

Revolutionary Communist Party, India :

Statement on the Death of Indira Gandhi

The following press statement was released Nov. 1 by the Organising Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party, India. The RCP, I has been particularly active in the Indian state of Punjab, where the Sikhs have historically been concentrated. The translation has been revised by A World to Win.

The Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi, has been killed in a daring attack by two angry Sikh youths. Indira Gandhi, whose brutal and repressive dynastic authority was notorious among the people, was brought back to power in the 1980 elections by the Indian big bourgeoisie who considered her their best representative. It is self-evident that this killing is the direct result of the communal and repressive policies pursued by Indira Gandhi over the years. She divided the people on regional, religious and caste lines; she pitted the people against each other while resorting to an unprecedented use of brutal force. The whole of the North East, Jammu and Kashmir, and Punjab stand as a monument to her medieval methods and Hitlerite repression. Her regime was marked by the increasing role of the military in the civil affairs of the Indian state and an increasing trend toward masked military rule under the guise of a Presidential form of government. For the working people of India there is nothing to grieve. A dictator in the offing is dead.

But there is nothing in this death for which the working class can feel relieved. The bureaucrat-comprador bourgeoisie which day in and day out sucks the blood of all the toiling people remains untouched and firmly in control of the Indian government. Rajiv Gandhi, the son of the fascist mother, has stepped in. This new and mild mannered politician will soon reveal his Gandhi-ite "peace" teeth which the people of India have en-

ured all these years. Not only Rajiv, but any other son of the Indian ruling class would act in the same way. The bureaucrat-comprador bourgeoisie, faced with a threat to its "sacred" market and rule from the raging regional movements and the struggles of the toiling masses and faced with the overall crisis and war situation internationally, is forced to adopt a course of more and more centralisation of power accompanied with the suppression of the workers, peasants, other toiling people and the struggling nationalities. The Organising Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party of India warns the people not to overlook the fact that the fall of one representative of the exploiters will not end the tale of miseries, as many others are ready to step into the same shoes. The death of Indira Gandhi is not going to relieve the burden of imperialist and bureaucrat-capitalist exploitation at all, to say nothing of emancipation. This attack is as futile as it is daring. Emancipation can only come through the overthrow of the Indian state and the expropriation of the property of the imperialist, bureaucrat-comprador bourgeoisie and the big landlords and the establishment of a people's democratic rule under the leadership of the working class. In carrying out such a revolution the working class cannot rely upon such tactics as individual annihilation and for that matter no one should be complacent with this murder.

The Organising Committee forewarns the people of India that the Indian ruling classes will try their best to reap the maximum political capital out of the death of Indira Gandhi to once again raise the alarm of the threat to democracy and the security of India from abroad and from the just movements of the people and different nationalities. This hulloaloo will once again be used to

intensify the repression of the just struggles of the people and to step up efforts to curb the democratic and civil rights of the people. This daring attack is not only futile but has the capacity to send people into complacency, thus proving counter-productive and dangerous. Whether elections are held as scheduled or postponed, or not held at all; or what personality or political combinations remain or come into power--this is not of much consequence since the international and national crisis is pushing the Indian ruling classes to clamp down further on the Indian people and it will hardly be accidental if the ruling classes are enforcing virtual military rule while still keeping up the pretensions of democracy and the democratic system. The RCP, India warns workers and other people to oppose the national chauvinist slogans about the "threat to security and integrity" which will be the main vehicle for such a dictatorship. This must be opposed by the people of India stepping up their efforts for a new democratic revolution under the leadership of the working class.

A very dangerous effect of this attack will be the further polarisation among the people along communal lines and the heightening of tension between Hindus and Sikhs. Reported incidents of attacks on Sikhs in many areas will generate repercussions in Punjab. The working class should stand firmly for its class unity and the unity of all the toiling people and nationalities and must oppose communal divisions. The Organising Committee feels that the unity of the working class can only be preserved if national chauvinism and communalism are firmly opposed and rejected in all forms and uprooted from the working class movement. ■