.
- (b) Bureaucratism, inefficiency and corruption that are rampant at the management levels due to recruitment of retired officials of I.A.S., of retired military officials etc. for top management posts instead of technicians. In particular the role of the Bureau of Public enterprises which vetoes all important decisions concerning the public sector has to be taken note of.
- (c) There has been under utilisation of capacity of the plants.
- (d) Workers are not actually involved in the activities and functioning part of the Public Sector. Democratisation of the Public Sector and effective participation of workers at all levels is totally absent.

The Trade Unions in the Public Sector should not only campaign and fight against the bureaucratic and corrupt managements and their policies. Campaign to be conducted for introduction of scheme of workers participation in management in Public Sector at all levels as envisaged by the AITUC.

6. Expansion of public sector should be campaigned for and it should extend to consumer goods industries also.

7. Regional imbalances in the country have led to the growth of reactionary and chauvinistic and secessionist forces. It is necessary to see that more public sector industries be established in backward states and areas. Democratic development strategy demands this.

8. Apart from Textiles, Drugs and Pharmaceuticals and sugar industry, it is suggested that cement and jute industry be nationalised.

9. There should be as far as possible uniform service conditions, and welfare facilities and rules for all workers in the Public Sector. Importance has to be given to construction of houses. The system of confidential reports/service records to be done away with, practice of discharge/termination simpliciter to be discontinued.

10. The minimum wage including DA for the lowest paid employee should be Rs. 500/- per month at a consumer price index figure of 300. Over and above this there should be cent percent neutralisation of the cost of living and DA paid accordingly. The imposition of Rs. 1.30 per point rise of the cost of living should be resisted and fought out. Bonus should be given to all employees and there should be no distinction between competing and non-competing units. Minimum bonus of 8.1/3 % to be given to all.

11. The contract system in Public Sector is not eliminated. In some cases sub-contracting work is increasing, casual workers for permanent nature of work continues. The relevant enactments are not implemented. Trade Unions will have to launch a powerful campaign against sub-contracting of work contract and casual system.

12. The Central Industrial Security Force under the CISF Act, has to be disbanded since they are acting to the detriment of both the workers and industry. They should be absorbed as securitymen of each industrial unit with all TU and democratic rights.

13. In Road Transport Industry, the reactionary ideas of some of State Governments to denationalise routes or areas should be resisted. Pressure should be exerted to evolve a national transport policy in consultation with the Trade Unions.

14. The commission, while agreeing to the tasks mentioned in the report desired that they be elaborated by incorporating the important political tasks also. This is to be done by the AITUC Secretariat.

15. It was further proposed by the commission that in addition to conducting agitation and campaign on the above demands, it is necessary to evolve a machinery for greater coordination of activities of trade unions in the Public Sector. For this purpose it is suggested that a conference/convention of Public Sector Trade Unions to be conducted at the earliest. AITUC to take the initiative.

RAJ BAHADUR GOUR

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON SOCIAL SECURITY

The Commission on Social Security met on 29th Oct. 1980. A presidium consisting of Comrades Ishar Singh (Delhi), Kalyan Singh (Rajasthan) and S. K. Rehman (Karnataka) was elected.

A Drafting Committee consisting of Comrades Parvathi Krishnan (Convercor), Parduman Singh (Punjab) and K. B. Raju (Andhra Pradesh) was elected.

153 comrades representing all the States and majority of Industries participated in the deliberations of the Commission.

A draft resolution was presented before the Commission which formed the basis for discussion.

20 comrades from all the States participated in the discussion and suggested various improvements and amendments to the draft resolution. Some written amendments were also received.

A lively discussion followed in which comrades pointed out a large number of defects in the various social security schemes existing today.

It was however decided that the resolution should be confined to broad policy matters mainly and only major defects and demands be included in the resolution.

Regarding the detailed demands of each scheme, the Commission decided to recommend that conventions at local, state and central levels be organised with widest possible participation during the coming year. For this all the State Committees and the Secretariat of AITUC should be directed by this Congress to take effective steps.

As far as the question of comprehensive Social Security Scheme is concerned, a suggestion was made that the AITUC should work out the details of such a scheme.

The Commission decided to recommend that the Secretariat of AITUC should set up a small committee to complete this task within six months, and take appropriate steps thereafter.

The Commission meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

The Commission recommended a resolution for adoption.

PARVATI KRISHNAN (Convenor)
PRADUMAN SINGH
K. B. RAJU

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON TU RIGHTS AND TU UNITY

The Commission met with Com. Satyapal Dang in the Chair. 28 Comrades representing all the States participated in the discussions.

