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CH. RAGAN SRIYU
**CHENNA REDDY'S GOVERNMENT
UNLEASHES REIGN OF TERROR
AS PEOPLE IN THEIR MILLIONS
RALLY BEHIND PEOPLES WAR**



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The Third State Conference of APRCS (3rd & 4th May, 1990)

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CHENNA REDDY'S DUBIOUS DEMOCRACY

Ten months may not be regarded as a significant length of time by those who lead a relaxed life, but for an organisation schooled in iron discipline and untiring and dedicated work such as the Peoples War Party, the ten months from November '89 to September '90 has been no ordinary span of time - a span filled with hundreds of lessons, sorrows, and sacrifices. Let us review the developments that have taken place during these ten months in Andhra Pradesh, especially in the Telengana districts.

Elections were declared to the A.P. State Assembly in November '89, and immediately the then ruling TDP as well as all the opposition parties unleashed a vile campaign of lies against Peoples War.

The bourgeois parties vied with one another in spreading rumours against Peoples War - that Peoples War would resort to large scale violence during elections, that they would kill the candidates in fray, stop people from casting their vote, burn polling booths, snatch ballot boxes, murder returning officers, and so on, and on, and on... The TDP leadership announced that in order to maintain law and order in the 'Naxalite affected areas' during the elections, the Government would provide heavy security, including helicopter surveillance.

And then the elections were held. In areas where revolutionaries are strong, not a single violent incident occurred, and polling was entirely peaceful. But in Rayalaseema and Coastal Andhra areas, all the parliamentary parties resorted to unparalleled violence and arson, and largescale rigging. In hundreds of polling stations, bombs were hurled, ballot boxes were snatched, murders were committed, and candidates and their supporters were kidnapped in the most heinous manner. It is the irony of our times that those parliamentary parties who swear by the name of non-violence perpetrated such an unprecedented orgy of violence during the elections. People could see and realise as to who were the real culprits in the game of violence, who were the real threat to public order.

The revolutionaries boycotted the elections as usual, and as a reflection of the growing political consciousness of the people, at places, the boycott was vocal and militant.

It was only those who have defined democracy as the ritual of elections and votes, who have perpetrated violence. And more than a hundred people lost their lives in the ordeal of this so-called democracy. Property worth several crores of rupees was destroyed during the elections. As has been the practice on all such occasions, burning of hamlets, gang rapes, destruction of property, and murders,

took place in several parts of the state in the wake of the elections - all in the name of democracy and non-violence. Even now the flames of post electoral violence are erupting in many parts of the state in one form or the other.

The Telugu Desam Party lost the elections and Congress-I came to power in the state. We do not regard this to be a change of any significance for the people of the state. Like the proverbial cure worse than the disease, the present government is only taking the repressive policies of the previous one a few steps forward. Our stand regarding the National Front Government at the centre is also similar.

The November elections brought Chenna Reddy to power. While Chenna Reddy had troubles of his own, the revolutionaries had their troubles, too - thousands of comrades languishing in jails for more than eight years, bails being refused for most of them, delaying the cases for years, not permitting even the near and dear to meet them, denying them basic amenities and medical aid in the jails, thereby causing death of some of them, killing a few in false encounters saying that they tried to escape while being taken to court, transferring them to distant jails, and so on. And in retaliation to the fascist policies of the government which was systematically violating its own legal system, the revolutionaries resorted to the kidnapping of bourgeois political leaders. It was in this context that the Dichapally MLA, Mr Venkateswara Rao was kidnapped, followed by another MLA and a Mandal President in Medak district, and a Mandal President in Karimnagar district. Chenna Reddy, who had just come in, started a false campaign that the revolutionaries were not making any specific demands, and that were resorting to aimless terrorism.

But the revolutionaries had declared their demands in a clear enough manner. Their main demands in each instance were the following - 1) To lift all police camps from Telengana villages; 2) To put an immediate end to the practice of killing revolutionaries in false encounters, and to punish the guilty police officers 3) To allow the revolutionary groups to conduct public meetings in a free and open atmosphere; 4) To withdraw all false cases against revolutionaries languishing for years in jails, and to release them unconditionally, immediately; and 5) To constitute a judicial enquiry into the cases of 'missing' persons, and to punish the guilty officials.

Chenna Reddy's administration was compelled to accept some of these demands, and so they announced that the government would not prevent the revolutionaries from holding public meetings, that the undertrial revolutionaries would be released, that the TL N Reddy commission appointed to enquire into

disappearance cases would look into all the 'missing' cases pointed out by the revolutionaries, and so on. Chenna Reddy even declared that he was prepared to hold talks with Peoples War. He promised medical aid to Comrade Kondapalli Sitaramiah and even asked him to choose the place and manner in which such treatment was to be provided.

When the Government declared that they were interested in talks with Peoples War, Peoples War Party in turn declared that as people genuinely interested in the well being of the masses, they were always prepared for talks if they could benefit the masses, but also declared that the Chenna Reddy government, being the representative of the compradour bourgeois and landlord clique in the state, was dishonest in its intentions in giving a call for talks, and that if the government was interested in talks, they should first create conditions favourable and conducive to holding such talks.

