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AITUC'S APPEAL ON MAY DAY, 1985

On the occasion of May Day 1985, the AITUC sends warm fraternal greetings to workers and trade unions of India and of all other countries throughout the world.

This year all progressive mankind throughout the world will observe a historic anniversary: it is 40 years since the victory over Hitlerite fascism and Japanese militarism.

In the course of the Second World War, more than 60 countries on all continents were affected. Over 50 million human lives were lost, of which 20 million were of Soviet citizens alone.

It was the workers and the common people who, as always, suffered the heaviest losses in the war. That is why the working class has always been and still is in the forefront of the struggle for a lasting peace. Without peace, there can be no social or economic progress.

The defeat of fascism ushered in a new era in the history of mankind. It led to the emergence of a number of socialist countries. It led to a period of upsurge of national liberation movements when one country after another was liberated from the colonial yoke, beginning with our own country in 1947. It led to a consolidation of the workers' movement in all countries - in 1945 the World Federation of Trade Unions was formed, the first powerful united international organisation of the working class throughout the world.

A new stage in international relations came into being. With the emergence of a number of socialist countries, a new set of economic relations based on equality between the socialist countries and the newly liberated countries seeking cooperation in all fields of economic and social activity was built up. The non-aligned movement, the ideas of Panch Sheel, became a platform for fighting against the forces of world reaction and neo-colonialism, against the forces of war and for a New International Economic Order.

In these 40 years the countries with a socialist system have made great strides in economic and social progress - in eradicating unemployment and illiteracy, poverty and squalor. The trade unions and working class have also participated in full measure to this development. On this May Day we send our warm greetings to the workers and trade unions of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries and wish them further successes in their task of building socialism, in their struggle for a lasting peace.

The second world war resulted in the weakening of imperialism and the dawn of independence of our country. Thirty eight years have gone by. Progress has, no doubt been registered in some fields of our economy, in education, the fields of science and technology. The public sector has come to stay. In the last year, however, events preceding the assassination of the late prime minister, Indira Gandhi, and following it, have witnessed increasing activities of divisive, communal and separatist forces aided and abetted by forces of reaction, both internal and external. It is to the credit of the workers of the country that they have not fallen victim to these forces.

They have stood firm in defence of the national unity of the country, and understood that while fighting for their just demands they should be in the forefront of the struggle in defence of national unity and national integrity, against divisive and communal forces.

The activities of US imperialists and their allies, around India, in the Indian Ocean region, the arming of Pakistan with most sophisticated arms pose a serious threat to India's independence and sovereignty, and peace in this region.

The economic crisis in our country is growing more acute. Year after year, prices have been steadily rising, unemployment has reached alarming proportions. Ever increasing numbers are being thrown out of work as a result of closures, lock-outs etc. At the same time, more and more concessions have been given to the monopolists, multinationals and the exploiting classes, particularly so in the recent budget. New burdens are being imposed on the working people. United actions of the working class have also been growing. It has become imperative for the workers to forge greater unity and act in unison against the attacks on their working and living standards, in defence of their limited gains, and for defending their rights.

The last year has witnessed further escalation of the arms race by the US imperialists, their allies and the transnational corporations who seek to garner super profits through the armaments industry, seek to unleash a war which would mean the end of mankind. The deployment by the Reagan administration of the Pershing missiles in Western Europe, the infamous "star-wars" programme, the building of nuclear bases all over the world - all these pose a grave threat to our country as much as any other.

At the same time the forces of peace have been gathering strength. And today the peace proposals put forward by the Soviet Union, the new initiatives being taken, have been welcomed by all peace loving forces.

We, in India, cannot remain silent spectators. The demand for disbanding the US nuclear base in Diego Garcia, for declaring the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace today assume added urgency.

