

WEST BENGAL

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were burnt alive. Their uncle burning all over, plunged into a tank to save his life, but the killers stoned him till he drowned and died.

Falsely calling a man a bloodsucker and then lynching him or her has been encouraged by interested quarters recently, in West Bengal. At Amguri in Jalpaiguri district three women were done to death on suspicion of being child-lifters. The *Basumati* of June 11 reported that all

the six people arrested in the murders are of a particular political party—the readers know well which party is meant in West Bengal under Congress rule.

JUSTICE, CONGRESS STYLE

Since its inception, the riggers' junta in March last year, 78 leading organisers of the CPI(M) alone have been murdered by the Congress hordes and the police.

One sordid aspect of the repression against the

democratic organisers and masses in West Bengal, is the detention of thousands in jails under MISA. DIR or implicated in trumped up cases. As of date, 1769 have been held under MISA and nine under DIR. Under all sorts of laws nearly 2000 Left cadres are in jails, 1,800 of them being of the CPI(M) alone. The application of the MISA against democratic cadres is now a scandal of the first order.

Prior to the Supreme Court verdict on Section

17(A) of MISA, about 500 of the CPI(M) were held mostly under the same section. Now that they are to be released, they are being rearrested mostly under Section 3 of MISA. Only about 30 of the CPI(M) detainees under Section 17(A), now struck down, have been set free.

Nemai Nandi, a CPI(M) leader of Memari, Burdwan district, one of the appellants to the Supreme Court praying for annulment of Section 17(A) of MISA, was released. And he was

rearrested under Section 3 of MISA. We are yet to know how the Supreme Court will react to the new justice, Congress style.

Prasad Gupta, a political worker in Calcutta's Park Circus area has been implicated in seven cases by five police stations ranging from Cossipore in the extreme north to Tollyganj in the deep south of the city. But the trying magistrates found reasons to release Guha on bail in each of the seven cases by five thanas. But Guha, a tuberculosis patient, was thrown back into jail by Indira Gandhi's Congress regime in West Bengal under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act.

MAHARASHTRA FAMINE

FROM CENTRE PAGES

men, women and children standing in the scorching sun breaking stones. The Government calls it relief work. It claims to be giving them Rs. 2.50 a day. In fact with the Government's knowledge the workers are hired by corrupt contractors, who pocket the major portion of the workers' wages. They barely get 20 p to 25 p a day.

With this meagre sum in his pocket the worker goes to a fair price shop only to be invariably told that it is empty. And yet just a few yards away the blackmarket flourishes often with grain meant for the ration shops. Bajra, jowar, sell at Rs. two to Rs. 2.50 a kilo; wheat at Rs. 2.50 to three a kilo;

rice at Rs. 3.50 to Rs. four a kilo; groundnut oil at Rs. eight to Rs. nine a kilo.

It is in these conditions that the rural poor have straightened their bowed backs and have started to fight back. They know that only when they unite and launch struggles does the Government hear their demands. Recently in Sangli, huge crowds of people seized foodgrains. Within days the Government was forced to send foodgrains to the empty fair-price shops.

THE MOVEMENT HAS BEGUN

Yes. A movement is developing among the rural poor in the so-called relief

centres and the CPI(M), the CITU and the Kisan Sabha are fully engaged in developing this movement for relief to the famine-stricken.

On May 31 and June 1 a conference of relief workers was organised in Ichalkarenji, Kolhapur. There were 1000 delegates, metal breakers, who were joined in the open session by at least 10,000 of their class brothers. The conference was attended and addressed by CPI(M) Polit Bureau member Comrade B. T. Ranadive, as well as Comrades Shantiram Garud and S. B. Patil.

The poor will no longer remain silent. The State-wide Bandh on May 16 of all the workers in the

'relief' centres is proof enough. Everyday demonstrations, gheraos, deputations take place. And they have the full support of the working class as was shown in their historic strike action in Bombay on May 15.

The Congress Government will find that its criminal plan to close down the 'relief' centres once the monsoon starts will land it in a bigger crisis. The CPI(M) Maharashtra State Secretariat has given the call for a 'Fill the Jails' campaign in protest. And the people are getting prepared. In Kolhapur, five hundred women with babes in arms have already gone to jail.

It is a long, hard and bitter struggle, it has begun.

Self-Reliance

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tribution in relaxing tension and promoting detente in the international field must have fallen pleasantly on the ears of the President who is beset on all fronts."

Nixon stated that since the substance of their future dialogue was both political and economic, it was important that on the economic side the basis for relationship over the longer term be defined. He defined the broad agenda of talks as including development assistance, trade and financial relations, questions of scientific and technical co-operation.

The members of the Aid-India Club, in the meantime, commended that "measures by the Government (of India) to improve the investment climate through such steps as more flexible licensing policies would provide for sustained rapid industrial growth."

Is the Indira Gandhi Government going to follow the traditional Latin American model? Her Ambassador's hope of building better relations with the USA, "based on equality, reciprocity and mutual respect", can have no substance at all when that relation is between a big imperialist power and a backward country. In reality, the former dominates the latter.

Smt. Indira Gandhi is taking the country on to a slippery path. This must be exposed and resisted.

U.S NEO-COLONIALISM

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year, American military units were involved in "civil action" operations in conjunction with the Filipino Army.

In Thailand there are three principal guerrilla areas; in the north, the north-east and in the south adjoining the Malaysian border. The most serious challenges are in the first two areas where guerrillas, operating since 1965, are now estimated to number around 7,000. Press reports speak of "rebel" units in the vicinity of *Nakhon Phanom* and of *Udon*, one of the other major U.S. bases.

IN INDO-CHINA

While strengthening its

stranglehold on Thailand and the Philippines, the U.S. continues its nefarious policy in Indo-China—to thwart the unification of Vietnam and through the puppet Thieu regime in Saigon, to thwart and sabotage the Vietnam cease-fire agreement. Hence the desperate efforts to maintain the Lon Nol regime, whatever the cost in Cambodian lives, and its intervention in Laos.

The perfidy of the imperialists is portrayed in the double talk of Kissinger who speaks of "peace in Cambodia in a few weeks" and simultaneously that "nothing in the joint communique (Tho-Kissinger communique of June 13) obliges the U.S. to end its

military operations in Cambodia."

The Pentagon is more blatant. On the same day the agreement was signed in Paris, June 13, the Defence Department announced its intention to spend 167 million dollars during the next year to equip and pay for a Cambodian fighting force of 220,000 men—5,800,000 dollars to be used to train 36,000 Cambodian soldiers, 6000 of them in Thailand; for the year beginning July 1, 135 million dollars to buy weapons including helicopter training-aircraft. "The failure of the USA to provide military assistance to the Cambodians... would

lead to the collapse of the country and endanger the South-East Asia peace accords" (!), said Vice-Admiral Peet, Director of Defence Security Assistance Agency.

The U.S. eagle, however battered, will never voluntarily unfasten its talons from Indo-China. And to maintain its hold will use any means, including the innocent-sounding Agency for International Development—an affiliate of the World Bank—the same AID which so generously offers 'soft' aid to India, and which the Congress rulers servilely beg for and abjectly accept, making the country dangerously dependent on U.S. imperialism.