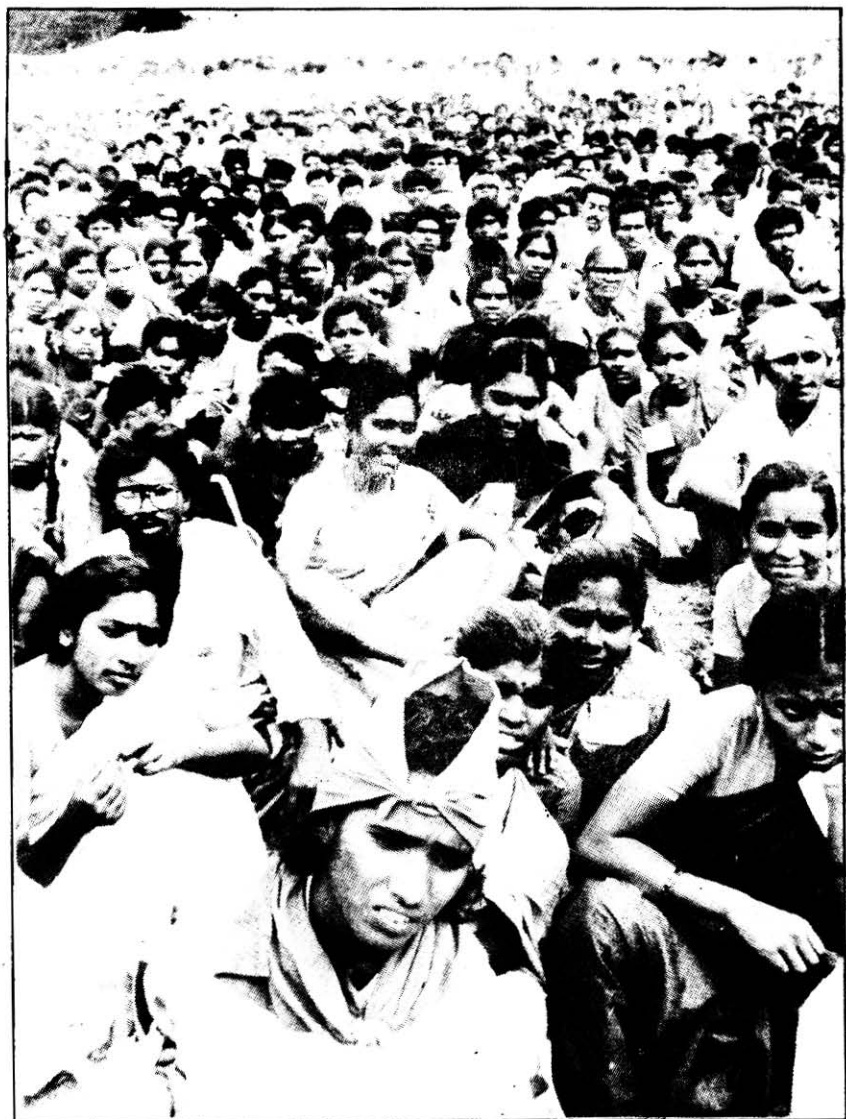
It is important to note in this context that while the demand was for the lifting of all false cases and unconditional release of naxalite prisoners, only a few undertrial revolutionaries were released, and that too on conditional bail, and parole. At the same time, all the Congress I activists arrested by NTR's government on the occasion of Vangaveeti Ranga's murder and its aftermath were unconditionally released, and all cases against them were lifted. This was a clear indication that the Chenna Reddy government was only buying time from the revolutionaries, and was not sincere in its proclamations. Far from lifting existing false cases against revolutionaries, the Chenna Reddy government foisted the notorious TADA act on thousands of peasant activists within a few months of his democratic pretensions.

PEOPLES' STRUGGLES ARE A MANIFESTATION OF THE MASS BASE OF PEOPLES WAR!

The ruling classes, the so called opposition parties, the police, and even some supposedly revolutionary parties, have been crying hoarse that Peoples War had no mass base, and that they do not follow the mass line, that they advocate only terrorism, all their actions are the acts of desperate measures of isolated individuals who have no support from the people, who resort to anarchistic actions to hide their isolation, and so on. This mud slinging continued unabated against the struggles led by Peoples War, against the unparalleled sacrifices of the people who faced the severest kind of repression and laid down their lives for the cause of the New Democratic Revolution.

Despite the heavy losses suffered during the last five years - losing the lives of over two hundred and thirty comrades - Peoples War remained with the

people, led several struggles, and rallied people on a massive scale. From July 1989 onwards, despite heavy repression, Peoples War conducted several mass rallies, public meetings, and agitations. Memorials in memory of the martyrs were erected in several villages, and massive public meetings were held on each



The Twentieth Year Conference of Revolutionary
Writers Association (Virasam)



Land Occupation Campaign in Nizamabad District

occasion. All this was done at a time when permission was denied even for the most democratic forms of protest, when even legal activities had to be carried on clandestinely. And so, there was no coverage in the press for these demonstrations of the mass base of Peoples War. Even if Peoples War declared in their official magazines 'Kranthi' and 'Radical March' that they could rally so many people in these struggles, who was willing to accept those claims ? In any case, in those days of severe repression, how many people had access to these magazines ?

Even though Peoples War has always been in the midst of the masses, and had always had the support of the people, there was no scope for demonstrating this fact, due to the iron heel of repression. This situation gave the opportunity to opportunists to sully the name of Peoples War. And so, Peoples War had to combat this vile campaign and had to demonstrate its mass base once and for all.

As a part of this strategy, Peoples War took a decision to rally people in their

millions for the **State Conference of the Revolutionary Writers Association (RWA)**, a fraternal organisation, **at Hyderabad**. Consequently, more than eighty thousand people attended the conference at Hyderabad. Thus Peoples War could demonstrably disprove the **allegation** that it had no mass base. Peoples War was keen to demonstrate that **even under acute repression**, people stood behind the party. However, the **comparative relaxation** that had come in the wake of the political changes also contributed to this massive turnout.