The questions of employment, of defending working and living standards, of achieving all round social and economic progress, are inseparably linked with the issue of peace. In this year of the 40th anniversary of the victory over fascism we call on all workers to intensify their actions for

- defence of national unity and national integrity.
- denunciation of the use of nuclear arms.
- disarmament and a total ban on nuclear weapons
- the dissolution of all military blocs
- a ban on the militarisation of outerspace
- the use of resources now being devoured by the arms race for peaceful and creative purposes in the workers' interest.
- a better life for all working people
- an end to high prices and unemployment
- defence of the public sector

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President : Chaturanan Mishra M.P. General Secretary: Indrajit Gupta M.P.

15 April 1985

CIRCULAR No. SC/2/1985

To

All State Committee Secretaries & Working Committee members

Dear Comrade,

The working committee met in New Delhi on 12-13 1985 and took certain important decisions. We are giving below details of the decisions and request all state committees and members of the working committee to take immediate action to see that the decisions are conveyed to all affiliated unions and action initiated to implement the decisions.

1. MAY DAY this year is to be observed as a day observing the 40th anniversary of the victory over Hitlerite fascism and Japanese militarism as also a day of protest against the anti-people's budget.

The May Day appeal was handed over to the members of the working committee for immediate translation and should be distributed on as wide scale as possible. The resolution of the working committee is also enclosed and state committees should in a planned manner take up the celebrations of the 40th anniversary also with a view to educating the younger generation on the lessons of the second world war and the importance of the struggle for peace in the present context.

The resolution on the budget proposals contains guidelines on the content of the campaign to be conducted. Gate meetings and general body meetings should be held on wide a scale as possible to prepare for the May Day and actions against the reactionary aspects of the budget and in defence of the public sector.

These two campaigns should continue throughout the month of May.

Trade unions should participate jointly also with the AIPSO and other organisations in observing the 40th anniversary of the victory over fascism.

2. The national campaign committee has decided to observe May 15 as a "day" against closures and lockouts. The AITUC units should take the initiative to get in touch with state constituents of the NCC and make this a successful campaign. It should be followed by preparations to hold state conventions to be completed by August 1985.

3. State committees should take steps to ensure proper representation at the convention planned by the National Campaign Committee on the Bhopal gas tragedy to be held in Delhi on 24 May 1985. Further details will be sent as soon as the NCC circular is ready.

4. The working committee decided that the AITUC should hold a convention with representatives of all public sector unions in the last week of June at Hyderabad. The details of dates, arrangements, etc. will be intimated as soon as the final preparations and final dates are decided.

5. State committees should examine what can be further done to take up the problem of the unorganised workers. Conferences were held last year but follow-up action could not be planned due to the parliamentary and state assembly elections. State committees should now take the issues of minimum wage, etc. at the state level and inform the centre of the

steps being taken.

6. It has been decided to collect a Building Fund for the AITUC. State Committees should immediately discuss the issue in their working committee meetings and come with concrete proposals at the time of the general council meeting which will be held at Hyderabad immediately after the convention of public sector unions.

7. AITUC Samvad has not been taken seriously by all state committees and unions in the Hindi speaking regions. The matter was discussed and it was decided that a drive should be undertaken to enrol subscribers and by the end of the year a sum of Rs. 30,000 should be ensured. The content of the journal is also to be oriented more towards problems of the working class and toiling masses.

8. All state committees should immediately undertake the task of ensuring that all annual returns are properly filed by the affiliated unions. Steps should be taken also to see that affiliation dues are sent to the AITUC centre without further delay. In those states where dues for 1983 are still pending these should also be sent. Though there has been some improvement in payment of affiliation dues for 1983, a great deal still remains to be done to see that this aspect of organisation is streamlined.

The issue of verification is still under discussion with other trade union centres and the government. The AITUC state committees should proceed on the assumption that at any given moment we should be fully prepared with all details for verification. This is a task that should be given extra attention in the organisational work of the state committees. Unions should also be alerted to be prepared for ballot if required. Agricultural workers' unions should be helped to file returns.

