

MISUSE OF D.I.R. AND EMERGENCY POWERS BY THE GOVERNMENT

The Seventh Congress of the CPI expresses its indignation and protest against the continued misuse of the emergency powers and the Defence of India Rules by the government for suppressing civil liberties, for arresting and detaining without trial persons belonging to opposition political parties as well as leaders and workers of the democratic mass movements in different states.

A number of communists continue to be in detention since November 1962 when they had been arrested in the name of national emergency created by Chinese aggression on India's borders. Subsequently the DIR and the emergency powers have been used recklessly to put down even peaceful and constitu-

tional agitations by the people on burning economic issues like food scarcity and rising prices and workers' struggles for bonus, DA, trade-union recognition, etc.

Thus 28 leaders and workers of the Maha Gujarat Sangram Samiti are still being held in detention for having organised the "Gujarat *Bandh*" of August 5, 1964. A large number of arrests under the DIR were carried out on the occasion of the "Bharat *Bandh*" call of the SSP on September 25 and the peaceful general strike in West Bengal on the same day. Earlier, during the all-India food satyagraha organised by the Communist Party of India in August, the DIR was used in several states to arrest and prosecute peaceful satyagrahis, some of whom are kept in detention even today.

9 workers of the Heavy Electricals Plant in Bhopal are still being detained in jail after the workers' struggle for trade-union recognition was suppressed. The DIR was even used to arrest and prosecute prominent journalists of opposition papers in Kerala. In Orissa when the police ran amuck in the name of "putting down student violence", people of all political parties were indiscriminately arrested and all civil liberties suppressed by recourse to the emergency powers and the DIR.

Large-scale arrests were made in Calcutta on October 30 and 31 of "left" communists of West Bengal. Such arrests are continuing, even though the government has still offered no explanation for these sudden arrests and has adduced no evidence to justify the continued detention of these persons without trial.

Recently a number of communist leaders of Maharashtra who led the food struggles have been detained under the DIR—besides one in Thana district for leading a strike struggle.

In Goa, the government has time and again used the DIR to suppress legitimate trade-union activities and detain trade-union leaders as well as worker-militants. On November 15, the government again arrested, under the DIR, the leaders of the AITUC unions along with over 150 workers who continue to be in detention.

The latest example of the Congress government's misuse of these powers for purely political purposes is the large-scale country-wide arrests of workers and leaders of the Republican

Party of India in an effort to suppress the peaceful satyagraha movement launched by that party for the rights of the Scheduled Castes and of the landless in general.

The Congress government's actions continue to demonstrate beyond all doubt that the sweeping powers assumed by it two years ago in the name of national defence against external aggression are now more and more being shamelessly used as a weapon against its political opponents, to suppress civil liberties and the democratic mass movements of the common people for their urgent legitimate demands and against the anti-people's policies of the ruling classes. Such a situation cannot be allowed to continue any longer.

The Seventh Congress of the CPI emphatically protests against all these lawless arrests and detentions and demands immediate release of all the persons involved therein.

The Seventh Congress of the CPI demands that in the changed conditions of today the "proclamation of national emergency" should be forthwith withdrawn and the Defence of India Act and Rules revoked without delay.

The Seventh Congress of the CPI appeals to all democratic parties, groups and individuals, to all mass organisations, to all those who cherish democracy and civil liberties to join together and launch a mighty united campaign for the above.

INDIA AND THE ATOM BOMB

The Moscow Test Ban Treaty registered a significant advance for the forces of world peace and opened up new possibilities for advancing towards the complete stoppage of all tests of nuclear weapons and for their banning and destruction. The explosion of an atom bomb by the government of the Peoples' Republic of China in the face of world opinion has damaged these prospects. It has encouraged the US imperialists to press ahead with their plans for a NATO multilateral nuclear force, which would put atomic weapons in the hands of the West German neo-Nazis. In our country it has encouraged the right-reactionary forces who have launched an offensive calling, on the one hand for India also to go in for making her own atom