The Eighteenth Annual Conference of the Jana Natya Mandali (JNM) held on the 20th of February was another occasion when Peoples war could mobilise people in their millions. **In spite of inadequate and hurried preparations**, the event was an unprecedented success, **with all** the roads of the twin cities turning into rivers of humanity. The **procession from RTC Cross Roads to the Nizam College Grounds** was an event that even the bourgeois press had to acknowledge as the most impressive turnout for any political gathering in the Twin Cities to date; and the mammoth play grounds of the Nizam College could scarcely accommodate the surging crowds, and people had to climb atop neighbouring buildings. People from all over the state came to the venue, braving cruel repression and police vigilance. **Many people who had set out for the occasion were arrested and harrassed, especially in the Telangana districts.**

The public meeting, attended by an estimated two and a half lakh people, gave the lie to the propaganda that Peoples War had no mass base. History had proved once again that peoples' aspirations cannot be suppressed by force, and, like steel tempered, the people once again emerged stronger from the hearth of repression. The argument that it was only Comrade Gaddar's charisma and mass appeal that brought such huge crowds for the event is only an attempt by self styled intellectuals to belittle the peoples' struggles and the Peoples War Group who led these struggles.

The JNM conference was also an occasion to demonstrate the fact that when a party stays with the masses in their darkest hour, they can move the proverbial mountains, like the "foolish old man" of Chairman Mao's famous tale.

THE CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE : A CHEAP GIMMICK

Immediately after coming to power, the Chenna Reddy Government appointed a "Cabinet Sub-Committee" to find a solution to the "naxalite" problem. The Sub-Committee consisted of G.V. Sudhakar Rao, a noted landlord holding thousands of acres of land in Adilabad district, Rosiah, a notorious landlord of Khammam District, Arrack contractor and landlord Maganti Ravindranath Chowdhary, and Samarisimha Reddy, a land lord from Mahaboob Nagar district.

The very composition of this Sub-Committee shows the pro-landlord bias of the Congress Government. Such committee cannot be expected to be impartial in this issue, and in practice, the Sub-Committee proved to be nothing more than a public relations gimmick of the Congress Government. Even though the Sub-Committee held discussions with a number of people from various sections, no report was presented either to the Assembly or to the people. The Sub-Committee was wound up without anything concrete being achieved. It is clear from the manner in which the whole exercise was carried out that the sole purpose of the Sub-Committee was to give a face-lift to the credibility of the Government in the eyes of the people, especially the urban middle class. The awful record of the previous administration on the civil liberties front, and the all too well known track record of Chenna Reddy on the same issue in his previous incarnation as Chief Minister made it imperative for the government to demonstrate their good intentions, and the Sub-Committee served that purpose more than adequately for Chenna Reddy's Government.

VICTORY MARCHES OF THE PEASANTRY :

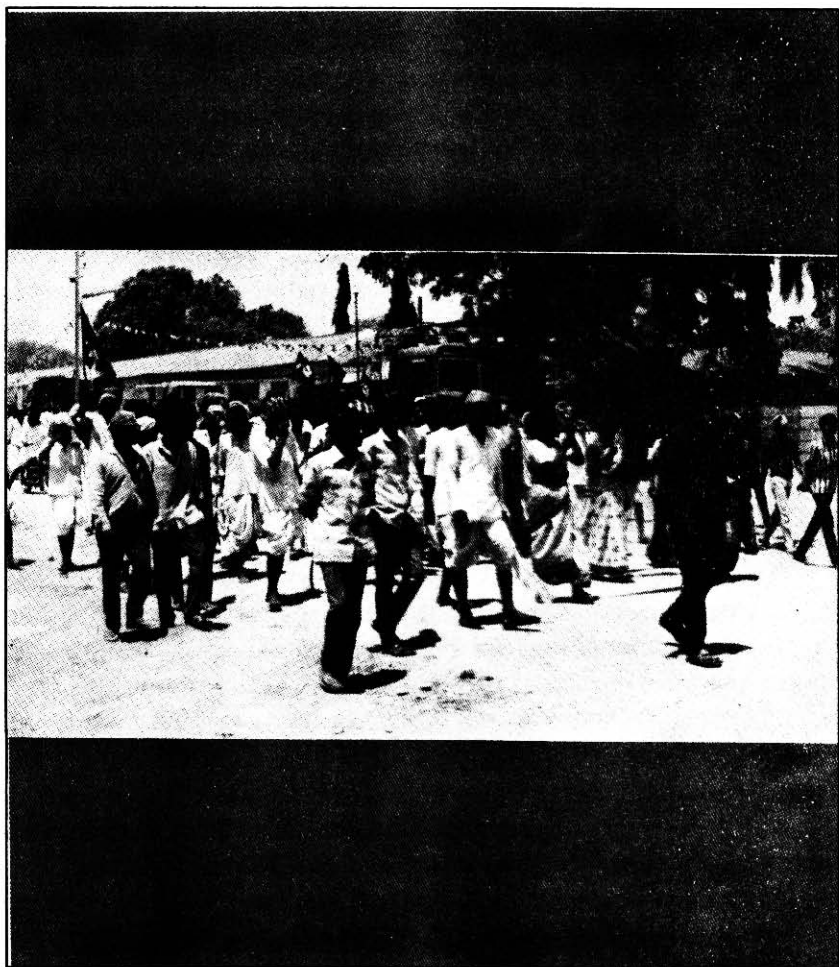
After the February Conference of JNM, Peoples War continued to organise the people in a series of struggles, bringing the people out into the streets on various issues and problems. Over twenty lakhs of peasants participated in a series of dharnas, rallies and 'rasta rokos' organised over various crucial problems of the peasantry.