9. Apart from one or two state committees the practice of sending reports of activities regularly has yet to become a regular feature. We request all state committees to make a real beginning with their reports of the observance of May day and details of work being planned in respect of unorganised workers.

The resolutions of the working committee are enclosed for information and action. Your attention is also drawn to the resolution on observance of the 40th anniversary of the WFTU. State committees should come to the general council with details of their plans for October '83, and throughout the year after that. Schools should be planned to inform particularly the new entrants into the movement of the WFTU, its history and activities and steps being taken for unity in action.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Parvathi Krishnan

(Parvathi Krishnan)
Secretary

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RESOLUTIONS OF WORKING COMMITTEE
held in New Delhi, 12-13 April 1985

I. ON THE CELEBRATION OF 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VICTORY OVER FASCISM

The working committee of the AITUC hails the great historic victory over fascism in the second world war 40 years ago in May 1945. The aim of world domination of Hitler Germany, Mussolini's Italy and militarist Japan was shattered.

This historic victory, the second most important in world politics after the great October revolution and the coming into being of the first socialist state in the world, changed the correlation of forces on an international scale in favour of peace, freedom, democracy and socialism. It inaugurated a new epoch in the history of mankind.

It was the Soviet Union, and its heroic Red Army, that bore the brunt of the Nazi attack, went through untold sacrifices, displayed unparalleled heroism and broke the backbone of the Nazi war machine. The unforgettable victory of the Red Army at Stalingrad thwarted the Hitler-Tojo plans to join forces on Indian soil and was the turning point in world war II. 20 million of the 50 million who died in the war were sons and daughters of the Land of Lenin. The glorious heroes and heroines of the USSR who laid down their lives in the partisan war, the saga of the immortal defenders of Leningrad, the workers of industry and agriculture who achieved feats of production in the rear, all wrote a new chapter in the history of human heroism. Entire progressive mankind pays tribute to the glory of the first socialist state and to the indomitable working people of the Soviet Union.

The working masses of Europe and Asia and the partisan resistance movements led by them made great contributions to the defeat of the fascist Axis and their bourgeois-collaborationist allies. They reinforced the world liberationist role played by the Red Army.

The AITUC, the united organisation of the Indian working class at that time, mobilised the working class in solidarity with the Soviet Union in the anti-fascist war. The Indian national movement took a firm stand in support of the Soviet Union against the fascist axis.

Even after the second world war, the imperialists never abandoned their old objective of wiping out socialism. On the very morrow of the end of the war, they launched a cold-war with Churchill's infamous Fulton speech and the John Foster Dulles policy of "containing communism".

The first united trade union-world centre, the World Federation of Trade Unions was formed in October 1945. But the US imperialists saw to it that the WFTU was split after the announcement of the Marshall Plan.

The defeat of fascism led to the establishment of a number of socialist states and to the tremendous weakening of world imperialism, resulting in the collapse of colonialism as a system on a world scale. The independence of India attained in 1947 was an integral part of this revolutionary process.

The 40th anniversary of the defeat of fascism is being celebrated in an actually grave and dangerous international situation. Determined to turn back the wheels of history and in a futile bid to achieve world domination, US imperialism in the recent period has stepped up the nuclear arms race and is set on the path of militarisation of outer-space. The Reagan administration

has unleashed a policy of military confrontation against the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. It has set in motion a frenzied crusade of anti-communism and anti-Sovietism on a global scale in order to cover up its drive towards world domination. It has embarked upon a policy of state terrorism, of political destabilisation and military intervention against independent states of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The policies of the Reagan administration above all the perilous "star-wars" plan, are threatening to lead the world to a nuclear holocaust which will mean in today's conditions an end to the survival of mankind itself.

In such a situation, the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact countries have put forward repeated constructive initiatives to check the nuclear arms race, to prevent the militarisation of outer space, to banish nuclear weapons altogether and totally eliminate the danger of war. They have taken historic unilateral steps such as "no first nuclear strike", proposals to have a total freeze on nuclear weapons and their testing, proposals based on equal security for both sides and aimed at achieving total disarmament.