The Commission unanimously noted that (1) Attacks on TU rights to muzzle unions, to encourage pliant unions and grossly discriminatory action against militant unions is being increasingly resorted to by the employers and the Govt. in a bid to shift the burden of the ever deepening crisis of capitalist path on the shoulders of the working class. In the context of the intensification of the crisis, the Commission felt, these attacks are also likely to be intensified.

In this connection the Commission heard concrete reports from various states and centres about:

1. Brutal violence by police and the employers goons against peaceful actions of workers;
 2. Preventive detention, exterrment and internments of worker leaders;
 3. Denial of the right even to hold meetings;
 4. Almost perpetual clamping of Section 144 of the Cr. P.C. denying any form of actions;
 5. Injunctions against gate meetings;
 6. Involving activists in cooked up criminal cases;
 7. Burning down of workers' bustees and hutments;
 8. Banning of strikes;
 9. Continuous and widespread lay-offs and lockouts.
2. The Commission suggested that the AITUC should initiate discussion on a democratic Industrial Relations Law.
3. The Commission voiced full support to the growing unity at various levels of different TUs and appreciated the intra-

tive taken by the AITUC in this respect. The Commission noted that TU Unity is itself a continuing struggle and the path to unity is not an easy or straight course. Nonetheless widest possible TU and working class unity is the most effective weapon of the working class and so the AITUC unions should particularly continue to forge widest possible unity in action, wherever and howsoever possible. Experience has shown that wherever AITUC Unions have been strong and taken timely initiative, the process of the unity has been successful. The Commission also noted that our own independent initiatives, concrete proposals for actions and unity, dialogue and discussion and constructive criticism, all form an integral part of our efforts to achieve unity. Above all, building strong unions with close ties with the workers was very important if we are to play an effective role as unifier of the working class.

HOMI DAJI

LIST OF OFFICE-BEARERS ELECTED

President:	S. A. Dange
Vice-Presidents:	N. K. Krishnan K. G. Sriwastava B. D. Joshi Chaturan Mishra M. S. Krishnan Homi Daji J. Chittaranjan Mohammed Elias M. Kalyanasundaram
General Secretary:	Indrajit Gupta
Secretaries:	Parvathi Krishnan T. N. Siddhanta Raj Bahadur Gour Y. D. Sharma
Treasurer:	K. A. Rajan Harish Tewary

*LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE WORKING
COMMITTEE ELECTED*

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. M. V. N. Kaparde | 18. A. B. Bardhan |
| 2. K. L. Mahendra | 19. B. S. Dhume |
| 3. M. V. Bhadram | 20. S. K. Sanyal |
| 4. Barin Chaudhury | 21. D. C. Mohanty |
| 5. Ratan Roy | 22. Baba Kartar Singh |
| 6. Gaya Singh | 23. Madanlal Didi |
| 7. Shafique Khan | 24. K. Viswanathan |
| 8. N. N. Manna | 25. A. M. Gopu |
| 9. Bhalchandra Trivedi | 26. K. T. K. Tangamani |
| 10. Raghubir Singh | 27. D. K. Yadav |
| 11. Kameshwar Pandit | 28. Dr. Ranen Sen |
| 12. M. C. Narasimhan | 29. Bhowani Roy Chowdhury |
| 13. K. N. Shyamsundara | 30. Kalyan Roy |
| 14. Kallat Krishnan | 31. Nihar Mukherjee |
| 15. P. K. Thakur | 32. Arun Sen |
| 16. Sudhir Mukherjee | 33. Roza Deshpande |
| 17. G. V. Chitnis | 34. N. C. Dutta |

*LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL
COUNCIL ELECTED*

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|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Dr. Raj Bahadur Gour | 11. C. Prabhakara Chowdary |
| 2. J. Satyanarayana | |
| 3. M. V. N. Kaparde | 12. M. Narasimha Rao |
| 4. K. L. Mahendra | 13. Pudi Appaiaswamy |
| 5. Amolak Ram | 14. D. V. V. S. Varma |
| 6. K. Srinivas Rao | 15. M. U. Bhaskara Rao |
| 7. M. V. Bhadram | 16. K. Nagaiah |
| 8. K. Gurusurthy | 17. G. V. Krishna Rao |
| 9. V. V. Rama Rao | 18. G. Suryam |
| 10. B. V. Raju (Chinna) | |