The perennial power problem in rural areas, waiver of bank loans as promised at the time of elections, loans for the drought affected peasants, eradication of graft and corruption in the market yards and the electricity offices, etc, were some of the issues on which agitations and struggles were organised.

In between the first week of March and 10th of April, Several rallies and public meetings were held; and in each place, these public meetings created history, with thousands of people attending each rally - something the bourgeois parties could never organise, despite their muscle power and lavish resources.

Thirty thousand people attended the rally at Siddipet in Medak district. Similarly, fifteen thousand people attended the meeting at Narsapur, ten thousand at Toopran. Apart from these three, twelve other meetings were held in medak district where the peasantry brought to focus vocally their demands on various issues.

In Nizamabad district, more than sixty thousand peasants attended the peasants rally at Kamareddy on March 6th. And on March 31st over two and a half lakhs of people attended the public meeting at Nizamabad town.



People Pouring into Attend the RCS Rally at Nizamabad (31-3-90)

Karimnagar, Warangal, Adilabad, and Nalgonda districts witnessed a similar trend. On 10th March, twenty thousand people attended a public meeting at Karimnagar town, while a public meeting at Manthani gathered over one lakh people, the meeting at Kataram in Karimnagar district likewise was attended by twenty thousand people. Janagaon in Warangal district was another place where the meeting on March 20th was attended by over sixty thousand people. The attendance figures of meetings in Adilabad district are even more impressive - one lakh twenty thousand people attended the Indravelli Martyrs' Memorial meeting held at Indravelli, while more than a lakh of people attended the public

meeting at Bellampally. The meeting at Mandamarri gathered fifty thousand people.

Peoples War also organised a series of 'rasta rokokos' and 'dharnas' over the urgent problems of the peasantry, especially in Medak and Nizamabad districts. Several thousands of peasants, young and old, participated in these struggles. Chenna Reddy's professed democratic attitude disappeared as soon as the peasants took to the streets and voiced their demands. Even though all the demonstrations and road blockades were conducted absolutely peacefully and without any violence, the police mercilessly attacked the people, conducting lathi charges, and even firing on the hapless peasants. At Parkal in Nizamabad district, the police murdered two peasant youth in case of unprovoked police firing. If the rallies had been conducted by some Sharad Joshi or Mahendra Tikait, the press would have front page publicity, and would have lamented in editorials about Government indifference. But when lakhs of people rallied behind Peoples War and organised such struggles, and in the process got attacked by the police in such vicious manner, the press virtually took no notice with only a brief coverage for the firing incident.

Apart from organising peasants, Peoples War also worked extensively amongst the students and youth of the state. Meetings were conducted under the banner of Radical Students Union in all campuses of the state. Fifty thousand students attended the RSU meeting at Venkateswara University, Tirupati, ten thousand students attended the meetings at Andhra University, Visakhapatnam and Krishna Deva Raya University, Ananthapur, and five thousand attended the meeting at Nagarjuna University, Guntur.

And the public meetings organised by RSU and RYL all over the state attracted mammoth crowds. Over one lakh people attended the RSU meeting in support of peasant struggles, at Rajahmundry, and twenty thousand at Srikakulam. Thirty five thousand people attended the martyrs' memorial meeting of the Karamchedu victims, at Chirala. The Rytu Coolie Sangham (RCS) meetings at Macherla, Guntur district and Eluru, West Godavari were also highly successful, with several thousands attending each rally.

Thousands of people attended meetings organised at Gadwal, Mannanur, and Kolhapur in Mahaboobnagar district.

And in Rayalaseema, the Regional RCS Conference was attended by over thirty thousand delegates.

The efforts at mobilising and organising the people on various issues was especially successful in Telengana, where in every Mandal, thousands of people



Delegates Session at the RCS State Conference

under the leadership of RSU and RYL submitted memorandums of demands to the Mandal Revenue Officers.

When all forms of protest fell on deaf years, PeoplesWar organised a State bandh on April 10th, in protest against the Governments indifference towards the peasantry. Without any violence or intimidatory tactics, the bandh was a total success.

As a result of the concerted efforts of these struggles, the peasantry won some of their demands. The irregular supply of power at low voltage, was regulated and a steady supply for sixteen hours a day was ensured. Corruption at the market yards was combated by the people themselves and several corrupt officials were suitably punished. All bank loans below Rs10,000/- had to be waived by the government. Drought relief and preventive measures had to be taken up by the government.

THE WARANGAL CONFERENCE OF RCS:

Marxist Leninist principles require that the masses who come forward in peoples struggles be organised for a protracted struggle, for which purpose it is necessary to consolidate all struggles with organisational build up. Thus Peoples War took up the task of consolidating peasant struggles by strengthening the organisation of the Rytu Coolie Sangham (RCS). In every Taluk and district, conferences were held and executive bodies were elected. As a culmination of

this organisational build up, the State Conference of the RCS was held on May 5th and 6th, at Warangal. Over fifteen hundred volunteers worked tirelessly for fifteen days to organise the Conference and provide all amenities to the delegates and participants of the conference

On the morning of the first day, around thirty thousand people had gathered at the venue; but the people continued to pour in, and by evening, the town was flooded with people, turning Warangal into a surging ocean of humanity. Over twelve lakh people came to the conference. The procession and public meeting with resounding slogans and songs, filled the air with a revolutionary storm. Even with so many lakhs of people attending the meeting, not a single untoward incident occurred, and the people showed a revolutionary spirit of discipline.