These initiatives have been further strengthened by the decisions of the community of non-aligned nations. India has been playing a positive role at the head of the non-aligned movement against the danger of a nuclear war.

The proposals made by the New Delhi Summit of NAM with Indira Gandhi as chairperson and the six-nation appeal made by the recent Delhi Summit have given a new dimension to the struggle for peace. The Soviet Union and other socialist states have fully supported these proposals.

In the recent period, under the impact of these developments, the anti-war and peace movement throughout the world has risen to a qualitatively higher level.

The deployment by the Reagan administration of Pershing and Cruise missiles in Western Europe, his infamous "star-wars" programme, his build-up of nuclear bases all over the world, have been opposed on an unprecedentedly mass scale by peace forces throughout the world, including the USA itself, in which the working class have participated in ever increasing numbers.

Forced by the pressure of this worldwide anti-war movement, the Reagan administration has been compelled to return to talks with the Soviet Union at Geneva on an integrated basis of ending the nuclear arms race on earth and preventing the militarising of outer space. But even while the Geneva talks are going on, under the screen of these talks, the Reagan administration is feverishly stepping up its military programme. More missiles are being deployed in Western Europe, the star-wars programme is being forced on other NATO powers, more US funds are being allotted for MX missiles and the policy of building up a NATO bloc in the Pacific region together with militarist Japan and South Korea is being pursued.

The urgent need of the hour in such a situation is to unite the working class together with all other peace forces throughout the world in order to actively combat the Reagan administration's dangerous policies. At the same time, the peace initiative and proposals of the Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Pact powers, as well as of the non-aligned movement, and the six-nation Delhi declaration, must be popularised on the widest scale and backed up by mass action.

The nuclear war danger has come to the very doorsteps of India. US imperialist conspiracies against the security of this sub-continent and against the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country have reached explosive proportions. The deliberate fomenting by US imperialist agencies of communal, separatist and terrorist forces inside the country is part of the efforts for the destabilisation of India. All this is accompanied by a fullscale attack on India's foreign policy of peace, non-alignment and friendship with the Soviet union and other socialist countries.

The trade unions must undertake the urgent task of strengthening Indo-Soviet friendship and cooperation, of defending India's sovereignty and of

independence and territorial integrity, which now acquire supreme importance.

Steps must be taken by all unions to observe the 40th anniversary on the biggest mass scale, rousing every section of the working class to see the danger of nuclear war and go into action to fight against it. They must act to back up the peace proposals put forward by the socialist countries and by the non-aligned movement. The AITUC will mobilise the people to act in defence of India's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. The month of May must be dedicated to observance of the 40th anniversary of the defeat of fascism. May Day this year has to be observed with renewed actions in the noble cause of world peace.

Trade unions should also combine with all other organisations and forces such as the AIPSO, the ISCUS, the Kisan Sabha and the BKMU in having united programmes. Particularly on 9 May 1985, the anniversary of the day when Hitler surrendered to the Red Army, wide celebrations on a mass scale should take place in all major working class centres and capital cities.

II. ON THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

On 3 October 1985 the world trade union movement will mark a historic anniversary - the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the World Federation of Trade Unions. The WFTU was formed as a result of the efforts of trade unions throughout the world translating into action the sentiments of the working masses for international unity of the working class.

The founding congress of the WFTU, held in Paris, in which the AITUC also participated in full measure, also gave a resounding call to the working class of the world to mobilise their forces in the global struggle for peace, against militarism and war, for upholding trade union rights and democratic liberties and to act with determination in favour of social progress,

Four decades have gone by since that historic event. In this period the imperialist forces, defeated in the second world war, have step by step unleashed an unprecedented arms race. They seek to put nuclear war on the agenda. The Reagan administration has gone so far as to announce a "star wars" programme". Recognising the force of the working class they sought to divide us on a world scale and succeeded in doing so.