19. B. Laxmaiah
20. K. Subbanna
21. G. Krishna Murthy
22. M. Komaraiah
23. B. Gangaram
24. M. Bhaskara Rao
25. R. P. Ranga Rao
26. A. Ramulu
27. Andrew Joseph
28. P. Nageswara Rao
29. Salam Shahedi
30. P. J. Chandrasekhar Rao
31. M. Krishna Murthy
32. V. Gangadhar Rao
33. V. Koteswara Rao
34. P. K. Kumaran
35. Desinga Raju
36. G. Venkat Reddy
37. G. Ramchander
38. Barin Chowdhury
39. Promod Gogoi
40. Suren Bhatta
41. K. K. Kandwal
42. Jyotirmoy Biswas
43. Chaturanan Mishra
44. Kedar Das
45. Ratan Roy
46. Krishna Chandar Chowdary
47. Ramavatar Singh
48. Gaya Singh
49. Shafique Khan
50. Ramendra Kumar
51. Tikaram Manjhi
52. Sivananda Jha
53. T. N. Jha
54. Anirudh Singh
55. B. N. Thakur
56. K. K. Sinha
57. Lalit Burman
58. S. K. Rai
59. Umakant Jha
60. Ram Balak Singh
61. Suryanarayan Singh
62. Abdul Jabbar
63. Mohd. Salim
64. Omilal Azad
65. S. D. Sharma
66. Devkinandan Singh
67. Ramavatar Shastri
68. Triveni Tiwari
69. P. K. Ganguli
70. Lakhan Lal
71. Raj Kishore Singh
72. Bhuneshwar Singh Bhuwan
73. Krishna Mohan Prasad
74. N. M. Prasad
75. Mani Bhooshan Prakash
76. A. K. Ahmed
77. Y. D. Sharma
78. B. D. Joshi
79. N. N. Manna
80. R. C. Sharma
81. Shakil Ahmed
82. M. M. Gope
83. Munshi Narayan Prasad
84. J. P. Khare
85. S. Chandra
86. Ishar Singh
87. D. L. Sachdev
88. Vijay Kataria
89. Badri Das
90. George Vaz
91. Prabhakar Ghodse
92. Bhalchandra Trivedi

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| 93. P. D. Gandhi | 131. K. P. Prabhakaran |
| 94. B. D. Desai | 132. K. C. Mathew |
| 95. Raj Kumar Singh
Khushwa | 133. R. Ravindran |
| 96. B. J. Thakur | 134. P. P. Mukundan |
| 97. N. P. Bhatt | 135. C. A. Kurian |
| 98. Bhiku Bai Vaghela | 136. C. K. Kesavan |
| 99. Darshan Singh | 137. M. T. Chandrasenan |
| 100. Mahavir Singh | 138. P. Venugopalan Nair |
| 101. Man Singh | 139. T. A. Joseph |
| 102. Raghbir Singh | 140. T. J. Varughese |
| 103. Abhai Singh | 141. T. L. Prabhakaran |
| 104. M. L. Misty | 142. A. N. Yoosuf |
| 105. Kameshwar Pandit | 143. K. C. Prabhakaran |
| 106. Roshan Lal Dogra | 144. K. V. Kochrian |
| 107. D. R. Nirdoshi | 145. N. Aravindan |
| 108. Vacant | 146. N. Anirudhan |
| 109. H. N. Wanchoo | 147. Homi F. Daji |
| 110. A. S. Majhroo | 148. Sudhir Mukherjee |
| 111. Kanwal Dev | 149. Prakash Roy |
| 112. M. S. Krishnan | 150. P. K. Thakur |
| 113. K. N. Shamasundara | 151. R. C. Sarvate |
| 114. H. N. Narendra Prasad | 152. C. R. Bakshi |
| 115. V. R. Ananda Teertha | 153. D. K. Rao |
| 116. H. Umanath Naik | 154. Swamy |
| 117. D. S. Sriramulu | 155. Sambal Chakravarti |
| 118. H. Mahadevan | 156. Preetam Singh Chowksi |
| 119. C. Muniratnam | 157. K. Adinarayanan
(Amlai) |
| 120. A. J. Mudhol | 158. Nandalal Paradeshi |
| 121. K. P. Mense | 159. Mustaq Hussain |
| 122. Adavappa Shanappa | 160. Indrajit Singh |
| 123. M. Jumna | 161. Krishna Modi |
| 124. Pampapati, MLA | 162. A. Golpha'e (BHEL) |
| 125. M. S. Mani | 163. Govind Prasad Shriwas-
tav |
| 126. S. K. Rehman | 164. S. A. Dange |
| 127. J. Chittaranjan | 165. B. S. Dhume |
| 128. P. Bhaskaran | 166. A. B. Bardhan |
| 129. K. A. Rajan | 167. G. V. Chitnis |
| 130. Kallat Krishnan | |