The open activities of Peoples War started in January '90 reached their pinnacle in the Warangal RCS Conference in May.

THE CAMPAIGN OF LIES, ONCE AGAIN:

When Peoples War was under severe attack from the state and "encounter deaths" and "missing cases" were rampant, not one bourgeois political party raised its voice against state violence; but when Peoples War, in order to safeguard the movement, took up retaliatory measures, all these parties and groups joined hands and cried hoarse about Peoples War's violent politics.

The same parties could not digest the fact that Peoples War was conducting open and legal political activities, and that too with far greater success than any of them. And so, once again they took up a vile campaign of lies against Peoples War.

Immediately after the Warangal Conference, all the so called opposition parties in the state met under the leadership of N.T. Rama Rao, and sent a memorandum to the Central Government about the growing "menace" of naxalites. The CPM and CPI, having shed all pretensions, shamelessly sided with landlords, providing musclepower to attack peoples struggles.

The Ramachandran Group of CPI(ML), far from taking up any political struggle, made vilification of Peoples War's name as their one point programme. They resorted to heinous acts like murdering activists, organising bandhs and processions against Peoples War, campaigning that Peoples War was in league with Congress - I, and thus played the role of Judas in the revolutionary movement.

The major criticisms of all shades of campaign against Peoples War are the following:-

- 1) They are holding Peoples Courts and punishing innocent people.
- 2) They are snatching land from the landlords.
- 3) They are forcibly collecting crores of rupees from the people
- 4) They are running a parallel government in Telangana, and destroying law and order by killing innocent people
- 5) They are in league with Congress I and are trying to eliminate all other political parties from the political scene.

While the government and the police have been campaigning with the first four allegations, the opposition parties, and certain factions of Naxalites have added the last allegation.

Whatever be the political and other differences amongst all these forces, they are united in their animosity towards Peoples War. When the class struggle intensifies, it is inevitable that all masks are shed, and the anti people forces join hands. Let us look into the allegations made by them.

PEOPLES COURTS:

Historically, in the rural areas, the landlords and their henchmen used to intervene in every dispute and problem of the common people in the name of "panchayats"; and utilise the differences amongst the people to subjugate them. These panchayats used to be held at the residence of the landlord, and dispensation of so called justice was arbitrary, to suit the whims of the landlord. In the process, the people were also forced to part with huge sums of money in the name of fines.

Serving the interests of these landlords were the "caste elders" of each caste, who would bring every dispute to the landlord's "GADI" or residence.

In time, these landlords dominated every institution of rural society, including the administration and judiciary. Police stations and courts being out of reach of the common folk, they were forced to go the landlord for settling disputes in the traditional fashion, thus further strengthening the hold of the landlords on the people.

The judgements delivered by the landlords in these traditional panchayats have led to the ruin of many a family, driving many of them to suicide. Any opposition to the dictates of the landlords always met with social ostracisation, and disgrace.

Under the circumstance, the mass organisations like RCS, RYL and RSU, working amongst the people, had to tackle the phenomenon of the landlords' stranglehold over the people. Thus, many problems and disputes would come to the notice of the mass organisations, and people would request them to solve

these matters. Consequently, the mass organisations had to take on the responsibility of settling disputes amongst the people.

In those peoples' courts, in general, decisions would be taken based on the principle of collective opinion. It is important to note that the peoples courts came into being primarily to combat the exploitation of the masses by the landlords in the name of panchayats. After the peoples courts started, people could settle their disputes on their own without going to either the landlords or the official legal system. Consequently, the landlords lost their hold on the people, and the police and the lawyers lost their income and bribes. More significantly, the people lost faith in the official legal system.

The infuriated police attacked peoples courts mercilessly and faisted false cases against those who were conducting the peoples courts as well as those who were participating in them.

Having realised that the Peoples War Group stayed with the people through thick and thin, and were genuinely interested in the well being of the masses, it was but natural for the people to come to them for solving their problems. Thus, several thousands of cases relating to land disputes, family problems, caste and other forms of social oppression, and many more problems were solved in peoples courts held all over the state. Disputes that remained unsettled in courts for several years got solved immediately, and that too at the initiative of the disputants themselves.

In the ultimate analysis, it was this rising consciousness of the people expressed in the form of peoples courts that invited the ire of the landlords and their representatives in the political arena.

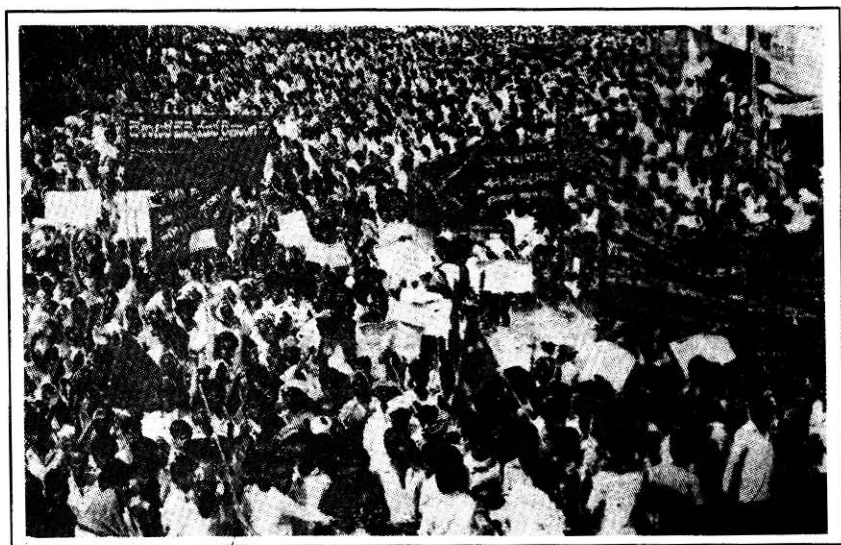
There are some people who sincerely believe that Peoples War is going to extremes in implementing peoples courts and are dispensing justice without giving a proper chance for defence. Peoples War invites constructive criticism about any of its activities, and is always willing to correct mistakes and move forward. At the same time it must be pointed out that bourgeois norms cannot always be applied to peoples struggles when the defending party happens to be the class enemy, it is only natural that he will not be allowed to use his bourgeois cunning to deceive the people. Such things have to be judged from a perspective of New Democratic norms, and not bourgeois norms.