However, the WFTU and its affiliates have throughout this period upheld the cause of working class unity and at every stage have taken measures for unity in action. In one world congress after another one has witnessed the presence of delegates from independent unions and unions of varied affiliation. The task is yet not finished.

The AITUC calls on all its affiliated unions to chalk out a programme to observe the 40th anniversary, to give full publicity to the work of the WFTU in the last 40 years in serving the interests of the working class, in the campaigns undertaken in defence of workers' rights, in defence of the right of all peoples to independence, and for peace. The AITUC calls on all unions to take forward the movement for national unity, national integrity, in defence of sovereignty of the country and against all divisive, communal and anti-national forces.

Let all our activities in this year reflect the spirit of unity and unity of action of the first world trade union congress in 1945. Let us strive to strengthen every effort for trade union unity and for unity of action of the working class of our country for peace, social progress and national self-reliance.

III. ON CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 1985-1986

The working committee of the AITUC strongly condemns the philosophy and proposals of the central government's budget for 1985-1986 as being retrograde, anti-people, blatantly pro-big business, and subversive of the hitherto accepted national principles of planning for social and economic justice based on a strong and expanding public sector. The monopolists and transnational corporations have, not surprisingly, hailed the budget.

The budget's basic philosophy of "spare the rich, soak the poor and freeze the public sector" is fully reflected in its various specific proposals.

The net addition to the tax burden is Rs. 433 crores, in which the centre's share is only Rs. 311 crores. To this has to be added the increase in railway fares and freight totalling Rs. 495 crores. This relatively small mobilisation of additional resources has been made possible by limiting the public sector plan outlay to an increase of only 5.75% over the 1984-1985 figures. A wide variety of subheads in the central sector including programmes for rural development like the NREP, Khadi and village industries, agricultural financial institutions, etc., self-employment schemes for educated youth, village and small industries, telecommunications, petroleum, fertiliser, coal, lignite, drugs and pharmaceuticals, housing, welfare of scheduled castes and tribes, etc. have received lower allotments than the previous year.

Clearly, this is a shift away, a retreat from, the idea so long prevalent in our country since independence, that central planning outlays and public sector growth constitute the engine of self-reliant development.

Instead, the theory has been advanced that a lowering of direct taxes to "reasonable" levels will discourage tax-evasion and ensure better compliance while it will stimulate production by leaving larger investible funds in the hands of the corporate sector. Apart from this wishful thinking, there is no other concrete proposal to combat the "parallel" economy of black money !

However, the relief in direct taxes, while undoubtedly benefitting the upper middle class and the better off sections of the white-collar employees, will mean nothing to 99% of the 350 million income earners in our country, because only 4 million of them are tax-payers, out of them, one million will go out of the tax net and 3 million will pay less than before.

The existing ceiling of Rs. 750 for entitlement of bonus has been raised to Rs. 1600 for purposes of calculation but the ceiling of bonus payment has not been increased which deprives a section from getting due bonus. On the other hand, the prices of all essential commodities are bound to rise steeply, hitting the working masses.

It is the industrial houses which will benefit enormously. Not only has the tax on company profits been reduced by 5% but an assurance is given that after two years the surcharge and surtax on profits will also be discontinued. The benefits from the high level of subsidies will also accrue to the industrial producers and the rich farmers.

On top of this has come the raising of the exemption limit for MRTP companies from 20 crores to 100 crores - an unexpected windfall for the beneficiaries. Of the 101 companies which were under the purview of the MRTP Act, 49 will go straight out. This is an open invitation to big business to amass more assets and profits - in blatant violation of the directive principles of the constitution, Article 39(c), against concentration of economic power.

The working committee of the AITUC calls upon the people to protest vehemently against these and other fiscal proposals which are meant to lead not to more equitable but to more inequitable distribution of wealth

and incomes. The disparities in the countryside will be further aggravated and further concentration of wealth will generate dangerously reactionary political pressures. There is no mention anywhere of completing the unfinished land reforms, without which a stable growth of food production cannot be ensured.