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| 168. Roza Deshpande | 207. Jaswanth Singh Somra |
| 169. S. K. Sanyal | 208. Keval Singh |
| 170. V. D. Deshpande | 209. Sitaram |
| 171. Vasantharao Tulpule | 210. Badarinath Sahani |
| 172. Govindarao Pansare | 211. Om Prakash |
| 173. T. N. Ramarao | 212. Sunehri Lal |
| 174. Vital Choudhry | 213. K. Viswanathan |
| 175. Bhagwan Thorat | 214. Fateh Singh |
| 176. Sitaram Jagtap | 215. Mangilal |
| 177. Madhav Mokashi | 216. P. S. Parmar |
| 178. P. V. Upadhyaya | 217. Jayanti Saha |
| 179. Manohar Deshkar | 218. Srikrishna |
| 180. Ram Ratnakar | 219. N. K. Krishnan |
| 181. Chintamani Indapure | 220. Parvathi Krishnan |
| 182. Rajaram Gujarathi | 221. M. Kalyana Sundaram |
| 183. R. K. Ganguli | 222. A. M. Gopu |
| 184. R. N. Mishra | 223. K. T. K. Thangamani |
| 185. Mohandas Naidu | 224. K. M. Sundaram |
| 186. Jayant Gadkari | 225. V. Subbaiah |
| 187. Sivaji Dalvi | 226. Dr. G. Kannabhiran |
| 188. T. G. Sonavane | 227. S. C. Krishnan |
| 189. Vacant | 228. A. Govindaswamy |
| 190. Vacant | 229. S. Karapuswamy |
| 191. A. Babudhon Singh | 230. R. Karupiah |
| 192. Sharda Prasad Gupta | 231. R. Dakshina Murti |
| 193. Prafulla Mishra | 232. A. V. Ramaswamy |
| 194. Dalington Dymdep | 233. P. M. Ramaswamy |
| 195. Ramachandra Ram | 234. P. T. Narayanan |
| 196. Hari Bandhu Behara | 235. K. A. Venugopal |
| 197. Durga Charan Mohanty | 236. M. Arumugam |
| 198. Duti Krishna Panda | 237. S. Tyagarajan |
| 199. Loknath Choudary | 238. S. Ramaswamy |
| 200. Narendra Kumar Swain | 239. K. Gopinathan |
| 201. Sukomala Datta | 240. R. Ganeshan |
| 202. Sadananda Mohanty | 241. P. K. Srinivasan |
| 203. Baba Kartar Singh | 242. J. Silam Paul |
| 204. Madanlal Didi | 243. K. G. Sriwastava |
| 205. Pyara Singh Deosi | 244. Kali Shankar Shukla |
| 206. Parduman Singh | 245. Harish Tewary |

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| 246. R. K. Garg | 281. Sunil Sen |
| 247. Basudev Pandey | 282. Jadugopal Sen |
| 248. K. K. Singh | 283. Gobin Karar |
| 249. Sadruddin Rana | 284. Sushil Chakraborty |
| 250. Darmendra Kumar | 285. N. C. Roy Chowdhury |
| 251. D. K. Yadav | 286. Ramesh Das |
| 252. Ramakant Bajpai | 287. Shanti Roy |
| 253. A. C. Kulshreshta | 288. Golam Mohiuddin |
| 254. Dwarika Singh | 289. Gour Goswami |
| 255. Lallan Rai | 290. Nimai Roy |
| 256. Bisheshwar Mukherji | 291. Girija Mukherji |
| 257. D. P. Pal | 292. Nimai Routh |
| 258. Girish Bharati | 293. Jahar Chatterji |
| 259. Ghanshyam Sharan
Sinha | 294. Kuber Singh |
| 260. Yashpal Gupta | 295. Nitish Sett |
| 261. Abdul Hafiz | 296. Pradip Maitra |
| 262. Narendra Sinha | 297. Kamalendu Ganguli |
| 263. Om Dutt Shastri | 298. Sankarashan Roy
Chowdhury |
| 264. Dr. Ranen Sen | 299. Saral Sen |
| 265. Indrajit Gupta | 300. N. C. Datta |
| 266. T. N. Siddhanta | 301. Prem Sagar Gupta |
| 267. Mohd. Elias | 302. M. C. Narasimhan |
| 268. Bhowani Roy Chowdhuri | 303. P. K. Chandrasekharan |
| 269. Arun Sen | 304. Diwakar |
| 270. Kalyan Roy | 305. Prabhat Kar |
| 271. Nihar Mukherji | 306. Mahendra Sen |
| 272. Kamalapati Roy | 307. M. Atchutan |
| 273. Ram Sen | 308. Deb Kumar Ganguli |
| 274. Tarun Maitra | 309. O. P. Gupta |
| 275. Nanda Dulal Shrimani | 310. S. M. Banerji |
| 276. Narayan Chaube | 311. Umalal Sinha |
| 277. Prasanta Dutta | 312. P. P. Patil |
| 278. Dhiren Mazumdar | 313. S. Madhusudan |
| 279. Taher Hussain | 314. S. S. Yusuf |
| 280. B. N. Tiwari | |
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REPORT OF THE CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE SET UP BY THE 31ST CONGRESS OF AITUC