The allegation that weapons are openly displayed during the peoples courts is likewise a case of misplaced concern. It is the openly declared objective of the New Democratic Revolution to arm the people and strengthen their struggles.

THE QUESTION OF ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF LAND:

Once again, it is the openly declared objective of the New Democratic Revolution to conduct a protracted armed struggle, re-distribute all land on the basis of the slogan "land to the tiller" and pave way for the New Democratic Society. As a part of this strategy, it is quite true that peoples war has been leading several militant struggles in which the people have been occupying and cultivating government lands that have been under illegal occupation by the landlords. Peoples War has also been campaigning against the sale or purchase of any land from the land lords, as much of the land in their possession as a matter of fact is intended for redistribution among the landless and small farmers, even by the governments own declared policy of land reforms. In a few places where the people were militant and politically conscious, even titled land belonging to the land lords was occupied.

To those who criticise these actions, the only answer is that this is only an implementation of what the government had promised but, never delivered. If land reforms had really been implemented, it would not have been possible for these landlords to hold hundreds and even thousands of acres as they do today. And for accomplishing what the government failed in, peoples war is being branded as criminals and brigands.



The Rytu Coolie Rally at Nizamabad

After the Warangal RCS Conference, in hundreds of villages, the people took up wasteland occupation as a campaign. In some cases, even house plots are being occupied. Wherever this has affected the middle class instead of the landlords, Peoples war intervened and settled the issue amicably.

There is also an allegation that by occupying and cultivating forest land, naxalites are causing deforestation and paving the way for an ecological disaster. But the reality is quite different. It is the Tatas, Birlas and Thapars who have been denuding thousands of acres of forest for their paper mills. Large scale smuggling of rare forest wood has been adding fuel to the fire.

On the other hand, it was the Naxalites who have been making all efforts to save the forests. Apart from restricting all kinds of trade in wood and wooden articles, they have encouraged the people to limit the use of firewood to the extent possible.

Land struggles have been the mainstay of the revolutionary movement in this country from the days of Naxalbari onwards. Each time the people took the movement forward to the stage of land struggles, the state has been unleashing naked terrorism, causing untold miseries to the masses. Yet, the struggle has not been given up, and each setback has only been strengthening the will of the people. In the one step forward, two steps backward struggle, the people may have the upper hand for some time, suffer losses for some time, but ultimately victory is bound to be with the people. Therefore, whether the people are able to ultimately cultivate the lands that they have acquired through so much struggle or not, the struggle for "land to the tiller" will go on.

IS THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT A "LAW AND ORDER" PROBLEM?

Whenever the people stood and voiced their demands, however peaceful and democratic be their form of protest, the ruling classes have always been labeling it as a "law and order" problem, and under this pretext suppressing such struggles. The so called "law and order" problem in Andhra is nothing but Chenna Reddy's attempts at gaining legitimacy for his policy of murder and repression.

In the last ten years, state terrorism and state sponsored terrorism assumed such grotesque proportions that entire villages and hamlets have been burnt down or grazed to the ground. When the people, in self preservation retaliated by attacking and ambushing the police, everybody denounced these acts as terrorism,

One has to only recall the recent history to realise as to who are the real perpetrators of violence, and a threat to public safety and order. In the wake of

the elections, in Guntur district alone, 72 murders took place, illegal arms, bombs and other such weapons are found not so much with Naxalites as with the landlords of Cuddapah district. Violence against Dalits and other oppressed classes conducted by the land holding upper castes does not become a law and order problem, but if the same dalits retaliate, it is regarded to be law and order problem.

Within three months of the so called liberalisation declared by Chenna Reddy, two peasants were killed in police firing at Parkal. This was followed by the brutal murder of four peasant youth at Dichpally, Nizamabad district. At Madanapally in the very same Nizamabad district, three innocent peasants were dragged out of their homes and shot by police. These fake encounters were followed in quick succession by the murder of four youth at Tippapur and two more at Veldurthi, all under the supervision of the notorious S.P. Raghuvver Prasad Meena.

Without solving the basic problems of the people such as land redistribution, social and economic oppression, etc, the government tries to blame the people for agitating, raising the bogey of law and order.

FUNDS COLLECTION. YES! BUT COERCION NO!

Another major allegation against Peoples War has been that they have been forcibly collecting crores of rupees as party funds.

Collecting donations, subscriptions, party fund, etc, are legitimate political activities indulged in by all parties, yet when Peoples War does the same, it becomes a case of forcible collection. It is quite true that Peoples War had collected donations on the occasion of RCS conference on a massive scale. However, coercion has never entered the picture. On the other hand, well wishers and sympathisers came forward to give a big boost to the efforts of Peoples War. In a few cases, people might have donated out of fear; but there were no threats given at any stage, nor was there any violence in case of refusal. Unlike the bourgeois parties, Peoples War maintains a meticulous account of every collection and expenditure, and the details are given to all members and mass organisations. But then, sincerity is preached by others, while Peoples War practices it.

