

Decisions of Political Bureau of the Communist Party of India

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India, met at Madras over August 11-17. It reviewed events since the general election, worked out the line to be adopted in the present situation and resolved on the steps to be taken to strengthen the Party organisationally.

The Political Bureau characterised the situation that has developed since the elections as a situation of worsening conditions for the masses, increasing isolation of the Government and growing opposition to its policies among all strata of the people, including sections and elements of the national bourgeoisie. The Political Bureau pointed out that the Party must broaden and strengthen the movement now growing all over the country by organising mass agitation and action in defence of the immediate interests of the people. The struggle waged in Parliament and in the Legislative Assemblies by the Communist Party and the democratic opposition had helped enormously to expose and isolate the Government and strengthen the popular movement. As a result of their growing strength and unity, the people were able to secure the release of a large number of political prisoners, the removal of punitive police posts from many areas, and other demands.

The Political Bureau urged Party units to abandon all dogmatic, preconceived and sectarian notions about forms of agitation and struggle, to intensify work among all strata and sections, to popularise the progressive demands of each class as part of the democratic demands of the people as a whole, and to rely not only on mass strikes and demonstrations but also on the traditional forms of struggle in order to enable the people to win their demands. The aim of each struggle today must be, above all, the winning of immediate specific demands by means of mass unity, mass mobilisation and mass action.

The difficulties confronting Party units in many areas were difficulties connected with the growth of the movement, with the growth of the influence of the Party. It is but natural that the activities of the Party have grown immensely, creating complex problems of organisation, of allocation of cadres, of co-ordination. To overcome these difficulties a policy of bold promotion of cadres, of entrusting them with responsibility, of developing and educating new cadres, must be adopted.

The Political Bureau welcomed the Asian and Pacific Peace Conference at Peking as a big step towards peace and freedom for the Asian nations.

The Political Bureau greeted the opening of the Volga-Don Canal as a great step towards the establishment of Communism in the Soviet Union and a new contribution to the cause of world peace.

FAMINE IN INDIA

Of late, reports of wide-spread famine have been received from India, particularly, from the southern regions. For several months past, severe famine has been rife in the villages of the Madras and Travancore-Cochin States and other regions of the country.

The famine is especially severe in the State of Madras, the population of which amounts to 57 million. At a modest estimate, the Reuter Agency reports, some ten million people are starving in this State alone, while 6 million are starving in the Andhra Region; in the Rayalasila region and in the eastern regions, 90 per cent of the population are in the grip of hunger.

Agricultural labourers who have lost their jobs because of the drought they are suffering more than others. Many of them are dying of starvation. Hundreds of thousands of peasants in Andhra Region have abandoned their homes and are roaming the country seeking work and bread. The difficult conditions of the population of this region in India are aggravated in many places by lack of drinking water, lack of fodder for cattle, large numbers of which have already perished.

The United Relief Committee for aid to the hunger-stricken population of the Andhra Region addressed a letter to Comrade V. V. Kuznetsov, Chairman of the All-Union Central Council of the Trade Unions of the U.S.S.R., requesting aid for the starving population of India in the form of money and food.

The telegram sent in reply by the All-Union Central Council says that on behalf of the workers and all working people of the Soviet Union, the Soviet trade unions express deep sympathy with the working people of Andhra Region and districts of Madras State in their severe distress and that they are sending to the United Relief Committee 10 thousand tons of wheat, 5 thousand tons of rice and 500 thousand tins of condensed milk. In addition, the Soviet trade unions allocated 250,000 Indian rupees.

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