

FERNANDES :

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ment complain that J.P. has not come forward with any alternative programme. The Right Communists see the hand of right reaction in J.P.'s movement. They also see CIA agents operating through J.P. The critics and the Right Communists obviously fail to see the revolutionary significance of the demands for ending corruption, for electoral reforms, and for reform in education. Of course, they have a point. The Americans fight political corruption more vigorously than any other people. They got rid of Richard Nixon. But if on the issue of corruption, Mrs. Gandhi were hounded out of office as Mr. Nixon, the Right Communists will have no skirt left to hang on to.

Education and election reform

The Right Communists and the arm-chair critics cannot be impressed by the demands for electoral reforms and reform in education either. After all, what is sought through both these demands is what many civilised countries like France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Scandinavian countries, Australia etc. have accepted. Of course, the Right Communists again have a point. These countries are not socialist countries. So, even if they have an educational system that gives a reasonably equal chance to everyone to make good, and even if they have an electoral system that provides fairly equal conditions for all parties to influence the electorate, the right Communists cannot support such ideas in India.

The demands raised in the Bihar movement, when secured, will not usher socialism in India. But who can deny that they will create conditions in which a radical orientation to our political and social system will become inevitable.

J.P. has, of course, said that what is now launched in Bihar is "total revolution". His critics are quick to raise the question : where does J.P. stand on property relations ? on agrarian reform ? on Capitalism ? on the "class content" of the movement ? and so on and so forth.

The question is not where does J.P. stand on these issues. It is more important to know where his detractors stand on these issues. Those who take out processions in defence of Mrs. Gandhi and in opposition to the issues raised in the Bihar movement are the defenders of corruption, nepotism, reaction, elitism, class system, exploitation and all that is unjust and indecent in our body politic. Radical phrase-mongering by the Right Communists cannot ever hide the ugly reality of the fact that they are the agents of Mrs. Gandhi whose leadership symbolises all that is ugly in our public life, and in our political, social and economic system !

Total revolution

This is not to say that the "total revolution" which J.P. speaks of should not be defined... It is necessary to spell out a programme of national reconstruction and people's rejuvenation that will be implemented after the overthrow of the Congress governments both at the Centre and in the States.

One thing must be clearly understood by all those who are on J.P.'s side in Bihar. There is no solving Bihar's problems and there is no finding solutions to the questions raised in the Bihar struggle without at the same time attacking the centre of power in Delhi. Mrs. Gandhi and her Establishment have to go if Bihar has to live, if India has to live.

(Concluded)

DOCUMENT :

National alternative to congress

CH. CHARAN SINGH

BLD, who belonged to various parties feels that national interest required a single strong democratic force to emerge at the national level in opposition to the Congress.

No united front

BLD, therefore, is not prepared to fight any election as a member of a *united front*. A front serves to keep the various parties alive,

and keep them divided—which eminently suits the Congress purpose.

No opposition block

For the same reason, BLD does not consider any *opposition block* in parliament as suggested by Jan Sangh, can do any good unless of course, it is intended as the first conscious step towards the formation of a single party

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outside. Did it believe in fronts or blocks, BLD need not have been born at all.

At the same time BLD broadly supports the people's movement under way in Bihar today or that may be launched anywhere else in the country tomorrow. When the ruling party or its Government does not itself observe the Constitution and has decided to stick to power by all possible means, then, a right accrues to the people also to remove it by all possible means.

Not peoples movement alone

BLD does not, however, believe as leaders of some opposition parties would like it to believe, that a strong national alternative will emerge out of the people's movement. It cannot possibly do so in the absence of any such intention on the part of the sponsors themselves. To believe in such a possibility is to believe that a horse can draw a cart which has been put before, instead of behind it.

Not svd

Despite their past experience of the SVD Governments in 1967-68 and of a united front in Lok Sabha elections held in 1971, it is strange indeed to find leaders of some of the Opposition parties talking in terms of a united front again. Further, one is really

tongue-bound at the reluctance of these parties to forge a single political party when one realises that the leaders of these parties themselves concede in private that none of them will ever be able to displace Congress all by itself,

Basis of unity

BLD had invited the leaders of democratic opposition parties during the period of four months and a half it took to form, to attend our deliberations and make such suggestions in regard to the policy and other matters as they might think proper. But they refused. However, if there is anything in our policy statement that stands in their way of joining hands with us, BLD is prepared to re-consider. My colleagues and I will go to any lengths with the democratic opposition within the framework of *Gandhi Ji's approach to our problems*—social, economic and political. It is a petty thing though, but we are prepared to give up all the offices as well.