If there were any cases of intimidation, there would have been complaints and arrests, but there was no such thing. On the other hand, many people were arrested and harassed merely because they donated money to Peoples War.

ANTI PEOPLE OF STANCE OF PYLA AND RAJANNA GROUPS EXPOSED

The Pyla Vasudeva Rao group and the Rajanna group of Naxalites have particularly been campaigning the Peoples War, in league with Congress I, was trying to eliminate all other Naxalite groups. This campaign is in tune with similar allegations being made by BJP and revisionist parties. This is a clear indication of the direction in which the political practice of these groups is heading.

Peoples War has always regarded Congress I as the main enemy, having its roots in the compradore bourgeois and big landlord classes. Peoples War can never forget the blood bath unleashed on the revolutionary movement by the Congress in the last twenty years. To say that Peoples War has joined hands with such a party is, to say the least, opportunist prattle. In fact, it is the Rajanna group who have gone down in history as collaborators with the Congress I in Punjab. The Pyla group's "Co-operation" with the Telugu Desam Party was a matter for discussion and praise in no less a place than the A.P. Assembly.

In the turbulent political atmosphere in which he came to power, Chenna Reddy realised that he could no longer pursue the policy of repression of the previous government without a suitable face lift. And so it became politically necessary for him to put up a front of democratic attitude towards the revolutionary movement. In this situation, any communist party genuinely interested in the revolution would try to utilise the temporary respite to the utmost by consolidating all legal forms or organisation which is exactly what Peoples War did in these ten months.

When Peoples War took up militant actions to break the shackles of repression, they said that it had no mass base; when as a result of those militant struggles the government has been forced to release the pressures of state terrorism, they are saying that Peoples War is in league with Congress - I !

And what, pray, has been their political practice in the last ten months? Organising felicitations to their MLAs and organising Bandhs against Peoples War. Shame on such "revolutionary" practice! Both these so called Naxalite groups have been reduced to a one point programme of attacking and sabotaging Peoples War and its struggles. When the repression was severe, neither group had any arms. But today, they go around armed to the teeth, only to attack Peoples War activists. Pyla group even declared that their arms were meant only to fight with Peoples War, and not with the state!

Barely two days before the RCS conference, some activists of the Rajanna group snatched a rifle from a retired government official and tried to make it out

to be an act of Peoples War. Was it not a deliberate attempt to sully the name of Peoples War and thereby sabotage the RCS conference? Having lost the last shreds of political integrity, the Rajanna group is trying to attack the other Naxalite groups. They would do well to recollect the famous words of Marx that integrity is the lack of dissimilarity between words and actions.

They started by saying that the political line of Peoples War was incorrect. When this did not hold much water, they said that Peoples War had no mass base. When this too was convincingly disproved, they are now saying that Peoples War is in league with the Congress I. How far can one go, after having lost political integrity!



People Pouring to Attend the RCS Rally at Kamareddy (6-3-'90)

Today, Peoples War, faced with a three pronged attack from the state, the bourgeois opposition parties, and the spurious revolutionaries of the Pyla and Rajanna groups, is forging ahead in a determined fashion, concentrating on preparing the masses for a long and protracted struggle.

AND THE MOVEMENT SURGES FORWARD!

April brought a new menace to the rural areas of Teleganana the phenomenon of state sponsored bandits. These bandits robbed the people, raped women, and otherwise wreaked havoc in the lives of people, all under the benevolent eyes of the police. It became the national duty of the mass organisations like RCS and RYL to form volunteer brigades to combat this menace. The people, having little



Peasants Demonstration Against Power Cut.

faith in any other institution or organisation, approached Peoples War. Many of these bandits, caught and punished by the people resurfaced under the protection of the police, thus making the nexus an open secret. Katla Sreenu, a lumpen element of Manda marri of Adilabad district started intimidating traders in the name of Peoples War and tried to extort huge sums from the people. Complaints to the police were of no avail, naturally. It becomes compulsory to punish such elements, which is what peoples war has been doing. A few die hard criminals who refused to mend their ways had to be eliminated in the larger interest of the people.

In the coal fields of Singareni, the workers are fighting the corruption of the officials under the leadership of Singareni Karmika Samakhya (SIKASA). Issues such as irregularities in promotions, making the workers permanent etc, are being taken up. And the workers have also learnt to combat the police repression that always comes in the wake of raised political consciousness of the workers. They are also questioning the inaction of the revisionist trade unions in the face of growing discontentment among the workers. They are holding rallies, processions and meetings to press their demands for better living and working conditions.

REIGN OF TERROR UNLEASHED!

Even as the official proclamations of relaxation were going on, the police have been attacking the movement in every possible manner. The construction of a martyrs memorial was forcibly stopped at Miryalaguda, Nalgonda district. In Bellampally, Sripathi Ramulu Joint Secretary of Sikasa was arrested and paraded half naked in the streets. And memorials were demolished in several places in Nizamabad, Mahaboobnagar and Adilabad districts. In Warangal district, Section 144 was imposed, to prevent the erection of another martyrs' memorial. In Rajahmundry police cordoned off a meeting hall and arrested 70 people attending the RYL conference. In Visakhapatnam, permission was denied for the use of mikes in a hall meeting of RWA.

In Telengana villages the police are damaging property, pouring kerosene into provisions and making them inedible, ransacking houses and walking away with valuables, all in the name of searching for wanted naxalites. Collecting bribes, forcing people to resign from the party and the mass organisations, nurturing informers, in one word, the terror tactics of the previous regime, have staged a comeback.