The frightening prospects of inflation arise out of the obviously deflated estimates of the infla net deficit of Rs. 3,349 crores for 1985-86. More likely, this figure will go up to about Rs. 5,000 crores, taking into consideration the borrowing requirements of the central government in the current year, the higher interest rates on commercial loans from foreign banks, the repayment of the IMF loans, the shrinking of long-term concessional loans from interenational institutions, the worsening balance of trade deficit, the enormous defence expenditure, and the heavy non-plan outlay on subsidies for fertilisers and food. This huge uncovered deficit will have dangerous consequences.

While a substantial part of this critical situation is undoubtedly due to the highly unfavourable external environment created by the present international economic order which exploits the developing countries, this does not make the crisis less severe in its impact on the economy and the people.

Unprecedented concessions are being given in the budget to the private monopoly sector, while opening new doors for the penetration of multinationals, on the plea of acquiring "high technology" for modernising the economy. Thereby, the public sector is downgraded, and reliance for growth placed on the private sector despite its past record of feeding like a parasite on a protected market, heavy subsidies and public funds. Basic economic goals of self-reliance, social justice, and state control over the commanding heights of the economy are sought to be drastically diluted while heaping new burdens on the common man. Even the small scale sector of industry is exposed to fresh dangers.

The AITUC considers the shift in the budget in a reactionary direction. The AITUC demands that the economic policy should be reversed in the direction of self-reliance, strengthening of the public sector, curbs on monopolies and TNCs and welfare measures for the people.

The working committee of the AITUC calls on all unions and workers to undertake powerful campaigns against the budget and for a drastic change in economic policies in favour of the common people. The AITUC calls on all trade unions to undertake the widest possible united campaigns against price rise and for extension of a public distribution system and steps to curb speculation and hoarding in foodgrains and other basic necessities.

The working committee of the AITUC calls on all trade unions to initiate this campaign on May Day.

IV. ON THE RAILWAY BUDGET

The working committee of the AITUC notes with concern that without increasing passenger amenities and facilities to other rail users, the passenger fares and freight charges have been increased by 10% in the railway budget of 1985-86 to enable the railways to clear in full the dividend liability of Rs. 512 crores. On the other hand, the burden on the railway budget on account of social costs is increasing every year, which should rightly be subsidised from the general revenues. The Working Committee strongly opposes the increase in passenger fares and freight charges and demands that the dividend liability should be adjusted from the loss suffered by the railways on account of social costs.

The working committee also notes that acquiring of new assets like wagons and coaches has been kept at a low level during 1985-86. The inadequate number of coaches results in overcrowding in trains and passengers are compelled to travel on rooftops of coaches even on long distance

mail and express trains. This roof travelling has recently resulted in the ghastly accident resulting in the death of a number of passengers on the Saharanpur-Ambala section of the Northern Railway. The inadequate number of wagons results in non-lifting of freight and there is a serious complaint that even such an important commodity such as coal is not being lifted by the railways from pit-heads.

The working committee further notes that though much is said about the modernisation of railways, the modernisation scheme for railway workshops is hanging fire since long. In the meanwhile, high interest charges are being paid on the unutilised loan granted for this purpose by the World Bank. In the name of economy, there is a ban on recruitment and vacancies are not being filled, resulting in increased workload on the railwaymen, which affects maintenance of track, rolling stock, safety in operations very seriously. The work of track maintenance hitherto being done departmentally is being allotted to contractors which is neither economical or conducive to the safety track, though it could lead to corruption on a wide scale.

The working committee demands that all steps should be taken to improve the efficiency and safety of railways without increasing the workload on the railwaymen.

V. ON DEMANDS OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

The working committee of the AITUC notes that there is great dissatisfaction among the central government employees due to delay in payment of second instalment of interim relief and no indication as yet of early submission of the report of the fourth Central Pay Commission, appointed by the government more than a year ago.