If despite all this the leaders of these parties choose to stay away, then there is nothing that BLD would like to say. But as regards the consequences, one thing is certain: it will gladden the heart of Congressman. Refusal to take a hand at forging a strong democratic alternative will, in a way, amount to playing the game of Congress, *unwillingly though it may be.*

EDUCATION :

UN university : a new 'think tank' for the world

V V JOHN

The United Nation is getting a brain, in the form of a global university, in the next few months. The UN University, to give its proper name, will consist of a worldwide network of 15 regional research centres staffed by international teams of scholars but will offer no courses, grant no degrees and house no definable student body.

The university is being established to use organized human wisdom to tackle problems of maintaining peace, preserving the planet's resources and improving the quality of life in world society.*

A UN vote in 1972, and again last December, showed that more than a hundred nations supported the idea, and

only the Soviet Union and the East European countries have expressed some reservations.

Since the idea of a world university was first proposed in 1969 by the former UN Secretary General, U Thant, it has undergone several changes. The original conception was of an international university with a central campus and a student body, faculty and curriculum drawn from all over the world. The hope expressed was that "working and living together in an international atmosphere, students from various parts of the world would be better able to under-

* Dr. Harold Taylor, Chairman of the U.S. Committee for the UN University.

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stand one another. Even in their formative years, they will be able to break down the barriers among the nations and cultures."

In 1970, Arthur Lall, former head of the Indian delegation to the United Nations, made a preliminary study of Thant's proposal, which eventually formed the basis of detailed planning by the staff of UNESCO, and of the charter that the General Assembly finally adopted. According to it, the UN University will be governed by a Rector and a 24-member Governing Council of independent scholars, responsible through the Secretary General to the General Assembly, with a world headquarters and co-ordinating centre for "a global decentralized network of centres and programmes of research and training."

Regional centre

The university's mission would be "to promote, undertake and stimulate as well as co-ordinate advanced research and training focussed on the aspirations, the needs and problems of contemporary society...problems concerning all mankind, such as human survival, development and human welfare...It should make provision for education for social change and social responsibility, so as to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom."

In the establishment of regional centres and even outside of such centres, the Charter of the UN University provides for new forms of collaboration with existing educa-

tional institutions, organizations and groups. "It will be up to the Governing Council and the Rector in the first stages to make so brilliant a beginning that the whole world will wish to join and volunteers of all kinds will be knocking at the door."

Role of china

There are possibilities of selecting one of the leading Indian universities as a centre for programmes of the UN University. It is hoped China, which has consistently voted for the project in the UN Assembly, will make it possible for "Chinese educational thinking (to flow) into the stream of thought now flowing into the conception of the world university."

Conclusion

Despite the increasing defiance by member-states of the recommendations of the Security Council and the General Assembly, there is a form of power that is being developed by the United Nations as an institution, and that consists in its capacity for educating the world about the nature of its problems. As an educational instrument it has not yet been able to penetrate the national educational systems, primarily because "the only route from the UN to the citizens in most countries is by way of their national governments." The UN University may provide a more effective and unimpeded route.

(USIS—Feature Service)

AN ANNOUNCEMENT

Sane Guruji Amrit Mahotsava Antar Bharati 'Youth to Action Meet' December 28-30, 1974 at Distt. : Chandrapur. (MS)

The Somnath Project is an important centre in India which tries to give a new direction to youth power.

Topics for discussion; (1) Religion, Social order, Secular State and National Integration. (2) How to eradicate untouchability ? (3) Ways to cultivate solidarity with the adivasis. (4) Need for multi-linguism. (5) New education for production oriented Community action programmes.

There will be an excellent opportunity to exchange views with those who are working tirelessly in related activities.

For further information contact : Secretary, Antar Bharati. 430 Sanivar, Poona 411030.