Hundreds of bags of rice, clothes, etc, collected for the relief of flood victims, were sieged under the claim that they were stolen property.

After May, in the party strongholds, people have started occupying various types of government land which was under the illegal possession of the landlords. In response, the police started a vicious attack on the people. Even when the land lords stated that they had voluntarily relinquished the lands, the police did not stop the attacks, and even threatened to attack such landlords.

The notorious TADA act is being invoked against tribals practicing shifting cultivation. In a period of three months, over seven thousand peasants have been arrested, tortured, and false cases were foisted against them.

In the third week of May, Kesava Naik, an organiser of Peoples War, was shot dead by the police in broad daylight in Urva Konda, Anantapur district. Nizamabad S.P. Meena had been openly bragging even in January that this relaxation was a short affair, and that he would kill each party member in his district. True to his word, starting with the brutal murder of three youth of the RYL in front of hundreds of people at Madanapalli, he left a trail of blood in Tippapur, Vellutla and Dichpally. All these so called encounters took place in front of hundreds of terrified villagers, in a display of naked fascist terrorism.

In suppressing peoples' struggles, Chenna Reddy's government is taking off from where the previous regime left. In a country that boasts to be world's largest democracy, it is the police who determine what political opinions and affiliations one can have.

The government had declared its intention not to use the TADA act and the Disturbed Areas act, but it went back on its word and thousands of people have been arrested under these black laws.

In the coal belt, the police have been attacking the Sikasa viciously. In the Bellampally - Mandamarri area, flags hoisted by Sikasa were torn and destroyed by the police. It is the irony of our times that the workers had to agitate for six days to regain their right to hoist a flag of their choice.

THE ULTIMATE VICTORY BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE!

During the floods of May, '90 the people under the leaderships of RCS and RYL took the initiative and collected donations and provisions for the aid of the flood victims.

The landlords are finding it hard to swallow the resurgence of peoples power and the loosening of their grip on the people. People are no longer swallowing insults in silence but are dragging the arrogant landlords to the peoples courts. Some of the landlords unable to face such a treatment, are leaving the villages. Humpen elements who have been molesting women during the days of the police



The Public Meeting at Nizam College Grounds (10th Sep, 1990)

camps are being punished by the women themselves. Goondas are being socially ostracised. Agricultural labour have intensified their wage struggles and have won significant gains such as paid leave for 20 days in a year. They have also forced the landlords to bear the medical expenses in case of injuries to any worker on the field due to any accident. They have also won the right to additional wages during the sugarcane season, in compensation for the heavier workload.

Peoples war has also been campaigning against the consumption of liquor, in addition to forcing the arrack contractors to bring down the arrack prices.

Irregularities in fair price shops are being challenged by the people. They are also campaigning against usury and price rise.

Womens organisations are being formed to take up issues of subjugation of women. Men demanding dowry and harassing wives are being taken to task. There is a noticable reduction in dowry harrassment cases in North Telangana of late. In cases of molestation, deception of women, etc, the culprits are being punished and subjected to public humiliation.

In innumerable number of ways, the party and the mass organisations have been solving peoples problems in a just and fair manner. During the various

public meetings, hundreds of people come with written requests to take up their issues. This in itself shows the faith that the people have in Peoples War.

Several welfare measures declared by the ruling classes to dilute the effect of the movement, in practice never reach the people. In all such cases, such as the Rozgaar Yojana, the party has been making efforts to ensure that the schemes reach the people and benefit them.

The people are coming out of fatalistic indifference towards their own lives, and are making conscious efforts to improve their lot through militant political struggles.

When the people become politically conscious, it is natural for the tyrants and their representatives in the government to shed all pretensions and resort to brutal suppression. Over 15 thousand armed policemen have been deployed in the Telangana region since June, '90. The "grey hounds", whose removal was promised by Chenna Reddy, are now ruling the roost in the region. An additional force of 8500 policemen is being newly recruited.

Peoples War organised a rally and public meeting demanding a stop to false encounters, the lifting of police camps, and waiving of bank loans, on September 10th at Hyderabad. The police tried their best to abort this meeting by arresting lorry owners, siezing lorries, forcibly stopping buses carrying people coming to attend the rally, conducting lathi charges and even firing on the people coming to the rally, and so on. To secure the release of the hundreds of people arrested on the occasion, Peoples War was forced once again to kidnap some MLAs and officers.

There may have been a few instances during the course of the militant struggles when some mistakes might have been committed. But based on this, if one were to conclude that the struggles of Peoples War are exceeding the limits of propriety, and that theirs is "a movement of the riff raff", it would only help the enemy's attempts at vilifying the struggles led by Peoples War. As Mao said in his famous Human Report, when the masses rebel after centuries of subjugation, some excesses are bound to occur.

People are fighting for change. And Chenna Reddy's government is resorting to physical violence against the movement. Under these circumstances, it is the moral duty of every democratically minded person to combat the fascist methods of Chenna Reddy and support the peoples struggles.

Conclusion: The slight relaxation of a few months were utilised by Peoples war quite ably, with every legal avenue being used for the revolutionary cause.

At the same time, it has not loosened its underground network and organisation, which on the other hand has only been strengthened.

And so, Peoples War is ready to face the next bout, and is confident of emerging stronger than ever.

(FOR NOW, THE END)



Flag hoisting at the Martyrs' Memorial at Indravelly on the
Occasion of the Martyrs' Meeting

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People Surging Forth to Attend the Anti-Repression
Rally at Hyderabad (10 Sep, 1990)

The RYL Public Meeting at Bellampally
(Inset: Martyrs' Memorial)