Further, the instalment of DA which has become due from 1 January 1985 has not yet been paid. The formula of bonus to central government employees other than railwaymen is yet to be finalised and the payment of the balance of bonus for the last two years has not yet been made. The ban on recruitment and non-filling of vacancies increases the workload on the employees. Nearly 20 important awards given by the Boards of Arbitration set up under the JCM have not been implemented by the government and the JCM has virtually broken down.

The working committee demands immediate payment of second instalment of interim relief to the central government employees and settlement of other demands without further delay. The IV Pay Commission should submit its report early. The ban on recruitment should be lifted. The pending arbitration awards should be implemented immediately.

The working committee calls upon all the central government employees to close their ranks and prepare for united struggle if their demands are not met. The central government employees have the full support of the AITUC in their just struggle for achieving their demands.

VI. ON THE STRUGGLE OF KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION EMPLOYEES

The working committee of the AITUC held in New Delhi notes with shock the manner in which the government of Karnataka let loose repression to cause the indefinite strike of 40,000 KSRTC employees. The management of KSRTC and the representatives of the KSRTC Staff and Workers' Federation had reached an understanding at the behest of the government of Karnataka on 14.10.84 whereby it was agreed that a) the charter of demands of the federation would be settled by 31.12.84, failing which interim relief would be announced and b) to arrive at a settlement before the Labour Commission to decide the mode of recognition of trade unions and c) settle all the victimisation cases sympathetically within a month from 14.10.84.

In spite of the persistent reminders from the federation, when the government of Karnataka did not take steps to implement the terms of the understanding, having no further alternative, the federation was compelled to call for an indefinite strike from 20 February 1985.

The working committee unequivocally expresses its strong condemnation of the repression let loose on the workers by the state government. Several hundreds of peaceful workers and cadres of the federation were taken into custody and false cases have been foisted on them. Hundreds have been served with orders of suspension, still more dismissed, chargesheeted or transferred for having participated in a peaceful strike to demand the implementation of the understanding arrived at with the government.

The working committee demands of the government of Karnataka that, in order to restore industrial peace the government take immediate steps to

- a) withdraw all the police cases foisted on the KSRTC employees in connection with the strike action
- b) all removed apprentices, casual and badli and probationary employees and dismissed workers be reinstated
- c) revocation of suspensions orders, withdrawals of charge sheets, show cause notices and other measures of victimisation
- e) immediate steps be taken to implement the understanding reached on 14.10.84.

VI. ON THE STRUGGLE OF MYSORE WIRE AND METAL INDUSTRIES, BANGALORE

The working committee of the AITUC took note of the ,long drawn out strike of the workers of the Mysore Wire & Metal Industries, Bangalore.

The working committee learns that the chief minister, Shri Ramakrishna Hegde, had given an assurance to the workers of Bangalore that he would personally intervene and settle the matter after the elections to the state assembly.

The working committee urges upon the Chief Minister to intervene and bring about an honourable settlement in order to provide relief to over 400 striking employees and their families who have been on strike in support of their just demands for over six months.

VII. ON LOCK-OUTS AND CLOSURES

The working committee of the AITUC notes with concern that there has been a steady increase in the number of closures and lockouts in the country and particularly so in the jute, cotton textiles and engineering industries. This has resulted not only in throwing thousands of workers out of employment but also constitutes a threat to the economic and social progress of our country.

The government had recently stated during the meeting held by the Labour Minister with representatives of central trade union organisations that "industrial sickness which is inevitable in the process of industrial progress and technological shifts cannot be totally eliminated". From this, one can deduce that, far from intending to take effective measures to prevent closures and lockouts the government expects workers and the toiling masses to learn to "live with it".

The working committee is of the confirmed opinion that the above theory is fallacious and unacceptable. The crisis in the economic sphere in our country is the crisis of capitalism and cannot be solved by the government granting ever greater concessions to the monopoly houses or placating the corporate sector. In the recent budget, the private sector has ^{been} granted liberal terms, as also foreign multinational concerns, and the latter in terms of importing the latest technologies.