31st Congress of the AITUC set up a Credential Committee consisting of the following:

1. Com. N. C. Dutta
2. „ A. M. Govindarajan (Gopu)
3. „ Bhalchandra Trivedi
4. „ Kallat Krishnan
5. „ K. Viswanathan.

The Credential Committee met on 29th and 30th October, 1980 at Mirajkarnagar, Visakhapatnam, and after going through all relevant papers, submits the following report for information and adoption by the plenary session.

We are hereby submitting the report regarding the number of affiliated unions, their membership, number of delegates, who attended the session with statewise and industrywise break-up of unions and membership.

Fraternal delegates from 13 countries/organisations have graced the conference by their presence. Representatives of fraternal organisations in India like AIBEA, LIC Employees Federation, GIC Employees All India Association, All India Kisan Sabha, Bharatiya Khet Mazdoor Union, All India Youth Federation, National Federation of Indian Women, BMS and CITU attended as fraternal delegates.

Details are given below:—

Sd/- N. C. Dutta
„ A. M. Govindarajan
„ Bhalchandra Trivedi
„ Kallat Krishnan
„ K. Viswanathan.

STATEWISE BREAK-UP WITH NO. OF UNIONS,
DELEGATES AND MEMBERSHIP

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>No. of Unions</i>	<i>Delegate Attended</i>	<i>Membership</i>
1.	Andhra Pradesh	469	488	2,82,332
2.	Assam	31	45	35,285
3.	Bihar	471	480	2,92,422
4.	Gujarat	37	47	60,505
5.	Haryana	38	23	15,280
6.	Himachal Pradesh	18	15	32,530
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	12	2	10,250
8.	Madhya Pradesh	64	122	1,42,020
9.	Kerala	357	229	1,74,680
10.	Karnataka	105	168	1,12,520
11.	Manipur	12	10	8,320
12.	Maharashtra	265	169	2,12,432
13.	Orissa	55	97	86,540
14.	Punjab	58	98	86,732
15.	Rajasthan	32	42	35,270
16.	Tamilnadu	312	196	2,86,103
17.	Uttar Pradesh	167	136	2,44,505
18.	West Bengal	596	486	4,70,501
19.	Chandigarh	5	2	302
20.	Delhi	85	46	86,502
21.	Goa	5	8	13,240
22.	Meghalaya	4	2	750
Total :		3,198	2,911	27,47,021

INDUSTRYWISE BREAK-UP WITH NO. OF UNIONS,
DELEGATES AND MEMBERSHIP

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Industry</i>	<i>No. of Unions</i>	<i>Dlegate Attended</i>	<i>Membership</i>
1.	Textiles	383	268	2,35,738
2.	Iron & Steel	7	138	1,47,875
3.	Metal & Trade	95	41	23,042
4.	Engineering	685	377	3,38,565
5.	Electricity	52	116	1,32,642
6.	Transport	385	262	2,80,525
7.	Mining	78	286	2,52,840
8.	Plantation	62	75	1,22,612
9.	Sugar	56	39	32,782
10.	Cement	58	34	28,560
11.	Chemical	151	129	95,071
12.	Bldg. & Construction	88	58	52,432
13.	Construction	105	62	1,62,540
14.	Paper	25	26	16,202
15.	Printing & Press	48	47	22,525
16.	Food & Drinks	215	135	1,26,432
17.	Tobacco	80	140	2,05,642
18.	Local Bodies & Municipal	99	58	82,765
19.	Glass & Potteries	31	26	26,585
20.	Leatrer & Tanneries	48	45	85,632
21.	Agriculture	52	21	68,405
22.	Port & Dock	10	60	82,552
23.	Coir	8	8	6,818
24.	Salaried Employees	8	5	2,510
25.	Personal Service	343	428	1,12,802
26.	Wood & Wood Products	26	27	4,927
Total :		3198	2911	27,47,021