A perusal of government statistics further shows that there has been a continuous pandering to the private sector. For instance, loans advanced to sick units, both large and small scale, numbered 78,363 at the end of 1983. The amount of these loans showed a sharp increase since 1980. While the amount at the end of December 1979 stood at Rs. 1623 crores, at

the end of 1983 the figure had increased to Rs. 3101 crores which was an increase of nearly 91%. Government which finds one excuse after another to avoid taking over of sick units and running them efficiently does little to monitor the running of the sick units to whom these liberal loans are handed out by governmental financial institutions.

There have been critical conditions in the jute and te cotton textile industry for some years, the position worsening with every year. Crisis exists also in the chemical and pharmaceutical industry, in the engineering and construction industries. In vital public sector industries such as petroleum the private sector is being allowed to enter. Crisis can be seen also in other public sector industries such as fertiliser, coal, lignite, iron and steel. Outlays on these industries have been drastically cut, and in some cases, frozen.

According to official figures the total number of sick and closed units have reached the alarming proportion of 63000. This is a concerted attempt to attack the life and living conditions of the working people. It is clear that this will seriously affect the economic progress of the country as a whole.

The working committee points out that the theory of inevitable sickness in the process of industrial progress is a bankrupt one. The steady progress of all socialist countries in the world after the end of the second world war has illustrated beyond doubt that basic structural changes can create conditions of uninterrupted progress and development. Particularly so is the example of the Soviet Union which suffered the greatest losses both in men and material in the course of the war and has since made remarkable strides in industrial, economic and social progress.

The working committee of the AITUC calls on all unions to participate fully in the call given by the national campaign committee to observe 15 May 1985 as a day against closures and lockouts unitedly with all other constituents of the national campaign committee. All affiliated units and state committees should take effective steps to prepare for statewide conventions on this vital demand of the toiling masses. Workers have to be mobilised to go into action to bring about a reversal of government policies to serve the needs of national development and strengthen self-reliance.

VIII. ON CLOSURE OF WAGON FACTORIES

The working committee of the AITUC notes with serious concern that the railways, the single largest undertaking of the government, have reduced the orders for production of wagons thus seriously affecting the lives of thousands of workers, while also increasing the shortage of wagons.

The railways already suffer from the malady of shortage of rolling stock including wagons. The inadequate allotment of funds for the development of railways in the seventh five-year plan thus affect not only the railways themselves but also the industries which are feeding the railways by producing wagons.

The working committee demands that the government of India should take immediate steps to increase the allotment to the railways for the purpose of development, and especially for manufacture of wagons.

The working committee calls on all unions to undertake a campaign on this vital issue. The working committee particularly calls for united action by railway workers and their brother workers in the engineering industry.

IX. RESOLUTION ON THE ASIAN AND OCEANIC TRADE UNION CONFERENCE
ON THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER

The working committee of the AITUC expresses its appreciation of the holding of the Asian and Oceanic Trade Union Conference on Development and the New International Economic Order. The first of its kind at which representatives of the WFTU, ICFTU, WCL as well as independent organisations such as SOHYO clearly provided an opportunity to trade unions of Asia and Oceania to discuss issues of common interest vital to their countries.

The documents adopted at the conference show beyond doubt that there is the possibility for the trade unions to act together against the exploitation by transnational corporations, the heavy debt burdens being imposed by such financial institutions as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and in support of all actions by governments and countries for the establishment of a New International Economic Order. The possibilities also exist for concerted working class action in defence of peace and for disarmament.

The working committee calls on all state committees and affiliated unions to give the widest possible publicity to the decisions of this important conference and undertake a systematic campaign throughout the country to educate our workers on the issues discussed in the conference and for implementation of programmes of action which would be drawn up by the coordination committee set up at the conference.
